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October 14, 2019

City Council
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: Concerns about future growth

Dear Honorable Council Members:

We know parents choose to reside here for the quality of work and life in Mountain View, driven primarily by our quality schools. While parks, city services, transportation and other amenities play a role, ultimately, families choose to stay in Mountain View because our schools are excellent.

It is estimated that up to 20,000 new residential units will be added in Mountain View in the next 10 to 15 years. This growth likely will result in almost 2500 new students to our schools (Link to: [MVWSD Board meeting presentation, Oct. 10, 2019](#)).

I am grateful for and encouraged by our ongoing meetings with city staff to find a solution. The City staff recently proposed a consistent school strategy, at our Oct. 9 meeting, which would provide funding from developers across the city for future school facilities. We appreciate your consideration about how to mitigate the growth that strains the educational system upon which so many residents rely; not only for the education of their children, but for strong property values.

We are in a Catch 22. The same development that is helping our vibrant city flourish is also straining our District's ability to educate all students. Moreover, the same developers who bemoan additional fees to mitigate the enrollment growth also tout the quality of our schools as a selling point. We need to take bold steps to preserve educational quality, as residents' interests are more important than those of developers.

Quote from Pulte Homes: *"Radius is a charming new home community with single family homes and townhomes in Mountain View. This neighborhood offers great proximity to major high tech employers in 3Silicon Valley, including Google and Apple. Homeowners are also conveniently located near the Caltrain station and Whisman Light Rail, and are within the sought-after Mountain View school district."* Source <https://www.pulte.com/homes/california/bay-area/mountain-view/radius-209578>

In the coming weeks, MVWSD will be working on a facilities plan to guide how we manage this growth over the next 10 years. According to the numbers that we and City staff have provided, MVWSD will need an additional middle school plus the equivalent of two new elementary schools to accommodate the development that the City has approved, or is considering for approval.

These additional school facilities require considerable resources and capital that stretch beyond what the District can currently absorb. We do not have the ability to raise the necessary capital or leverage alternative revenue streams to completely fund the cost of building additional schools. That is why Council's approval of the proposed school strategy that includes the Districts contributing no more than one-third of the total \$965 million needed for future facilities is crucial to maintaining the quality of education into the future.

We are proud to serve the students and families of this vibrant, dynamic community. Moreover, we are grateful for your direction to develop a solution, and the ongoing dialogue and thoughtfulness that City staff has shown over the past two years while we worked toward a solution for providing for student growth.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AR', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Ayindé Rudolph
Superintendent

Cc: Dan Rich, City Manager