

October 16, 2012

FROM: The crews of SV Bruja Dulce, SV Chrokeva, SV Mahdee, SV LicketySplit

TO: The Redwood City Planning Commission



RE: Proposed Development at Pete's Harbor Marina from the Cruisers Perspective

Dear Commissioners:

We are writing to express our concerns in regards to the proposed development that would eliminate a current public access marina and replace it with a solid block of 4 to 6 story residential buildings where the existing public marina now has parking, storage, and a restaurant located. Each of us is an owner of a cruising sailboat and we all have the shared experience of cruising along the west coast of North America and experiencing Pete's Harbor marina first-hand. Our concern is for more than just the local impact but also for the loss of yet another public marina that will no longer be available to the general public. We feel that the city of Redwood City needs to do some serious analysis before making a decision to destroy a marina community that gives so much of the Redwood City public access to the water and turning it into private residences for the elite that can afford to purchase a home on the water. Cruisers world-wide see the devastating results of this trend—lifeless and inaccessible waterfronts—but rarely do we have the opportunity that we have today to voice our concerns directly to the decision-makers in a city that is in the process of actively ruining their waterfront and the public access for boating. Please listen and take action to preserve the valuable boating-related waterfront activities in existence at Pete's Harbor.

We also have concerns regarding the negative environmental impact that building such a large housing development on water will have on the bay of San Francisco. Among those concerns is the issue that the development proposes excessive hardscape with very little landscape to naturally absorb runoff. Also, Redwood City is in the process of developing its Inner Harbor Precise Plan and this marina property is within the area defined. It is not in the long term best interests of the residents of Redwood City to have the development of this property hastily approved before the Precise Plan is complete. All coastal cities, including those in the bay, are facing changes in planning and approvals for large development projects in low lying land areas. In California, Governor Jerry Brown is currently working on a state level policy regarding rising sea levels and those findings are to be released shortly. We are concerned that the city of Redwood City would consider approving large-scale development here on this low-lying land when the state has not yet released their findings on the matter of rising sea levels.

Finally, we do not believe the public has been given adequate notice nor time to voice their concerns and that this proposal is being pushed through the approval process very quickly. We believe that more time should be given to the public before a decision of this magnitude is made, as well as time to consider alternative ways to allow this unique and beautiful marina to continue to offer the recreational boaters of California and the general public a place to come and enjoy the water.

Sincerely,

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[original signed]

[original signed]

[original signed]

SV Bruja Dulce

SV Chrokeva

SV Mahdee

SV LicketySplit