1   COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

2   DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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6   DRAFT EIR RECIRCULATED
     PORTIONS & ALTERNATIVES MEETING
7   STANFORD 2018

8   GENERAL USE PERMIT

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                     TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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16
                  Tuesday, July 10, 2018
17
                        6:14 p.m.
18
                     1313 Newell Road
19   Palo Alto, California

20

21   Noelia Espinola, CSR #8060

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1   A P P E A R A N C E S

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3   Moderator: GEOFF I. BRADLEY, AICP

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1   P R O C E E D I N G S

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3   MR. BRADLEY: I'd like to start calling the

4   speakers up.

5   Remind folks about the three-minute limit.

6   Try to focus your comments on environmental issues,

7   adequacy of the document, any -- any problems you see

8   with either identification of impacts or mitigation

9   measures proposed for same.

10   And, with that, we'll get started.

11   Oh, the one thing I want to say is we have

12   some county staff here and we have some county

13   consultants. But I do want to mention that we're not

14   here to get into an involved question-and-answer. Our

15   role is really to listen very closely to all the

16   comments and try to understand what people are saying.

17   And that will help us expedite the meeting, and it

18   will also allow us to respond to your comments in

19   writing, which is the most meaningful way to do it.

20   So, with that, I will call Neva Yorkin --

21   Yarkin. Thank you. Neva.

22   MS. YARKIN: So do I need to hold this?

23   Okay. My name is Neva Yarkin, and I live on

24   Churchill Avenue in Palo Alto.

25   I'm appealing to the Santa Clara Planning

1   Department not to allow any more new housing at

2   Stanford. Expanding to thousands of new students,

3   faculty and staff would be overloading everything in

4   this area, which, by the way, is already overloaded.

5   Traffic is unbearable now in Palo Alto, Mountain View,

6   Menlo Park without any expansion by Stanford. Getting

7   to Highways 280, 101, is a nightmare. New schools,

8   roads, medical clinics, gas stations, grocery stores,

9   restaurants and parks, et cetera, will be needed to

10   accommodate this influx of people. What about extra

11   police, teachers, firefighters and other medical

12   services? Where will these people live? Who is

13   planning for all this?

14   To try to expand housing at the research

15   park or Stanford Shopping Center, to me, is

16   farfetched. Page Mill Road and Sand Hill Road are

17   both backed up during the day. There is no such thing

18   as car-light living.

19   A failed neighborhood is The Crossings in

20   Mountain View. They have San Antonio train station

21   across the street. At night you can't find parking

22   for all these people living there because everyone is

23   driving to work. This is a planned community.

24   Housing near the workplace is a pipe dream,

25   in my opinion. Families need cars to drop children

1   off at day care and then continue on to jobs. Couples

2   probably work at different companies and go in

3   different directions for work. With hectic schedules,

4   demanding workloads and lives in the Bay Area, who has

5   the extra time to be waiting for Stanford shuttle

6   buses or the luxury of taking a leisure walk to work?

7   Stanford University built this community and

8   has added a lot to help the world, but now it is also

9   destroying the livability of the residents already

10 here. When will be -- when will enough be enough

11 building? This has been said many times before. When

12 will the Santa Clara Planning Department start

13 listening to the residents who reside surrounding

14 Stanford University? What about our quality of life?

15   Thank you for your time.

16   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Neva.

17   Before I call the next speaker, I would like

18 to acknowledge board president Joseph Simitian joins

19 us tonight.

20   And our second speaker is Mary Okicki.

21 Thank you, Mary.

22   MS. OKICKI: Hi. My name is Mary Okicki,

23 and my husband and I live in Pleasant Park, where we

24 own a home.

25   My comment specifically on the revised EIR

1   is that it is missing a policy discussion around

2   developing company towns or some grounding of its

3   basis. The housing crisis is not just Stanford's

4   crisis but Palo Alto's crisis as well. And I believe

5   it needs to be addressed on a county level and not at

6   the employer level.

7   The serious social problems, from isolation

8   to segregation to social and economic stagnation that

9   can arise from employer-owned and -operated employee

10 housing, also known as company towns, have been well

11 documented. Fortunately, once highways were built and

12 transportation modes improved, these towns mainly

13 disappeared, which is why it was surprising to me that

14 proven failed housing strategy of the 1800s and early

15 1900s has been presented as a viable alternative

16 without a discussion of the public policy

17 considerations of this option.

18   Silicon Valley is known as the capital of

19 innovation. Right now we need to tap into that

20 innovation and seek new solutions for the future.

21 Let's consider community land trusts and shared

22 equitable housing units.

23   But if we are going to look to the past for

24 solutions, then let's take the best practices from the

25 past, such as the zoning laws of the 1920s that led to

1 the creation of some of the beautiful structures in my

2 neighborhood that look like grand homes but, in fact,

3 are quadplexes and the zoning laws that allowed

4 multiple small cottages to be built behind larger

5 homes. But instead of seeing more of these housing

6 units being built, I am watching the multiple-dwelling

7 units in my neighborhood being torn down and replaced

8 with large single-family homes. Exactly the opposite

9 of what's needed.

10   I really believe that the most important

11 product the United States produces is an educated

12 mind. Supporting education is a good public policy

13 that provides innumerable community benefits.

14 Therefore, I do support Stanford's request, as I would

15 support another college's request, whether it was

16 Santa Clara or Foothill, to expand their facilities to

17 enable more students to attend. But I do not support

18 the alternatives presented of Stanford building

19 housing for more staff because I do not support the

20 poor public policy of developing company towns. Let's

21 work on the housing problem on the county level as a

22 single connected community.

23   Thank you.

24   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Mary.

25   I'd like to call Hamilton Hitchings.

1   MR. HITCHINGS: My name is Hamilton

2   Hitchings, and I'm a resident of Palo Alto. I live

3   within walking distance of this place, and I served on

4   the citizen advisory committee for Palo Alto's comp

5   plan.

6   Based on reading the peak-hour rush-hour

7   traffic impact analysis at every intersection in the

8   DEIR recirculated GUP, starting on Page 337, the

9   half-offset alternative project does not increase

10   traffic, on average, over the full project. The full

11   offset does increase traffic at limited number of

12   intersections adjacent to campus.

13   However, all alternatives significantly

14   increase traffic over the no-alternative option. For

15   example, at Page Mill and El Camino. Traffic in

16   Stanford is -- around Stanford is already saturated

17   during rush hour. And the existing traffic impacts

18   are based on nonbinding TMA that makes unrealistically

19   optimistic assumptions about Caltrain capacity.

20   In addition, housing prices are sky high,

21   with corporate expansion at Facebook and Google in

22   adjacent cities. We cannot absorb the large influx of

23   new housing created by this proposal. As a side note,

24   we already have housing for professors and staff, so I

25   hope we consider -- professors and students, so I hope

1   we consider for staff as well.

2   A Stanford GUP has shown they cannot fully

3   mitigate the traffic and housing impacts of adding

4   2.3 million square feet for academic use. Thus, I

5   request: Please select the reduced project

6   alternatives that limits new academic expansion to

7   1.3 million square feet or 11 percent over the next

8   15 years instead of 22 percent.

9   Require Stanford University to build a

10 hundred percent of the housing for any increase in

11 Stanford daytime population, including their expansion

12 into Stanford Research Park.

13   Require Stanford University to build

14 affordable housing on campus instead of paying in-lieu

15 fees.

16   Require Stanford to provide annual fees per

17 student to fully cover the increased student

18 population for paucity. And require single-occupancy

19 vehicle trips not to increase with this GUP and that

20 the existing penalties remain in effect.

21   Thank you.

22   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Hamilton.

23   I'd like to ask Alice Kaufman to come

24 forward.

25   MS. KAUFMAN: Thank you.

1   Hi. My name is Alice Kaufman. I'm the

2   legislative advocacy director with Committee for Green

3   Foothills. We're an environmental organization

4   working to preserve open space in San Mateo and Santa

5   Clara Counties.

6   And I'd like to thank the County for doing

7   this analysis. This, in my experience, is pretty

8   unique. We don't usually see an EIR's analysis that

9   really shows the -- the increased demand for housing

10   that is often -- that is always caused by office

11   development. And it's an analysis that I think that

12   we need -- that really should be part of every EIR and

13   every new development. It's a much more holistic

14   look, and it's really important for our region.

15   This analysis really sums up, in a nutshell,

16   what has been happening with land use patterns in our

17   region. For decades we have been approving far more

18   commercial development than residential. The result

19   has been terrible traffic congestion and a severe

20   housing shortage.

21   Our organization, Committee for Green

22   Foothills, has been bringing this issue up for

23   decades. And, in fact, our colleague Lennie Roberts

24   was looking through her old files recently and found a

25   letter she wrote in 1982 to the City of Menlo Park

1   about a proposed distribution center. And in the

2   letter she wrote, We do not believe that the

3   jobs/housing imbalance problems have been adequately

4   addressed. Additional housing, especially for low-

5   and moderate-income residents, needs to be built to

6   meet the needs generated by the project. 1982. We've

7   been saying it for decades.

8   So it's important to look not only at the

9   supply problem, the lack of housing, but at the demand

10 problem as well. It's not just that we haven't been

11 building houses. It's that we've been building far

12 too much office space for our region to be able to

13 handle. What the County's analysis makes clear is

14 that the solution to the problems created by building

15 too much commercial development has never been to

16 simply build an equally outsized amount of residential

17 development, because that simply creates a whole batch

18 of new problems.

19   We've failed, as a region, to ask ourselves

20 the hard questions, such as what is the actual

21 carrying capacity of our region? What are the limits

22 in terms of things like water supply and

23 infrastructure? What are the impacts to our quality

24 of life if we actually build out all of the

25 development that is allowed in all of the General

1   Plans of all of the cities in the region?

2   So, basically, I think that the County's

3   analysis is a model that should be followed

4   everywhere. In terms of the GUP and which alternative

5   should be the preferred alternative, I think we need

6   to figure out what level of development will not

7   create a level of impact beyond what's acceptable and

8   then, within that limit, make sure we are creating

9   enough housing to accommodate all the new jobs. What

10 we should not be doing is making our current housing

11 crisis worse by continuing our past pattern of

12 creating more jobs than housing.

13   Thanks.

14   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you.

15   I would ask speakers to hold their applause

16 to respect everyone's time, make everyone feel safe to

17 come up and state their piece.

18   In order to move things along more

19 efficiently, I'm going to call three speakers at a

20 time. And we'll establish sort of a bullpen over

21 there. If you prefer to sit, we'll get some seats

22 going. But we'll call you up three at a time, and

23 then that way we'll just go boom, boom, boom.

24   And I want to thank everybody for sticking

25 to the three minutes. My three-minute alarm hasn't

1 gone off yet.

2   So, with that, Jessica Von Borck will be our

3 next speaker, followed by Peter Drekmeier, followed by

4 Todd Collins. Thank you.

5   MS. VON BORCK: Good evening. Thank you all

6 for coming. My name is Jessica Von Borck. I'm the

7 director of land use -- is that better?

8   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

9   MS. VON BORCK: Great. Okay. Great. Thank

10 you. -- land use planning with Stanford.

11   Since its founding, Stanford has been a

12 residential university. Today we stand behind housing

13 on pace -- building housing on pace with our academic

14 growth. By 2020 Stanford's housing portfolio will

15 include 17,900 housing units and student beds. We are

16 proposing to build 3,150 new units and beds

17 concurrently with new academic facilities as a part of

18 our current General Use Permit application.

19   Santa Clara County elected to study two

20 County-initiated alternatives to Stanford's proposed

21 2018 General Use Permit. These housing alternatives

22 are not Stanford's proposals. The County created the

23 housing alternatives to evaluate the environmental

24 impacts that would occur if Stanford were to provide

25 more housing on its lands to house the estimated new

1   population growth for potential new academic space

2   under full implementation of the 2018 General Use

3   Permit.

4   Stanford's original application would

5   continue the balance of academic resources and housing

6   that has occurred in the past. However, unlike

7   Stanford's proposal, the housing alternatives would

8   exceed Stanford's historical growth rates, adding an

9   additional 2.5 million square feet of residential

10 development on top of the development proposed under

11 the General Use Permit.

12   When making our application, Stanford

13 determined that there was one location that was most

14 suitable for high-density transit-oriented

15 faculty/staff rental housing, which was the two Quarry

16 Road sites that are directly across the street from

17 the Palo Alto transit station. Stanford proposed

18 550 units at this location at 40 units per acre.

19 While Stanford agrees that added height and density

20 could be appropriate in areas such as the Quarry site,

21 Stanford is concerned that the extreme amount of new

22 development contemplated by the housing alternatives

23 would compromise the campus character and surrounding

24 areas, especially along Sand Hill Road and along El

25 Camino Real in the athletic area.

1   In addition, the sites identified in the

2   housing alternatives are not currently vacant land but

3   recreational areas. Building apartments in these

4   locations would necessitate replacement of these

5   recreational fields and increase the demand for even

6   more on-campus recreational opportunities.

7   Overall, the housing alternatives are

8   inconsistent with Stanford's balanced plans for its

9   campus, and the alternatives would increase

10   significant environmental effects on the surrounding

11   community. We believe there are ways to achieve more

12   housing that does not come with these kinds of less

13   desirable trade-offs. To that end, Stanford is

14   committed to participating thoughtfully in housing

15   solutions with a balanced approach and is preparing an

16   affordable housing proposal that we plan to discuss

17   with county officials this summer.

18   Thanks so much for your time.

19   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Jessica.

20   Peter Drekmeier.

21   MR. DREKMEIER: Good evening. Peter

22   Drekmeier, Palo Alto resident. Well, Alice Kaufman

23   said everything I was going to say. So... But I came

24   all the way down here. So...

25   I'm pleased that the County is addressing

1   the housing crisis, and it's obviously an issue of not

2   just supply but demand. We need to look at why we

3   need to catch up so much on housing.

4   And what I would propose is we take the

5   cumulative amount of development that Stanford has

6   originally proposed -- so between academic and

7   housing, it would be about 3.5 million square feet --

8   and cap it at that but make sure that the housing

9   keeps up with the growth in population. So it would

10 mean less academic growth and more housing.

11   I think there are going to be some really

12 key issues involved here. And, obviously, from the

13 EIR, more housing on campus helps out with a number of

14 issues but does create some other problems. And I'm

15 looking forward to hearing what Todd Collins has to

16 say about the school district, because there's a

17 really big concern that housing on Stanford, which is

18 property tax-free, is not contributing to the students

19 coming into the schools. And we've got the issue of

20 grade separation, possible closure of Churchill and

21 Palo Alto, Alma, and that needs to be considered with

22 all this new population coming.

23   In my lifetime -- and I realize I'm a

24 gray-hair now. But population of the earth has

25 doubled and the population in the Bay Area has

1   doubled. And I work for a group called the Tuolumne

2   River Trust, and we just did a public opinion survey

3   of San Francisco voters who I don't think are that

4   different than Palo Alto voters. There is 97 percent

5   support for protection and restoration of San

6   Francisco Bay; 92 percent for the Tuolumne River,

7   where we get our Hetch Hetchy water. There is

8   considerable support for affordable housing,

9   88 percent; for market-rate housing, 69 percent; for

10 office space, 40 percent.

11   So they get it. There's a connection that

12 as we keep creating more and more jobs, we have this

13 deficit in housing. We have a traffic crisis. In

14 Palo Alto there's an issue with parking, et cetera.

15   So I really want to thank Supervisor

16 Simitian. I see Planning Commissioner Vicky Morrison.

17 Thank you for being here in Palo Alto and for the

18 opportunity to comment.

19   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Peter.

20   Todd Collins.

21   MR. COLLINS: Thanks. Hey, I'm Todd

22 Collins. I'm a trustee of Palo Alto Unified. But

23 today I'm not speaking for either the district or the

24 school board. Just for myself.

25   Two big issues that come out of the EIR,

1   including -- especially, the housing alternatives.

2   One is that it -- whatever number of student -- of

3   housing we add, we're going to add students for Palo

4   Alto Unified. The original proposal, the County is

5   estimating we'll add 275 students. With the

6   alternatives, it adds up to 1500 students. Just to

7   put it in context, all of Palo Alto Unified is

8   12,000 students. So 1500 students would be 13 percent

9   of the entire school district added from one

10   development.

11   There are two big impacts on this. One is

12   that we don't have a school where those kids are going

13   to live. And this has been raised before. We haven't

14   been able to get a response from Stanford about

15   setting aside land or providing land to build a

16   school. The irony of building housing on campus

17   without building a school to support that housing is

18   sort of like saying, Well, we don't need housing in

19   Palo Alto because there's plenty of room in Hollister.

20   It just doesn't make sense. Those kids -- the

21   foundation of Palo Alto has been neighborhood schools

22   in the neighborhoods. If we're going to build a

23   neighborhood that will last hundreds of years, we need

24   a neighborhood school where those kids can go to

25   school. To say there's a school over at Garland

1   that's available -- and, again, just like saying

2   there's housing in Hollister that people can live in

3   and work at Stanford. It's theoretically possible,

4   but it just doesn't work.

5   That would be a bad thing. What I think

6   would be truly a calamity would be for this housing to

7   be built and these additional students to come to Palo

8   Alto Unified without any associated revenue. And

9   that's the path we're on. The housing that is

10 proposed, the high-density multifamily housing on

11 campus housing Stanford affiliates, is by tax law

12 tax-exempt. It does not require Stanford to pay

13 property taxes.

14   As most people know, Palo Alto is a --

15 basically, a district. Almost all of our revenue come

16 from local property taxes. So lots of students

17 without accompanying revenue is a big problem.

18   I did some arithmetic just to figure out how

19 much we're talking about. The basic proposal,

20 275 students, is $5.3 million annually of unfunded

21 costs. So that's $5.3 million of expense without any

22 property tax to go with it. The maximum proposal of

23 Alternative A is 1500 students. That's $27.8 million

24 of annual unfunded costs without any revenue coming

25 with it if they are rental properties that are

1   tax-exempt.

2   So this is a huge issue. I would even say

3   it has the potential to undermine the quality of the

4   schools that the community is based on. I can't think

5   of any more fundamental issue for Palo Alto to deal

6   with. And so as we think through this environment --

7   the environment impacts, I think we'll have to look at

8   the financial impacts.

9   I've got a flyer that explains all of this.

10 I'll leave it in the back if people want copies of it.

11 I think it's an important issue for the County to

12 discuss.

13   Thank you.

14   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Todd.

15   I'd like to call the next three speakers.

16 We have Terry Holzemer, Suzanne Keeho and Bob Moss.

17 I'll ask them all to speak very loudly and clearly in

18 the microphone. We're going to start your timer as

19 soon as I hand you the microphone.

20   MR. HOLZEMER: Okay. My comments are pretty

21 short, so I don't think I'll run over.

22   I'd just like to make sure that in the

23 revised DEIR that the County and the City both, the

24 City of Palo Alto -- I'm very concerned about the

25 housing impact fees that developers must pay. And

1   they right now fall very, very short of really full

2   mitigating the issues that we have here with

3   below-market-rate housing needs in the City and in the

4   County, for example.

5   I believe it's imperative that the County

6   follow its own staff report that said the following.

7   And I wrote it down. So it said clearly that fee

8   levels fall below -- below the maximum level will

9   exasper- -- exacerbate the existing jobs/housing

10 imbalance and wage disparity. The root causes which

11 are the root causes of the housing affordability

12 crisis. These fees are very important to the

13 development of any housing, especially

14 below-market-rate housing, which is in great demand.

15 And that needs to be -- those fees need to be

16 increased to the maximum level.

17   That's what the county staff recommended.

18 And I hope that the -- not only the City of Palo Alto

19 will reconsider its position, which last year lowered

20 its fees from -- I think from $65 per square foot down

21 to 35. And they cut it in half, which is ridiculous

22 when you're trying to build more housing.

23   The second thing I really am concerned

24 about, of course, is the impact on all this tremendous

25 extra amount of housing that will be added to Palo

1   Alto. I think that unless we're willing to live in a

2   high-density area -- and I think all of us came to

3   Palo Alto for various reasons, but certainly one of

4   the major reasons was its unique environment, its

5   caring about its city parks and those things. I think

6   that if we -- if we want to live in a high-density

7   housing area, I recommend we move to one, which is San

8   Francisco or an urban area. I didn't come to Palo

9   Alto to live in an urban area. I came here to live in

10 a suburb. And I hope that that is considered when you

11 want to build high-density housing, especially

12 high-rises along El Camino or in other areas of the

13 city.

14   Okay. Thank you.

15   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Terry.

16   We have Suzanne.

17   MS. KEEHO: Well, I would just like to say I

18 totally agree with Neva and Alice --

19   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you talk into the

20 mic?

21   MS. KEEHO: The -- I don't have a formal

22 thing to say. I just feel like we, as human beings,

23 do not -- are not aware of our environment or our

24 effect on the environment. And what is it that

25 Einstein said so long ago, that insanity is doing the

1   same thing over and over and expecting a difference?

2   It doesn't happen. And we're doing the same over and

3   over in spades. Tons of spades.

4   This -- this area can only hold so many

5   people comfortably and having some kind of livability.

6   We have to look at what we feel about growth. Because

7   getting bigger and bigger and using everything up to

8   make more and more profit. And it doesn't work with

9   the school either. I mean, there's a certain limit

10   that every organization area can handle well and be

11   aware of their environment.

12   I know in the EIR, the original one, they --

13   Stanford admitted there was no way to mitigate traffic

14   in most areas. And I don't see anything that's

15   changed in that.

16   I would just like us to -- urge us to be

17   more connected to our environment, to our earth and

18   take care of her. And not -- we cannot -- I don't

19   think we can ever really reverse now this three-to-one

20   percentage of jobs to housing. I don't know how we'll

21   do that unless we are going to live in New York or

22   Hong Kong, and that's not what I want to do.

23   Thank you.

24   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Suzanne.

25   I have Mr. Bob Moss.

1   MR. MOSS: I have a different perspective on

2   some of the issues. The first one is I haven't seen

3   adequate justification for Stanford expanding to the

4   amount they want to do. I don't see any reason for

5   them to put in 22 percent more development than they

6   already have. And I'm really curious, how they

7   justify that.

8   Second, I have issues a little bit different

9   than most of the other speakers. And that's

10   utilities. With the amount of expansion they're

11   talking about, will we have adequate water capacity,

12   electricity capacity, sewage? How are we going to

13   fund it if we don't have? Will Stanford pay it or

14   will all of you pay for it? I bet you don't know. I

15   do. You're it. Stanford isn't going to pay anything.

16   They're going to stick us with it.

17   Now, another issue is public safety. Some

18   of you may recall we used to have a fire station at

19   Stanford, Station 6. And Stanford changed the way

20   they handle fire retardant, fire protection, and

21   Station 6 closed. With the amount of expansion

22   they're talking about, will their existing fire

23   facilities suffice, or will we have to reopen the fire

24   station and staff it and all of us pay for it in the

25   future? That hasn't been discussed or evaluated.

1   Another issue is traffic. One of Palo

2   Alto's most popular issues. You're probably aware

3   that the most congested intersections in Palo Alto are

4   around Stanford -- El Camino and Page Mill, Page Mill

5   and Foothill, El Camino and Embarcadero. And who is

6   generating the traffic for that? Stanford and

7   Stanford Research Park. So an expansion of Stanford,

8   even if they put housing on the campus, is going to

9   make traffic worse.

10   One other issue. We talked about developing

11   offices, for example. We need a reality check. The

12   city staff for years has said that offices use

13   250 square feet per worker. That's been obsolete for

14   years. The actual number is closer to 100 square feet

15   per worker. So even if -- and the number is going

16   down. So even if we didn't build another square foot

17   of office space, the number of office workers and the

18   traffic and property impacts are going to keep

19   increasing.

20   So we have to take a stand to improve things

21   now. I'm not going to talk about the cost and all of

22   this. That's a separate issue. That's been talked

23   about by the gentleman from the school board. But all

24   of these impacts have to be adequately addressed or

25   we're going to sink.

1   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Bob.

2   I'd like to call the next three speakers.

3   We have Karen Harwell, followed by Lesley Lowe,

4   followed by Pat Burt.   If the three speakers could

5   come up, starting with Karen Harwell, that would be

6   fabulous.

7   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Should we maybe try

8   this microphone?

9   MS. HARWELL: Good evening.   I came tonight

10   in support of addressing the regional housing crisis

11   caused by the jobs/housing imbalance.   I support

12   addressing not just supply but also demand.   Because

13   as long as jobs continue to outpace housing, we will

14   never catch up.   Therefore, I support proposing that

15   the GUP consider allowing the total amount of

16   development proposed by Stanford, a combination of

17   academic and housing square footage, but balance

18   things out so that all new people coming to Stanford

19   are housed.   The result would increase the amount of

20   housing Stanford builds while reducing the amount of

21   academic development that generates the need for more

22   housing.

23   Now, that's a specific.   But I do want to

24   share with you my deeper concern, and that really --

25   I'm going to use a quote by Aldo Leopold in which he

1   said in his lifetime he came to the conclusion we are

2   not an inherently destructive species. However, we

3   have been migrated all over the planet. We're no

4   longer located, for most of us, in the place where we

5   were born and early imprinted. And we get to the new

6   place, and there's not readily available a way to be

7   formally introduced and deeply introduced to the place

8   where we live. So we end up not knowing the place

9   where we live. And, consequently, we end up using it

10 rather than thinking of it as a subject. Rather, we

11 think of it as an object to be used. However, Aldo

12 Leopold came to the conclusion, at the end of his

13 life, when people are given the opportunity to get to

14 know the place where they live, they do care for it.

15   And so I feel like we -- we just -- we need

16 to actually start to realize that the place where we

17 live is a subject and our obligation is to be in

18 relationship to it as a whole. Okay.

19   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Karen.

20   Lesley Lowe.

21   MS. LOWE: All right. Good evening. My

22 name is Lesley Lowe, and I'm a senior planner with

23 Stanford.

24   I'd like to speak to the potential traffic

25 impacts of constructing additional faculty/staff

1   housing on the Stanford campus and what may appear to

2   be counterintuitive conclusions in the recirculated

3   draft EIR.

4   There are three types of trips associated

5   with housing a Stanford employee. One, the commute

6   trip by the Stanford employee; two, the commute trip

7   by the household members; and, three, all other

8   home-based trips necessary to run a household, such as

9   errands and school trips.

10   The original draft EIR assumed that the 2018

11 General Use Permit would result in a demand for

12 approximately 2500 housing units that would be located

13 throughout the Bay Area. Currently more than half of

14 Stanford's employees are taking advantage of

15 Stanford's TDM programs, meaning that we have about

16 43 percent of people coming by single-occupancy

17 vehicle to campus. All other household trips occur in

18 the communities where the housing is located. So very

19 dispersed.

20   Under the housing alternatives, commute

21 trips to -- commute trips by a Stanford employee would

22 be shorter, as they would be, ideally, walking or

23 biking to work. Therefore, the added housing will

24 reduce the regional vehicle miles traveled by a

25 Stanford employee.

1   However, the added housing on campus will

2   generate other household trips in the local community,

3   including commute and non-commute trips. These

4   household trips occur throughout the day and will be

5   concentrated in the communities near Stanford rather

6   than distributed out throughout the region. In

7   addition, these home-based trips will be increased --

8   will increase vehicle miles traveled in the local

9   communities.

10   The recirculated draft EIR analysis

11   illustrates this conclusion. In the p.m. peak hour,

12   Housing Alternative A removes 350 regional commuter

13   trips, but it creates over 1,000 home-based trips in

14   the local community. While Stanford has developed an

15   effective TDM program for commuter trips to campus,

16   reducing residential trips from campus housing through

17   TDM is difficult since residential trips are not going

18   to a single destination.

19   Stanford has proposed 550 resi- --

20   faculty/staff units. While these units will generate

21   household commute and home-based trips, we believe we

22   can offset some of those trips by enticing more

23   Stanford commuters out of their cars through enhanced

24   TDM programs. However, under the housing

25   alternatives, which would add a substantial amount of

1   faculty/staff housing to campus, Stanford is not

2   confident that it will be able to continue to achieve

3   our no net new commute trips standard.

4   Thank you.

5   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Lesley.

6   Our next speaker is Pat Burt.

7   MR. BURT: Thank you. First I'd like to say

8   thanks to county staff and Supervisor Simitian for

9   going out of their way to hold these meetings in our

10   community. That's a real outreach that is enabling us

11   to participate in this process better.

12   I support the concept of more housing on

13   campus. And we should also recognize that Stanford,

14   over the last couple of decades, has been real leaders

15   in transportation demand management in cutting down

16   the number of trips that otherwise would have been

17   generated through their expansion.

18   But the programs that were needed over the

19   last 20 years and historically to reduce trips are not

20   what we need today to be able to maintain a

21   sustainable community for our region and for our city.

22   We now need to look for additional measures and

23   different measures to be able to achieve that.

24   I'd also like to point out that Stanford and

25   the county staff have correctly stated that Stanford's

1   proposal is to continue the same percentage of

2   academic space increase as they've had over past

3   decades, but that means that the absolute number of

4   square feet is going to significantly increase. And a

5   more valid measure would be to look at whether they

6   are allowed to maintain the absolute number of square

7   footage of increase or whether that should even be

8   mitigated -- or -- moderated. Excuse me.

9   In addition, on the transportation side, the

10 trips and congestion need to actually be capped. And

11 our current no net trips -- it's important to realize

12 that that isn't actually no net trips because Stanford

13 is allowed to offset many of those trips. When we

14 look at the congestion that we have today, it's clear

15 that what we actually need is no net trips and an

16 expanded definition of "peak hour" and that, in all

17 likelihood, we actually have too many trips today.

18 We're going to have additional pressures on our

19 roadwork, and we may need to actually be looking at a

20 reduction in net trips. And that reduction would

21 include trips generated from the housing on-site.

22   As the last speaker stated, those are

23 different programs that are needed to be able to

24 reduce and fully mitigate the trips that are created

25 by on-campus housing. But that doesn't mean it cannot

1   be done. They're different measures that require

2   different programs and will require a very significant

3   investment on behalf of Stanford to achieve that.

4   There are other measures that can be done.

5   Examples I hope the EIR will look at more thoroughly

6   are integrating the Stanford Marguerite system with

7   Palo Alto city shuttle, something that Stanford -- am

8   I out already? All right.

9   Well, thank you very much. I'll give

10   additional comments in writing.

11   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Pat.

12   Before I call up the next three speakers, I

13   would like to point out what I see as sort of a

14   structural issue with some of the comments. The

15   proposals are -- that are being talked about tonight

16   contained within the recirculated draft EIR are

17   actually alternatives that are coming out of the CEQA

18   process. "CEQA" stands for the California

19   Environmental Quality Act.

20   And the planning basis for those

21   alternatives is that policy I talked about earlier

22   within the community plan that requires a commensurate

23   amount of housing to be developed along with increases

24   in academic and support space on the campus. So it's

25   a natural byproduct of the proposal. To build the

1   2.275 million square feet, there needs to be a certain

2   amount of housing, by longstanding county policy. So

3   it's not the County's proposal to build more housing.

4   It's the action of the policy that requires that type

5   of analysis. If that housing generates more local

6   traffic while reducing total vehicle miles traveled,

7   those local impacts would have to be mitigated as part

8   of the project. So I just wanted to set a baseline

9   of, structurally, how these alternatives relate to the

10 project itself.

11   And, with that, we're getting down to the

12 final half-dozen speakers or so. And the next one is

13 Mary Holzer, followed by Courtney Pal, followed by

14 Reta -- last name starts with a V.

15   Thank you. Thank you, Mary.

16   MS. HOLZER: Thank you. I'm not good at

17 microphones, but I'll try. Closer? Got it. Okay.

18   Most of what I was going to say has been

19 eloquently spoken to by the rest of the people who

20 have spoken so far. I'm seriously concerned about the

21 schools, so I want to underline that. I think that

22 the school -- Stanford is expecting the Palo Alto

23 school district to take care of the students no matter

24 what, and I think that that's probably not going to

25 happen.

1   I'm also seriously concerned about

2   environmental issues. I don't know that we actually

3   have enough water to support the amount of development

4   that Stanford proposes, Palo Alto proposes, Facebook

5   proposes, Apple proposes, et cetera, et cetera. This

6   is not Kansas. You know, we cannot spread out widely

7   and in all directions and expect that this is going to

8   work.

9   I think that -- listening to what Stanford

10 has to say and other people have said about what

11 Stanford is proposing, I think this is all very

12 amorphous. I don't see a map anywhere of the Stanford

13 campus, saying, We're going to take this much of the

14 Stanford campus and we're going to build new academic

15 space. We're going to take this much and we're going

16 to build new housing. We're going to take this much

17 and we're going to build new schools. We're going to

18 take this much and we're going to build new parking.

19 Does anybody in the audience have any idea exactly

20 what this thing is going to look like? Do you?

21   So I really am seriously concerned that what

22 we're looking at is a rather amorphous large proposal

23 that no one is really going to be able to see what it

24 looks like until it's done, and that will be too late.

25   And that is what I have to say.

1   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Mary.

2   Courtney?

3   MS. PAL: Good afternoon, everyone. My name

4   is Courtney Pal. I'm a member of the Stanford

5   Coalition for Planning and Equitable 2035, which is a

6   group of Stanford students who are concerned about

7   Stanford's expansion plans.

8   First I want to talk about some assumptions

9   that are made in the VMT analysis of the revised draft

10   Environmental Impact Report. Specifically, I want to

11   point out that the analysis treats all workers that

12   are going to be added under the full housing

13   alternative and the half housing alternative as if

14   they were demographically the same as the current

15   on-campus population. However, it's likely that

16   because Stanford would have to build housing for all

17   of its workers, in this case, that are added to

18   campus, in this plan it would actually probably have

19   less trip generation than the current population and,

20   therefore, less trip generation than the analysis.

21   Studies have repeatedly shown that lower-income

22   commuters take fewer discretionary vehicle trips.

23   Those are the residential trips that would increase

24   under this analysis.

25   And so building housing for Stanford's added

1   work force would increase the number of

2   below-median-income households on campus, which

3   assuredly is an important goal. It's incorrect,

4   however, to use the same VMT numbers for current

5   faculty members and staff, the vast majority of whom

6   on campus are above median income, to calculate VMT

7   rates for all workers who would be receiving housing

8   under Alternative A and B. So this analysis needs to

9   be revisited.

10   On a broader note, I want to talk about

11 Stanford proposing bringing thousands and thousands of

12 additional faculty and workers to campus, which a lot

13 of folks have already talked about. That's happening

14 as part of the proposed application regardless of

15 whether or not Stanford actually builds housing for

16 those people. Right now Stanford is only promising a

17 fraction of the people it's bringing housing, which is

18 going to pass the burden on to local neighborhoods and

19 jurisdictions, increasing housing demands in areas

20 that already have significantly high demand.

21   Without more on-campus housing, Stanford's

22 growth will acutely increase housing demand in local

23 areas. We'll see housing crisis continue to rise.

24 More and more people will become homeless, be forced

25 to live in their vehicles and be displaced forcibly by

1   their community because Stanford was unable to provide

2   housing at a rate of the demand that they themselves

3   produced. Stanford is an experienced developer, with

4   the available land to provide housing for all of its

5   workers as well as students and faculty.

6   Traffic impacts are important, but they can

7   be mitigated quite easily by bolstering existing TDM

8   programs administered by Stanford.

9   So, in conclusion, the RDEIR claims the two

10 alternatives would not allow Stanford to flexibly

11 develop its land within a framework that minimizes

12 potential negative effects on the surrounding

13 community. We strongly, as scope, disagree. The

14 provision of additional housing on campus, especially

15 for low-income workers, is necessary and irrefutable

16 step for Stanford to minimize its negative impacts on

17 the surrounding community. And we hope that this is

18 taken into consideration in their vision of the

19 alternatives.

20   Thank you.

21   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Courtney.

22   Reta?

23   MS. VIHIL: Good evening. I would like to

24 take this opportunity to ask Stanford to be a good

25 neighbor. Stanford, among many people in Palo Alto,

1   has been disingenuous in their promotion of this plan.

2   The idea that there are going to be no new net trips

3   with so many employees and the associated people that

4   go with those employees really cannot be believed.

5   The idea that increasing housing fees will cause

6   Stanford to be broke is laughable. I don't know what

7   their endowment or their amount of money that they

8   have now is, but I think that they certainly can pay

9   reasonable fees.

10   The idea that their children are going to

11 come and be schooled by -- for free by the residents

12 of their neighborhoods is not reasonable. I was so

13 happy when I saw housing -- Stanford housing going up

14 in Palo Alto -- in Menlo Park because I thought

15 finally Menlo Park gets to pay for the kids to be

16 schooled.

17   So, that said, Stanford is a valuable

18 resource to our communities, and I would ask them to

19 be a good neighbor. I think the other way they could

20 be a good neighbor is -- I have heard several times

21 that as a requirement of the last General Use Permit,

22 there was to be a final build-out plan. I think

23 Supervisor Simitian would know more about that, and I

24 think that that has been mentioned or was mentioned at

25 the meeting held at the City Council chambers. What

1 was said was that plan final build-out -- this is it,

2 no more new building, this is final numbers -- was not

3 presented. And yet the previous GUP was allowed to

4 move forward.

5   I would ask that the County supervisors and

6 Stanford work together to get that final build-out

7 plan, no loopholes, no fancy definitions that will be

8 revised later on -- this is it, folks -- completed and

9 that the new request, the new GUP, not be allowed

10 until those numbers, that final plan, is provided.

11   Once that is provided, I think that

12 neighboring communities, who will bear the brunt of

13 infrastructure and so much more, will be able to

14 reasonably address the issue. I think doing EIRs

15 piecemeal -- 2.5 million square feet here, 2.5 million

16 square feet there -- does not allow for the total

17 development to be adequately evaluated.

18   Thank you.

19   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Reta.

20   I'd like to call our final three speakers

21 up. If anyone else wants to speak, please get your

22 speaker card in. That would give us an even

23 20 speakers. But we're good with 19, 20. Thank you,

24 Tracy. I like round numbers.

25   Okay. Sorry. I digress. Number 17 is Yara

1   Sellin, followed by Stephanie Munioz. Would you like

2   to talk -- speak from there?

3   MS. MUNIOZ: No, no.

4   MR. BRADLEY: You'll come up here. Okay.

5   Followed by Arthur Keller. And our final

6   speaker, going once -- oh, okay. Our not-final

7   speaker is Tracy Fernside. So Yara, Stephanie, Arthur

8   and then Tracy. And then we'll have one more.

9   Thank you, Yara.

10   MS. SELLIN: Hi. My name is Yara Sellin.

11 I'm also a little unused to microphones, so forgive me

12 if I'm too loud. I live at Peter Coutts on Stanford,

13 and I want to thank Stanford for being a great place

14 to live. Bike around, all of that.

15   We recently had some traffic issues on Peter

16 Coutts Drive as the new university housing came

17 on-line, and they cleaned up that intersection really

18 well. I have children who go to Escondido, Nixon.

19 And I have a soon-to-be sixth grader at Fletcher. So

20 we're really using the safe routes to school and are

21 active alternative transportation proponents.

22   I would like to ask that as we move forward

23 and particularly before any more expansion happens,

24 that we address the Bowdoin/Stanford intersection.

25 And, frankly, a lot of the other streets that feed

1   onto Bowdoin are kind of problematic. There's a lot

2   of dead-end streets.

3   But Bowdoin/Stanford in particular is a

4   difficult intersection. It's a thoroughfare, the

5   south -- north-south direction, for people going to

6   and from Gunn, crossing to go to Escondido. And then

7   you also have a lot of people coming in and out from

8   campus, and it's a main thoroughfare from people

9   coming in from 280 who aren't using Page Mill.

10   For those of you who don't know it, it's a

11 T intersection. There's a lot of wooden posts that

12 come up about this high (indicating) and obscure

13 visibility. So I feel very nervous having my

14 seven-year-old cross that intersection by himself

15 because cars simply don't see him. And especially

16 cars that are coming out of campus and going east. We

17 generally bike him to school in the morning, even

18 though he's certainly capable of biking himself. And

19 frequently we kind of go out and practically block the

20 intersection so he can get through safely. Other

21 parents do the same or sort of, you know, wave their

22 hands around and make sure they have eye contact with

23 everybody.

24   Because there are so many people going to

25 Escondido -- going to SCRA, for that matter, too -- I

1   would like to ask that this intersection be looked at

2   immediately. Maybe we can set up an observation when

3   school is back in session and look at cleaning it up,

4   making pedestrians and bikers more visible and safe.

5   Thank you very much.

6   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you.

7   Stephanie?

8   MS. MUNIOZ: Yes. Folks, if you can't hear

9   me -- Pat Burt, for instance -- if you can't hear me,

10   raise your hand. All right?

11   I'm Stephanie Munioz, and what I have to add

12   to this is some experience. I lost my driver's

13   license, and so I can tell you something about traffic

14   and the discretional trips that people could take.

15   You don't need to take nearly as many trips as you

16   think you need to take, but you do have to go to work.

17   There's just -- there's just no getting around it.

18   Even though some forward-looking companies have

19   figured out ways that workers can work from home --

20   and that's fine -- the vast majority of people have to

21   go to work.

22   And so the housing problem, which is

23   absolutely insoluble as far as traffic goes, is having

24   houses at a distance from the workplace, where there

25   is no train or dependable bus to get you there within

1   a reasonable amount of time. And I can tell you the

2   public transportation system is sadly lacking in

3   efficient use of time.

4   Now, I think that has been the -- I think

5   everybody who spoke has said that we need to have a

6   balance, that the workers have to be provided for.

7   Whether Stanford puts in one million new workers or

8   only two and a half, there has to be a place for those

9   workers to live, however many there are of them.

10   And I'd like to say that one of the things

11   that we haven't talked about is going to very small

12   units, Hong Kong-size microunits. And I'm pointing to

13   our new revelation about the President Hotel. People

14   are willing to live in very small units if the housing

15   suits their need in other ways. And I'm recommending

16   that mostly the towns, because the County has a rather

17   small amount of residential permits to hand out to

18   ordinary folks -- I'm recommending that we look into

19   large quantities of hotel rooms and baths with

20   co-housing amenities to them where people will have

21   the swimming pool, the pool table, the library, the

22   computers and a bus to take them where they need to

23   go. And that would work out really very well for

24   retired people.

25   Is that it?

1   As far as the school goes --

2   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Stephanie.

3   MS. MUNIOZ: I have one more. With regard

4   to the schools, what the situation we now have is that

5   businesses which are housed in Palo Alto, whose

6   revenue goes to Palo Alto, have the workers in

7   other -- schools in other towns, and those other towns

8   have to pay for the students too. Stanford could have

9   its own school.

10   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Stephanie.

11   MS. MUNIOZ: Thanks.

12   MR. BRADLEY: I gave her an extra 30 seconds

13   because she was interrupted by the people talking in

14   the audience.

15   Arthur Keller?

16   MR. KELLER: Thank you.

17   So since Stephanie Munioz talked about the

18   President Hotel Apartments, I wish to point out that

19   most of the residents actually do have cars and have

20   residential parking permits and park them in the

21   neighborhoods.

22   Stanford actually did a calculation based on

23   jobs to employed residents, which was an official jobs

24   housing number. Stanford is 3.06, according to a 2012

25   to 2016 five-year study from the census bureau. The

1   federal census bureau. So that's actually pretty bad.

2   Comparable to or worse than Palo Alto's. So that

3   should be considered.

4   Stanford should house all students -- and

5   that means undergraduates, grad students and postdocs.

6   Right now Stanford is only considering housing

7   undergrads but not grad students and postdocs. And

8   that is -- it makes it very hard for those students to

9   live around here.

10   One way to deal with the traffic problem

11 that was identified by additional housing is to

12 basically provide school space on campus for the

13 schools, because a lot of these trips will be

14 students. So that's -- instead of having them to go

15 off campus for schools, they can have schools on

16 campus. And also school in-lieu fees that our

17 illustrious school board member we talked about.

18   We need to have an accounting for the

19 offsets. Because in terms of no new net trips, there

20 have been a lot of offsets that have not really been

21 accounted for, that don't really help the traffic in

22 the immediate area. So we see, from the vehicles --

23 from the traffic impact -- the traffic impacts are

24 immediate, and the offsets have been far away. And

25 that's not quite fair. We do need the maximum

1   sustainable build-out which was proposed -- which was

2   required on 2000 GUP, and that should be required in

3   order to approve this.

4   And we need to also have the maximum impact

5   fee that was calculated by the staff, County staff,

6   for affordable housing.

7   Finally, I'll take a few seconds to talk

8   about a proposal that was made by certain people

9   regarding putting Stanford's housing for Stanford

10 University employees on the Stanford Research Park.

11 That just means that they'll be -- that traffic that's

12 created -- proposed to be created -- that will be

13 created by the housing on campus would instead be

14 within Palo Alto. It wouldn't reduce the traffic.

15 The traffic would just move somewhere else. So that

16 actually won't help the problem. It won't help the

17 problem with the need for schools. Because -- in that

18 way. So that's really a nonsolution.

19   Instead, really, we should think about

20 communities providing the housing that their jobs

21 create or, alternatively, reduce the amount of jobs

22 created. The way to help the jobs/housing imbalance

23 is to deal with both the numerator and the

24 denominator. And if you can't deal with the reduction

25 and increase the housing, you can also deal with a

1   reduction in jobs.

2   Thank you.

3   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Arthur.

4   Tracy?

5   MS. FERNSIDE: Can you hear me? All right.

6   My name is Tracy Fernside -- how about that?

7   Is it better? And I've been a Palo Alto resident

8   since 1975.

9   Full disclosure: I did not do my homework

10 before coming to this meeting. I came to this meeting

11 with a question, and now I actually have more. But my

12 question was, if there -- we're supposed to have a

13 maximum sustainable build-out plan given by Stanford

14 to the City of Palo Alto, to the County of Santa

15 Clara, to say there is an end to this somewhere? Why

16 are we even discussing it before we have that? I

17 still have that question.

18   Now I have an additional question. There

19 was all this talk about housing units, and at one time

20 it was houses or units or beds. We need to know

21 people and we need to know cars. Housing units means

22 nothing. How many people are going to be living on

23 campus? How many new people are going to be driving

24 cars in Palo Alto?

25   And then the other thing, which I had not

1   even thought about, about Stanford being a tax-free

2   zone. And somebody asking how much money does

3   Stanford have. In the words of my friend Marion, I

4   would say Stanford has more money than God and they

5   can --

6   UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Change.

7   MS. FERNSIDE: Yeah, they can pick up the

8   costs of their expansion plans. They have a school of

9   education, and they would think that they can just ask

10 Palo Alto to build a bunch of schools and staff them

11 without extra money? I mean, it's ridiculous.

12   So that's all I have to say.

13   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Tracy. You said a

14 lot in two minutes.

15   Kathleen, followed by Gigi will be our final

16 speaker. You want us to come back to you? Gigi.

17 Ready?

18   MS. LENHART: I think so.

19   This is very spur of the moment.

20   I'm a Palo Alto person. My grandfather was

21 the head of the English department when Stanford came

22 here. I'm a longtime Palo Alto -- the mountain up at

23 Skyline, when you look up Page Mill, is named for my

24 grandfather. I think Stanford is marvelous. I think

25 Google is great. I think all of these companies are

1   great. It's time that Google and all those companies

2   went to Podunk. Excuse me. I've had it. We do not

3   want them here. They are ruining our lifestyle. This

4   is a college community. We have the right to have the

5   kind of life that Stanford originally envisioned. And

6   I don't think we have any obligation whatsoever to

7   these people who are making billions and billions of

8   dollars. They can go somewhere else, and they do not

9   need to ruin our lives. They're impacting our

10   traffic, our air, our health and our emotions, and I

11   don't see why we need to give in to them.

12   Example: I was up in Napa years ago, and

13   there was an article in the newspaper. And they said,

14   Why is everybody trying to make us have more housing?

15   We are growing wine. That's what we're about. And we

16   cannot turn over our wine land to housing and

17   businesses. That's not okay. This is what we do.

18   In Palo Alto we raise kids, we raise a

19   beautiful university community. For God's sake, go

20   somewhere else, these companies. We -- I've had it.

21   The traffic is God-awful and our air is bad and our

22   kids -- how can we have septics that are -- that are

23   safe when so many people are piling in here? There's

24   so many places in our country that are desperate for

25   economy, for help for schools. Go somewhere else.

1   Period. Palo Alto, finished. Done. Close the walls.

2   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Gigi.

3   You ready to follow that, Kathleen?

4   MS. DURHAM: I'm Kathy Durham. I live in

5   College Terrace. I got involved in the General Use

6   Permit -- General Use Permit hearings in 1987, '88,

7   which really dates me. And focusing then on

8   mitigations for Stanford Avenue from Bowdoin to

9   Escondido to El Camino Real because that's where my

10 kids were going to school.

11   I went on to be a school volunteer and a

12 part-time city employee in Palo Alto and am now

13 retired. But I still really am interested in helping

14 to find ways for Stanford and the City to work

15 together to actually encourage more active

16 transportation and to cooperate on other forms of

17 alternative transportation, like some of our speakers

18 have said.

19   When I got started, there was a sixth grade

20 safety patrol on duty at Stanford and Bowdoin. After

21 about ten years, that was withdrawn. It was

22 considered -- there was so much more traffic through

23 that intersection that it was considered too unsafe

24 for a four-way or a three-way stop with a bike entry,

25 to have students out there. And the sixth graders

1   were moved out to middle school.

2   So today we have big a.m. and p.m. backups

3   and a lot of really impatient drivers, people who are

4   distracted by their phones. And we have a lot more

5   students of all ages, from kindergartners through

6   graduate students, at Stanford, using that

7   intersection and other intersections on Stanford

8   Avenue. And a lot more faculty who are biking --

9   faculty and staff who are biking. And the new

10 180 units on Cal Ave is also adding to this.

11   And so I want to support what Yara was

12 saying about how increasing numbers of parents are not

13 feeling safe for their children to cross at Stanford

14 Avenue and Bowdoin. And this is Escondido kids, Nixon

15 kids, Fletcher School kids, Gunn kids, Paly kids.

16   So what I have heard is that there is a

17 discussion, on some very far timeline, of a traffic

18 signal at Stanford and Bowdoin. And I'd just like to

19 suggest, can we explore? Can we look at an

20 alternative that is much cheaper, that is safer for

21 bicyclists of all ages and pedestrians, a mini

22 roundabout? It will take a little bit of Stanford's

23 land. It takes more space in the intersection than

24 the current one, but it doesn't have to be the full

25 scale than the ones on Campus Drive are. Pull back

1 the crosswalks and you eliminate the bicyclists

2 running the stop signs and the yielding issues caused

3 by impatient drivers.

4   So let's work on 21st century solutions.

5   MR. BRADLEY: Thank you, Kathleen.

6   So it's 7:22, and this meeting is scheduled

7 to go to 8:00 o'clock. So I want to make sure anyone

8 who came here tonight wanting to speak got a chance to

9 speak. Any -- anyone who wants to be our 23rd

10 speaker?

11   With that, I will conclude the meeting. And

12 thank you for coming tonight, and I encourage you to

13 stay involved with this very important project.

14   (Public Comments concluded at 7:26 p.m.)

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 1  STATE OF CALIFORNIA

 2  COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

 3

 4

 5          I, NOELIA ESPINOLA, Certified Shorthand

 6  Reporter in and for the State of California, do hereby

 7  certify:

 8          That said hearing was taken down by me in

 9  shorthand at the time and place therein named, and

10  thereafter reduced to computerized transcription under

11  my direction.

12          I further certify that I am not interested

13  in the outcome of this hearing.

14

15

16

17          Date:  July 25, 2018

18

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23

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25
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