

Regarding City/Sobrato/Fry's Development Agreement DEIR – Comment Period and PTC Meeting

October 8, 2022

Dear Planning Director, City Council Members, and Planning & Transportation Commissioners:

PAN's October meeting attendees voted to ask that you:

Extend the public comment period for the DRAFT EIR for 320-340 Portage Avenue / 200 Portage until November 15 to provide a 60-day review period; and Postpone the DEIR review by the Planning and Transportation Commission to mid-November to give the PTC more time to review the document as well.

The reasons we ask are these:

1. We just found out about the existence of the DEIR. Many PAN members and many Palo Altans we've spoken to, including those on the NVCAP Working Group and living in Ventura who have been tracking the proposed development did not know about the DEIR.
2. The DEIR was not well publicized. We discovered the release of the DEIR was announced in the most recent Uplift Local Newsletter dated September 29, where it was buried at the bottom of a paragraph. We are glad it was included in the Uplift Newsletter, but it was not easy to find to a casual eye skimming the page;
3. The DEIR was released with an inaccurate or misleading address two weeks prior to the newsletter, but under the address 200 Portage and not 320-340 Portage or 200-340 Portage;
4. Because of 1, 2 & 3 above, we and other members of the public don't have enough time to review. Two weeks of the comment period have already passed without many folks even knowing the comment period was open;
5. The DEIR is hundreds of pages long. To read and digest its contents and provide in depth feedback before October 31 seems a big ask, especially because --
6. This is an election year and crowding in public discussion of this important topic prior to November 8 dilutes the time voters can devote to both studying the ballot to make informed decisions and to reviewing the DEIR in a meaningful way.

We respectfully request that you extend the comment period by two weeks to enable residents to give the DEIR a considered and thoughtful review.

Thank you.

Kind regards

Becky Sanders
Sheri Furman
Co-Chairs
Palo Alto Neighborhoods

P.S. Going forward, please make sure that:

- the complete and accurate address is associated with documents pertaining to the Cannery property, in particular;
- a meaningful headline accompanies any notification in the newsletter, such as Public Comment sought on the Draft EIR of the Development Agreement between the City and Sobrato; and
- persons known to be interested in the project and living nearby be notified by email or postcard of the publication of these important documents