

4 March 2024

Mayor Lisa Diaz-Nash ldiaznash@cityofsanmateo.org
Deputy Mayor Rob Newsom rnewsom@cityofsanmateo.org
Council Member Rich Hedges rhedges@cityofsanmateo.org
Council Member Amourence Lee alee@cityofsanmateo.org
Council Member Adam Loraine <aloraine@cityofsanmateo.org>
City Council <citycouncil@cityofsanmateo.org>
San Mateo City Hall
330 West 20th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403

RE: *General Plan 2040 & Climate Plan Update EIR*
 Lack of Impacts Analysis on Yoshiko Yamanouchi House Historic District

Dear Mayor Diaz-Nash, Deputy Mayor Newsom, Council Member Hedges, Council Member Lee, and Council Member Loraine:

The Yoshiko Yamanouchi House Historic District at 1007 East 5th Avenue was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 26 December 2023 (National Register Reference No. 100009653). The Yoshiko Yamanouchi House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criteria A and B in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Asian (Japanese) and Social History: Women's History for its association with Yoshiko Yamanouchi, a member of the pioneer *Issei* generation who was a leader in the San Mateo Japanese American community. Additionally, it meets the *Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in California, 1850-1970* National Register Multiple Property Submission Registration Requirements for Property Types Associated with Prominent Persons in Asian American History and for Property Types Associated with Community Serving Organizations.

The Yoshiko Yamanouchi House Historic District includes nine contributing resources: the House, the Entrance Gateway and Fence, a Storage Room and Pumphouse, the Patio and Swimming Pool, the West Side Garden, a Japanese Style Hill-And-Pond Garden, the Katsura Building, the Katsura Walkway, and the Katsura Garden. Each of these resources contribute to the historical significance and integrity of the property. Please see the attached Sketch Plan from the National Register Nomination that identifies the location of each of these nine contributing resources.

Denise Bradley
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The National Register Nomination noted that Yoshiko Yamanouchi would recognize the property as largely unchanged from the years she lived there, and the feeling within the property continues to be one of a private residence with features that express the Japanese heritage of the owner. The property is enclosed by a combination of privacy fencing and a sound wall. This enclosure enhances the feelings of calmness and serenity associated with the property's Japanese style designed landscape and architecture and helps to mitigate visual and sound intrusions into the property.

The analysis for the *General Plan 2040 & Climate Plan Update EIR* did not evaluate direct and indirect impacts from the proposed increased development in the surrounding area on the Yoshiko Yamanouchi House Historic District. For example, the impacts from proposed increased traffic, the closer proximity of traffic along S. Humboldt Street, and the related truck vibrations and disposition of particulates were not evaluated. Additionally, the proposed change in traffic along S. Humboldt Street has the potential to increase noise within the Yoshiko Yamanouchi House Historic District. As the primary author of the Yoshiko Yamanouchi House Historic District National Register Nomination, I am concerned that all of these factors have the potential for direct and indirect impacts on the Yoshiko Yamanouchi House Historic District. These should be evaluated as part of the EIR process.

Thank you for your attention to my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Bradley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Denise Bradley

Attachment: Yoshiko Yamanouchi House Sketch Plan

cc: Alex Khojikian, City Manager akhojikian@cityofsanmateo.org

Christina Horrisberger, Assistant City Manager chorrisberger@cityofsanmateo.org

Zachary Dahl, Interim Director of Community Development zdahl@cityofsanmateo.org

Patrice Olds, City Clerk polds@cityofsanmateo.org

Yamanouchi, Yoshiko, House
Name of Property

San Mateo, California
County and State

Sketch Map

Google Earth 2020 map annotated by Denise Bradley

