

June 16, 2006

Mayor Galiotto and Council members  
City of Mountain View  
500 Castro St.  
Mountain View, CA 94041

Dear Mayor Galiotto and Council members:

The Sierra Club has proudly endorsed the Toll Brothers redevelopment proposal for Mountain View's Mayfield Mall site. The Sierra Club is committed to preservation of wild, open spaces. We also acknowledge the housing crisis affecting the entire Bay Area, and recognize the need to construct additional housing to meet this demand. Therefore, we feel it imperative that old malls and office parks be 'recycled' into livable neighborhoods with access to alternative transportation, parks, and retail services.

As you are aware, land-use decisions have a tremendous impact on community and environmental quality. Transit-oriented infill provides an essential strategy for protecting our precious open spaces from development while creating rich pedestrian-friendly communities. The jobs/housing imbalance throughout the peninsula generates tremendous pressure for poor development in distant areas such as Morgan Hill and Dublin. This in turn generates automobile traffic with its concurrent air and water quality degradation. These pressures create a vicious circle with increased pressure for automobile infrastructure. By one recent study, fifty percent of the land in San Jose is allocated to automobiles in roads and parking. Furthermore, recent EPA studies have shown that good infill can reduce traffic by putting housing near jobs.

The Toll Brothers proposal is an excellent example of environmentally friendly redevelopment, putting homes in our existing urban core, near jobs and services, and directly adjacent to a CalTrain station. We urge you to approve the general plan amendment, specific plan, and development agreement for this proposed project.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Schaaf  
Chair, Sustainable Land Use Committee  
Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter  
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