January 2017: Summary of 2016

SLU successfully implemented a program for volunteers called Environmental Planning Advocates (EPA). The EPA program trains volunteers, and young graduates of masters programs in city planning, to become environmental planning advocates. We graduated one volunteer through the three levels of the program and have two more in the program. We think we can mentor up to 4 graduates at a time.

In Millbrae, for their station area specific plan, SLU worked on getting BART to adopt a minimum affordable housing of 33% on their properties and reduced parking. BART settled for 20% and reduced parking as well as an onsite transportation options coordinator. We then asked Millbrae to adopt the 20% affordable housing goal- they settled on 15%. We continue to have issues with the amount of parking and safe pedestrian access across El Camino. The city has agreed to study the latter.

In Belmont, we advocated unsuccessfully for a residential development at 490 El Camino Real to implement the Grand Boulevard design and reduced parking because of the proximity to Belmont's station area Planned Development Area.

In Santa Clara, we advocated successfully for Open Space and Transportation Management and Implementation Plan to be included in the mega-entertainment and office complex, City Place, across from Levi's Stadium. We continue to work on achieving a public River Walk along the Guadalupe. We continue to work with Santa Clara on creating a high density residential neighborhood at Tasman East next to City Place and getting a Transit Center for trains, buses and shuttles.

In Menlo Park, we were able to achieve some success in the City's Specific Plan for growth in the area between 101 and the Bay by getting an agreement with Facebook to provide only transitory housing adjacent to the Wildlife Preserve, instead of permanent homes which would have pets that might predate on shore birds nests.

In Redwood City, we participated in the Inner Harbor Precise Plan and advocated successfully against the community's vision being usurped by a proposed mega-office development.

In San Carlos, we advocated for improvements for a new office complex along 101.

In Palo Alto, we participated in the Sustainable Land Use and Natural Elements sub-committees work in Palo Alto's Comprehensive Plan Update.

Ongoing projects include

Sunnyvale - Land Use and Transportation Element and the Lawrence Expressway "Big Dig"
Santa Clara - Tasman East
San Bruno - Transportation Corridor Plan
El Camino Real Precise Plans in Redwood City, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara, upholding the vision and goals of the Grand Boulevard

SLU also developed guidelines and brief public presentations for Transportation Demand Management and
August 2016: News

SLU accomplished many projects on the peninsula during this year. A few of the larger projects were:

Resilient Ecology - Worked with Google to include Resilient Ecology into their campus planning for sustainability in North Bayshore area of Mountain View.

Charleston Basin Restoration: The first project is creation of a restored wetlands ecology by converting a long storm drainage ditch into a restored wetlands ecology, including removing asphalt parking areas to extend habitat to attract a variety of birds, butterflies, bees and other creatures.

Santa Clara Open Space and River Walk: Fought for and succeeded in getting a 40 acre public open space into the City Place mega-development. Working towards including a public linear park all along the Guadalupe River in North Santa Clara.

Affordable Housing - Got the City of Millbrae and BART to require 20% affordable Housing and reduced huge parking garages in new high density zoning around Millbrae multi-modal station.

Bird-Safe design standards: Worked to get San Jose and Sunnyvale to adopt bird-safe guidelines and got San Carlos to require this for a new office near the bay front.

Coming Year Plans Include:

- Habitat Overlay in Menlo Park: Working with Facebook and Menlo Park to try to create a Habitat Overlay along the bay front to protect the Don Edwards Wildlife Refuge
- Transportation Improvements in City of Santa Clara: Developing educational tools to work with Santa Clara City to implement a Transportation Improvement Plan for the area around City Place and Levi's Stadium
- Resilient Ecology and Google: Continue work with Google on campus plans in North Bayshore area of Mountain View
- El Camino Real- the "Grand Boulevard" : Working with Redwood City, Menlo Park, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara, and, hopefully, also Millbrae and San Bruno on creating a boulevard with multi-modal access including pedestrian and bicycle access, more mixed use and housing, including affordable housing and improved bus service.
- Ecology and Natural Resources: Developing tools to assist Palo Alto