

October 2019

GUP/ Development Agreement:

The first two Board of Supervisors meetings have been held. The first was a study session on September 24th, at which the county staff presented information about the GUP application and the conditions of approval they are recommending. The biggest excitement at that meeting concerned the Development Agreement discussion that was started last fall and put on hold in April, after Supervisor Simitian learned that Stanford had separately negotiated an agreement with the Palo Alto schools which was predicated on successful negotiation (i.e. to Stanford's satisfaction) of a Development Agreement with the County. Stanford continues to insist that there must be a development agreement, claiming that without one, they cannot build what's being offered.

This discussion continued at the October 8th meeting, which had been changed to be a hearing rather than a study session. At one point Stanford Representative Catherine Palter claimed that during an informal meeting with Supervisors Simitian and Chavez in September, the University had offered that agreement discussions could be in any form the County wanted. Interestingly the two Supervisors clearly did not recall it that way.

There are two remaining hearings:

- Board of Supervisors Public Hearing #1, Tuesday, October 22, 6 p.m.
- Board of Supervisors Public Hearing #2, Tuesday, November 5, 1:30 p.m.

The next public hearing will be held at the Palo Alto Council Chambers and the final meeting will be at the County Building in San Jose.

It is very important that we show up at the October 22nd meeting, even if we do not wish to speak. Supervisor Simitian has been valiant in pushing for full mitigation of all impacts, pointing out that the county code requires that they must find that the project "will not substantially worsen traffic congestion affecting the surrounding area." Stanford keeps pushing back. We need to show up to support him.

Land Grab/Demolitions:

San Jose Mercury writer Marisa Kendall is still hard at work on her property ownership project. She wanted to know how many houses are in CT and guessed about 600. This got me thinking and I eventually went to work on this since we really should know! The answer is 603... if you include multiple stand-alone dwellings on a single parcel plus stand-alone dwellings with auxiliary buildings behind. This does not include true duplexes or apartment buildings.

I also learned from John Mark Agosta that Stanford has apparently bought 2344 Bowdoin. They have left the house alone for now but ripped out the lovely garden, which the previous owner (a landscaper) had created. I'm still working to confirm this and to request an update from them on other acquisitions.

On Stanford's Property Listing web site, 2345 Princeton still shows as "In Escrow" but this month, in addition, 2300 Amherst shows as "for sale" (that's actually a ground lease) at \$1,875,000, and 2040 Columbia at \$1,925,000. Perhaps the negative publicity of the ghost houses is beginning to have some effect?