



MAY 18, 2018

Re: Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan 2030 for the Hard Won Victories Award

To Whom It May Concern:

The League of Women Voters of Palo Alto (The League) has closely followed the update to the Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan 2030. League positions support a process that includes diverse public input at all stages of the planning process. We observed that this occurred via the Comprehensive Plan Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and the public hearings before the City Council. Based on our observations, the League believes that this Plan clearly deserves an award for Hard Won Victories from the California Chapter of the American Planning Association.

The League had the opportunity to observe the hard work by the dedicated volunteers on the CAC, which included several League members. The staff of the Planning and Community Environment Department effectively managed the process. The CAC met as a whole or in subcommittees at least 50 times, where there was opportunity for the public to speak. CAC members reviewed extensive staff reports and background information for every meeting that addressed complex policy questions across all Elements.

At CAC meetings, the members wrestled with complex, regional housing and transportation challenges driven in large part by extremely high housing costs that severely affect the ability of Palo Alto to remain an economically diverse community. These complex challenges often generated competing solutions based on differing perspectives and goals. Yet, in spite of these challenges, the CAC members engaged in respectful dialogue, patient consensus building, and creativity in putting forward alternatives that represented the full range of these perspectives.

The adopted Comprehensive Plan represents the culmination of a very successful planning process with meaningful public input and represents an invaluable resource for the Palo Alto community.

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto, I recommend the Palo Alto Comprehensive Plan 2030 for the Hard Won Victories award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Aisha Piracha-Zakariya'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Aisha Piracha-Zakariya
President, League of Women Voters of Palo Alto