

TO: Mayor, City Council and Planning Department

REC'D FEB 26 2018

RE: **Mill Site Reuse Plan: Open Space:**

Preserve Stand of Trees Across from Safeway & Starbucks to the Chamber of Commerce Building- Create Scenic Corridor Main Street

DATE: February 26, 2018

FROM: Geri A. Morisky-Ross, Fort Bragg Resident

The current rezoning for the Mill Site Reuse Plan calls for another commercial area across from Safeway and Starbucks, losing what little scenic parkway we have.

Instead, we have an opportunity to **create a "scenic corridor of welcome" and easily accessible park space -- where we have the most visibility to the public:** **Preserve the grove of trees adjacent to our Chamber of Commerce building and across from Safeway and Starbucks, as an open space park.**

Fort Bragg currently has no scenic corridor: We have one of the most beautiful coastlines in America, yet none of that is visible from the Highway or Main Street; in fact, our most visible "face" to the public is our Hwy. 1-Main Street corridor, and quite frankly, it's "a frumpy 50's downtrodden face."

The area leading to and around our Chamber of Commerce building should be one of the most beautiful in our city. Instead, it is one of the most unsightly.

Please consider our long term "visual face" we offer to our valuable visitors, and rezone the commercial space across from our most trafficked areas as an open space, picnic park, and scenic corridor: a "welcome face" to our Chamber of Commerce Building and a proud face of our future.

Respectfully submitted,

Geri A. Morisky-Ross, P. O. Box 1605, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 707-734-0841

A luxury hotel is a bad idea. The community has often expressed a preference for an Asilomar style conference center - if any such thing is to be considered. It is a better fit with Open Space.

1. It is a harsh environment out there - made much more so by the denuding of the coastal bluffs and the destruction of top soil and the burying of creeks.

2. Marie is doing an amazing job. But any actual rezoning, before things are completely cleaned up is dangerous. This is one of the most important elements of our community power.

Looking at options and finding out community preferences is good. The LCP process is safer and more flexible than a specific plan.

3. It is becoming apparent that our CC and PC lack an appreciation of how ruthless G-P is capable of being. The record ought to speak for itself, but people have short memories and they are eternally hopeful. This is unwise and could prove to be naive.

4. The opportunities are terrific out on the Headlands and the stakes are high.

5. What about all the asbestos laden pipe out on the headlands? This pipe, sometimes called Transite Pipe is rumored to be all over the place in the ground.

6. Looking at the opportunities for Open Space restoration and regenerative design of the natural space out there, we need a whole new lens. The work done to date by DTSC may be entirely sincere and well intentioned, but it is inadequate. Entirely within the law, DTSC's work has been primarily driven by G-P's desire to just get out of here. We need visionary - climate aware - regenerative thinking. As we all know, "sustainability thinking" and language is completely inadequate to the challenge of climate disruption.

7. We have the chance out on the Headlands to restore soils, sequester carbon, daylight creeks and revitalize coastal habitat.

8. We have the responsibility to prepare for sea level rise and coastal climate adaptation.

9. If we restore the environment out there, we might be ready to think about year round recreational stays on the Headlands in 25 or 50 years.

SPEAKER CARD



I would like to speak to the Council on Agenda Item No. 7B



I would like to speak to the Council under "Public Comments on Non-Agenda, Consent Calendar & Closed Session Items"



I do not wish to speak but want to submit the following comments to the Council

NAME:

Leslie Kashiwada

COMMENTS (ONLY IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO SPEAK):

tonight
June - I will send you a written transcript of
my comments for the record, because I couldn't
cover everything in 3 minutes

This information is retained as a Public Record, and as such, may be shared with others upon request. Please do not provide any information that you do not wish to be disclosed to others.

Completion of this document is voluntary; all persons may attend the meeting regardless of whether a person completes this document (Government Code §54953.3)

Comments from Leslie Kashiwada delivered to the City Council on Feb 26

In moving forward on the Mill Site, I think it is important to keep in mind how much is at stake for the city and the coastal community as a whole. The decisions made now will have long-lasting effects on the course of tourism, economic growth, the central business district, the environment, community resilience, and our ability to accommodate climate chaos. My comments are being made with this in mind.

I appreciate Marie's presentation – it clarified the goals of the plan, one of which is to have flexibility in the future. I think this is a good thing. I'd like to note that the Open Space Plan document was very difficult to read with all the deletions, comments, additions, etc. I wonder how many people took the time to read it through carefully because it was very difficult to decipher everything that was being proposed. In addition, some of the comments for deletions referred to the existence of other policies that provide the same protection. Yet, without seeing those policies, it is difficult to determine if this is actually the case. And, what if those other policies are deleted or amended? I think the Open Space Plan should be a self-contained document.

Another concern are the wildlife corridors, which were put in place many years ago. The land associated with the coastal trail is designated as multifunctional, including acting as wildlife corridors. The width of these corridors was determined using a model for coastal erosion. These have not been updated using new data for coastal erosion, which has been impressive in some areas on the Mill Site. That means some wildlife corridor areas may erode away in a matter of decades. In addition, were the wildlife corridors designed by wildlife experts? Are they in the right place and of sufficient size to serve their intended purpose? Unfortunately, well-intentioned documents are not read or followed by deer, skunks, opossum, raccoons, mountain lions, migratory birds, etc., so I think it is important to revisit the design of the corridors to determine if they are actually serving as such, and for which animals.

The Open Space Plan only accounts for daylighting Alder Creek in a perfunctory way. I think there is a way to accomplish this with maximum benefit for all. Any housing or business development in this area will have far more value with a meandering stream in place. I think San Antonio, Texas is a good model for how a stream/river can add value to a developed area.

Finally, until the Mill Site remediation plan has been finalized, appropriate land use cannot really be determined. Remember Love Canal? I believe this is a similar scenario. Despite reassurances that the remaining toxins present a low risk, those areas will still need to be fenced off and marked as hazardous essentially forever. Building next to them, bringing people into close proximity to them, presents a liability that will never go away, one that has great potential to be spread widely in the likely event of an earthquake, tsunami, major flooding, or other natural disaster. That's not good for the environment, not good for tourism, not good for housing and business development, and so on.

In summary, I think the Open Space Plan is a good starting place, but should not be viewed as the final say on this topic. I think flexibility is key to the kind of planning that allows for our children and future generations of residents and visitors to enjoy this incredible location. I think City staff should endeavor to work with area specialists to address the issues I have raised, and others that I don't have time to mention. There many biologists, environmental scientists, hydrologists, geologists, who live in the community and are more than willing to give you their advice, if you are willing to listen. Please give them an opportunity to provide their input.