



**City of Los Altos
One North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022**

August 31, 2022

Subject: Agenda Item #4 - August 31, 2022, Planning Commission Meeting relating to the Stanford Community Plan Update

Dear Members of the Santa Clara County Planning Commission,

I am writing on behalf of the Los Altos City Council to provide comment on the above-referenced Agenda Item 4 regarding the Report on Growth and Development, Land Use, Open Space, Resource Conservation, and Health and Safety chapters to be included in the Stanford Community Plan Update (“Report”). Thank you for the opportunity to do so. Thanks also to staff for putting together such a comprehensive report.

Like many jurisdictions that are in close proximity to the subject Stanford property, the City of Los Altos was involved in the public process for the 2019 General Use Permit. While Stanford University (the “University”) may have withdrawn its application for a new General Use Permit (“GUP”), Los Altos remains very concerned about the impacts of the University’s development on our community both today and in the future. Therefore, we believe its important that the Community Plan be rigorously updated, after more than 20 years of being on the shelf. It needs to be done prior to there being a new use permit under review.

Accordingly, we believe the staff recommendations contained in the Report are consistent with where the 2019 process left off, and we support those recommendations. We also have specific concerns about certain requests that we believe would weaken the effectiveness of policies in the Community Plan, including:

- removing the trip-based standards from the circulation chapter, including peak period and reverse commute trips;
- allowing for use of an in-lieu fee for affordable housing units when those fees are insufficient to actually result in the number of units needed; and
- allowing for housing built under the current GUP to be credited to a future GUP.

These concerns are born out of our experience from being a close neighbor (it is not often recognized that our downtown is less than 6 miles from the university campus). Los Altos has been directly impacted by the University’s acquisition of housing in Los Altos and resultant increase in traffic congestion on our streets. As we all know, affordable housing is a regional issue, and increasing opportunities for biking, walking, and transit are key to safer streets and cleaner air.

Thank you for hearing our concerns, and please support the staff recommendations addressing those concerns.

Sincerely,

Anita Enander
Mayor, City of Los Altos

cc:

Members, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors
Members, Los Altos City Council