

May 2, 2018

The Hon. Liza Normandy
City Hall
400 Grand Avenue
South San Francisco, CA 94080

Government Code Section 54957.5
SB 343
Agenda 5/2/18
Item # 1

RE: Housing Development on the PUC Site Near SSF BART

Dear Mayor Normandy,

On behalf of the California Life Sciences Association (CLSA), I am writing in support of the City's efforts to develop housing on the property known as the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission site (the "PUC site") near the South San Francisco BART Station.

CLSA is the largest statewide life sciences public policy and business leadership organization in the nation and has called the City of South San Francisco home for more than 27 years. Our mission is to advance California's world-leading life sciences innovation ecosystem by advocating for effective public policies and supporting life sciences businesses, including those in South San Francisco.

South San Francisco has done a tremendous job of creating thousands of new employment opportunities, attracting innovative talent and entrepreneurs, and continuing to strengthen our life sciences cluster. However, much like the rest of the Bay Area, housing needs are outpacing availability and we all need to work together to make up this deficit. Like other industries, the life sciences industry has had its own challenges recruiting and retaining employees due to the housing shortage and we therefore support the City's efforts to increase local and affordable housing.

CLSA strongly supports the building of housing near transit corridors. It has been long established by Bay Area planning officials that new residential housing be built near transit. Building housing near transit has also proven to be a successful traffic reduction strategy. We are pleased that there are multiple proposals to build over 800 units, with 20% affordable, on this publicly-owned land within walking distance of regional transportation.

For these reasons, we support efforts to utilize this site for housing with its convenient proximity to the BART station.

Sincerely,



Sara Radcliffe
President & CEO
California Life Sciences Association