

Dear Design and Planning Commission Members,

Thank you for providing time tonight for us to speak. As you steward plans for upcoming remodeling for 1485 Redwood Drive, we would like to use our allotted time to give voice to two main concerns that arise from the proposed project. 1485 Redwood Drive is at a significantly higher elevation relative to its backyard neighbor, 2245 Sycamore Court and its side-yard neighbor, 1525 Vineyard Dr. In that context, we ask for sufficient due diligence to consider the safety and privacy of surrounding neighbors.

- **With respect to Safety**, if OR when the city considers granting permission to allow a new structure, such as an ADU on the property that sits on significantly higher elevation than the neighboring property, we request the city consider the weight of the new structure and its effect on the underlying soil. In such situation, the ADU Permit itself, may need to include the requirement to have a foundation expert such as a Civil Engineer to **certify** its safety or to recommend **required safeguard** to keep the new ADU and immediate neighbor safe. Some examples of adverse events that may lead to failure of soil underneath the ADU are slow moving event such as soil erosion cause by faulty drainage system, or sudden event such as an earthquake.
- **Moving on to Privacy**. We want to note that due to elevation differences, historically, the design commission gave consideration to the privacy of its neighbors with respect to not considering any second-floor rear elevation windows that can look into any parts of the back yard **OR** second floor deck that may infringe on multiple neighbor's privacy. The neighborhood has historically respected the privacy of each neighbor's backyard and think that is something the neighborhood values as a principle going forward as well. We appreciate that the revised plan does not contain a new 2<sup>nd</sup> floor rear window.

We thank the commission for hearing our concerns. We trust that the city of Los Altos will continue to act as stewards of the historical values of safety, privacy, and sunshine that we all cherish.

We look forward to welcoming our new neighbors to 1485 Redwood Drive.

Please include this letter in tonight's meeting notes.

We thank the commission for your time.

Peter and Shirley  
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