

THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF PALO ALTO



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Planning and Transportation Commission  
City of Palo Alto

April 10, 2013

Dear Chairman Martinez and Planning Commissioners,

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto recognizes the considerable amount of work that has been accomplished to update the Natural Environment Element and to include the current emphases by the city on sustainability and reduction of climate warming.

After a careful reading of this latest version, it appears that the draft covers the objectives of the League positions in the areas of emergency management, natural resources, the Baylands, the Foothills and watershed management, air quality and cooperative working relationships. We have done studies and come to positions on a wide range of issues that fall under rubric of the Comprehensive Plan. These are local, regional, state and national studies and positions that are periodically restudied and updated. Our positions are available on line at [www.lwvpaloalto.org](http://www.lwvpaloalto.org).

For tonight's meeting we have two issues of concern,

1. We believe that the Planning and Transportation Commission should review the document in its entirety before it goes to the City Council. Presented this evening are the Vision, Goals, Policies and Programs. None of the text has been presented even though the text pulls together the meat of the Element and gives it context. This Element is not a miscellaneous item of little concern - it should have Commission and public review in its entirety before it goes to the City Council.
2. We recommend that the title of this Element be changed from the "Natural and Urban Environment Safety Element" to the "Natural and Urban Environment and Safety Element". This Element is concerned with both the environment and with safety. By placing the word "and" into the title, the word "Safety" assumes an equal footing with the words "Natural and Urban Environment".

The League thanks you for your careful review of this Element and your effort to place more emphasis on sustainability and to recognize the latest technologies and regulations that will take the City to the next step on our way to a more sustainable environment.

Mary Alice Thornton

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Alice Thornton', written in a cursive style.

President, League of Women Voters of Palo