

Design Review Commission
City of Los Altos
1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, CA 94022

November 29, 2020

Re: 370 Yerba Santa Project

Since the first Design Review Commission meeting concerning this project in August 2019, we, the immediate adjacent neighbors, whose backyards all face different sides of the proposed house, have tried to get improved privacy protection from this proposed very large house of 6600 square feet of living space that is almost twice the size of any of the adjacent homes. The proposed house is 4 to 13 feet taller than any of the adjacent homes which impacts the privacy of our backyards with a direct line of sight over projected plantings of immature landscape which have no guarantee of surviving or prospering. The owner has never responded, the architect has changed a few windows and offered plants, but has not changed the proposed very large house. We want our privacy and will not get it with the current design.

The application submitted to the City includes houses on Raquel Lane as part of the neighborhood. This is incorrect and totally misleading. The neighborhood for the project should consist of Yerba Santa, a narrow country lane and Yerba Buena with its low profile homes, which the application states consists of homes built “preceding and following World War II.” Dos Palos, which Raquel Lane is part of, is a separate development and neighborhood built 25 to 30 years later. The homes in Dos Palos are not comparable to the homes on Yerba Santa and are not part of the neighborhood of Yerba Santa. Even though the proposed project is across our back fence, which is the dividing line between the Dos Palos neighborhood and the Yerba Santa/Yerba Buena neighborhood, one has to walk one half mile from Raquel Lane to get to 370 Yerba Santa. The proposed house is simply out of place, does not fit within the Consistent Character Neighborhood of Yerba Santa, and needs to be made smaller and less bulky to join the other homes on Yerba Santa.

Sincerely,
Mary and Tom Popek
400 Raquel Lane