



## Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Serving San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Benito Counties

*Protecting the Planet Since 1933*

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December 10, 2017

Santa Clara County Supervisor Wasserman

Capital Projects Manager III Priya Cherukuru

via email [mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org](mailto:mike.wasserman@bos.sccgov.org), [Priya.cherukuru@faf.sccgov.org](mailto:Priya.cherukuru@faf.sccgov.org)

Re: Community Noticing and Input on Muriel Wright Center

Dear Santa Clara County Supervisor Wasserman and Manager Cherukuru,


Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter consists of tens of thousands of members and supporters who live the motto, "Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet". We appreciate the many services the County provides including Reentry and Behavioral Health Services. And, of course, we also enjoy exploring Santa Teresa County Park in a safe and secure environment and would like to reassure our membership that it will continue to remain safe. More importantly, our advocacy efforts to protect the planet depend on open and transparent government and governmental agencies. We are convinced that civic engagement is essential to democracy and that public input improves the projects governmental agencies undertake and oversee.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was created with this in mind and it has resulted in better informed public and decision makers. Regardless of whether the Muriel Wright Center use change and renovations meet the threshold requiring CEQA review, it is clear to us that the community should have been notified, informed, and provided a forum to provide input before a project of this nature is undertaken.

The California handbook, Residential Care Facilities in the Neighborhood: Federal, State, and Local Requirements, states, "*Large Facilities (seven or more [residents]) are subject to local requirements and restrictions. These generally include advance notice and a public hearing process. The county or city is responsible for addressing concerns and complaints about local requirements and processes.*"

We hope you will consider providing further notice and meet with the community to allow us to express concerns and provide feedback on the facility and how we might be reassured about our safety.

Sincerely,

  
David W. Poeschel, Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Conservation Committee

CC: District 2 San Jose City Council Member Jimenez

District 10 San Jose City Council Member Khamis