



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

January 23, 2017

San Mateo Board of Supervisors  
County of San Mateo  
400 Government Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

### **RE: Affordable Housing Task Force Action Plan and Measure K**

Dear President Don Horsley, Vice-President Dave Pine  
and Members of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter actively supported San Mateo County's Measure K in 2016 in order to assure new and substantial funding for much needed affordable housing.

Now that it has passed, we believe that it is important that the County use its funds to promote principles that support our low income workforce by being in line with **Social and Environmental Justice, equity and State laws to address climate change**.

For several years now the Grand Boulevard Initiative as well as ABAG's Plan Bay Area have targeted the El Camino Real / Caltrain transportation corridor zone as the logical place for infill housing, Transit Oriented Development (TOD) and affordable housing. Indeed, the Plan Bay Area map for San Mateo County shows the El Camino Real transit corridor as nearly the only locale for housing-related Priority Development Areas (PDAs) with good access to transit.

San Mateo County's Affordable Housing Task Force's "**Home For All**" **Action Plan, however, seems to be taking a shotgun approach** that, in many aspects, does not reflect the needed focus on TOD and could even be seen as going backwards and being tolerant of sprawl.

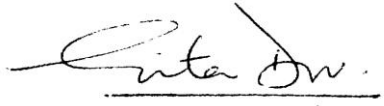
- **Affordable housing residents need public transit** and studies have indicated that they are also significantly more likely, than other residents, to use transit and depend on it.
- **Increased transit ridership is a goal in all Climate Action Plans adopted by our cities** - to meet carbon reduction goals by 2020 - as mandated by state laws AB32 and SB 375. Therefore affordable housing, in this location, supports and is in line with the goals of all our cities' Climate Action Plans.
- **Low income and affordable housing that does not have a strong transit connection is affordable in name only** as it forces upon families, who can least afford it, the added significant financial **burdens of automobile ownership**, insurance, parking and expenses for the upkeep of older vehicles.
- Affordable Housing located away from transit makes is **less likely for low income residents to be able to get work** and get to jobs as they do not make enough money to buy and maintain a car and have to depend on trying to get rides to jobs.

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter requests the Board to reconsider its Task Force's Action Plan in order to ensure that the funding from Measure K for affordable housing is used to best effect to serve the lower income families of San Mateo County by being focused on areas with excellent transit access, rather than spread broadly around, as indicated by the plan, to mixed success.

We look forward to your attention to this important issue for all the voters in San Mateo who are looking to you to assure the most effective use of precious and limited funds to address our affordable housing crisis.

Thank you for your service to San Mateo County.

Respectfully submitted,



Gita Dev  
Co-Chair, Sustainable Land Use Committee  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter



Gladwyn d'Souza  
Co-Chair, Sustainable Land Use Committee  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Cc: City Council Daly City  
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James Eggers, Exec. Director, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter  
Mike Ferreira, Chair Conservation Committee, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter