

LETTERS

Parkside Trails project should be deferred

The decision on the Parkside Trails project should be deferred until the new city council takes office in December.

The proposal by Parkside Trails, LLC plans to convert over 42.4 acres of open space currently zoned at very low-density R-HS hillside development for one unit per 5-20 acres to low-density R1-10 for 1-5 units per 10,000 square feet along the southwestern tip of the city. It should be thoroughly vetted by the new council, which could potentially have three new members or more than half the council.

The proposal includes splitting the 42.4-acre lot into three parcels: 8.5 acres in the north end for 18 housing units; 4.1 acres along the Stevens Creek Corridor dedicated to the city for trails; and 29.88 acres of park space, formerly a quarry site to the city for future consideration.

To accommodate the proposal, the city has to approve a General Plan amendment and zoning change and environmental clearance. To satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act, the city has just completed a negative declaration to determine if further environmental review will be required. Preliminary analysis includes, but is not limited to, traffic and safety impacts along Stevens Canyon Road.

I recall during the 1999 council election a previous proposal by then-owner Legend of Mary to rezone the parcel to build

a boarding school for young children. At that time, this was a major campaign issue for the candidates and the project was later withdrawn due to concerns by the community.

Now, 15 years later, a new project is up for review just as the council could have three new members who will face the impacts of the decision during their term.

To further complicate the issue, at least one of the current council members could abstain from the discussion since he lives close to the potential project site. Two other council members also may need to abstain if an appraisal indicates that their properties may benefit from the project due to the conversion of an old haul road to trails.

Thus, a decision now could lie in the hands of only two council members.

I believe it is prudent that the decision for this project should be made by the new council members after engaging the community for input, since this project will have major impacts on the quality of life in the foothills. I urge the current council not to rush to approve the project, but defer discussion until the new council takes office in December.

The decision for deferral to the new council is also supported by former mayor Dr. Nick Szabo, since its impact will be felt by them.

PATRICK KWOK
Cupertino

Join movement toward a new kind of thinking

Cupertino Mayor Gilbert Wong emphasized the importance of being a good citizen and main-

taining a peaceful He also attempts to promote cultural understandings among people of different cultures.

On Aug. 17, the Sunnyvale Jose branch of Tai Ji Men Qigong Academy, with leaders, representatives and friends from the Bay Area, launched the ceremony of declaring the Declaration of an Era of Conscience at the academy's local Cupertino.

This event aims to resolve geopolitical tensions and guide humanity towards sustainable development. After launch, Mayor Gill Wong said, "This movement of conscience is something that is very important for the community."

The mayor further mentioned, "We should be proud of ourselves should be proud of our consciousness. We should be proud of who we are. And the better selection we have, the better citizen we will be in our world community."

Afterwards, he asked everyone to support Ji Men Qigong Academy in promoting An Era of Conscience movement. As citizens of the Bay Area, we welcome more residents to join on this movement (www.taiji.org), like Mayor Gill Wong has done.

Global solidarity is an imperative and urgently needed. The only way the path of peace can be reached is with international cooperation.

TAI JI MEN QIGONG .

**Editor's note: The following letters to the editor were compiled from students in grades 4-6 at the Sunnyvale Youth Newspaper Camp in*