

From: Laurie Hietter [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, November 6, 2023 8:57 AM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Lisa Diaz Nash <ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org>; Richard Hedges <rhedges@cityofsanmateo.org>; Rob Newsom <rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>; Alex Khojikian <akhojikian@cityofsanmateo.org>; Zachary Dahl <zdahl@cityofsanmateo.org>; Christina Horrisberger <chorrisberger@cityofsanmateo.org>; Manira Sandhir <msandhir@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Fwd: Requested Changes to General Plan to Add Contributors

Dear Members of the City Council:

It appears that staff has made the following non-transparent policy decisions to change the proposed draft General Plan:

1. Removed the essential and meaningful term "contributors" from the General Plan language.
2. Changed the definition of historic districts such that the districts can only include properties already determined eligible or listed on the National or State Register.
3. Did not explain these changes to the Council or the public.

In response, the San Mateo Heritage Alliance requested clarification language to two Historic Resources Policies that would bring proposed historic preservation policies in line with the City Council's and community's goal of protecting and preserving San Mateo's historic resources but the request was rejected by Zach Dahl. The **suggested clarifications are in red font:**

Policy CD 5.1: Historic Preservation. Actively identify and preserve historic resources and concentrations of historic resources **and concentrations of buildings** which convey the flavor of local historical periods, are culturally significant, or provide an atmosphere of exceptional architectural interest or integrity, when they meet national, State, or local criteria. Historic resources include individual properties, districts, and sites that maintain San Mateo's sense of place and special identity, and enrich our understanding of the city's history and continuity with the past.

Policy CD 5-3: Historic Resources Definition. Define historic resources as buildings, structures, sites, ~~and~~ districts, **and contributors to districts** that are listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and/or California Register of Historical Resources, designated resources in the 1989 Historic Building Survey Report, and resources found to be eligible through documentation in a historic resources report.

The General Plan is the City's policy document. Changes to a policy document should be transparent and clearly understood by the Council and the public. This apparently is not the case as most people would not or could not discern these changes, and would not realize that the changes significantly reduce protection of potential historical resources from the current 2030 General Plan.

I hope you will resolve this issue with staff by including the clarifying language in this General Plan.

Thank you,

Laurie Hietter

Begin forwarded message:

From: Zachary Dahl <zdahl@cityofsanmateo.org>

Date: November 3, 2023 at 2:23:33 PM PDT

To: Laurie Hietter <lauriehietter@gmail.com>

Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>, Manira Sandhir <msandhir@cityofsanmateo.org>, Christina Horrisberger <chorrisberger@cityofsanmateo.org>, Alex Khojikian <akhojikian@cityofsanmateo.org>

Subject: RE: Requested Changes to General Plan to Add Contributors

Hi Laurie,

I'm follow-up with you on the letter you sent earlier this week to acknowledge receipt and provide a brief response.

The two main issues raised your letter related to the updated historic resource definition and inclusion of the term "contributor" have been specifically considered Council, and are in their current form based on their direction. The current definition of Historic Resources was developed based on input from the historic consultant supporting the General Plan Update effort and does not include a specific reference to districts because that was Council's direction last fall when they were reviewing the GP's draft goals, policies and actions (GoPAs). Regarding the decision to not include the term "contributors" in the General Plan right now was Council direction from the 10/2 meeting. The Council saw the Heritage Alliance's letter that pushed for including contributors as well as your verbal and written verbal comments, and decided not to include the term until after we have the historic policy discussion next year. Also, regarding your concern that these changes to our historic policies are potential environmental impacts was specifically reviewed by the General Plan's historic consultant and environmental team, and neither identified any potential impacts with the updated policies and actions in the Draft General Plan.

At this point, we can revisit the Historic Resource definition and how the term "contributors" is addressed in the General Plan when we hold adoption hearings next Feb/March, and if directed by Council, we can update these policies. We can also review and discuss these topics as part of our historic preservation policy discussion around updating our Historic Preservation Ordinance when that is initiated next year.

Thank you.



Zachary Dahl, AICP

Interim Director

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From: Laurie Hietter [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2023 4:49 PM
To: City Council (San Mateo) <CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>; Alex Khojikian <akhojikian@cityofsanmateo.org>; Zachary Dahl <zdahl@cityofsanmateo.org>
Cc: Patrice Olds <polds@cityofsanmateo.org>; Manira Sandhir <msandhir@cityofsanmateo.org>; Christina Horrisberger <chorrisberger@cityofsanmateo.org>
Subject: Requested Changes to General Plan to Add Contributors

Dear City Council Members and All:

The historic preservation policy language of the 2030 General Plan was very subtly changed in the 2040 General Plan. The changes modify City policy and significantly reduce protection for our vanishing historic buildings.

Please reconsider the suggested changes to the 2040 General Plan Policies CD 5.1 Historic Preservation and CD 5.3 Historic Resources Definition shown in the attached letter.

I hope you will address this topic at the next City Council Meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Laurie Hietter

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