

March 18, 2024

TO: Mayor Diaz-Nash  
Deputy Major Newsom,  
Council Members Hedges, Lorraine and Lee

**RE: Item 15: General Plan Amendment to Adopt Strive San Mateo General Plan 2040  
March 18, 2024 San Mateo City Council Meeting**

Per the California Register of Historical Resources and the National Register of Historic Places, **Historic Districts** are defined as a composition and/or a collection of eligible, potentially eligible, contributors and non-contributor structures.

The California State Office of Historic Preservation and the National Historic Preservation Act both recognize “contributors” as important components of an historic district.

Staff has opined on more than one occasion, that “contributors” do not need to be included, or referenced, in General Plan Chapter 5: Policy CD5.3, because “contributors” are in the Glossary Section.

The definition of a glossary is: “a collection of textural glosses or of terms limited to a special area of knowledge or usage.” [Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary]

No one “reads” a glossary. It is generally used as a reference when a term in the main body of the document is not clear to the reader.

To be consistent with State and Federal documents, *please* revise proposed Chapter 5: Community Design & Historic Resources Element of the Strive San Mateo General Plan 2040 to include the words “contributors” and “non-contributors” in Policy CD5.3.

Thank You,  
Dianne Whitaker  
San Mateo

