

Glaser, Heather

From: Lenny Siegel [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 12, 2023 4:17 PM
To: Hicks, Alison; Showalter, Pat; Ramos, Emily Ann; Ramirez, Lucas; Kamei, Ellen; Abe-Koga, Margaret; Matichak, Lisa
Cc: City Council
Subject: Development within MEW Superfund Area (item 6.2 on November 14, 2023 agenda)

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I have been working to clean up pollution at the MEW Superfund Area for more than four decades, since even before it was placed on U.S. EPA's National Priorities List. My organization and I contributed to the development of EPA's vapor intrusion remedy, and as a result of local contamination I have become a national expert on vapor intrusion, particularly community engagement and risk communication at vapor intrusion sites.

I have reviewed the documents associated with the 500-550 Ellis Street hotel/office proposal, and I find the environmental requirements consistent with EPA's remedy. That is, I believe it will be safe for people to occupy the buildings if those requirements are met.

However, I suggest that permanent occupants of the buildings, such as employees, and perhaps even visitors, be notified of the environmental conditions of the property. Mountain View has imposed such conditions at vapor intrusion sites in the past, though I am unaware how well it was implemented.

I am not suggesting a skull-and-crossbones. Rather, I am proposing signs or notices that explains that the property is being addressed by U.S. EPA as part of the MEW Superfund Area, and that gives information about where to get additional information.

Lenny Siegel
Executive Director
Center for Public Environmental Oversight
A project of the Pacific Studies Center

[REDACTED]
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<http://www.cpeo.org>

Author: *DISTURBING THE WAR: The Inside Story of the Movement to Get Stanford University out of Southeast Asia - 1965-1975* (See <http://a3mreunion.org>)

McGill, Pam

From: Serge Bonte [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 13, 2023 10:54 AM
To: City Council
Subject: 11/13/23 Meeting Agenda Item 6.2 - 500 and 550 Ellis Street Hotel and Office Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Honorable Mayor and City Council Members:

I generally support this project. One often underappreciated benefit of a hotel is that it provides dining options open to the general public. The hotel's restaurant will be a great addition to an area currently lacking public dining options.

I have one suggestion that I hope you will incorporate as a condition of approval.

Green street buffers (between road and sidewalk) are essential to make walking more enjoyable and safer. While the standard in this area is to provide such green buffers, in the interest of preserving some redwood trees, portions of the sidewalk will w/o green buffers. See following image taking from the project plans in your agenda packet:



Saving trees is great but saving lives is at least as good. I would like you to demand that bollards be installed in the portion of sidewalks w/o green buffers. These bollards could be installed at the edge of the sidewalk or maybe even better on the road to also protect cyclists along these sidewalk portions. If doing the latter, Mountain View would be protecting trees, pedestrians and cyclists (win-win-win).

To the extent that lack of a green buffer is driven by the City (tree preservation policies), it might be appropriate for the City to pay for and install these bollards (it's probably a minimal cost anyways).

Sincerely,

Serge Bonte
Mountain View

PS: at some point, the City should have a definitive and consistent take on redwood trees. Six or seven years ago, the City allowed removal of a few hundreds redwood trees around the now Google Visitor Center. That removal was supported by the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society on the grounds that redwood trees are non native, won't adapt

to climate change and were in the way of active transportation improvement. Just this year, the City approved the Google/Shoreline Master plan. That plan calls for the removal of over 1,000 redwood trees for the same reasons and the same support from environmental groups.