



SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

October 7, 2020

Mayor DeGolia and members of the Atherton City Council
City of Atherton
Via email: council@ci.atherton.ca.us

**RE: BAYFRONT CANAL/ATHERTON CHANNEL FLOOD PROTECTION AND RESTORATION
PROJECT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND ASSOCIATED FUNDING AGREEMENT**

Dear Mayor DeGolia and members of the Atherton City Council,

The repeated flooding of the mobile home parks in Redwood City is an environmental issue of great concern and is not a sustainable situation. With climate change and rising sea levels, these conditions will deteriorate and worsen unless action is taken to address it.

It is heartening to see that the communities contributing to the flooding of this neighborhood are getting together to provide a robust solution to this problem. The repeated flooding from storm water overwhelming the flood channel is also causing unhealthy conditions for the residents of this low-income community. This is a vulnerable community that cannot afford to lose property repeatedly and it is time to address this inequity.

Sea levels are projected to be rising faster than earlier anticipated. The California Ocean Protection Council is now projecting possible 3.5 feet of sea level rise as early as 2050, instead of by 2100, as earlier anticipated. This is within the next few decades. Coastal and Bay communities are urged to take action to protect communities and infrastructure that are now at risk sooner than earlier expected or where flooding is already occurring.

It has been brought to our attention that the project to prevent and ameliorate the flooding of the mobile homes, caused by the Bayfront flood channel, is on a timeline and needs to obtain timely council approval in order to move ahead. Delaying this decision could cause the project to be delayed and possibly lose the window of opportunity for the project.

We do understand that the possibility of these parcels being rezoned ultimately for other uses is an issue of some concern. It is of concern to us as well and we will work with Redwood City to protect the low-income housing that is so much needed for a sustainable community.

However, we urge the Atherton City Council to consider these issues of climate change as serious and life threatening and needing action now, as it affects the health and property of many vulnerable families right now.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gita Dev", with a horizontal line underneath.

Gita Dev, Co-Chair
Sustainable Land Use Committee
Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter (SCLP)

Cc James Eggers, Executive Director, Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter
Gladwyn D'Souza, Conservation Co-Chair, Sierra Club, Loma Prieta Chapter