

Rodriguez, Gabriel

Subject: Please support housing at the PUC site

From: Roderick Bovee [<mailto:rbovee@gmail.com>]

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 7:13 PM

To: All Council

Subject: Please support housing at the PUC site

Dear Mayor, Vice-Mayor, and Councilmembers,

Change is not easy, but sometimes it may be required. We are now deep into a housing crisis and on the cusp of a climate change crisis. You will undoubtedly hear voices saying these are regional or state problems, there's nothing we can do, and we should leave these problems to other cities or the state. I think that our local actions are more important than ever now though, both in doing our fair share and in setting an example with our leadership by doing more.

Some may say these new homes are "not affordable to current residents," but neither are our existing homes; let's increase the housing supply so it is. Some may complain about the traffic they generate; let's invest in protected bike lanes, safer pedestrian routes, and better transit[†] so families are not reliant solely upon cars. Some may say "parking will overflow into the neighborhoods," but it already has from BART and folks taxiing to the airport; let's institute neighborhood parking permits already. I'm sure someone in 1943 said it was a crazy idea for our shipyard to build 18 ships that year and I'm sure someone in 1976 said it was a crazy idea to start a company that manipulated DNA, but South City is a place where we find a way to do things when those things need to be done.

I greatly respect the foresight that council has displayed over the past twenty years guiding the growth at Oyster Point and the rejuvenation of downtown. Please take the opportunity now to guide the ECR/Chestnut plans you've made to fruition: please vote to approve new housing, business, and a daycare at the PUC site.

Thanks for your time!

Roderick

[†]For example, I think a new express, six-stop Westborough-ECR/Chestnut-BART-City Hall-Caltrain-Ferry shuttle would go a great way towards not only providing the new housing/commercial projects in this neighborhood with faster access to shopping downtown, jobs at Oyster Point, and long-range transit, but would also serve existing residents of nearby neighborhoods.