

THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF PALO ALTO



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February 14, 2012

Association of Bay Area Governments
2012 Growing Smarter Together Awards
P.O. Box 2050
Oakland, CA 94604-2050

To Whom It May Concern:

With great pleasure The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto recommends the Tree House Apartments, developed by the Palo Alto Housing Corporation, for your 2012 Growing Smarter Together Award. The Tree House Apartments provides 35 units of newly constructed, infill housing for households in our community, many of whom have disabilities. Due to the excellent management of the Palo Alto Housing Corporation many resident services will be provided, including financial literacy classes, supportive listening and casework and English instruction classes.

The architecture of the building is articulated to reduce the feeling of a massive building. Much of the construction used sustainable building materials. Large old trees carefully retained to not only provide residents with comfortable common space but also provide privacy and comfort between the neighboring apartments and single-family units cover a patio and garden in the side yard. It is an oasis of open space while close to services and needed public transit.

The Tree House Apartments are located 1/2 block from the Santa Clara County VTA bus stop on El Camino Real. El Camino buses run every 10 minutes with reduced service in the evening and at night. The bus line is a spine that runs from Palo Alto to San Jose, and connects to transit systems in the county and beyond including Palo Alto train stations, medical facilities and numerous shopping centers. It is a dream location for transit and as the residents receive free VTA Eco passes, residents are able to move about economically while minimizing the use of the private automobile.

The LWVPA has studied many aspects of urban planning, natural resources, transportation and social policies. Our positions, based on these studies, strongly supports the kind of creative housing provided by The Tree House project at 488 W. Charleston Road, in Palo Alto.

Thank you for the opportunity to recommend this project. I hope that you will look upon this award application favorably. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Tim Wong, Housing Coordinator, at (650) 329-2561 or tim.wong@cityofpaloalto.org.

Sincerely,

Mary Alice Thornton, President