

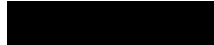
From: [Edward Swierk](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 6.1 - 2023-2031 Housing Element Adoption
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 12:42:04 PM

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Dear city council members,

As a long-time resident of Mountain View, I write to express my strong support for adopting the proposed Housing Element. Eliminating parking minimums, reducing fees, and streamlining approvals are big steps toward making new housing more abundant and affordable in Mountain View.

Edward Swierk



From: [beelia](#)
To: [City Clerk](#); [City Council](#)
Subject: Change control in long documents (Housing Element)
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 2:03:29 PM

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+ City Council (just FYI, you need not read)

Hello City Staff,

While reviewing the Council Report and reviewing the Housing Element document, I spent hours figuring out if MVMHA's changes were included because of the confusing way changes were handled. There were multiple decisions made for alerting reviewers to the latest changes in the document.

1. One copy of the document has a big note on the title page referring to "Exhibit E". It suggests "don't look here, find Exhibit E."
2. But Exhibit E is not easy to find. It is included in several different files, making the reviewer suspect there are several different versions of that mysterious document.
 - a. One copy is a separate document: "202691 - ATT 1 - Resolution for 2023-2031 Housing Element."
 - b. Another copy, "ATT 1 - Resolution for 2023-2031 Housing element.pdf" is tacked onto the end of the Housing Element document, starting on Page 452.

There are Exhibits A, B, C, and D in that document, but they are not included in the TOC - so the reviewer has to search for them to find out if the fifth exhibit is a permanent part of the document. (It's not.)

- c. There are Chinese and Spanish translations of Exhibit E. which suggests the English version is a separate document. But it's not. Reviewers have to just figure out that the English translation of Exhibit E is tacked onto the end of ATT 1.
 - d. Also, Exhibit E is referenced in the Council Report, and the changes in it are supposedly "summarized". But probably because it was written in a different time frame, they do not necessarily match the changes in the Housing Element document.

The "Modifications" section referred to in the Council Report (many, many times) should have been a link, not a reference, because the exact title cannot be used to find that section with a page search. It took me about 10 minutes to find that section.

- e. There are two "Microsoft Word" PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFTS - one "clean" and one "redlined". Neither of these documents contains an Exhibit E, or contains the changes described in Exhibit E.

Summary

For these reasons, it was very hard to review this document. I was only able to find the sections I wanted to review by asking a Council member, Lucas Ramirez, why our MVMHA changes had apparently not been made. Because of his response, I now know they have.

Here's the short solution

Since this whole document was apparently created in MS Word, you can just turn on tracking to make

these changes. It will generate change bars that will alert the reader to each change throughout the 465 pages.

You can still use colors, as was nicely done in Exhibit E, to make the changes clearer. There will be no "Exhibit E", and all changes will be in one document.

You could also use a version control system, if the city is often producing lengthy documents. But since that requires training, it might not be useful if your staff changes frequently.

Finally - it will all be OK!

None of this is significant when it comes to the content of the Housing Element document, which is outstanding. I'm sure these problems will not affect the HCD review, because the final document will not (I assume) have an "Exhibit E". Instead, all of those changes will (I hope) be integrated into the final document.

I'm not providing this information to be mean. I've been a tech writer since 1988, and I'm really just trying to help. I'm ready to volunteer if you need more help.

Cheers

Bee Hanson
MVMHA Administrator

From: [Simeon Frank](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Agenda Item 6.1 - 2023-2031 Housing Element Adoption
Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 4:11:13 PM

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Hello Council and Mayor,

I am writing to voice my support for the current revision of the housing element.

I am pleased to see more than the RHNA number being planned for, as no city builds exactly the number of units zoned for, always less. It's always a good idea to plan and zone for more than enough housing.

Tearing down restrictive barriers like parking requirements, re-evaluating fees on a regular basis, and streamlining approvals for projects in precise plan areas are important steps to keep housing restrictions minimal. I am pleased to see these commitments.

After this element gets adopted tonight, the effort is far from over. I hope to see housing advocates and citizens hold the city accountable to this plan to see through all the necessary zoning changes and studies that will need to be done to execute this plan. I know I will be holding the city accountable as much as a resident can.

I hope to see the city execute above and beyond on this housing element cycle and see shovels in the ground soon.

Housing is the most important issue for my generation, and I am happy to see all the ways the city is allowing more of it to be built. I hope my family will not be displaced from this city as we expect our first child this summer.

Thank you for your hard work.

Best,
Simeon Frank, Resident of MV