



January 12, 2021

Agenda G2. Provide direction on the annual goal/priority setting process

Honorable City Council Members,

On behalf of Menlo Together, thank you to the Council for your leadership in this challenging time. In a time of constrained resources, urgent needs, and uncertain recovery, we support the general direction outlined in the [staff report](#) with a few initial comments.

- 1) The Housing Element is essential, as a legal requirement and as a process that can enable the city of Menlo Park to take steps to address housing unaffordability and the legacy of segregation. As part of this goal, the City Council may also consider prioritizing other policies or projects to increase housing production, preserve affordable housing, and protect renters that do not strictly fall within the legally required scope of the Housing Element update.
- 2) The priority on "rebuilding library and community services" is important for a year in which we expect pandemic restrictions to lift as vaccinations become ubiquitous. However, we believe it should be reframed as "rebuilding city services to achieve an equitable COVID recovery".
- 3) In advancing the Climate Action Plan, we strongly support building electrification and electric vehicle charging as mentioned in the staff report. However, the City Council should also consider prioritizing the city's regular transportation planning in ways that reduce vehicle miles traveled. For example there will be opportunities coming forward in the existing program to advance a transportation management association, and in routine selection and design of capital projects, that can be oriented toward addressing our climate goals

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Adina Levin  
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Julie Shanson  
Karen Grove  
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Rachel Horst