November 5, 2019

City Council
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94039

Dear Honorable Council Members:

How a community chooses to spend its money and resources is indicative of what it values. While we appreciate your openness to creating a school strategy, we are dismayed that you are moving forward with approvals for the East Whisman Precise Plan (EWPP) without a consistent school strategy; one that would provide for student growth. This action is contrary to our collaborative conversation, just three weeks ago. Moreover, it sends a clear message that developers’ interests are valued over those of the broader community.

In the San Antonio Precise Plan, the Mountain View City Council developed a strategy for Los Altos School District students (whose total school population does not completely reside within the city boundaries). This clear school strategy showed Council believes schools are essential to complete neighborhoods. In East Whisman, a consistent school strategy is critical because MVWSD influences the majority of community benefits. Proper planning will ensure educational quality, pedestrian safety, traffic and green space are adequately addressed. It is unconscionable that the EWPP Environmental Impact Report did not include both a binding school strategy and adequate, up-to-date research on traffic impact.

To be clear, we are not anti-development, nor are we anti-developer. We are pro-excellent schools. The value that our schools bring is such a fundamental part of our community’s fabric and directly influences Mountain View’s livability. This value goes beyond high property values bolstered by an excellent education system.

We respectfully ask that you defer decisions on the EWPP and a vote on the EWPP community benefits resolution until, as agreed on October 9, the school districts (MVWSD and MVLA) and City have reached consensus on a consistent school strategy after Jan. 1, 2020 as discussed.
Respectfully,

Dr. Ayindé Rudolph, Superintendent

cc: Dan Rich