May 15, 2019

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives

Re: Shenandoah Property, Mountain View, California

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

On behalf of the Trustees of the Mountain View Whisman School District (District), I wrote to the U.S. Army, indicating our interest in 17 acres of Army-owned land in Mountain View, commonly referred to as “Shenandoah” property (APN 152-24-021). We proposed that selling or leasing the land to our District to build a new school would be a public benefit to the entire community. I have attached the letter here.

Our District currently serves 5,200 children (grades kindergarten - eighth), many of whom live at Shenandoah. Mountain View is growing quickly. Our District is facing the addition of approximately 3,310 new students from several new neighborhoods being developed in the northern portion of town, very close to Moffett Field and Shenandoah. That figure does not include the pending 1900-unit development at NASA Ames. This growth presents several issues for our District, with the following being the most significant:

1. We do not have existing capacity to absorb these new students. (Our predicted growth exceeds current school facility capacity by 1,910 students)
2. Our District does not own any land in the northern part of the city on which to build new schools.

We all share a common goal of creating walkable neighborhoods that meet the needs of all future residents while creating the affordable housing, activities and essential services. A key essential service and public benefit is, of course, excellent schools. The Shenandoah site is centrally located and well suited for use as a public school site.
I know that in the past you have opposed redevelopment of the Shenandoah site out of concern for its current military families and their need for affordable housing. Since then, Moffett is considering new development of military housing on its base that could absorb many of these employees.

We have only one chance to properly plan for development of a school here for the future of our children. Our District would very much appreciate your support in achieving that need. We thank you for your consideration and attention.

Sincerely,

Ayindé Rudolph, Ed.D.
Mountain View Whisman School District Superintendent

Enclosure