

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Public Comment](#)
Subject: 4350 ECR Resolution 2021-04
Date: Tuesday, January 26, 2021 1:51:42 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I wish to publicly comment regarding the request for story pole variance relating to the proposed development at 4350 El Camino Real, Los Altos.

I am the Vice President of the Peninsula Real Los Altos (PRLA) HOA Board and have been on the board since 2010. Many residents of the PRLA community have expressed to me their grave concerns about the proposed dense development on their doorstep at 4350 El Camino Real. As you know, the intersection of Los Altos Avenue and El Camino Real is one of the primary gateways into Los Altos, and a busy intersection. If erected, a 7-story (5 above/2 below) building will be a principal entry to a community that prides itself on its country roots.

The proposed building will replace a gas station. While some might think residential development is superior use to a gas station, that is not always true. The proposed building will be huge, have no open-space curtilage in public view, will increase parking demand on the already crowded streets, and will create a more urban environment.

Los Altos has always been a city with a small town, even country feel with its historical roots in orchards. We hope city leaders will try to maintain that rural flavor as nearby cities allow modern, dense, and boxy developments that erase the nature of the once "Valley of Heart's Delight."

The story pole process is just one of many future steps to development and is a very important one for the understanding of the public at large. I appreciate that two council members have worked to get more accurate representations of the proposed development included in the public story pole presentation. The renderings of the building should be as large and visible as possible for the benefit of public understanding. In addition, I hope you will treat this story pole presentation in the same way that you have handled other recent developments. It seems in this case that the owners wish to freely run their existing business which may be inconsistent with their desire to forge ahead with development. Should the running of a gas station take priority over the proper steps to completing a development that will have a lasting impact on the community? My personal opinion is "No."

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

Very truly yours,

Martha J. Donohoe
V.P. PRLA HOA Board