

Development in the San Antonio Change Area

The development projects in the San Antonio Change area were started "beneath the radar" of most of the surrounding residents. However, when a proposal for a five story apartment complex structure for the current Safeway site was submitted to the city council, some neighbors lived close enough to get an official notice and that was when a group of Crossings neighbors started to mobilize. The old Safeway site project has been changed significantly and has been put on hold until City Council completes a review.

We started learning about the Mountain View General Plan 2030, which is a vision for the city for the next twenty years. We learned that the San Antonio Area was one of five designated "change areas" where the plan was to transform the area into a high density, walkable mixed-use village center, where many people would use the nearby bus and train options.

One of the first things we did, before even becoming an association, was to petition the Mountain View City Council to develop a precise plan for the whole area as a first priority. In other words, we thought it made sense to have a detailed plan for how this would be achieved, as all the individual development proposals we had seen, including the massive "Phase II" plans for the corner of San Antonio and California Street, did not seem to promote this, other than being located next to mass transit. We also hosted a Kick-off Rally to communicate our own vision for the area, heard from city council members, and shared CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) and Neighborhood Watch information.

We have good news and bad news to share. The good news is that the city recently approved a consultant team to begin work on a precise plan. This thorough planning process covering traffic, building heights and hopefully also ways to obtain open space, will take about a year and a half to complete.

Also, in response to our outcry to have more of an overall plan before continuing with individual development proposals, the city held two community visioning workshops in October and December 2013, to get input from all the stakeholders in the area - residents, property owners, small business owners and school officials. While these were a useful start, it was no replacement for the data driven and comprehensive nature of creating a precise plan.

Unfortunately, the city council seems to be moving full speed ahead with developing the area in a piecemeal fashion. If we don't stop them, they will be evaluating and likely approving Merlone Geier's massive Phase II project for the corner of San Antonio Road and California Avenue. They have also given numerous other individual projects the green light to start designing, including a very large, high density apartment complex on San Antonio Road, which staff won't even begin to look at until July 2013, as there are so many other projects already in the "pipeline".

If you live in Mountain View or the neighboring cities of Los Altos or Palo Alto, please sign the petition found on our [Home](#) page, which is our call to halt piecemeal development in favor of taking the time to design the San Antonio neighborhood for success.

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