

From: Francie Souza [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 1:57 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Comments on General Plan 2040

Dear City Council:

We are residents of Central San Mateo, and see firsthand every day the impact of growth on our neighborhood, not all of it positive, such as increased traffic and poorer air quality. We feel that the General Plan does not take into consideration the changing dynamics of in-office work and the forecast of stagnant population growth in California over the next many years. As the news shares, office vacancies are at record highs.

In addition, the majority of residents in San Mateo are asking for reasonable growth, without huge high rises in our downtown area and surrounding neighborhoods. There is little community support for 10+ story buildings. Take consideration of our support services, such as police and fire, and the impact of traffic in our neighborhoods. Plan for the huge impact that this growth will undoubtedly have and please take a more reasonable approach for our city.

- We support 2-4 story buildings in Downtown, to align more with existing buildings, and to consider the effect of density bonuses, population growth and lower demand for office space
- We reject Medium II, High I and High II, which could be more than doubled with state density bonuses. This will better align with community preferences, help with our traffic volumes and air quality in nearby neighborhoods.
- Keep 5th and 9th Avenues as local and collector streets, not arterials. We need traffic calming measures NOW for safety reasons.

Sincerely,
Tom & Frances Souza