

From: [Alice Mansell](#)
To: [Public Comment - HC](#)
Subject: [External Sender]Public Comment 4/28/2025
Date: Monday, April 28, 2025 2:01:15 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I request you reconsider your Fall 2024 work plan delegating virtually all the detailed historic orchard care oversight to City staffers and Los Altos History Museum staff and volunteers. The public still awaits the LAHM contractual Orchard Annual Report due in August 2024 and its Maintenance Plan due in January 2024.

Such orchard oversight and similar duties have also been in 2024-2025 delegated by your fellow commissioners to the City's paid staffers and consultants as well as to LAHM whose orchard care contract is up for public review for a one year extension this Summer sometime before or after your commission has scheduled its Summer joint meeting with the LAHM to review how the orchard is doing this year.

Your commission should also be watching the encroaching impacts on both the orchard and the landmarked Smith House during all the 2024-2025 construction projects such as the encroaching LAYC plans never made public except to me via Public Record Act request in July 2024 which I gave to your commission last year. That project has had multiple contract add-ons for new hardscape and parking spaces as well as more underground utilities' boring and trench work around City Hall and LAYC. For example, the Spring 2025 big expansion of new hardscape to accomodate a new transformer, work not depicted on the 2023-2024 LAYC building plans. Also encroaching into the orchard will be LALE's Library Courtyard's new glass & metal fencing, metal roof, a long concrete ramp, large new concrete patio-pad, and new concrete walkways.

The Orchard and J. Gilbert Smith House should be on your next agenda to review publically the cumulative, newest and sustained encroachments and impacts to both the Orchard and House. From the Friends of the Library's "interim" storage sheds placed a few years ago to what City Hall staff has stated publicly it wants to do for the budgeted Civic Center Dog Park's mitigation for the Library parking spaces lost for that project and new parking spaces to serve the repurposed LAYC building. If a proposed City ballot initiative for a new tax passes in 2026 to fund City Hall's desired "future" police department expansion which already has resulted in September 2024 in the loss of 30% of the City's orchard land, your commission must, thus, now be reviewing the impacts of all past, present and future cumulative impacts.

Many regards,
Alice Mansell
Los Altos, California