
From: Serge Bonte
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 3:12 PM
To: City Council
Subject: 3.26.24 Meeting - Agenda Item 6.1 Emergency Shelters "by right"

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Honorable Mayor Showalter and Council Members:

As stated in a previous correspondence to EPC, it is disappointing to see the City allowing "by right" emergency shelters in such a narrow slice of Mountain View.

Even more disappointing is that Los Altos (Yes, Los Altos!) seems to allow "by right" emergency shelters in a far wider area (almost the entirety of El Camino Real within Los Altos),

I am writing to urge you to allow "by right" emergency shelters in all of the El Camino Precise Plan as well as in the Downtown Precise Plan (an area with even better access to services and transportation). If you want to preclude some parcels that might be of historical significance, identify them now and exclude them for a year (i.e. until historical -or un-historical) determination is made).

See below paragraph and screenshot from the Los Altos Housing Element:

"As described above, the CT District allows for emergency shelters by right. The CT District is located on the northern edge of the City along El Camino Real (i.e., the northernmost portion of Los Altos), and accessible by San Antonio Road. The above-described areas are serviced by the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, which provides bus service, including rapid bus services (limited stop service at frequent intervals), frequent bus services, and local bus services throughout Santa Clara County, including Los Altos. These areas have access to Bus Routes 22, 40, and 522, which operate throughout the day from morning until night, including weekends and holidays. These routes include multiple bus stops, particularly along El Camino Real and San Antonio Road, and provide access to schools, churches, retail, groceries, and medical care. The bus routes connect to the rest of the Santa Clara Valley, including medical and other support services, such as the Santa Clara County Housing Authority, County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing, and shelters in Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and San Jose. In addition, the El Camino Real area contains many services, such as CVS and Walgreen's pharmacies, Safeway and Trader Joe's grocery stores, Walmart, and medical care such as Kaiser Mountain View, Valley Health Center, a Santa Clara Community Vaccination site, and several dental offices. Moreover, there are no known conditions in the CT District that make it inappropriate for human habitability, including for the occupancy of emergency shelters. Twelve parcels in the CT District are included in the sites inventory as underutilized/nonvacant sites for housing development over the planning period (see Appendix B, Sites Inventory & Methodology). One of these parcels is also zoned PUD/C with an underlying zoning of CT (APN 16712047, 4546 El Camino Real). These parcels comprise approximately 8.5 acres of largely Housing Constraints City of Los Altos | C-23 surface parking and commercial buildings, with individual parcels ranging from 0.20 acres (13,500 square feet) to 1.69 acres and a median parcel size of 0.59 acres. As described in Section B.2.5 (Suitability of Nonvacant Sites) in Appendix B, these parcels are underutilized with primarily surface parking and commercial buildings where the existing uses are of lower economic viability and buildings are largely single story, providing opportunity for additional development, reuse, and/or redevelopment."

"CT" zoning is all the red parcels in this screenshot

CITY OF LOS ALTOS ZONING MAP



Sincerely,

Serge Bonte

From: Cox, Robert
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 2:18 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Livable Mountain View comment on Item 6.1: "Housing Element Annual Report and Emergency Shelters Amendment"

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Mayor Showalter, Vice Mayor Matchak, and Members of the Mountain View City Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Item 6.1: "Housing Element Annual Report and Emergency Shelters Amendment"

We support the re-zoning of the El Camino Precise Plan for new emergency shelters in accord with Housing Element requirements, as recommended by the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC), which concluded that the sites identified for permitting emergency shelters by right in the Castro Miramonte subarea 1 with a provisional use permit in the remaining areas in fact **exceeded** what was required of the city for full compliance with the Housing Element regarding shelters in Mountain View.

We support the above findings by the EPC and acknowledge the need for shelters in our city but also that we also have a Historic Ordinance Update that was approved by the council with strong support of Mountain View residents. When the evaluation of potential historic properties in the El Camino Precise Plan is completed, **and only then**, should council consider further amendments to allow additional areas for emergency shelters by right.

The evaluation of the eight potential historic sites on El Camino, identified by Mountain View city consultants Page and Turnbull, should continue per our existing ordinance so that a complete report on their historicity can be submitted to the council for its evaluation. Even if the council were to consider at such time that additional areas of the El Camino Precise Plan should be rezoned for emergency shelters, it would have facts to determine whether the city needs to rezone areas on El Camino so that shelters can replace historic buildings.

The El Camino Precise Plan covers miles of opportunities for other re-zoning even if the potential historic properties are excluded. But, consistent with the Historic Ordinance Update, there are no other opportunities to have history preserved once buildings are gone.

Robert Cox, Louise Katz, Maureen Blando, Muriel Sivyer-Lee, Mike Finley, Hala Alshahwany, and Jerry Steach
For the Steering Committee of Livable Mountain View

From: Isaac
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 10:55 AM
To: City Council
Subject: Public comment on 6.1, emergency shelters

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Is it more important to provide shelter for the city's homeless or preserve historic resources?

That may be a hard question, so let's make it simpler. Is it more important to increase 10x the potential opportunity sites for emergency shelters, or to *potentially* preserve historic buildings *that the owners thus far have expressed no interest in preserving* and that are unlikely to be developed into emergency shelters?

I see not need for the caution staff is expressing here.

I also see not need for any restriction on maximum number of beds. Don't we want to provide shelter for the homeless? Why add new restrictions?

I encourage council to pick option 1, this is what the city already committed to in the housing element. In reality there is *very little risk* of a loss of any historic resources, whereas the need for shelter of our homeless is very real and very urgent.

Thanks,
Isaac Stone

From: K Z
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 1:00 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Penollar, Krisha; Anderson, Eric B.; Cameron, Dawn; McCarthy, Kimbra; Glaser, Heather; housing@lwwlamv.org
Subject: March 26, 2024 City County, Agenda Item 6.1
Attachments: 3-26-24 MVCC.pdf

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Dear Mayor Showalter and Members of the City Council:

Attached is a letter from the League of Women Voters regarding item 6.1 on the March 26, 2024, City Council agenda (Emergency Shelters/Housing Element Report).

Sincerely,

Katie Zoglin

President

Los Altos-Mountain View Area League of Women Voters



March 25, 2024

Re: March 26, 2024, Agenda Item 6.1 (Shelters/Housing Element Report)

Dear Mayor Showalter and Members of the City Council:

The League of Women Voters (LWW) supports the building of shelters and policies that increase the stock of affordable housing. It also supports the community's right to know and citizen participation in government decision-making.

The League encourages the City to include all of El Camino Real as a location for allowing emergency shelters by-right, given that Housing Element program 1.1f specifies "[a]t minimum, this will include the El Camino Real Precise Plan." The Housing Element does not mention sub-areas (pg. 357).

The LWW continues to request greater detail in the Annual Progress Report regarding the status of the City's progress in implementing the Housing Element (Table D of staff report). For example, it would be helpful to have more detail on timelines for monitoring and updating City codes regarding state density bonus laws (program 1.10); City Council decisions regarding the Gatekeeper program (program 1.3f-g); and the status of the streamlining process (program 4.1.a), including whether staff has been trained to handle affordable housing projects. It should reflect that more work needs to be done to update the zoning ordinances and precise plans so that they are consistent with state law, including allowing low-barrier navigation centers by-right (program 1.1).

The League asks the City to improve the language the outreach notifications. The postcard sent to community members did not mention who was receiving the postcards or why, failed to provide a summary understandable to the public, and was not in languages other than English.

Please send any questions about this letter to Kevin Ma, Co-Chair of the Housing Committee, at housing@lwvlamv.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Katie Zoglin".

Katie Zoglin

President, Los Altos-Mountain View Area LWW

C: Krishna Penollar
Eric Anderson
Dawn S. Cameron
Kimbra McCarthy
Heather Glaser