March 26, 2019

Honorable Mayor Matichak and Members of the City Council
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View 94041

Dear Mayor Matichak, Vice Mayor Abe-Koga, and Councilmembers Clark, Hicks, Kamei, McAlister, and Ramirez,

RE: Item 6.2 - Amendment to the Park Land Dedication Ordinance for the North Bayshore Area

On behalf of SV@Home and our members, we write you today in support of the staff recommendation to amend the Park Land Dedication Ordinance for North Bayshore to improve the feasibility of residential development in the area while continuing to implement high standards for accessible, community-oriented open space.

As this Council heard at its September 2018 study session on the costs of development in North Bayshore, the combination of high land costs and city fees are inhibiting the ability of developers to deliver on the housing and affordable housing goals set in the Precise Plan.

We were thrilled that the Council approved the first new residential development in North Bayshore, proposed by Sobrato at 1255 Pear Avenue, last October. It was the City’s calibration of both park and school fee requirements that enabled these 635 new homes, as well as a standalone affordable development that will include around 120 homes, to be built. We believe this arrangement can serve as a model for development throughout North Bayshore, and are glad that staff have used this example to set the stage for a Precise Plan-wide policy.

SV@Home is proud to support the goal of 9,850 new homes in North Bayshore not just because of the importance of these homes and affordable homes to addressing our regional affordability crisis, but also because these homes are meant to be part of complete neighborhoods that include parks and the educational resources that city requirements and fees make possible. Housing, new retail space, new and reinvigorated park lands, and improvements to transportation infrastructure all go hand in hand in creating a successful North Bayshore.

It is for this reason that we support staff’s recommendation to right-size the Park Land Dedication Ordinance, allowing for 75% of certain privately-owned but publicly accessible park land to apply towards a development’s park requirements, so we can
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build a North Bayshore that includes both the housing for people of all incomes and abilities as well as the open spaces for those residents to enjoy.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

David K Meyer
Director of Strategic Initiatives