

Loma Prieta Chapter serving San Mateo, Santa Clara & San Benito Counties

February 8, 2018

Honorable Mayor Papan and Members of the Millbrae City Council C/O City Clerk <u>alouis@ci.millbrae.ca.us</u>

Re: Gateway at Millbrae Station - City Council Review Meeting

Dear Mayor Papan and Members of the City Council

The Sierra Club finds the Gateway at Millbrae Station a good example of a transit-oriented development. It is much improved since the earlier plan in June 2015.

We commend the following:

- It includes a wide range of mixed uses
- It now has a good jobs / housing balance, with the addition of 80 units of affordable housing
- Parking ratios are now in conformance with the recommendations in the MSASP
- A traffic signal has been added at the pedestrian crossing at Garden Lane
- Garden Lane Is primarily pedestrian oriented.

However, we remain concerned about the following issue:

El Camino Real: Although we recognize that El Camino Real is not withn the Gateway project and so should not directly affect your deliberations for approval of the BART site development, both the Gateway and Serra Projects along with the upgrade to the train station <u>will increase pedestrian and bike traffic across El Camino</u> at one of the most dangerous segmets of this roadway.

Convenient, safe pedestrian and bike access to the site remains extremely difficult across El Camino and the tracks. Without improved access pedestrain and bicycle access, any new development will cause increased auto traffic and exacerbate safety issues. Therefore, we are concerned that a plan for improving El Camino Real has not yet been completed. We feel the redesign of El Camino to calm traffic and improve pedestrian and bike safety is essential to the success of the MSASP and both the Gateway and Serra projects. Progress on the El Camino plan should be expedited with an emphasis on improving the connection between Downtown and the areas West of El Camino Real to the East (station) side and the BART site.

In conclusion

- 1. We urge the Council to insure that both the market rate as well as the 80 affordable units remain in the BART development. Affordable units are an absolute necessity to provide the much needed jobs / housing balance
- 2. We urge the City to expedite the process for **improving El Camino Real**, to accommodate all modes of transportation, as part of the current upgrade of the City's General Plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gita Dev

Sustainable Land Use Committee Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter (SCLP)

CC: Tom Madalena, Deputy Community Development Director Mike Ferreira, SCLP James Eggers, Exec Dir. SCLP