

From: [Jim Goodrich](#)
To: [Planning Commission](#); [Camille Leung](#)
Subject: 634 Palomar Drive, PLN2020-00251
Date: Friday, June 16, 2023 2:50:06 PM
Attachments: [634 Palomar Drive, PLN2020-00251.docx](#)

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I have prepared the attached letter regarding the proposed 634 Palomar Drive project which will be considered at the Planning Commission hearing on June 21. Please distribute it to members of the Planning Commission and any other that will be participating in the meeting.

Thank you, Jim Goodrich

James M. Goodrich
624 Palomar Drive
Redwood City, CA

June 16,2023

Planning Commission
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

RE: 634 Palomar Drive, PLN2020-00251

Dear Planning Commission:

The Goodrich property at 624 Palomar Drive is located about 100 feet from the 634 Palomar Drive fronting on Los Cerros Drive. Our property has been in the Goodrich family since December 6, 1941.

I grew up in Palomar Park and witnessed the devastation caused by the destruction of three homes resulting from landslides in the active aquifer that to this day runs continuously into the drain on Los Cerros from 634 Palomar. The first home lost was on Loma Court; it slid to the area very close to the proposed septic drain field for 634 Palomar. The second two homes were on the property adjacent to 634 Palomar and slid onto and across Los Cerros. In recent years there have been a major slide and several minor slides directly from 634 Palomar onto Los Cerros.

The proposed project cuts 900 cubic yards of earth from the hillside above the aquifer and removes a very large, double-trunk heritage oak in order to create a pad for a 4000 square foot house with a swimming pool. The septic tank is located directly below the house near the active slide area. The proposed design relies on approval of variances to several San Mateo County standards including, for example, the heritage tree removal and the septic leach field setback from property lines standards.

Though I do not have a background in hydrology, I do have a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford. During my career in the electric power industry, I participated in many regulatory hearings as an expert witness. For 10 years I served as a Trustee of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) which has the responsibility of establishing and enforcing regulations to assure the reliability of the electric power grid in North America. I am convinced that insufficient attention has been given to the hydrological risks posed by building such a large structure on top of an active aquifer.

You have a difficult assignment in balancing competing interests. But certainly health, safety and environmental risks must be important considerations. The long history of hydrological issues regarding 634 Palomar should play a critical role in your deliberations. The aquifer underneath 634 Palomar is alive and active. The Hydrologists, Geomorphologist and Engineering Geologist from the renowned firm of Balanced Hydrologics has performed multiple detailed analyses of the hillside. This scientific information should not be overlooked in the County's review process.

Sincerely,

James M Goodrich