



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

713 Santa Cruz Ave., Suite 9, Menlo Park, CA 94025 Web:<http://www.lwvssmc.org>

July 12, 2016

Mayor Richard Cline and Council Members
City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel St
Menlo Park CA 94025

Re: General Plan Update, Draft Environmental Impact Report – Extension of Review Period

The League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County cares very much about the future of Menlo Park. The General Plan lays the framework for this future.

This General Plan Update is the first comprehensive look since 1994. There was considerable outreach in the development of the Plan Update, including many community meetings to get to this point to create the revised goals/policies/programs for the Land Use and Circulation Elements and the proposed change in zoning for only the M-2 area near Facebook.

The outreach of the Environmental Impact Report review process, however, has been minimal, particularly when substantially negative impacts, that cannot be mitigated, are clearly identified.

With the population/housing projected to increase by 50% and employment by 70% from now until 2040, the community is faced with a lot of change it has not seen in many years, and the public deserves the chance to weigh in. A significant extension of the period for public input would serve this purpose.

In addition, we ask the Council to specifically add public meetings on three main topics of concern that have been identified:

- Jobs/Housing Balance – with the proposed increase in employment, the housing needs of future employees, but also issues of continuing lack of affordable housing and potential displacement
- Traffic and Transportation – currently, traffic is in a state of gridlock, especially in the M-2 area, even with efforts made by Facebook and other employers.
- Sea Level Rise – the proposed increase in land use is adjacent to the Bay and future sea level rise.

Public participation is our primary concern. We agree with the proposal to extend the deadline for comments on the EIR, and also request that you include additional meetings on specified topics.

Ellen Hope, President
League of Women Voters South San Mateo County

cc Arlinda Heineck, Community Development Director; Deanna Chow, Principal Planner