



Loma Prieta Chapter serving San Mateo, Santa Clara & San Benito Counties

July 18, 2016

Mayor Richard Cline and Members of the City Council
City of Menlo Park
em: via e-mail:

Re: Request to extend General Plan Update Schedule to include Community Workshops

Honorable Mayor Cline and Members of the City Council,

We are pleased to learn that the City Council has decided to extend the comment period for the draft EIR by two weeks to allow the public more time to absorb the voluminous amounts of data presented in the DEIR.

The release of the draft EIR is the first time that the public gets to hear about the possible impacts of the changes proposed in updating the General Plan. Since this is the first comprehensive update of the plan since 1994, it is an important undertaking worthy of adequate time for public input, as it will guide the quality of life in the City for the next two decades.

- We believe that a single workshop, as proposed by staff, is not adequate for the work that remains on the General Plan Update.

Several months were invested on the visioning process, in order to be inclusive of various parties. Now that the considerable impacts of the Vision are presented in the Draft EIR, it is important to start on the work of coming up with practical solutions to the impacts anticipated so that the General Plan, going forward, provides a sturdy blueprint for the future.

, and the public allowed to participate in arriving at the solutions to these impacts.

- Therefore we ask that Council arrange for a set of workshops where the major impacts that are of concern should be studied, individually, and solutions reviewed in public forum to arrive at the General Plan for the next two decades. To accommodate this, the General Plan Update schedule needs to be extended into next year.
- At these workshops, we ask that information on the entire General Plan for the whole city be presented so that members of the public receive a complete picture of the General Plan for the city.

Thank you
Respectfully submitted:

Gita Dev
Gladwyn D'Sousa
Co-chairs, Sustainable land use Committee
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter