

**From:** Lisa Vande Voorde [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2024 3:54 PM  
**To:** City Council (San Mateo) <[CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:CityCouncil@cityofsanmateo.org)>  
**Cc:** Patrice Olds <[polds@cityofsanmateo.org](mailto:polds@cityofsanmateo.org)>  
**Subject:** Comment Regarding General Plan 2040 for 3/4/24 Meeting

Honorable Mayor Diaz-Nash and City Council Members,

I'm writing to provide my feedback about the General Plan 2040 under consideration tonight.

I'm very concerned about the Historic Resources Element, specifically about the deletion of the word "contributors" to **Policy CD 5.3: Historic Resources Definition.**

This important word was removed by City Staff from the draft General Plan without approval of the City Council. This has been pointed out to City Staff on numerous occasions, and the answer is always "it's in the glossary". Being in the glossary is not enough! The General Plan is like the Constitution, and City ordinances and guidelines are the implementation. And if the word is not in a provision of the Constitution, it doesn't exist! Not having the word "contributors" could have an adverse impact on historic properties that comprise an historic district, including our Downtown Historic District, because historic districts are made up of listed, determined to be eligible, AND contributors.

*Please update Policy CD 5.3 to include the underlined words below:*

**Policy CD 5.3: Historic Resources Definition.** Define historic resources as buildings, structures, sites, and districts (including contributors to historic 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.

Other cities include the word "contributors" in their historic resources definition, and San Mateo did as well in the *current* General Plan. It's time that staff rectify this oversight and put that word BACK into the General Plan BEFORE it is approved by the City Council.

Words have meaning. Words have impact. Our historic resources ARE valuable. And one word can make a difference to keeping them for generations to come. Thank you.

Lisa Vande Voorde  
San Mateo Resident