

From: Pam Mendolsohn

Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2022 3:32 PM

To: 'dloya@cityofarcata.org'; 'comdev@cityofarcata.org'

Subject: Concerning the Gateway Plan

Many thanks for the opportunities to provide input. I really appreciate it. I have lived on diagonal corners of Union and 12th for 43 years. For the last 27 years, I have divided my time between here and Emeryville, sandwiched between Berkeley and Oakland. Emeryville is about the same population as Arcata. Like Arcata, there is plenty of encouragement for community input, and it's possible for community members to make a difference.

In Emeryville, we recently defeated a huge apartment building and office building that would have impacted our population by at least 20%. Everything was wrong with the proposal, and we were fortunate to be able to defeat it.

Everything is NOT wrong with the Gateway Plan. We need more housing. And the Gateway Plan can help us to achieve that.

I would like to make the following comments:

1. IF we wind up with 3,500 units there, that could mean 7,000 more people more or less. The increase in population would simply be untenable. Fire and police departments would have to have increased employees for sure. Nothing wrong with that. How would we process the increased sewage?
2. I am very opposed to eight story buildings which would change the whole nature of our City. In Emeryville, there is a four-story building directly across from mine. It's terrific. It even includes a rooftop where people can congregate, garden, barbecue, etc. Between the building where I live and the 4-story one, there is a terrific park created with city funds. Everyone uses the park! I believe Alex Stillman sent you a photo of the apartment building.
3. As you know, we have a really dangerous shortage of doctors and medical personnel here. Adding this many people would make the situation even more dangerous. I am fortunate to be a Kaiser member in Emeryville. If I didn't have that option, I would have to leave Humboldt.
4. Parking. The building across the street in Emeryville has hidden the parking in a 4 story garage adjoining the back of the building. Although I am really opposed to lots of cars, realistically, the people who will live at Gateway will need their cars. Examples: take the kids to school, soccer, swimming, etc. Older folks will need their cars, too. Walking I great in theory. I walk downtown from my Arcata place, but not for groceries, etc.

5. An idea. Emeryville has a free small-bus service supported by The City and by businesses. I hope we can have something like that so that people living in The Gateway have access to it – as well as the rest of us.

I admire your ability to keep the community posted. I really want to get involved with next steps.

Pam Mendelsohn [phone numbers removed]