

Subject: Support Mayfield Mall redevelopment

Dear Mayor Neely and Councilmembers:

The board of directors of BayRail Alliance, a transit riders' group, wishes to express its strong support for the proposed redevelopment of the Mayfield Mall/Hewlett Packard site for housing.

We note that this former mall property, replete with large, empty parking lots, awaits a more productive use. There is huge market demand for housing in the area, and housing that is near rail transit is at even more of a premium.

Provided that the development is designed in a bike- and pedestrian-friendly fashion and in way that reduces parking requirements (such as through car-sharing arrangements, ecopass or other incentives), it will be a huge asset to Mountain View. This development will provide additional patrons for local business while helping Mountain View to meet its ABAG requirements for new housing.

By approving this development you will help Mountain View to do its share for the environment, instead of adding to pressures to build housing in sprawled and far-flung agricultural and greenbelt areas. You will help to relieve some of the pressures on families and workers who must currently commute long and grueling distances, polluting the air and neglecting civic life in our communities.

We note that San Mateo County asks its cities to zone for forty units/acre at minimum to qualify for housing incentive money. Even then, their program is oversubscribed. They have found that the higher densities provide a critical mass that supports economic revitalization efforts and the livability of the community. For example, low densities are not able to support mass transit very well, nor do they provide enough foot traffic for local businesses.

Now that you have a willing developer for the property, please support higher density housing for this prime location.

Sincerely,

Margaret Okuzumi
Executive Director

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