

June 8, 2015

The Palo Alto City Council  
250 Hamilton Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94301

Dear Honorable Members of the Palo Alto City Council:

As former mayors and council members we, like you, have been concerned about the proposed closure of the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park - concerned about the eviction of the 400 residents and the loss to the community of a scarce source of affordable housing.

Recent actions, however, provide cause for some optimism. We're encouraged by the potential for collaboration between the City of Palo Alto, the County of Santa Clara, and a qualified non-profit, Caritas. The understanding that a market rate offer could be pulled together using affordable housing funds set aside by the City and County, in combination with the issuance of a Tax Exempt Revenue Bond, make keeping Buena Vista open as a mobile home park and permanent source of affordable housing a real possibility.

As former Palo Alto mayors and city council members, we understand that there are always more needs than there are resources. Still, we feel that this opportunity is too important to let it pass without taking every reasonable step to prevent the closure.

Based on our years of service we know preserving Palo Alto's economic diversity is a value shared by both the Council and the community. As development pressures increase, it only becomes more difficult to find suitable sites for affordable housing projects. If the park closes and its residents are forced to re-locate, Palo Alto will not only be poorer for the loss of those 400 residents, but finding a way to replace close to 120 lost housing units will pose a daunting challenge for years to come. The most practical solution is simply to preserve the units in place at the Buena Vista.

We urge your every effort to make that happen.

Sincerely,

*Former Palo Alto Mayors and City Council Members*

Ron Andersen	Yoriko Kishimoto	Frank Patitucci
John Barton	Larry Klein	Enid Pearson
Betsy Bechtel	Judy Kleinberg	Gail Price
Bern Beecham	Leland Levy	Emily Renzel
Mike Cobb	Nancy Lytle	Dick Rosenbaum
LaDoris Cordell	Jack Morton	Micki Schneider
Peter Drekmeier	Dena Mossar	Nancy Shepherd
Sid Espinosa	Vic Ojakian	Gail Woolley