Resolution
WHEREAS strong employment growth in Silicon Valley is fueling unprecedented pressures for equivalent housing growth and local planning/permitting governments are straining to accommodate the imbalance;

And WHEREAS the City of Menlo Park has been engaged in a multi-year Specific Plan public planning process in which the Sierra Club has been actively engaged for the El Camino Real corridor in order to produce a 30-year plan for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) consistent with the vision of the multi-county Grand Boulevard concept;

And WHEREAS the City of Menlo Park City Council then enacted a Specific Plan that fell short of the citizen & Club recommended safeguards to achieve a balanced mix of Office, Non-Residential (Retail, Hotel, etc., etc.) and Residential uses over a 30-year span;

And WHEREAS the first two applications filed under the new Specific Plan consumed the bulk of the allowable 30-year footprint along El Camino and in combination are unbalanced in favor of Office uses, provide little public benefit, and negatively skew the jobs/housing balance;

And WHEREAS an ad hoc citizen group, SaveMenlo, has written, circulated, and filed an Initiative that limits the amount of Office/Non-Residential uses within the 30-year footprint but allows flexibility for the City Council regarding Residential uses;

And WHEREAS the Initiative is supported by nine (9) former Mayors of Menlo Park – all of whom have historically been allied with Sierra Club policy;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Sierra Club endorses the Initiative Measure Proposing Amendments to the City of Menlo Park General Plan and Menlo Park 2012 El Camino Real/Downtown Specific Plan Limiting Office Development, Modifying Open Space Requirements, Requiring Voter Approval For New Non-Residential Projects That Exceed Specified Development Limits.