

4.23.19

Item #3.P



City Council Meeting

Item #3.P

Informational Report -
El Camino Real Specific Plan
Right-of-Way Alternatives

April 23, 2019



City of
Santa Clara
The Center of What's Possible

El Camino Real Specific Plan

Alternative 3A - Informational Report

City Council Study Session – February 5, 2019

Council reviewed key components of the El Camino Real Specific Plan:

- Draft Land Use Plan
- Preferred Right-of-Way Roadway Alternative 2A

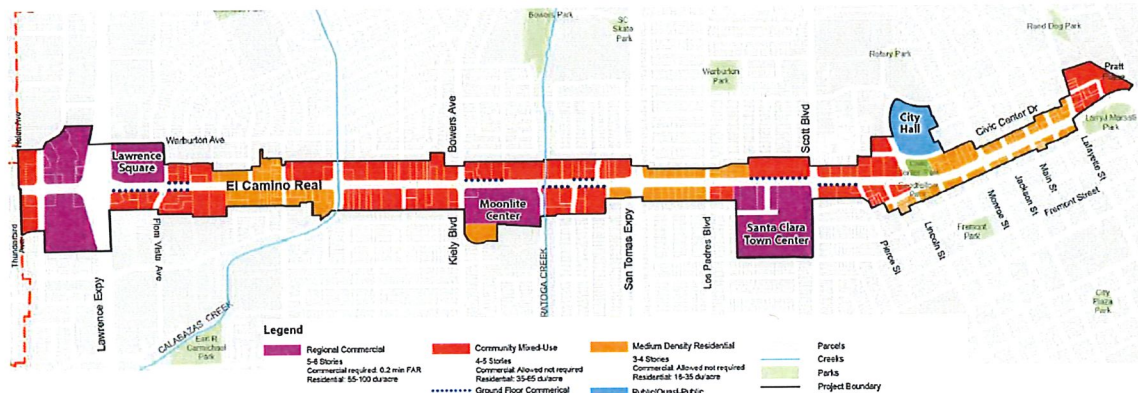
City Council requested that staff provide information regarding the work and costs required to study right-of-way design Alternative 3A

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El Camino Real Specific Plan

EIR Project Description: Draft Land Use Plan



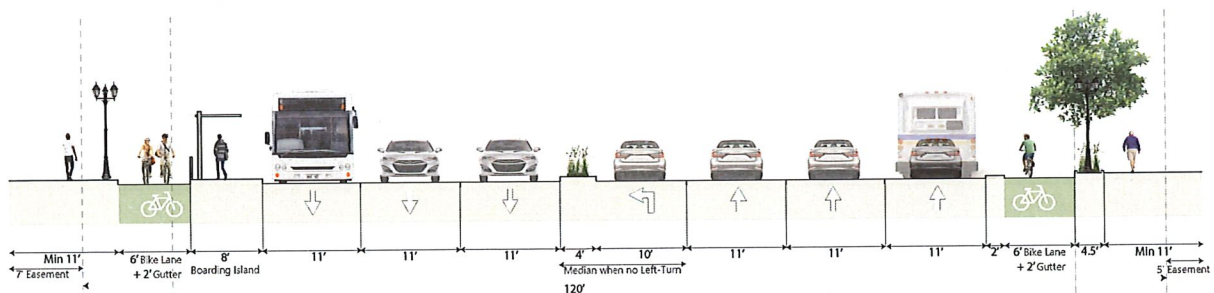
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El Camino Real Specific Plan

EIR Project Description: R-O-W Alternative 2A

Reduce travel lane widths and remove on-street parking to accommodate a buffered bicycle lane with a bus boarding island



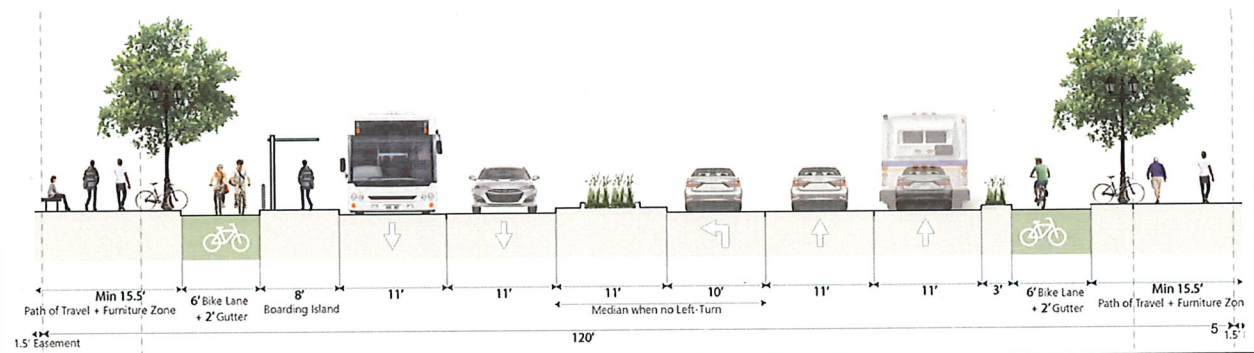
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El Camino Real Specific Plan

R-O-W Alternative 3A

Remove travel lane(s), widen center median and sidewalks, add bulb outs



El Camino Real Specific Plan

Alternative 3A - Informational Report

Technical Analysis

- Traffic analysis required as part of the environmental review process to identify potential transportation impacts for removal of travel lanes
- Adds approximately 3 months to the project timeline
- Additional cost approximately \$120,000



El Camino Real Specific Plan

Alternative 3A - Informational Report

Community Outreach/Intergovernmental Coordination

- At least 2 additional community meetings
- Coordination with adjacent cities (Sunnyvale and San Jose), Caltrans, and the Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)
- Impacts staff capacity

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El Camino Real Specific Plan

Alternative 3A - Informational Report

Budget Implications

- The El Camino Real Specific Plan project budget includes \$159,000 of contingency funding for “additional services”
- Contingency funds could be needed for other tasks to complete Specific Plan work scope and are not available beyond June 2020
- Additional City funds required to complete the work

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El Camino Real Specific Plan

Alternative 3A - Informational Report

Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee (BPAC)

- March 2019 – BPAC members requested that parking be removed along El Camino Real now so that bike lanes could be striped with the Caltrans repaving project
- Current approach is to study the impacts and conduct outreach for the potential removal of parking along El Camino Real as part of the Specific Plan

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El Camino Real Specific Plan

Alternative 3A - Informational Report

Recommendation

- Note and file the Informational Report on the El Camino Real Specific Plan right-of-way Alternative 3A
- If Council would like to proceed with analysis of the removal of a travel lane on El Camino Real (Alternative 3A), direction should be provided to staff to return to Council with a formal scope and budget for consideration

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City Council Meeting

Informational Report - El Camino Real Specific Plan Right-of-Way Alternatives

April 23, 2019



**City of
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The Center of What's Possible

El Camino Real Specific Plan Draft Land Use Designations

Regional Commercial

- Commercial Required: 0.20 FAR
- Residential: 55-100 DU/AC
- Building Height: up to 6 Stories

Community Mixed Use

- Commercial Allowed, Not Required
- Residential: 45-65 DU/AC
- Building Height: up to 5 Stories

Medium Density Residential

- Residential Emphasis; Commercial Allowed
- Residential: 16-45 DU/AC
- Building Height: up to 4 Stories



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The draft Land Use Plan could accommodate:

* The General Plan currently identifies capacity to build 2,274 units within the El Camino Real Focus Area, of which 1,142 units have been approved and/or built. A maximum of 4,403 units would be added through the draft Land Use Plan.

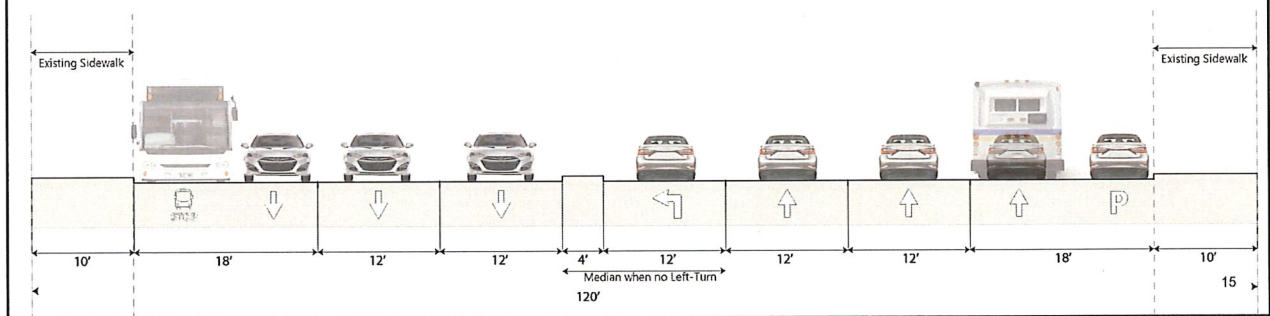
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El Camino Real Specific Plan

Existing Right-of-Way

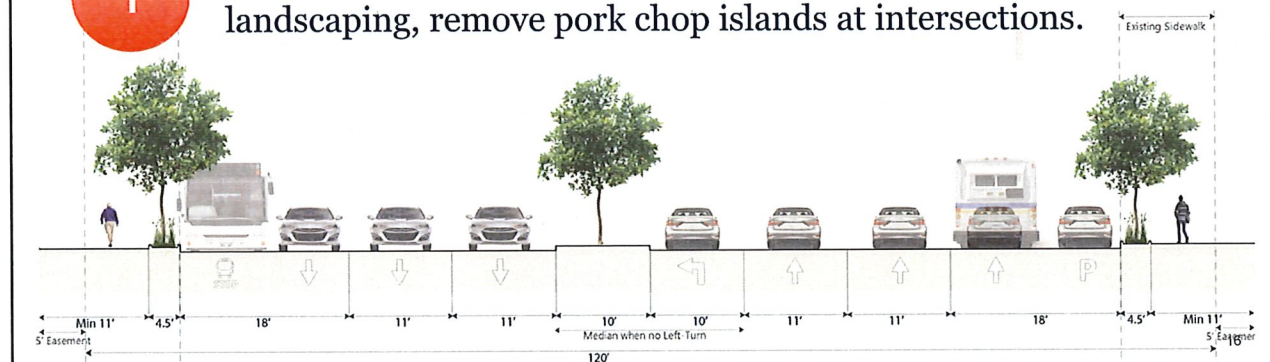
- 3 travel lanes with left-turn lane, on-street parking and bus boarding



El Camino Real Specific Plan

R-O-W Alternatives

- 1 Minor modifications: widen median, narrow traffic lanes, add landscaping, remove pork chop islands at intersections.



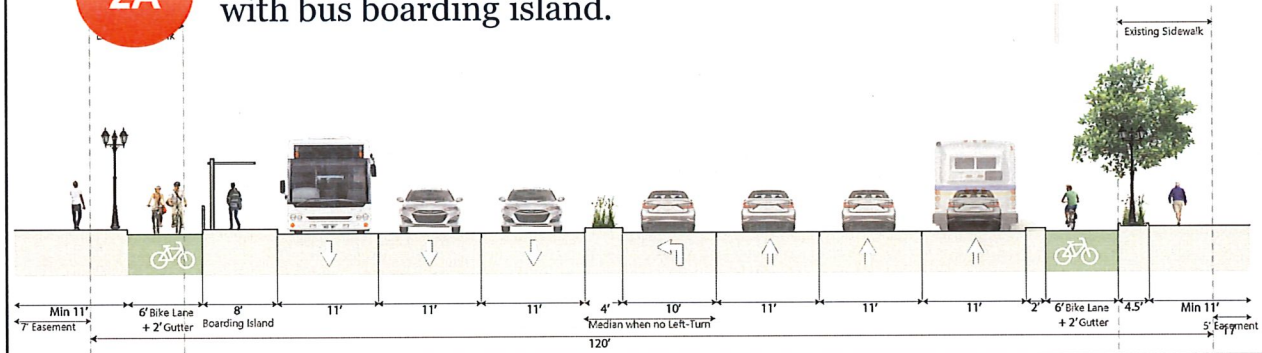


El Camino Real Specific Plan

R-O-W Alternatives

2A

Remove on-street parking to accommodate buffered bike lane with bus boarding island.

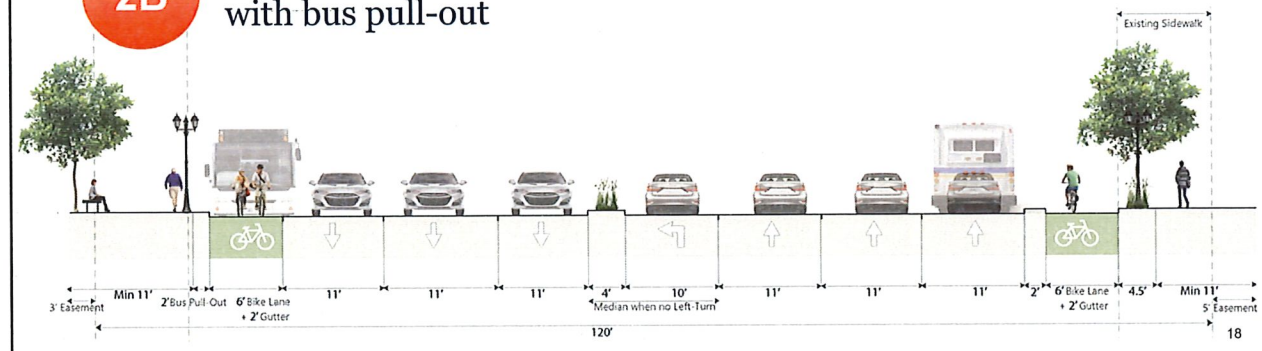


El Camino Real Specific Plan

R-O-W Alternatives

2B

Remove on-street parking to accommodate a bike lane with bus pull-out





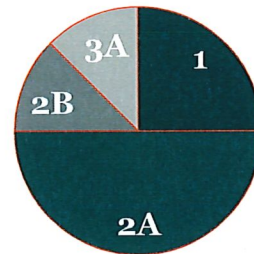
El Camino Real Specific Plan

Community Outreach Summary

Desired Right-of-Way Outcomes

- 1** : Existing conditions
- 2A** : Remove on-street parking, protected bike lane, bus boarding island
- 2B** : Remove on-street parking, bike lane, bus pull-out
- 3A** : Remove travel lane(s), widen center median and sidewalks, add bulb outs

R-O-W Alternatives



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El Camino Real Specific Plan

Parking Survey – Preliminary Outcomes

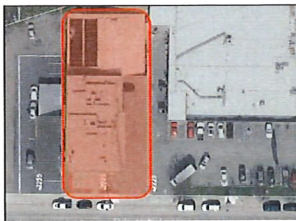
- 446 on-street parking spaces along El Camino Real
- On average 31% of on-street parking spaces are utilized
- Some properties do not have enough on-site parking to meet their overall needs



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El Camino Real Specific Plan Parking Survey – Preliminary Outcomes



Diver Dan's



Grand Prix Power Sports



Wash & Dry; Salon; Realty; SC Montessori



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El Camino Real Specific Plan Parking Survey – Preliminary Outcomes

- Implementation of a bike lane:
 - Requires the removal of parking spaces
 - Likely to be phased
 - Modifications of the curb to curb would require Caltrans approval

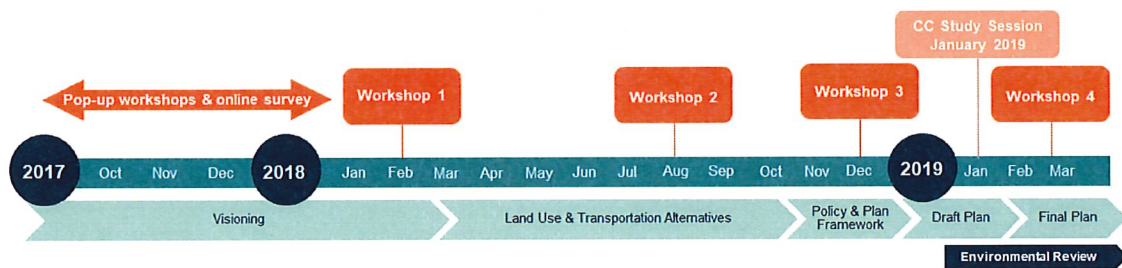


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El Camino Real Specific Plan

Project Timeline – Next Steps





**City of
Santa Clara**
The Center of What's Possible

AGENDA ITEM #: 3P

AGENDA REPORT

Date: April 23, 2019

To: City Manager

From: Acting Executive Assistant to the Mayor & City Council

Subject: Correspondence received regarding Item #3.P - Informational Report on adding an alternative analysis for the removal of a travel lane as a part of the El Camino Real Specific Plan process and proceeding with parking removals and addition of a bike lane prior to consideration of the plan

From Wednesday, April 17, 2019, at 12:00 p.m., through Tuesday evening, April 23, 2019 at 5:00 p.m., the Mayor & Council Offices have received the attached communications regarding #3.P - Informational Report on adding an alternative analysis for the removal of a travel lane as a part of the El Camino Real Specific Plan process and proceeding with parking removals and addition of a bike lane prior to consideration of the plan.

Genevieve Yip
Acting Executive Assistant to the
Mayor & City Council

Documents Related to this Report:

- 1) Communications received

L:\Agenda Reports & Memos\Communications Received Memos\04-23-19 Item 3P

POST MEETING MATERIAL

4/23/2019

3P

Genevieve Yip

From: Dave Haney <Dave@serranoelectric.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 1:53 PM
To: City Attorney
Cc: PlanningCommission; Mayor and Council; Dave Haney
Subject: FW: Letter of concern for the El Camino Real Specific Plan for the El Camino Corridor, April 10th and April 23rd meetings
Attachments: Recusal letter 4-17.docx

To whom it may concern,

I forgot to include the city attorney on my previous letter of concerns below.

Please add this letter as part of the record for the El Camino Real Specific Plan for the El Camino Corridor upcoming meeting on April 23rd.

Regards,

David Haney

(408) 986-1570 (office)
(408) 204-8906 (cell)

From: Dave Haney <Dave@serranoelectric.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 4:40 PM
To: PLANNINGCOMMISSION@santaclaraca.gov; Mayorandcouncil@santaclaraca.gov
Cc: Dave Haney <Dave@serranoelectric.com>; kristin haney <klhaney@sbcglobal.net>; Sle@SantaClaraCA.gov
Subject: Letter of concern for the El Camino Real Specific Plan for the El Camino Corridor, April 10th and April 23rd meetings

To : Steve Le
City of Santa Clara, Members of Planning Commission
Mayor Gilmore, And All Members of City Council

RE: Meetings Related to El Camino Real Specific Plan for El Camino Corridor

Hello to All Members of Planning Commission, Mayor Gilmore, and All Members of City Council,

My name is David Haney, resident of 2288 Bray Ave. in Santa Clara. I am requesting my email of input and concerns be included and considered in current and any upcoming meetings, regarding the City of Santa Clara El Camino Real Specific Plan, for the El Camino corridor.

I am writing to you all about the concerns and opposition my wife and I have with the proposed changes to the El Camino Real Specific plan.

My wife and I were not aware of the Petition regarding the El Camino Corridor, until it was too late to respond. Which was particularly disturbing since we saw and interpreted some question/s pertaining to the fate of the homes (on our section of Bray) including our own house was presented to the general public as to whether or not we should be forced to sell and be removed just to allow for high density housing projects.

I do not understand the mentality/thinking over the last 10years or so that the city must cram in as many high density projects as fast as it can. There are far more better places to build these types of projects with in the outer edges of the

city to allow for projects that would better support the infrastructure of commercial suites, shopping and dining options.

Take the current site were McDonald's just vacated Scott and El Camino. That would have been a perfect site to expand the shopping and dining from the newly developed town center across the street.

But instead, they are replacing a McDonald's with a Chick Fil-A on that huge lot. This makes no sense.

Then on the other side of Chase bank, you are allowing yet again another developer "Summer Hill" to build another high density so called "Senior Housing" project where it does not need to go. Changing the description to senior housing does not change what it really is.

That whole area would be the perfect place to expand small business and dining options so the people of Santa Clara have somewhere to go that is inside the city limits along with creating jobs.

To remove existing long time homes and homeowners to allow for high density multifamily housing, would be for nothing but pure financial gain. We have the right to benefit from all the years of hard work and money that we have invested into this, as well as the property tax benefit that we are due. It would be morally repugnant to rip that away from hard working long time residents, to line the pockets of others. The responsible, politically and morally correct thing to do, would be for all existing owned neighborhood homes to remain in place, while the "upgrades" be applied to the surrounding areas. We have been taxpaying, home owning staples in this city and our home for (3) generations, and should not be treated this way.

Regarding the proposals for the high density projects up and down the El Camino corridor, My wife and I do not feel the city has the infrastructure to support the number of these being proposed and/or approved. The traffic congestion has become a constant growing nuisance. Another issue is public utilities. By cramming thousands more people into these countless large high density housing projects all over, it will only add to the water shortage issues, among all the others. With residents once again paying the price. And finally there are the privacy issues for the surrounding neighboring properties, these 3 to 5 story buildings will create. There are far better areas of Santa Clara to construct these, than right up against single story family homes. Any that are directly next to single story homes neighborhoods, should not exceed 2 story projects.

Regarding the El Camino Real roadways, removing the parking, bus & emergency lanes from each side of El Camino in order to add a "dedicated" bike lane, would be extremely detrimental to the residents. If busses are forced to stop and block traffic continuously up and down El Camino, this corridor will become a daily living nightmare for residents. There is supposed to be many benefits of working in the city that you live in, with the primary one of no extended commute. However this decision would again take that benefit away, again causing residents to pay the price. Many of us in these city neighborhoods are older adults, who work and shop nearby. It is not practical or feasible to expect that all these older residents are able to use public transit for all their needs. Just one example is grocery shopping. It's not practical to expect a person to use the bus, when they have a vehicle, to go to multiple stores for the weekly needs of their family household. One person can only carry so much, we are not pack mules. Point being, people are still going to have to use their cars, and the congestion this would create would be astronomical.

There are many more practical ways to improve both the roadways and the rundown commercial areas of the El Camino corridor, which would not impact the current residents in such detrimental ways. Such as....projects that keep the traffic and buses able to flow, more shopping facilities along the El Camino, with fewer high density 3+ story housing projects along the El Camino and those being built, re-designated for more appropriate areas within Santa Clara. For some reason the opinions and wellbeing of the residents are often overlooked when it comes to many of these projects. And the issues we are bringing forth are not hard for the average person to comprehend, think of, or validate. So why are they/we being so ignored, as though no one thought of it? It's only fair that the needs of the current and longtime residents are recognized as well.

We appreciate your time and consideration in these matters.

Sincerely,
David and Kristian Haney

4/17/19

To: City Attorney, City of Santa Clara
Steve Le and All Members of Planning Commission
Mayor Gilmore and All Members of City Council

Re: The Recusal of the Mayor and 2 Council Members from Voting On The El Camino Specific Plan for the El Camino Corridor

Hello All,

In addition to our previous letters to you all detailing our concerns and oppositions regarding the current plans for the El Camino corridor noted above, we would also like to go on record with our objections to the requests for recusal of Mayor Gilmore, Raj Chahal, and Karen Hardy from their ability to vote on these proposals.

We vehemently object to this action taken. In our opinion their inability to vote would potentially create bias. This is extremely frustrating and concerning for those of us who do not agree with the current proposals and plans as they are at this time.

This is a broad area which extends far beyond just the areas in close proximity to these 3 members. These proposals affect all residents of the city of Santa Clara in many ways, and NOT just the immediate areas of these 3 individuals. This is NOT a plan for a specific development ONLY in close proximity to them. These are plans for a broad city wide area, which will affect us ALL in many different ways, not just those who reside close to El Camino. Therefore we feel they should NOT be excluded from this vote.

The rezoning proposal to change to mixed use, and the changes being proposed for the removal of parking/emergency lanes to allow for designated bike lanes, will affect everyone in Santa Clara in many ways. We outlined these issues in detail in our previous email, but in summary include: Shopping and Dining Reductions, Removal of Existing Proprietors, Over Congestion and Population for the Entire City, Privacy Issues, Parking Issues, Severe Traffic Congestion That Will Absolutely Spill & Expand to Surrounding Residential Areas Used to Cut Through, and much more. All these issues will affect EVERYONE CITY WIDE. Therefore it is extremely unfair that the above 3, Mayor and Council Members be excluded from the vote. We feel it would be unfair and prejudicial to them, as well as the residents, and would not allow for a truly fair and impartial decision.

We request this action be reversed due to all these noted objectionable and unfair reasons and issues.

Sincerely,
David and Kristian Haney
2288 Bray Ave.
Santa Clara

4/23/2019

3P

Genevieve Yip

From: Richard Bonito <rbetc@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 2:22 PM
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: Overuse of Recusal
Attachments: Dear Mayor and City council Members,.pdf

Please distribute to the Mayor and City Council Members.

Kind Regards,
Richard Bonito

Dear Mayor and City council Members,

Now that we are broken into districts, it's very important to have your district representation. The residents vote in their favorite council person and come to find out the council person can't represent them on many of the issues because they live close to the subject in their area. This was most obvious when many council members had to recuse themselves for the El Camino specific plan. Now the district's on El Camino can't be represented if there council person lives too close to the El Camino. As an example, the north side accounts on Kathy Wantanbe to bring their issues forward to the council. If Kathy live closed enough to the stadium, she could have to recuse herself for most of the issues that are very important to the north side. The same thing would be true if Kathy lived near the Tasman East specific plan. I find this completely unfair to the residents.

I am all for transparency although I feel these issues need to be quantified somehow to see if there is actual financial gain or concerns for a conflict of interest. As a voter I want my council person to be able to take our specific concerns to the council not be silenced because of their proximity.

My hopes are the council will ask staff to look into this from a legal perspective to understand when recusal is specifically needed. Perhaps there can be different levels of recusal? The goal would be for a representative to be able to represent the voters in their district or the city in most occasions.

I urge the mayor and city council members to push back on recusal unless specifically needed. Transparency is important and the voters deserve to be represented.

Sincerely,
Richard Bonito

4/23/2019

3P

Genevieve Yip

From: kristin haney <klhaney@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2019 2:59 PM
To: City Attorney; Steve Le; PlanningCommission; Mayor and Council
Cc: kristin haney; Dave Haney; Avanindra Avanindra; Kim Flores; Tom Shults; Vivian Shults; bie97tw@yahoo.com.tw; Denise Casey; Frank Hsiao; Jason Fung
Subject: Recusal Concerns Related to "The Specific Plan for the El Camino Corridor"

4/17/19

To: City Attorney, City of Santa Clara
Steve Le and All Members of Planning Commission
Mayor Gilmore and All Members of City Council

Re: The Recusal of Mayor Gilmore, and Council Members Raj Chahal and Karen Hardy, From Voting on "The El Camino Specific Plan for the El Camino Corridor"

Hello All,

We are David and Kristian Haney, residents of 2288 Bray Ave. Santa Clara.

In addition to our previous emails sent to everyone detailing our concerns and oppositions to the current plans for the El Camino corridor noted above, we would also like to go on record with our objections to the requests for recusal of Mayor Gilmore, Raj Chahal, and Karen Hardy.

We vehemently object to this action. In our opinion the inability of these members to vote would potentially create bias. We feel this is extremely unjust and unfair. We also feel this matter should be fairly evaluated by an impartial independent organization, and all voting on these proposals should be on hold until proper evaluation is completed.

These plans include a broad area which extend far beyond the specific areas in close proximity to these 3 members. These proposals affect all residents in the city of Santa Clara in multiple ways, and NOT just the immediate areas of these 3 individuals. This is NOT a proposal for a specific development only in close proximity to them. These are plans for a broad city wide area, which will affect us all in many different ways, and not exclusively to those who reside close to El Camino. Therefore we feel they should NOT be excluded from this voting process.

The proposal to rezone for mixed use, and the roadway changes being proposed for the removal of parking/emergency lanes to allow for designated bike lanes, will affect everyone in Santa Clara in a multitude of ways. We detailed these issues in our previous emails, but a few include: Shopping and Dining reductions, Removal of Existing Proprietors, Over Congestion and Population issues, Privacy Issues, Parking Issues, Severe Traffic Congestion That Will Absolutely Spillover and Expand to Surrounding Residential Areas, and much more. All these issues do affect EVERYONE CITY WIDE. Therefore it is extremely unfair that the above 3, Mayor and Council Members, be excluded from the vote. We feel it would be inappropriate and prejudicial to them, as well as the residents, and would not allow for a truly fair and impartial decision to be rendered.

We request this action be reversed due to the reasons we've noted above. We also request all voting on these plans/proposals be held until a proper evaluation from an independent agency pertaining to the fairness of these recusals can be completed.

Sincerely,

David and Kristian Haney

2288 Bray Ave.

Santa Clara

4/23/2019

OP

Genevieve Yip

From: Kim Flores <kimflores21@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2019 10:40 AM
To: City Attorney; Steve Le; PlanningCommission; Mayor and Council; Jason F; Frank Hsiao; Denise Casey; bie97tw@yahoo.com.tw; Vivian Shults; Tom Shults; Avanindra Avanindra; Dave Haney; kristin haney
Subject: Recusal of Mayor and Council Members Voting for El Camino Specific Plan/El Camino Corridor

Dear Honorable Mayor, Council Members, and City Staff,

We are writing to voice our concern about members of the City Council having to recuse themselves for the upcoming vote on the El Camino Specific Plan/ El Camino Corridor.

Hearing this raises many concerns for us, my neighbors, and people in the greater community. It appears to us that the City is trying to push this proposal through without the input from all the elected representatives of the community.

It is our belief that this proposal will affect the entire City and all the residents. Forcing members of the Council to recuse themselves is to silence thousands of voices in this community. We as a community elect representatives to vote the will of the people they represent. This recusal will prevent that.

Silencing their vote also appears to show distrust, by City, of these elected officials to be able to hear the facts and vote for the people they represent rather than for their own interest. Whether the proposal is in their neighborhood or anywhere in the City they should be able to vote for the people they represent.

Unless these recused members are directly going to gain financially from this proposal or are some stakeholder with the developers then recusal would make sense. Without explanation this appears to show some type of City bias and has the appearance of impropriety. It feels like the City does not want any discussion with the community, especially those in close proximity to the project, those who may have issues with parts of the proposal, or those that completely oppose this version of the proposal.

We would be interested to know how many other times in matters like this the Mayor or other members of the Council were asked to recuse themselves.

We will be at the next Council meeting on April 23rd and we hope that these matters will be discussed and cleared up to include all of the Council Members in the voting on this Specific Plan for El Camino Corridor.

Sincerely,
Kim Flores and Frank Diego
1634 Los Padres Blvd.
Santa Clara

4/23/2019

3P

Genevieve Yip

From: Richard Bonito <rbetc@comcast.net>
Sent: Saturday, April 20, 2019 9:32 AM
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: ECR Lane Closure

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

As a member of the El Camino Specific Plan CAC, I cannot support the lane closure on the El Camino Real. There wasn't a lot of support for it on the committee. The committee is made up of many special-interest including bike supporters. Every meeting there's an overwhelming number of bicyclists that attend and often try to take control of the meeting.

As much as I support bike riding, it's obvious there's a very small percentage of people that ride bicycles. It's great exercise and sparing on the environment. It's just not popular.

I feel this would be a costly fight with this state to reclassify this highway.

Please don't support the recommendation to remove a travel Lane on the El Camino Real.

Sincerely,
Richard Bonito

4/23/2019

3P

Genevieve Yip

From: 1hmyers1@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, April 23, 2019 2:11 PM
To: Mayor and Council
Subject: The Catch 22 of Recusal

Honorable Mayor and council members,

I understand the concept of recusal 'out of an abundance of caution' but the problem of expecting elected officials to recuse them selves if a decision will impact them in any way has gotten out of hand.

This is especially true now that we have districts.

Assuming my council member lives in my district the chances are good they will be affected by the same things that affect me. That's one reason we have districts.

The catch 22 is we end up with a situation where your representative can represent you only as long as it isn't something that will affect you; because it will affect them as well.

For example the council members living close to ECR are not allowed to vote on things that affect ECR because it will affect them? Isn't that the whole point of having representatives? Let's treat recusal more seriously.

If we can't trust our council and mayor to make fair decisions for our city maybe we should just outsource the whole thing and maybe have Cupertino or Sunnyvale make our decisions.

Frustrated longtime resident,

Howard Myers
1398 Las Palmas Dr
Santa Clara, CA
95051