

THE LEAGUE  
OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF PALO ALTO



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Mayor Espinosa  
Palo Alto City Council  
Palo Alto, CA

June 1, 2011

Dear Mayor Espinosa and City Council Members,

The LWV of Palo Alto and the LWV of South San Mateo County support the expansion proposals for Stanford Hospital, Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and Clinics, as currently mitigated and recognize the need to grant overriding consideration for some significant impacts. The Hospitals and Clinics provide basic health care for our community, urgent complex medical care for the region and emergent health care for the world. The need to be prepared for earthquakes and other disasters provide the principal reason for supporting the Hospitals and Clinics expansion.

The LWVPA and LWVSSMC support the creation of a hospital zone that sets specific parameters to meet special hospital requirements including the increase in density.

The Stanford Hospitals proposal has made serious efforts to resolve transportation and circulation impacts, including but not limited to shuttle bus service, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and transit and train passes for hospital employees. We recognize the significant impacts on some of Menlo Park's streets and the impacts even if mitigated on traffic on some Palo Alto streets and intersections. We agree that every effort should be made to encourage the use of alternative transportation modes and believe that it is urgent that traffic impacts should be systematically monitored and adapted when, not if, there are changes in modes of transportation over the next 15 to 25 years. The goal of a minimum 35% mode split will be urgent to allow reasonable traffic circulation in our communities.

The Hospitals have agreed to pay Palo Alto 23 million dollars to the Housing Development Fund. This is the equivalent of money that would be required of a private development of equal size. With Palo Alto insistence, the contract reads "housing and infrastructure fund." This entire \$23 million should be tied directly to housing and to infrastructure related to housing. Housing, with emphasis on affordable, is the purpose of Housing Development fees according to the City's policy. The Hospitals have agreed to pay Menlo Park \$3.7 million for traffic improvement and other uses including housing.

Our Leagues thank the City and Stanford Hospitals for the open and public processing of this application and the Hospitals' effort to reach the community. The Leagues recognize that this hospital expansion will change the landscape in the new hospital zone. We also recognize the urgent need for a hospital that will not only stand but also operate during and after a major disaster.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Alice Thornton".

Mary Alice Thornton, President  
League of Women Voters Palo Alto

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa Conrad".

Lisa Conrad, President  
League of Women Voters S. San Mateo County