



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

From: [Todd Basche](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #14 9/20/22
Date: Monday, September 19, 2022 2:41:44 PM

The new agreement is 47 pages long.

Please work WITH the community that elected you.

1. Postpone approving the agreement for one week.
2. Adequately publicize a meeting with the community to discuss the new proposal. We had over 100 people last week with nearly no notice.
3. Gabe should present a few Powerpoint slides highlighting the key elements of the new plan.
4. Agree to have a small group of specific residents walks the path with Gabe and SFPUC to mark trees etc.
(all abutters and some users of the Bike Path.)
5. Then, after that, you can sign and have changed the tone of the Council to one of actually getting the community input.

Todd




From: [Todd Basche](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #14 9/20/22
Date: Monday, September 19, 2022 2:48:42 PM

The new agreement is 47 pages long.

Please work WITH the community that elected you.

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Todd and Rahn Basche
1060 Estrellita Way Los Altos, ca. 94022



From: [Holly Cohen](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Anita Enander](#); [Sally Meadows](#); [Neysa Fligor](#); [Lynette Lee Eng](#); [Jonathan Weinberg](#); [Holly Cohen](#)
Subject: Please Do Not sign the agreement with SFPUC re: the Hetch Tetchy Bike Walking Path
Date: Monday, September 19, 2022 3:47:50 PM

Los Altos City Council,

At your Council meeting tomorrow evening, you will be asked to vote on an agreement with SFPUC regarding the Hetch Hetchy Bike Walking Path from Adobe Creek to Mercedes (item #14 on the agenda). **Please vote NO** tomorrow evening.

Community members need the opportunity to review the agreement, understand the implications and offer perspective. There has not been sufficient time for the community to weigh in – and with a NO vote tomorrow night, you will enable the community to have a voice in your decision-making process.

Thank you for your consideration,

Holly Cohen
1031 Via Del Pozo, Los Altos

From: [James Oh](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #14 9/20/22
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 12:12:02 AM

I would like to very much express my appreciation to Gabe Engeland for taking the time last Thursday to explain the license renewal situation with SFPUC and to field all the questions from the 104 people in attendance at the information session. As we saw at the information session, it was very clear that there was very passionate interest by the community to make sure the Hetch Hetchy path is kept as tree-friendly as possible.

And personally as an abutter to the path, there are two large oak trees that are right next to our property that sounds like they are at high risk from the SFPUC maintenance guidelines. It would be a tragedy if these beautiful trees were lost unnecessarily.

While we understand Gabe's strategy to try to get on good terms with the SFPUC for negotiating saving as many trees as possible, we believe this is a high risk strategy. We would like to involve the community in trying to figure out the best approach for negotiating with the SFPUC.

To this end, we would like to make the following recommendations for the approval tomorrow:

- DO NOT sign or approve the agreement with SFPUC on Sept 20th
- Ask the council members to form a committee with residents to review the SFPUC issue; let's include the community in this discussion.
- Give that combined committee time to meet with SFPUC and bring them to the table for a discussion.

We hope that we can cooperatively figure out the best strategy for resolving this situation with the SFPUC.

Thank you for all your help.

James Oh and Jooyeon Ann, 1081 Laureles Drive

From: [Vincent Au](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #14 9/20/22
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 8:59:09 AM

Hi City of Los Altos,

We would like to express our concerns to allow SFPUC to cut down the large heritage trees on the Hetchy Hetchy path. This is a path that we enjoy and use daily and it would be a great loss to the city of Los Altos, if the natural beauty of the path was lost.

While we understand that SFPUC would like to cut the trees down for maintenance, I believe a compromise including discussions with members of the community should be completed and also looking into other ways of performing maintenance while saving as many of the trees as possible. Los Altos goes to large efforts to protect all heritage trees and I believe the same rules should apply in this case.

Thank you for your help.

Thanks,
-Vincent

From: [Stanford Alumni](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Hetch Hetchy Trail license agreement
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 10:58:01 AM
Attachments: [Alta Mesa Mem Park 698 Arastradero Rd, Palo Alto.png](#)
[255 S. Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View.png](#)
[2333 California St across from Klein Park, Mountain View.png](#)
[Stanford Hills Park, Stanford.png](#)
[Foothills Tennis & Swim Club, Palo Alto.png](#)
[166 Escuela Ave, Mountain View.png](#)
[Albert Augustine Memorial Park 394 Coelho St Milpitas.png](#)
[700 Tangelo Ct. Fremont.png](#)

To the honorable Los Altos City Council,

I am writing in regards to the updated license agreement with SFPUC for the Hetch Hetchy Trail (item 14 on the Agenda for the Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022 meeting).

I received an inquiry from a council member about locations of parks and areas that have trees that are within 25 feet of the Hetch Hetchy pipeline. In response to this request, attached are images of parks and open areas that appear to have tall trees that are within 25 feet the Hetch Hetchy pipeline. Nearby locations with 40+ feet tall trees include the Rex Manor Park in Mountain View and the Alta Mesa Memorial Park at 700 Arastradero Rd, Palo Alto. There are also many areas along Junipero Serra Blvd and in the area of the Stanford Dish at Stanford University that appear to have such trees close to the pipelines. In addition, there is a location near 700 Tangelo Ct. Fremont where the pipeline crosses a stream with trees similar to that at Adobe Creek.

It is also worth noting that it has been shown that trees help reduce the soil disturbance and protect the land from liquifying during an earthquake. Trees are actually beneficial to be in the vicinity of the waterline to help protect it during an earthquake. Perhaps not all of the implications of removing trees have been considered.

With best regards,
Donald Gardner, Ph.D.

Attached is a list and images from 10 locations of parks and areas.

Rex Manor Park @ 185 Farley St., Mountain View
Alta Mesa Memorial Park @ 700 Arastradero Rd, Palo Alto
Park next to 255 S. Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View
2333 California St across from Klein Park, Mountain View
Stanford Hills Park, Stanford
Parking area at Foothill Tennis & Swim Club, Palo Alto
166 Escuela Ave. Mountain View
Albert Augustine Memorial Park @ 394 Coelho St Milpitas
700 Tangelo Ct. Fremont
Along Junipero Serra Blvd and in the area of the Stanford Dish at Stanford University

Rex Manor Park @ 185 Farley St., Mountain View



Alta Mesa Memorial Park @ 700 Arastradero Rd, Palo Alto



Park next to 255 S. Rengstorff Ave, Mountain View



2333 California St across from Klein Park, Mountain View



Stanford Hills Park, Stanford



Parking area at Foothill Tennis & Swim Club, Palo Alto



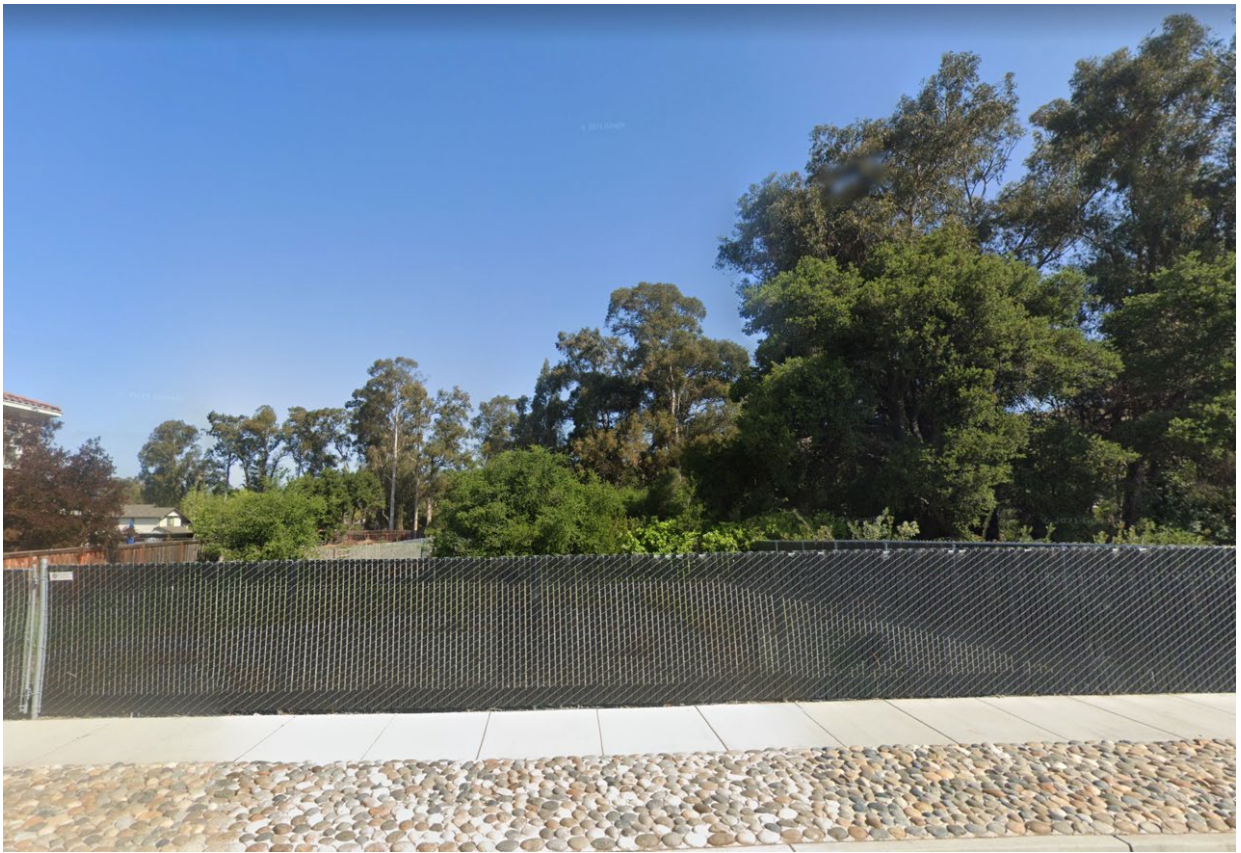
166 Escuela Ave. Mountain View



Albert Augustine Memorial Park @ 394 Coelho St Milpitas



700 Tangelo Ct. Fremont



From: [Didier Moretti](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Didier Moretti](#)
Subject: SFPUC and the trail
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 11:48:55 AM

Dear Members of the Los Altos City Council,

I am requesting that you do consider but NOT sign the SFPUC agreement yet. I understand you are obligated to consider the agreement but we residents of Los Altos were only just recently made aware of the intentions of the SFPUC tree removal along the Hetch Hetchy path that lies within Los Altos.

Our property is very near the trail and we use the trail often. Removing trees on the trail would result in complete lack of privacy in homes abutting the trail, or very near the trail like ours. It would also remove large areas of shade, with major adverse effects on current trees and vegetation in the adjoining areas and adjoining properties. It would result in a significant increase in noise from the sports fields and adjoining schools. Finally many of the trees are majestic oak trees that may be over 100 years old and should be protected to maintain the character of our Los Altos community.

We think signing the agreement now may result in trees being removed that are not actually impeding maintenance of the SFPUC pipe. We would like the city arborist, a representative from SFPUC and any other pertinent city officials and residents to walk the trail together to mark the actual location of the pipe and to work with the SFPUC to arrive at a reasonable solution that preserves the beautiful old trees along the trail.

Please do not sign the SFPUC agreement until more information can be gathered and reviewed, and a reasonable compromise struck with the SFPUC.

Respectfully,

Didier Moretti and Katrina Philip, 465 Mundell Way, Los Altos

Didier Moretti



From: [Sanja Kelly](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda item 14
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 2:22:45 PM

Esteemed Mayor and Members of the Los Altos City Council:

We are writing to you with a request that you **NOT sign the agreement with SFPUC that would cut down the trees along the Los Altos-Palo Alto Bike Path**. We were shocked to learn about this plan from a neighbor and are appalled that our own city government did not seek greater community input on an issue that would effectively wipe out one of the most beautiful green areas in our city.

The trees and greenery along the bike path provide much needed shade and relief during the hottest months. They contribute to the beauty of the area and allow for privacy for the adjacent property owners. For those who use the bike path for commuting, the trees make the ride more bearable in the heat, enabling us to cycle (instead of riding cars) lessening overall congestion and pollution.

Without the trees it would be a brown, dead, barren wasteland for 9 months of the year. It would adversely affect the enjoyment of those who regularly use the path and the property values of those who own lots near it. It would transform a picturesque pathway into an eye sore.

We understand that SFPUC might have legitimate needs for their property maintenance, but as part of any corporate-social responsibility commitment that most similar entities adhere to, **any action that might have negative consequences on a community needs to be (1) necessary, (2) proportionate, and (3) the least restrictive to achieve the intended legitimate goal**. We currently do not have any evidence that the tree removal is necessary (Have there been any assessments or studies for the path specifically?). Even if some trees are shown to have the impact, we ask you whether the action of cutting down *all trees* is proportionate.

We urge the council not to sign the agreement today. Instead, we hope that you would form an advisory committee in partnership with residents to search for a solution and draft an addendum to the agreement that would be acceptable to all. As the city council, your job is to represent the interests of our community and our community has told you loud and clear—including in the meeting last week attended by over 100 residents – that we do not want the agreement signed as it currently stands.

We typically do not care about local politics, but this will be our #1 issue in the local elections this fall. Many others feel the same.

Sincerely,

Sanja and Jason Kelly

From: [Lisa Bernard](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUblic Comment Agenda Item #14 on 09/20/22
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 3:34:36 PM

Please do not cut down the trees lining the pathway. Clear cutting is excessive and unnecessary. Green Los Altos has an initiative to plant new trees, which require more water than existing, older ones, and we are proposing to cut down established oak trees.

Nature is beautiful;. Part of the charm of Los ALtos is being able to meander along paths. If all the trees are cut down it will be ugly, unshaded, bad for the environment and extremely short-sighted on the town's behalf.

R Lisa Bernard, MD
Los Altos resident since 1994

From: [Michael Ellerin](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Agenda item #14 Hetch Hetchy Trail Land Use Permit
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 4:47:55 PM

Please delay the signing of the Land Use Permit for just two weeks so the City can meet with each abutter and establish where the SFWD water pipes run alongside their property line and what trees are within 20' of the southern pipe (90") and within 15' of the northern pipe (72").

Since SFWD wants to meet with only a representative of the City, this preliminary resident-focused process will give the abutters and the community that supports them the most comfort that they were heard and respected in this eleventh hour of negotiations.

Icing on the PR cake would be the City knowing which trees it too wants to save and is willing to offer removal services at the City's expense if a tree remains inside the clear-cut zones of 15 and 20 feet but needs to be removed for water pipe repair.

Michael Ellerin
311 Lunada Drive
Los Altos

From: [Mary Fossourier](#)
To: [Public Comment](#); PublicComment@losaltosca.gov; [Public Comment](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT AGENDA ITEM #14 - MEETING DATE OF SEPT 20, 2022
Date: Tuesday, September 20, 2022 6:53:36 PM

Dear Mayor Anita Enander and City Council Members Sally Meadows, Neysa Fligor, Lynette Lee Eng and Jonathan Weinberg:

My family members are residents of Los Altos for more than 25 years. Although we are not directly on the SFPUC/HH path, we are nearby. And for all these years we have biked, jogged, walked, strolled all along the path. We love the path, we love Los Altos. We are so proud to be part of this community.

We already participated, live, in the meeting of Thurs Sept 15/22. It was earlier that week that we learned of the dastardly fate that awaits our Los Altos trees along that path. NOOOOOO! Please please please do not sign the the latest SFPUC agreement. It seems to us that doing so would be the "path of least resistance" for the City Council to take. And that is AFTER many years of procrastinating and temporizing on this issue. City Council has done nothing to prepare for this inevitability for year after year!

It is time for our City Council to DO its job! And that job is to work with the residents of Los Altos to prepare in the best possible manner for the future of our city. The City Council should work with other Mayors, including those of Palo Alto and Mountain View. You should work with the Mayor of San Francisco. You should understand the makeup of the SFPUC and those who work on the Hetch Hechy project. Work with all these groups instead of continuing to do nothing!

BOTTOM LINE: PLEASE DO NOT SIGN THE SFPUC AGREEMENT without the residents input.

Thank you!

from Mary et Jacques Fossourier,

25+ year residents of Los Altos.

1168 Laureles Drive, Los Altos, 94022.



