



## **PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE**

The following is public correspondence received by the City Clerk's Office after the posting of the original agenda. Individual contact information has been redacted for privacy. This may *not* be a comprehensive collection of the public correspondence, but staff makes its best effort to include all correspondence received to date.

To send correspondence to the City Council, on matters listed on the agenda please email [PublicComment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:PublicComment@losaltosca.gov)

**From:** [Rashmi Sinha](#)  
**To:** [council@losaltos.gov](mailto:council@losaltos.gov); [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to eliminating open space at McKenzie Park - Feb 8 Council Meeting  
**Date:** Monday, January 31, 2022 5:53:59 PM

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Dear All Council Members,

I am writing in earnest to reconsider your decision about changing the face of the western section of McKenzie park for a dog park - this change will be permanent and damaging for so many reasons -

1. It is a soothing open space, which is used by many residents, young and senior alike. We regularly use it when we walk the pathway next to it and rest for a while on the benches. The shaded green area is a pleasure and a balm for the soul.
2. We moved to Los Altos and built our house here for the attraction of green trees which are the big appeal of this city. We were "required" to plant many many trees on our property to pass the inspection, which we happily complied to. The upkeep of the trees has been a priority for us. Same way, we expect that the upkeep of the city-owned trees is a priority for the city council. I am not sure how the trees in this green space will fare with so many dogs visiting on a daily basis. Has an arborist studied this and given a formal report that we can see?
3. We are in a pandemic right now. There is lesser traffic and more dogs, which might spur some to think that we need a dog park. Reality is that the pandemic is not permanent, but the damage to the green space and trees will be permanent if the space is converted to a dog park.
4. Let us **"maintain and preserve"** the jewels that we already have - the open green space, the trees, the soothing pathway next to the green space, the relaxed beautiful feel of the community which regularly takes advantage of this area.

Thanks,  
Rashmi and Vikram

**From:** [Megan Marwede](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Preserving Open Space at McKenzie Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 11:47:54 AM

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Attention: All council members,

I urge you to reconsider your decision to fence in the western section of McKenzie park for a dog park for the following reasons:

- 1) Fencing this area removes open green space of which we have so little in Los Altos. The city will be causing recreational displacement of many other groups of people - especially all of the people who are spending more time outdoors because of the pandemic.
- 2) Serious long term jeopardy to the many heritage trees. There has been no official arborist input and most likely will shorten the lifespan of the trees.
- 3) There has been no demonstrated demand for a fenced area in south Los Altos. You have seen that there is demand for a fenced dog park near Hillview but not here.
- 4) Focus on the Hillview project first, then determine if a second park is needed or wanted before irrevocably damaging McKenzie. The Hillview site is going to use a repurposed parking lot - not open green space.

Thankyou for considering my proposals.

Megan Marwede and Dave Rich

**From:** [Gordon Snedigar](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** McKenzie Park West, proposed dog park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 12:05:54 PM

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Feb. 1, 2022

Los Altos City Council,

Re: Proposed Dog Park at Mc Kenzie Park, West;

A regional study of park acreage shows Los Altos at the bottom of the list in providing adequate parkland for residents. It would be a shame to lose even more open space for the exclusive use of dogs to run off-leash.

I was at McKenzie Park West yesterday and was reminded what a jewel of a park-setting it is, quiet, shaded and surrounded by majestic trees. It's hard to imagine this serenity being replaced with a durable surface only dogs would like, including permanent fencing around the trees to guard against dogs urinating, all surrounded by a new perimeter fence to deter residents without dogs from entering.

Any effort to take away existing open green space would be contrary to serving the needs of all Los Altans. Even more important now, more residents are working from home and need the convenience of nearby parks to reenergize during the day or visit with family for fun and exercise.

When dog owners feel the need to have their dogs run off-leash, there are many existing facilities in nearby towns including Rengstorff and Shoreline Parks in Mt View and the new dog park being developed at the Hillview Baseball Field.

Please reconsider your position to transform McKenzie Park West into an exclusive fenced-in dog park, and instead, allow the existing open space to remain as it is, for all residents of Los Altos to enjoy.

Thank you,

Respectfully,

Rebecca & Gordon Snedigar

1965 Churton Avenue, Los Altos, CA

**From:** [Administration](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** FW: WYSIATI decision mistake on the McKenzie Park Dog Park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 2:40:30 PM

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**From:** Richard White <[REDACTED]@com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2022 10:46 AM  
**To:** Anita Enander <aenander@losaltosca.gov>; Sally Meadows <smeadows@losaltosca.gov>; Neysa Fligor <nfligor@losaltosca.gov>; Lynette Lee Eng <lleeeng@losaltosca.gov>; Jonathan Weinberg <jweinberg@losaltosca.gov>  
**Cc:** Administration <administration@losaltosca.gov>  
**Subject:** WYSIATI decision mistake on the McKenzie Park Dog Park

Councilmembers Enander, Meadows, Fligor, Eng and Weinberg,

I recently finished reading a book written by Nobel prize winner in economics, Daniel Kahneman entitled "Thinking, Fast and Slow". I would highly recommend it to you decision makers. He describes many of the biases and errors we humans tend to make in decision making which prevents us from making optimal, rational choices. One he highlights which is a recurring theme in the book, he describes with the acronym WYSIATI -- "What You See Is All There Is". Basically, when faced with an issue requiring a decision, we tend to make a decision based on the information that is presented, rather than asking, "What is the information needed to make the best decision?". I was able to participate in the remote council meeting in which park staff presented the dog park options to you. I don't know what resources and time park staff had to make their presentation, but to me that presentation seemed woefully lacking in providing you the information to make even preliminary choices among the options. It seems to me you really need:

- 1) What is the current state and usage of the areas proposed for the dog park,
- 2) What would be at least a preliminary design concept of how that area would be changed by constructing a dog park.

With regard to McKenzie park, we would be losing a peaceful little grove with magnificent Redwood and Oak trees and green grass, that many of us walk through and enjoy spending time in. On the other hand, the section of Heritage Oaks park that would be developed has mostly been what seems to be a dumping ground for unwanted tree mulch and (I just counted) 8 dead trees. I'll attach a link to my suggestions for the layout of each location in which you will see that the Heritage Oaks option is significantly larger (65%) even when setting up a substantial buffer along McKenzie Ave adjacent to the park. I can appreciate the concerns of the residents adjacent to the park -- the potential noise of barking dogs, the potential unpleasant smell and the potential unsightliness of a chain-link dog park. In my dog encounter experience, dogs bark at each other when they pass by on leashes. When together, off leash there is much more butt smelling going on than barking. I don't know about the smell, but the prevailing summer wind would blow across the dog park away from most of the McKenzie Ave residents. With creative landscaping in the buffer zone I described, the dog park could be substantially out of sight of the residents. I'm also fairly confident in predicting that dog owners who would be users of the park would prefer that Heritage Oaks site.

You aren't forced into making a WYSIATI mistake here. There is unanimous agreement on the Hillview site and apparently a much higher demand for a dog park in that area of the city. Build the dog park there. Find out if it is noisy and smelly. If it is neither, and you can visually isolate the Heritage Oaks site from the nearby residents, then maybe their continued resistance is not reasonable. You don't really know what the demand is for a dog park in South Los Altos. My wife had previously canvassed neighbors on Clinton Rd, Altos Oaks Dr. and Manor Way. She submitted that petition to the city council with 60 signatures of our neighbors who didn't want to give up McKenzie park West for a dog park, many of them dog owners. I doubt that sentiment has changed since it was submitted. It would be tragic to lose McKenzie Park west to a dog park that in the end, not that many people in South Los Altos want and would use. I will also attach a link to a University of Pennsylvania paper describing encountered problems with six dog parks that were studied, including damage to trees within the dog park and issues that keep dog owners from bringing their dogs to dog parks -- transmitted diseases, aggressive dogs, and irresponsible dog owners. My position on this is not NIMBY. I live about half way down Clinton Road. Heritage Oaks park is closer to me than McKenzie park west. I also walk through Heritage Oaks on a regular basis.

Sincerely

Richard White  
928 Clinton Rd  
Los Altos

[South Los Altos Dog Park Options](#)

[https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=mes\\_capstones](https://repository.upenn.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1017&context=mes_capstones)

**From:** [Melinda Reed](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment 2/8/22 item #7 Park just for Dogs  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 9:24:27 PM

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Dear Council Members,

As a former Los Altos resident, who lived a few houses from McKenzie Park, my husband and I spent years protecting it as precious green space, from the City of Los Altos' attempts to designate it for other use, despite its original design and function. Please resist efforts to make it into a cleared lot, just for Dogs, instead of preserving the intention of this land gift to the city long ago.

Trees line that end of the park with meandering paths, tennis courts, benches and climbing structures that you are considering removing. Designed landscaping, installed as a "buffer" for McKenzie residents, mitigated the City's Corporation yard from impacting neighboring backyards. The trucks, traffic, noise, and dust are "contained" within McKenzie Park and surrounded by trees, which today are maturing to their intended use.

About 2001, Los Altos School District moved their Maintenance yard from Covington School to McKenzie Park to combine the city and school district's twin needs of building materials and vehicle storage, construction workshops, and parking.

Now the redwoods, while not yet heritage size, have developed beautifully into the town's signature logo in that small green space. The surrounding landscape and playground activities block the view, the truck noise and constant construction activity of the corporation yard.

Los Altos residents have extraordinarily little Open Space areas and parks. Why is this small green space deemed ripe "just for dogs" as a park, with little green, only crushed rock and proposed fencing around each tree to avoid "damage" from the animals? The current green space is functioning to provide a park for children, bikers, seniors, and dog walkers while protecting neighborhood noise levels and an unsightly maintenance yard?

Why steal, divert and denude a green space that is successfully fulfilling its intended purpose one block away from a local school?

McKenzie Park is a gem and functioning as it was originally intended.

Sincerely,  
Melinda Reed  
Templeton, CA  
Formerly Clinton Rd.

**From:** [Abby Bennett](#)  
**To:** [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment 2/8/2022 meeting Agenda Item #7 - Dog park  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 1, 2022 9:42:35 PM

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Dear City Manager and Council Members,

I am writing in opposition to a dog park at McKenzie. Please reconsider your yes votes for this negative change to our park, neighborhood, and open space.

In the fall my 12 year old daughter was diagnosed with Aplastic Anemia and required a bone marrow transplant. (She was on the front page of the Town Crier recently) One of the only things she has been able to do as she heals is walk close to our home. McKenzie is around the corner from us and she has spent lots of time there. If the open space was to become a dog park it would be considered hazardous to her health. The change from grass to other surfaces and the pet waste would make that area inaccessible to her. When she saw that you might remove the trees she cried.

We need more open space for humans in Los Altos, not less. Especially now! We are struggling as a community to find safe places to connect with each other. Parks and green space have been those safe places for so many of us. Please don't take McKenzie from our community.

I have two dogs. Neither of which would I take to a dog park. In Los Altos people walk their dogs, they clean up their waste and dispose of it responsibly. We are a town of mostly good dog owners. A place where urine and feces saturate the ground is not a "park" it's a cesspit. The urine concentration will become so high that if you don't remove the trees, they will eventually die. This is not what is good for pets or for people. Continue off leash hours, add some other venues and options. Keep McKenzie green with trees and grass and a healthy ecosystem.

I beg you to reconsider the dog park anywhere, not just McKenzie. Our families and dog owners need a greenspace not a wasteland.

Sincerely,

Abby Bennett  
1235 S Springer Rd  
Los Altos



Dear Los Altos City Council Members,

We, as both dog owners and residents of Clinton Rd., are disappointed that the City Council voted to move forward with a fenced-in dog park at McKenzie Park West. For the reasons set forth below, we respectfully ask that you reconsider and find another area for a dog park.

A study of City owned properties must be done before any consideration of any public park land.

It is well-known and documented in the Los Altos Park Plan (excerpt included below), that Los Altos has the fewest park acreage ratio as compared to all surrounding cities, and even beyond. We need to preserve and create new park areas as possible, not destroy what little remains.

### **The Dog Park Will Have a Substantial Housing Impact**

City Council appears to believe that installing a dog park on McKenzie Park West will have little impact on housing because the designated area is not near any homes and because there is a nearby small parking lot. Unfortunately, they are incorrect.

Based on years of living on Clinton Road (which abuts McKenzie Park East), we know the small parking lot fills quickly. Park users invariably park on Clinton Road (and other neighboring streets), despite a sign requesting park goers use the lot on Fremont. As a result, Clinton Road is packed with cars, often making it difficult for homeowners' guests to find parking. Additionally many park directly in front of resident's mailboxes, resulting mail not being delivered.

The parking lot is also heavily used by the medical offices adjacent to the park, and removing spaces forces office workers onto the local streets for daily parking, creating even more impact.

Altos Oaks Drive is an unsuitable option for overflow parking. It is lined daily with medical office workers and patients. The parking lots themselves are private lots, and public parking is not available there.

Medical office workers currently park on nearby streets (examples being Clinton and Golden Way) due to limited parking in the lots.

A dog park will bring in additional people from all over the area, will only exacerbate the problem.

In short, there will be a substantial housing impact.

### **The Dog Park Will Remove Beautiful Green Space Open Space For All**

It appears that City Council believes that McKenzie Park West is an unused and fungible area and can easily be turned into a fenced-in dog park. Nothing could be further from the truth.

McKenzie Park is a gem of the city with its stunning green grass, tall canopy trees, and play structures. The Park includes both McKenzie Park East and McKenzie Park West, which are connected by a pathway. They are not two, but one connected park. Based upon our own experience, numerous people walk the pathway daily to enjoy the splendor of both areas.

McKenzie Park West is particularly beautiful with its approximately 20 mature trees, including redwoods and protected heritage oak trees, the Pax Nova sculpture, a climbing wall (which looks like a sculpture in its own right), and benches and picnic tables. Indeed the City of Los Altos's own website showcases the beauty of McKenzie Park West with three photographs of the very area that it now seeks to destroy (see Attachment 1, website).

The tennis courts are heavily used, both by residents and the City uses as well for tennis lessons.

The benches and tables are used by workers from the nearby medical offices, and the Sub-Acute Center.

The play structure, installed during the last park renovations at McKenzie, is one of the most unique climbing apparatus in the City, and enjoyed by many.

The dog park will put the many trees in jeopardy. There has been no arborist report done. While steps can be taken to “mitigate” issues, surely the trees lifespan will be significantly shortened.

### **A Dog-Park Would Require Significant Expenditure and Changes**

As noted, McKenzie Park West has approximately 20 mature trees, a play structure, a sculpture, picnic tables and benches. Turning the area into a dog park would require significant expenditures and changes. At the January 11, 2022, meeting, City Manager Gabriel Engeland said that it would cost an estimated \$50,000 per park to fund the construction (see attachment 2, January 13, 2022, Town Crier article). But, we are not aware of any plans that outline the actual costs, let alone the maintenance of it.

In fact, in its May 2020 Report, the City of Los Altos Parks and Recreation Commission rejected turning McKenzie Park West into a dog-park because the costs would require “substantial capital investment.” (See attachment 3, Commission Report, p. 2). It further noted that “hardscape would need to be removed, some trees would need to be removed, drainage would need to be improved and fencing would need to be extensive to enclose the irregular area of this park.” (*Id.*). It concluded its Report stating that “the recent financial constraints on the City budget, as a direct result of the Corona virus, also gives reason to reject a fenced-in dog park at McKenzie Park.” (*Id.*).

### **Other Reasons the Commission Rejected McKenzie Park West Are Still Relevant**

The Commission rejected McKenzie Park West for a myriad of other reasons, all of which are still relevant despite the passage of time. The Commission noted that dog urine would impact trees and require additional watering. Certainly, in drought-ridden California, this requirement is not welcome. In addition, the Commission conceded that there are parking issues since the parking lot is “frequently full of vehicles.” (*Id.*). The Commission also noted that there is a caterpillar infestation issue that would be problematic to dogs. (*Id.*, pp. 2-3). The commission further noted that a dog park would remove resident access to a play structure, benches and picnic tables. (*Id.*, p. 3). Importantly, it stated that the “data from the workshops do not support having a fenced-in dog part at this site.” (*Id.*).

One of the goals as stated in the council priorities is the following noted under the Goal 2: LAND USE “**Objective No. 3: Proactively endeavor to increase and protect the City’s parkland with an emphasis on the acquisition and preservation of green space or open space.**”

Fencing in this area goes directly against that goal as it will destroy that green and open space that currently all enjoy.

The Hillview site at least establishes a new area and does not destroy any existing green and open space.

There is no demonstrable need for any fenced-in park anywhere in South Los Altos. In fact all of the prior surveys done have indicated there is not significant support for fenced-in dog parks.

### **Conclusion**

In short, turning the beautiful McKenzie Park West into a fenced-in dog park would be a disservice to the residents of Los Altos.

Removing open areas used and enjoyed by all, for the exclusive use of a few, makes no sense.

Preserve what precious little open space we have for all Los Altans to enjoy.

Derek and Anne Pitcher

## PARK ACREAGE COMPARISON

Compared to similar, regional cities, Los Altos has a low park acreage ratio. Per 1,000 residents, Los Altos has approximately 1.57 acres of dedicated parkland.

	<b>Population<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Developed Parks Acreage</b>	<b>Park Acreage per 1,000 Residents</b>
San Carlos	28,406	143	5.03
Campbell <sup>2</sup>	39,349	132	3.35
Burlingame	28,806	94	3.26
Cupertino <sup>2</sup>	58,302	162	2.78
Mountain View <sup>2</sup>	74,066	187	2.52
Palo Alto	64,403	162	2.52
Saratoga	29,926	63	2.11
Menlo Park	32,026	54	1.69
<b>Los Altos</b>	<b>28,976</b>	<b>45.45</b>	<b>1.57</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on 2010 Census

<sup>2</sup> Includes school sites under joint-use agreements

**From:** Allen Hullinger <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 28, 2022 5:24 PM  
**To:** City Council <[council@losaltosca.gov](mailto:council@losaltosca.gov)>; Public Comment <[publiccomment@losaltosca.gov](mailto:publiccomment@losaltosca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Mckenzie park dog park-opposition and concern if due process and voice of citizens

To the members of Los Altos Council,

Please reconsider your decision to put a fenced-in dog park at McKenzie Park.

We do not have enough open space in Los Altos. At the direction of Council, the facilities department plans to take up almost all the green space in McKenzie Park West for a fenced-in dog park. This will inevitably impact the quality of life for local residents, medical offices, and users of the tennis and pickleball courts.

The attention to survival of the redwood trees and heritage oaks in the park is lacking. Do you have an arborist report we can read?

In May 2020, the subcommittee for the Parks and Recreation Commission ruled out McKenzie Park as a location for a dog park. A survey of residents including dog owners found very low interest in a fenced-in dog park. There has been poor to no outreach on this topic in two years. Yet suddenly, everything has changed and the Council has proceeded without consultation.

As a Los Altos resident who loves dogs and has many kids that use the climbing wall and tennis courts, I urge you to keep our green space available for all creatures two-legged and four-legged.

Allen and Natasha Hullinger  
948 Clinton Rd.  
Los Altos, CA

p.s. all my six kids use the climbing wall each week.:)

**From:** [Richard White](#)  
**To:** [Administration](#); [Public Comment](#)  
**Subject:** Vast Majority of residents in McKenzie Park Neighborhoods do not want a fenced in dog park  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 7:59:26 PM

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City Council Members and City Manager,

My wife and I canvassed the neighborhoods nearest to McKenzie Park west ( Manor Way, Altos Oaks Drive, and Golden Way) and simply asked our neighbors if they wanted to lose that McKenzie Park west green space to a fenced in dog park. I'll attach copies of the petition we circulated. A supermajority DO NOT want that green space converted to a dog park. Of the 41 people contacted, 35 signed the petition indicating they didn't want a dog park; two indicated they did want the park converted and another three were simply neutral. Among my Clinton Rd neighbors I know of no one who wants a dog park in McKenzie park west. So the statistics are roughly 90% opposed, 4% in favor, and another 6% neutral. I understand you have a petition from people in the North Los Altos area who are in favor of a dog park. The unbiased petitions attached clearly indicate that is not the attitude here in South Los Altos near McKenzie park. If you have contradictory input, in the spirit of transparency I would ask that you share it with us. If you don't then I believe it would be irresponsible to go ahead with plans for a dog park that most people in the area don't want. Build the park at Hillview and reassess the need for a park in South Los Altos.

Sincerely

Richard L. White  
928 Clinton Rd  
Los Altos, CA

# Save McKenzie Park

I am **NOT** in favor of the Los Altos City Council changing McKenzie Park (by the tennis courts) into a fenced-in dog park. We need to protect the parks that we have, not eliminate them.

01/31/2022

Name

Address

- | Name                | Address                           |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Kayo Yamamura    | 959 Altos Oaks Dr.                |
| 2. Mark Green       | 959 Altos Oaks Dr.                |
| 3. KEVIN WALTER     | 928 ACIUS OAKS DR                 |
| 4. Linda Cecil      | 919 Altos Oaks Dr.                |
| 5. ANBAL CECIL      | 919 ALTOS OAKS DR                 |
| 6. Lucie Moustirats | 918 <sup>LOS</sup> ALTOS-DRIVE LA |
| 7. Liya Lipkind     | 1485 MIRAMONTE AVE, LA            |
| 8. PEDRO HILARIO    | 887 ALTOS OAK DR                  |
| 9. CHRIS CHEN       | 888 Altos Oaks Dr.                |
| 10. Farrokh Rahimi  | 868 Altos Oaks Dr.                |
| 11. Jennifer Walsh  | 235 Chatham Way<br>rtn, View      |
| 12. RAUI LINGARKAR  | 1293 Golden Way, 94024            |
| 13. ANIRBAN         | 1290 Golden Way                   |
| 14. Janet Hurt      | 1278 Golden Way                   |

Name

Address

- 15. Rachel Kim [redacted] 971 Secore Ave
- 16. David Riggle [redacted] 253 Golden Way
- 17. Yuchun Meng [redacted] 241 Golden Way
- 18. Kavita Mohan [redacted] 968 Manor way
- 19. Catherine Lacava [redacted] LOS ALTOS.  
966 Manor way
- 20. [redacted] 971 MANOR WAY  
LOS ALTOS
- 21. Jill Glasgow 956 Manor Way
- 22. [redacted] 950 Manor Way
- 23. [redacted] 950 Manor Way
- 24. Susan Menev 951 Manor Way
- 25. Jan Detto (Susan Detto) 872 Manor Way
- 26. Yun Khan (Yasemin & Khan) 836 Manor Way
- 27. Steven Chakerian [redacted] 827 Manor Way
- 28. Steve Albin 811 Manor Way
- 29. [redacted] 797 Manor Way
- 30. [redacted] 797 Manor Way

31. 22 people contacted re: McKenzie Dog Park

32. 17/22 opposed (77%)  
 4/22 neutral (18%)  
 1/22 in favor (5%)

# Save McKenzie Park

I am **not** in favor of the Los Altos City Council changing McKenzie Park (by the tennis courts) into a fenced-in dog park. We need to protect the parks that we have, not eliminate them.

01/31/2022

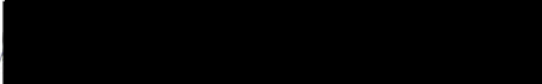

Name

Address

1. Michael Bachman 882 Manor Way, Los Altos
  2. Gina Bachman 882 Manor Way, Los Altos
  3. WEN Hsu 1181 Golden Way, Los Altos
  - 4.
- 

Name

Address

15.  811 Manor Way Los Altos
16. 
- 17.
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- 19.
- 20.
- 21.
- 22.
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- 24.