

From: [John Triska](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#); [Camille Leung](#)
Subject: 634 Palomar Dr. PLN2020-00251
Date: Thursday, June 15, 2023 8:58:46 PM
Attachments: [Planning Commission 6-15-23.pdf](#)

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Dear Planning Commission,

I've attached a letter in regards to Planning Commission oversight on the proposed project at 634 Palomar Drive. I am not able to attend the meeting on June 21, so please consider this letter as input from a near neighbor on the hill, across the street from the proposed project.

Sincerely,
John Triska
196 S Palomar Dr.
Palomar Park, CA 94062

Planning Commission
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

June 15, 2023

RE: 634 Palomar Dr. PLN2020-00251

Dear Planning Commission,

I am a Palomar Park homeowner and across-the-street neighbor of the proposed 634 Palomar Drive project. I'm writing out of concern for the fragile nature of the project site, and its history of landslides and hydraulic issues.

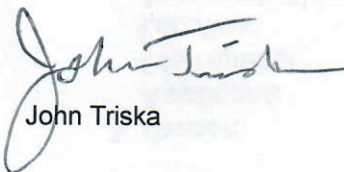
I've read the Balance Hydrologics June 14, 2023 letter to Greg Smith and Heather Forshey, which summarizes the Balance Hydrologics reports, and lists observations and conditions to consider. I believe this is an important document and urge you to factor in their recommendations at this time, so no one will be sorry they hadn't, later. In particular, please note their recommendation to the Planning Commission March 8 to "adhere closely to their ordinances and grant no exemptions."

Let me add my own observations to help you understand the human toll of the most recent landslide and hydraulic issue, a *significant impact* we witnessed personally in 2019-20 when the previous owner began excavating directly into the slope at the Los Cerros intersection to build his home. The hillside collapsed. A subterranean spring surfaced and sent water and mud flowing onto and beneath Palomar Drive, causing the pavement to crack, seep, and leak upwellings resulting in multiple potholes and cavities in the road. First, the landslide that had exposed the spring needed to be repaired, which took time and disrupted all the hill's traffic— the hundreds of homeowners, gardeners and construction companies that use that route every day. Today, the "repaired" hillside at the intersection of Palomar Drive and Los Cerros Road is an eyesore, capped with a cascade of imported rock, rebar, and plastic piping that daily reminds us of that fiasco.

We drove over and around those potholes for months before road repairs finally began. That meant months of daily traffic disruption, including controlled traffic, construction noise and dust, and diesel fumes from construction equipment in the air of our yards and homes. The crews set up their construction yard on the vacant lot across the street from our home, and were constantly coming and going with cars, trucks, and heavy equipment. For months we had to keep our windows shut to keep out the dust, diesel fumes, and noise.

Moving forward, I urge you to utilize the reports and the data— and base decisions on what is already known about the project site, its hydraulic condition, the history of past landslides in the area, the mitigated mistakes of former owners of this site, and their consequences that have already been felt by the residents on the hill. With our erratic climate changes including this last winter's deluge, we are all feeling very vulnerable— and rely on the Planning Commission to use science and best judgment as they provide oversight to this project and others on the hill.

Sincerely,



John Triska

Address: 196 S Palomar Dr., Palomar Park, CA 94062