



SANTA  
CLARA  
UNIFIED  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

1889 Lawrence Road  
Santa Clara, CA  
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408-423-2000

Stella M. Kemp, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

October 28, 2020

VIA EMAIL

City of Santa Clara  
Planning Commission  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050  
[planningcommission@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:planningcommission@santaclaraca.gov)

RE: 20-1058 Study Session Patrick Henry Drive Specific Plan

Planning Commission Members,

The Santa Clara Unified School District (SCUSD) has concerns with the Patrick Henry Drive Specific Plan (PHD) as presented in the April 28, 2020 City Council Meeting and at the October 28, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting. Throughout 2019 and in May of 2020, the SCUSD was assured a school would be included in the revised Patrick Henry Drive Specific Plan. The Draft Conceptual Land Use Plan presented does not include the 110,000 square feet building on 5 acres for an elementary school.

The December 10, 2019 City Council Meeting presentation included 310,000 square feet for Retail and Public Facilities, which included an elementary school. Comments at our joint City-School Liaison Meetings have also indicated an elementary school, for 600 students, would be included with the Specific Plan and CEQA Analysis however, it is not included in the Draft Conceptual Land Use Plan.

The plan presented to the Planning Commission still does not have a designated elementary school site in the Patrick Henry Specific Plan or surrounding area. The closest elementary school is Hughes Elementary, which is slated to have a large increase in students when other housing units are constructed, and will not be able to accept the students in the 10,000-12,000 residential units planned in the Patrick Henry Specific Plan, even after Abram Agnew Elementary School opens and the attendance boundaries shift. Originally, the SCUSD requested an elementary school in the Tasman East Specific Plan (TESP) however, due to the small area and the parcel constraints, this was not practical. Without a school in the TESP, it is imperative to have an elementary in the PHD. A middle school will also be needed nearby.

The SCUSD was contacted by MIG in May 2020 to provide information that may be added to the CEQA analysis. However, only adding the school to the CEQA document does not guarantee a school will be able to be constructed in the PHD. The school location must be added to the Land Use Plan. Education is a critical aspect of a community and provides essential services to families and should be included.

The City and SCUSD collaborate on Safe Routes to Schools and have completed many large capital improvements to the routes students take to school. A new Specific Plan has an opportunity to incorporate safe and efficient routes for students and families to walk and roll to school from the inception, instead of having to reassess the routes and make major improvements in the future, which may not encourage more students to walk and roll to school. Planning a new community, where students and families want to walk and roll to school, should be the future of the City of Santa Clara. If a new

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Jim Canova  
Vickie Fairchild  
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school is not included in the plan, every student Pre-K-12 will arrive at school in a vehicle from the Patrick Henry Specific Plan, causing more traffic, air pollution and will eliminate the opportunity for healthy living within the community and does not support the newest City Council Priority/Pillar of Sustainability.

The SCUSD is committed to working with the City to create the best communities possible and this will only occur if we work together. The anticipated buildout of the Patrick Henry Drive Specific Plan is 10,000-12,000 residents and a school will be necessary. Please reconsider the Draft Conceptual Land Use Diagram and add a location of approximately 5 acres for an elementary school.

Thank you,

Michal Healy  
Director, Facility Development and Planning

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