



**Date:** February 21, 2017  
**To:** City Manager for Council Action  
**From:** Director of Community Development  
**Subject:** Affordable Housing Nexus Study (PLN2017-21449)

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Through an agreement with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the City of Santa Clara partnered with twelve jurisdictions within Alameda and Santa Clara Counties to prepare a Silicon Valley/Alameda County Affordable Housing Nexus Study. All participating jurisdictions would receive a separate analysis specific to their area. The purpose of the study was to establish linkages between the construction of new market rate residential units and new workplace buildings, and the resulting demand for affordable housing. In December 2016, the City received the analysis specific to the City of Santa Clara, entitled "Summary, Context Materials and Recommendations/Affordable Housing Nexus Studies" (the "Summary"). The Summary was made available for public review in late December 2016.

The Summary identifies the maximum legally supportable affordable housing impact fee levels for residential (for-sale and rental) and non-residential (commercial, retail, hotel, light industrial) uses (i.e., the maximum fee amount which could be justified based upon the potential of each type of new development to create a demand for affordable housing). The Summary does not recommend setting fee levels at the maximum supportable levels, but rather provides nearby jurisdictions' impact fee levels as a benchmark for the City to consider as it determines suitable fees. While the Summary recommends establishing an impact fee for residential development, it does not provide specific fee recommendations. For non-residential developments, the Summary provides specific fee recommendations: \$10-15 per square foot (psf) for office and \$5-10 psf for other non-residential building types.

Based on the information in the Summary, and input received at City outreach meetings and from the Planning Commission (summarized below), staff recommends that the Council consider and provide direction regarding the initial fee and dedication requirements as follows:

#### *For-Sale Residential*

- 10 percent inclusionary requirement (moderate income) for 10 dwelling units (DU) and above (no in-lieu fee). This is the City's existing policy, which staff recommends the City retain.
- In-lieu fee may be used (rather than providing one affordable unit on site) for projects with 9 or fewer DU and for fractional units. (The in-lieu fee would be set at 80-90% of maximum supported residential impact fees)

#### *Rental Residential*

- Residential impact fee between \$25-35 psf.
- Voluntary provision of 10% affordable units onsite (in lieu of paying impact fee).
- If additional conditions are met, voluntary affordable units can be provided offsite.

*Non-Residential*

- Office: \$5-10 psf.
- Hotel: \$0 psf.
- Retail: \$0 psf.
- Light Industrial: \$2-5 psf.

*Other Considerations*

- Fees will be due prior to issuance of building permits.
- Rates will be subject to an automatic cost escalator to account for changes in the market.
- Credit will be applied to projects with existing floor space or DU.
- Possible exemptions, comparable to those of other cities, are listed in Table 4 of the Summary, including certain assembly uses (such as lodges, clubs, youth centers, and religious assemblies), day care and nurseries, education facilities and hospitals. The City also plans to exempt single-family home extensions and duplexes.
- Allow for a six-month grace period before the requirement takes effect to accommodate upcoming or pipeline projects. During this grace period, projects that obtain Architectural Review approval would not be subject to the new requirements.

Staff presented the Summary and specific recommendations for fee levels to community members and stakeholders at a series of outreach meetings between October 2016 and February 2017. Overall, the general public was supportive of the proposed affordable housing impact fees and requirements. The proposed residential rental fee was a concern for both the development community and general public, with both groups suggesting that the fees for residential rental projects be more closely aligned with those in nearby jurisdictions at \$17-20 psf. Additionally, it was generally suggested by both the development community and the general public that impact fee levels proposed for non-residential building types be increased, in line with the levels recommended in the Summary.

The Planning Commission reviewed the impact fee proposals on January 25, 2017 and was supportive of implementing impact fees for residential and non-residential projects. Commission recommendations included setting the residential rental impact fee level closer to nearby jurisdictions at \$17-20 psf. and increasing impact fee levels for non-residential building types, and including fees for retail and hotel uses. Some Commissioners suggested non-residential fee levels slightly lower than those recommended by neighboring jurisdictions (excluding San Jose). The Planning Commission also recommended scaling impact fee levels based on project size and agreed with a including a grace period before requirements take effect, but suggested that the proposal be modified so that if a developer can demonstrate site control during the grace period, they should not be subject to the impact fees, assuming entitlements are granted within three years of the effective date of the new fees. The attached excerpt of the Planning Commission's January 25, 2017 minutes provides additional details regarding their discussion on this topic, and additional information regarding their discussion is included below in the Community Engagement Meetings section. For additional details on the summary and its conclusions, see Discussion section on page 4.

**ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ISSUE**

The City's current Inclusionary Housing Policy (1992) is currently only applicable to new for-sale residential developments with ten or more units and requires that those developments provide at least 10 percent of their units at BMR. As previously mentioned, the *Palmer/Sixth Street Properties v. City of Los Angeles* (2009) case prevents the City from applying its Inclusionary



Housing Policy to new rental residential projects. Adoption of the proposed nexus based impact fees would allow the City to expand its Inclusionary Housing Policy and to collect an impact fee from new residential rental development projects as well as non-residential projects which would be used to fund the provision of more affordable housing within Santa Clara. Collected impact fees will enable the City to provide and subsidize affordable housing ranging from moderate (80-120%), low (51-80%) and very low (30-50%) AMI. These efforts contribute to fulfilling Santa Clara's Regional Housing Needs Assessment requirements as set by State Housing law.

Additionally, collected impact fees will give the City more flexibility in the type of affordable housing programs that can be delivered (in line with the options described in the Background section). This flexibility will allow the City to adapt programs in accordance with market changes to ensure the maximum affordable housing benefit is delivered.

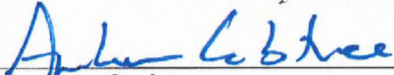
Impact fees that are set too high could discourage development, which could eliminate potential property, sales, and transient occupancy tax increases and delay needed redevelopment. If the impact fees discourage development they will not achieve their purpose of providing a funding source for new affordable housing projects, and in particular if they discourage residential development, could reduce the City's overall housing supply. If the fees discourage commercial development, they could have a negative impact on the City's fiscal and economic health.

#### **ECONOMIC/FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no cost to the City other than administrative staff time and expense. As previously discussed, the impact fees will enable the City to provide and subsidize affordable housing for very low to moderate income households. These efforts will also help the City meet State Housing Law requirements by providing fees that can help Santa Clara meet its Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA).

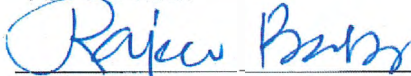
#### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Council review and comment on the Affordable Housing Nexus Summary and proposed fee levels, provide feedback regarding the desired fee levels, and direct staff to prepare a draft ordinance for the Council's consideration.



Andrew Crabtree  
Director of Community Development

APPROVED:



Rajeev Batra  
Interim City Manager

#### *Documents Related to this Report:*

- 1) *Santa Clara Affordable Housing Nexus Studies Summary (December 2016)*
- 2) *Written Comments from the General Public*
- 3) *Excerpt Meeting Minutes from Planning Commission meeting on January 25, 2017*

## **DISCUSSION**

The Silicon Valley/Alameda County Affordable Housing was prepared as part of a coordinated work program for twelve jurisdictions within Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. Silicon Valley Community Foundation, along with Baird + Driskell Community Planners, organized and facilitated the multi-jurisdiction effort. Keyser Marston Associates (KMA) prepared the analyses and served as the main contracting entity with each participating jurisdiction. The report includes both a residential and non-residential nexus analysis. The residential nexus analysis supports linkages between the development of new market rate residential units and the demand for additional affordable housing. The non-residential analysis quantifies the impact of development of new workplace buildings, and the employees that work in them, on the demand for affordable housing. The conclusions of both analyses determine the maximum supportable or legally defensible impact fee levels based on the impact of new residential and non-residential development on the need for affordable housing. The draft Santa Clara specific Summary, Context Materials and Recommendations (December 2016) is attached and is also available online at <http://santaclaraca.gov/government/departments/community-development/housing-community-services-division/affordable-housing-requirements-update>.

Santa Clara's Inclusionary Housing Policy (1992), which is incorporated within the City's General Plan, requires new for-sale residential developments with ten or more dwelling units to provide at least 10 percent of their units at below-market rate (BMR). The *Palmer/Sixth Street Properties v. City of Los Angeles* (2009) case prevents the City from applying its Inclusionary Housing Policy to new rental residential projects, and Santa Clara does not currently have an impact fee for provision of affordable housing. The Nexus Study enables the City to consider adoption of an affordable housing impact fee applicable to rental apartments, a jobs-housing linkage fee applicable to non-residential development, and other updates to affordable housing policies.

Collected impact fees must be used for programs that support increasing the supply or production of affordable housing. While the list is not exhaustive, these programs could include the First Time Home Buyer Program (FTHB) where the city subsidizes homeowner deposits or provides deferred loans; developer loans with requirements to provide affordable housing; and land acquisition by the City for affordable housing projects.

## **NEXUS STUDY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Setting an impact fee requires a balance whereby the City is able to collect meaningful funds to support the provision of affordable housing but does not stagnate development that would otherwise occur. Some of the considerations for setting an impact fee include review of local policies within the General Plan (2010) and Housing Element (2014), the maximum supported fee levels within the nexus study and Summary, implemented impact fees in nearby jurisdictions and feedback from public outreach.

### ***Residential***

As previously noted, the residential nexus analysis quantifies the link between the development of new market rate residential units and the need for additional affordable housing in the City of Santa Clara, by quantifying the number of additional supportive jobs that will arise as a result of new market-rate housing.

Table A below represents the maximum fee that is supported to mitigate the impacts of new residential construction on the need for affordable housing. The study recommends that impact fees for rental projects be set below levels indicated in the table. The City's inclusionary housing policy would remain applicable to for-sale projects, but that policy currently applies only to development of 10 or more dwellings units. Consequently, the Summary also recommends applying an in-lieu fee to for-sale projects with 9 or fewer dwellings units at rates below those indicated in Table A.

**Table A: Maximum Supported Residential Impact Fees, City of Santa Clara**

	Single Family	Townhome	Condominium	Apartments
Per Market Rate Unit	\$71,800	\$66,800	\$51,700	\$43,400
Per Square Foot	\$36.00	\$39.30	\$41.40	\$48.30

The study compares Santa Clara's policies against nearby jurisdictions. Table B shows the inclusionary requirements in nearby jurisdictions for ownership units. Santa Clara's policy is fairly consistent with the cities analyzed in Table B, which fall within the 10-15 percent range. Several jurisdictions have chosen to adopt an in-lieu fee as an alternative to a requirement for the affordable units to be provided onsite within smaller projects. Based on the prevalence of this practice, City staff is recommending that Santa Clara's ordinance allow an in-lieu fee for projects with nine or fewer dwellings units. City staff also recommends the application of an in-lieu fee when fractional units are required in conjunction with the application of the 10 percent affordable housing requirement.



Table B: Inclusionary Requirements in Nearby Jurisdictions - Ownership Units				
City	Percent Required to be Affordable	Affordability Level	Fee	Fee by Right?
Santa Clara	10%	Very Low to Moderate	None	N/A
Campbell	15%	Low and Moderate	\$34.50 psf	Only projects 6 du/ ac. or less
Los Altos	10%	Low and Moderate	None	N/A
Cupertino	15%	½ Moderate, ½ Median	\$15 psf detached; \$16.50 psf attached \$20 psf multifamily	Projects under 7 units only
San Jose	15%	Moderate	Affordability gap based on attached unit re-sales.	Yes
Mountain View	10%	Median	3% of sales price	Projects under 10 units only
Sunnyvale	12.5%	Moderate	7% of sales price	Projects under 20 units only
City	Percent Required to be Affordable	Affordability Level	Fee	Fee by Right?
Fremont	Attached: 3.5% + fee  Detached: 4.5% + fee	Moderate	With on-site units: Attached: \$18.50 psf Detached: \$17.50 psf  If no on-site units: Attached: \$27 psf Detached: \$26 psf	Yes

Table C below shows impact fees for residential rental dwelling units within nearby jurisdictions. The requirements of nearby jurisdictions range generally between \$17-20 psf.

Table C: Impact Fees in Other Jurisdictions – Rental Units		
City	Impact Fee (per square foot)	Min. Project Size
Cupertino	\$20 (\$25 for projects over 35 du/acre)	Subject to Fee 1 unit
San Jose	\$17	3 units
Mountain View	\$17	5 units
Sunnyvale	\$17 (\$8.50 for projects with 4 – 7 units)	4 units
Fremont	\$17.50	2 units

**Non-Residential**

The non-residential nexus analysis presented within the Summary is also referred to as the jobs-housing nexus analysis (or jobs housing linkage fee) and quantifies the impact of development of new workplace buildings, and the employees that work in them, on the demand for affordable housing. Because jobs in all buildings cover a range of compensation levels workplace development is linked to housing needs at all affordability levels. The analysis quantifies the need for lower and moderate income housing created by each type of workplace building.

The non-residential nexus analysis supports comparatively high fees levels, as shown in Table D below. The legally supportable fee levels are significantly higher than the fee levels that City staff proposes or that are recommended by KMA within the Summary report.

Table D: Maximum Supported Non-Residential Impact Fees	
Building Type	Fee (per square foot)
Office	\$142.70
High Tech Office	\$158.80
Retail	\$268.00
Hotel	\$128.70
Light Industrial	\$149.60
Warehouse	\$47.80

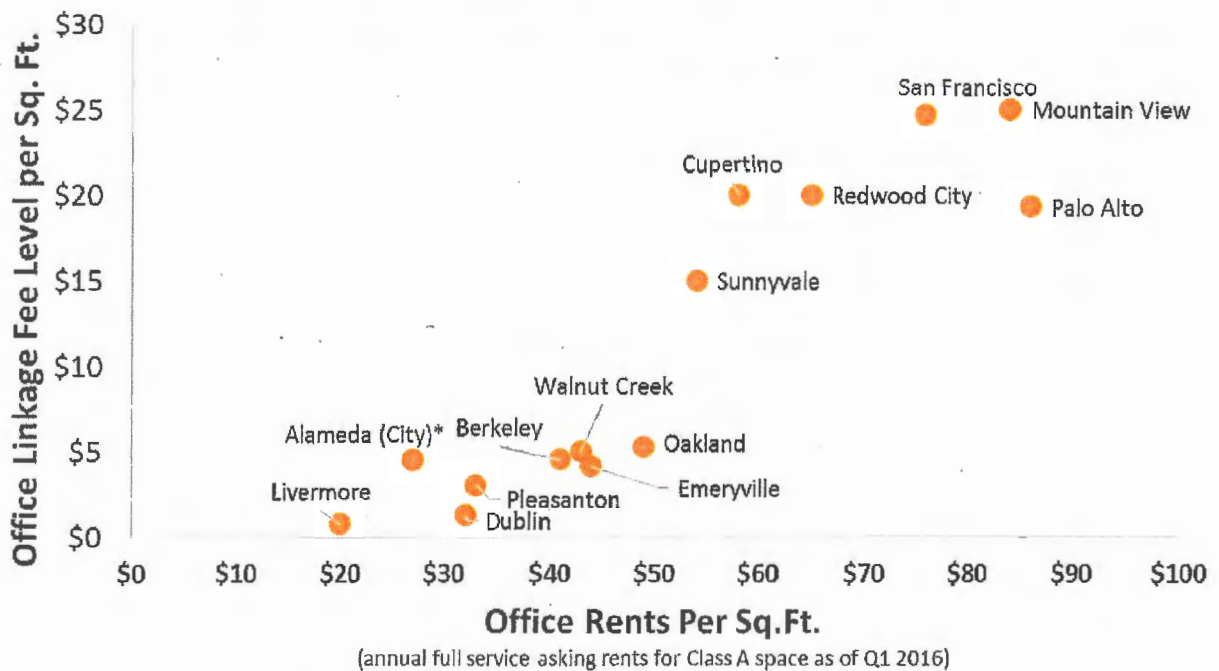
As with the residential analysis, the study provides fee levels adopted for non-residential impact fees in nearby jurisdictions in Table E.

Table E: Non-Residential Housing Impact Fees-Nearby Jurisdictions				
Jurisdiction	Office psf	Retail psf	Hotel psf	Industrial psf
Mountain View	\$25.00	\$2.68	\$2.68	\$25.00
Cupertino	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Palo Alto	\$19.85	\$19.85	\$19.85	\$19.85
Sunnyvale	\$15.00	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$15.00
San Francisco	\$24.61	\$22.96	\$18.42	\$19.34
Redwood City	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	N/A
Menlo Park	\$15.57	\$8.45	\$8.45	\$8.45
San Jose	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Jurisdictions with the highest fee levels tend to be in areas with strong demand for non-residential space. San Jose chose not to adopt an impact fee for non-residential projects to avoid creating a disincentive for workplace development within their city. Based upon the consultant's analysis and stakeholder input, application of impact fees at or near the supportable levels could substantially hinder development, and jurisdictions must carefully consider such implications when determining the level of impact fees.

The graph below (Linkage fees vs. Office Rent in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties) shows office linkage fees (the building type that usually has the highest fees) in relation to office rents by city, with a fairly direct relationship between the values. Office rents are an indicator of market strength and a major driver of real estate values. Average office rent in Santa Clara is approximately \$50 psf per year (between Oakland and Sunnyvale). Given the relationship between fee levels and office rents in other jurisdictions, a fee level between \$5 and \$15 psf in Santa Clara would be comparable to those in other jurisdictions. The nexus study accordingly recommends setting a non-residential impact fee between \$10-15 psf for office uses and \$5-10 psf for other non-residential building types.

**Linkage fees vs. Office Rents in  
Alameda and Santa Clara Counties (& Selected Additions)**



Lastly, the study provides potential market adjustments (e.g., changes in rent levels, changes in property values, etc.) responsive to the potential fee levels, illustrated in Table F. As presented these adjustments are not additive, meaning that each adjustment would independently be sufficient to absorb new fees. However, depending on market conditions and other factors, it



could be expected that a combination of the market adjustments would contribute to absorbing a new fee.

Table F: Potential Market Adjustments to Absorb Illustrative Fee Levels					
	Each \$1 Fee psf	\$10 Fee	\$20 Fee	\$30 Fee	\$40 Fee
Increase in Rents/Income	0.14%	1.4%	2.8%	4.2%	5.6%
Decrease in Direct Costs	0.31%	3.1%	6.3%	9.4%	12.5%
Decrease in Land Values (based on \$120 psf)	1.02%	10.2%	20.5%	30.7%	40.9%

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS**

Planning staff conducted five public outreach meetings in January 2017, one for the development stakeholder community, one for affordable housing advocates, two for the general public, and one with the Planning Commission. These meetings, as well as progress updates, are posted on a webpage of the City's website specifically designated for the affordable housing requirements update (<http://santaclaraca.gov/government/departments/community-development/housing-community-services-division/affordable-housing-requirements-update>). Staff also met with the Building Industry Association and discussed the status of and preliminary feedback on the Summary report on October 27, 2016. Staff has kept an outreach list of contact details for those who want to receive progress updates and notifications. Notifications have been sent regarding community meetings and opportunities to submit written feedback.

The specific dates and times of the meetings, as well as a summary of the feedback, are listed below:

#### ***Building Industry Association (BIA)***

- Thursday, October 27, 2016 11:30am, HMM Engineering Offices (San Jose)

This meeting took place before the Summary was available for public review, but staff presented key information from the Summary to the BIA. BIA members acknowledged that local jurisdictions will likely be adopting affordable housing impact fees and that their business practices could adapt to such fees if they were kept at a reasonable level and implemented appropriately. Specifically, they suggested that fee levels for rental residential projects should be kept lower given the greater difficulty of financing rental projects and the inherent value that rental residential development provides toward an affordable housing supply. BIA members also suggested an adequate delay to implementation so that current projects could move forward under the anticipated financial circumstances and that developers be given flexibility to provide affordable units off-site or to cluster them within a single building within a larger development project.

### ***Development Stakeholder Meeting***

- Monday, January 9, 2017 1:00pm, City Hall Council Chambers (1500 Warburton Avenue)

A range of concerns was expressed at the Development Stakeholder Meeting. One of the largest concerns was the fee level proposed for residential rental housing (\$25-35 psf). Those concerned felt that this level of impact fee would discourage development from coming forward and suggested that the fee level should be placed more in line with nearby jurisdictions at \$17-20 psf. In response, staff indicated that a high rental in-lieu fee could encourage developers to provide ten percent of their units as affordable rather than pay the in lieu fee, which would create affordable units faster than if impact fees were collected. It was also suggested to spread the fees more evenly across residential and non-residential building types.

The development community urged planning staff to consider allowing for flexibility in the provision of affordable housing by design or provision of smaller unit types. In response, the Council may want to direct staff to identify options that will provide the maximum benefit for affordability requirements. For example, where a project is only able to provide a large or otherwise expensive affordable unit, the City could retain discretion to charge an impact fee instead of onsite provision or to allow offsite provision in order to secure the maximum affordable housing benefit. Such discretion could allow the City to produce more affordable dwelling units, increase the level of affordability (at very low or low AMI levels) or adjust occupancy timing for affordable housing units.

Some stakeholders were concerned that most of the for-sale affordable housing would be provided at moderate levels (80-120% of area median income (AMI)) and suggested spreading affordability at low (51-80% AMI) and very low (30-50% of AMI) levels. As presented, on-site units would be restricted to moderate income levels; however, it was noted that other jurisdictions have used a tiered system, where a lower percentage of overall units could be affordable if low or very low income units are provided. If on-site units focused on moderate income levels, monies collected may skew towards the provision of low and very low income units so that those segments of the population are provided with affordable housing options.

The development community also suggested allowing for a longer grace period for pipeline or upcoming projects. There were some concerns around when fees are paid. Those concerned suggested flexibility in paying fees prior to occupancy as opposed to before issuance of building permits.

Additionally, the development stakeholder community wanted the City to convey to the general public that the affordable housing fee does not exist in isolation and that developers are subject to other fees (such as the parks fee). They also wanted the City to convey to the public the type of affordable housing funds currently available to the City (including Bond Measure A) as well as market adjustments (such as rent increase) that would contribute to absorbing the fee. These suggestions were added to the presentations and explained at general public meetings.

Lastly, the development community wanted to understand how many affordable units would be created in the future. State Housing Element Law requires that each jurisdiction develop local housing programs designed to allow for the development of its share of existing and future regional housing needs for all income groups. Santa Clara's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), 2014-2022 is outlined in Table G below.

**Table G: Regional Housing Needs Assessment, 2014-2022**

<i>Income Group</i>	<i>Units Assigned</i>	<i>Percent of Total</i>
Extremely Low	525	13%
Very Low	525	13%
Low	695	17%
Moderate	755	17%
Above Moderate	1,593	39%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,093</b>	<b>100%</b>

Santa Clara keeps track of projects that are in the pipeline, including pending or conceptual projects that could come forward in the future. Approximately 14 residential projects consisting of approximately 3,500 DU are currently in the pending or conceptual stage. At Council's request, further research and analyses may be conducted regarding non-residential pipeline projects, affordable housing fees that could be generated from future projects, and the potential number of affordable units that could be generated from said fees. Determining the DU yield from fees collected may be challenging, since usage of the fees in different programs or different sites may yield varying numbers of units.

#### ***Affordable Housing Advocate Group Meeting***

- Wednesday, January 18, 2017 2:00pm, City Hall Council Chambers (1500 Warburton Avenue)

Overall, there was strong support from affordable housing advocates for proposed impact fees and noted support for the high residential rental fee to incentivize provision of affordable housing onsite. The group stressed the need to consider onsite provision of affordable housing that covered very low, low and moderate income levels. Both the development stakeholder group and affordable housing advocate group queried what rental impact fee would be equivalent to provision of 10 percent onsite. Following further analysis and discussion with KMA, provision of 10 percent affordable housing on site at 80 percent AMI (low income level) would roughly equate to an impact fee level between \$28-35 per square foot. The rate would be higher than \$35 per square foot at a 50 percent AMI (very low income level) provision equivalent.

The group voiced concern regarding what was thought to be low impact fee levels for non-residential building types and recommended setting an impact fee level for retail and hotel uses. As these building types generally produce lower wage jobs, the group suggested that there is a greater need to set an impact fee to mitigate the impact generated from these building types.

The group gave support to other considerations such as collection of fees at issuance of building permit and use of six months as a reasonable grace period between fee adoption and fees taking effect. Advocates supported the specific exemptions noted earlier in this report but discouraged large-scale exemptions for area plans and Planned Development zoning areas. Lastly, the group



requested further outreach and the opportunity to provide written comments following the release of a draft ordinance.

#### **Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce Meeting**

- Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:00am, Santa Clara Chamber of Commerce (1850 Warburton Avenue)

The group wanted to understand how many affordable housing units would be produced as a result of the fee. They also wanted to know how much money it will cost to run the program (e.g., the amount of collected fees that would go towards staff and admin costs rather than directly towards the production of affordable housing).

Overall, the group supported the competitive non-residential impact fee and urged staff to consider a lower residential impact fee. They also urged consideration of exemptions for senior housing and micro residential unit developments as well as a longer grace period in line with the Planning Commission's recommendations for a three year implementation period.

#### **General Public Meetings**

- Monday, January 9, 2017 at 4:00pm, Santa Clara Senior Center (1303 Fremont Street)
- Thursday, January 12, 2017 at 7:00pm, City Hall Council Chambers (1500 Warburton Avenue)

Overall, community members who attended the meetings for the general public expressed recognition of the problem of housing affordability throughout the city as well as the need for providing new housing at varying levels of affordability. Community members expressed a desire to enable professions such as teachers and civil servants to live closer to where they work and that the provision of more affordable housing could alleviate congestion pressures on the transportation network for those having to commute long distances to get to work.

Community members suggested that the proposed impact fee for rental residential (\$25-35 psf) was too high and encouraged a lower fee, in line with other jurisdictions. They also supported higher impact fee levels for non-residential building types and including impact fee levels for retail and hotel building types. Community members were not concerned that higher fees would impact commercial uses because of the current citywide jobs surplus. Residents were in support of reviewing fees against a cost escalator to adjust for changes in the market.

Lastly, community members expressed a need for more affordable housing options for retirees and seniors, especially as the baby boom generation continues to enter retirement age. Attendees stated that the city should incorporate services, infrastructure and adequate parking within new affordable residential projects to accommodate the increase in residents.

Written feedback was also submitted to staff and is attached to this report.

### ***Planning Commission Meeting***

- Wednesday, January 25, 2017 at 7:00pm, City Hall Council Chambers (1500 Warburton Avenue)

The Summary and recommendations for affordable housing impacts fees were presented to the Planning Commission as an additional outreach opportunity. The Planning Commission expressed overall support for implementing impact fees for residential and non-residential projects. As part of their discussion, Commissioners recommended setting the residential rental impact fee level closer to nearby jurisdictions at \$17-20 psf and increasing impact fee levels for non-residential building types (to \$10-15 psf for office uses and \$5-10 psf for light industrial). Commissioners also supported setting a fee level for retail and hotel uses, but suggested a lower rate for retail so as not to discourage small scale retail developments. Lastly, it was agreed that a grandfather period or grace period before requirements took effect should be put in place and suggested that if a developer can demonstrate site control during the grace period, they should not be subject to the impact fees.

### ***Additional Public Feedback***

Written comments and feedback were also received by staff outside of the outreach meetings. While many of the comments received are addressed in the outreach sections of this report, some additional topics were raised. One commenter asked about whether development has slowed in the 18 other jurisdictions that adopted similar impact fees. While staff has not completed a market analysis of each of those jurisdictions, based on the current strength of the market, residential projects continue to be built despite the adoption of impact fees.

Questions were also raised regarding the construction method types that were analyzed as part of the study. KMA confirmed that the assessment was based on a concrete podium with wood frame units above (Type V), as this is the most common construction type for residential projects within Santa Clara. While the construction costs may vary between construction types, the maximum supportable impact fee would not change as a result of the construction type.

Another commenter (see attached letter from SV@Home) recommends increasing the City's inclusionary requirement to 15 percent applicable to for-sale residential projects and for rental residential projects, in lieu of the affordable housing impact fee. Staff has proposed keeping the inclusionary requirement at 10 percent so as to strike the right balance between securing affordable housing on site in new residential projects and not deterring development that would otherwise occur. The City would like to incentivize the provision of affordable housing on site and a 15 percent inclusionary on site requirement applicable, in lieu of paying the affordable impact fee for rental residential projects, could incentivize developers to pay the impact fee as opposed to providing affordable housing on site.

Lastly, queries were raised regarding Santa Clara County's recently passed \$950 million bond initiative for subsidized housing. While some of these funds are expected to be applied toward the production of affordable housing within Santa Clara, they will not be sufficient to fully meet the affordable housing need and the City intends to continue to directly work to produce affordable housing through its own programs supported by the proposed affordable housing impact fee. This topic was discussed in outreach meetings and with the Planning Commission.

All written comments and feedback have been attached to this report for reference.



# KEYSER MARSTON ASSOCIATES

**PRELIMINARY DRAFT**

**SUMMARY, CONTEXT MATERIALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEXUS STUDIES**

*Prepared for:*  
**City of Santa Clara**

*Prepared by:*  
**Keyser Marston Associates, Inc.**

**December 2016**



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## I. INTRODUCTION

This Summary, Context Materials, and Recommendations report ("Summary Report") provides a concise version of the affordable housing nexus studies prepared by KMA and presents analyses designed to provide context for policy decisions. It also outlines recommendations for the City of Santa Clara regarding the City's affordable housing policies for residential development and consideration of a potential new affordable housing impact fee for non-residential development.

The report has been prepared by Keyser Marston Associates, Inc. (KMA) for the City of Santa Clara, pursuant to contracts both parties have with the Silicon Valley Community Foundation. The report was prepared as part of a coordinated work program for twelve jurisdictions in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. Silicon Valley Community Foundation with Baird + Driskell Community Planners organized and facilitated this multi-jurisdiction effort. Silicon Valley Community Foundation, which engaged KMA to prepare the analyses, serves as the main contracting entity with each participating jurisdiction, and has provided funding support for coordination and administration of the effort.

Two separate nexus technical reports accompany this Summary Report (entitled Residential Nexus Analysis and Non-Residential Nexus Analysis) which provide the nexus technical analyses and documentation to support adoption of affordable housing impact fees on residential and non-residential development in the City of Santa Clara.

### A. Background and Context

Santa Clara's Inclusionary Housing Policy was established in 1992 and is described in the City's General Plan. The Policy is for 10% of the total units in a new development be affordable to very low to moderate income households. The Policy applies to projects with ten or more units and there is no in-lieu fee. Historically, redevelopment has been the major resource for developing affordable units in the City, but that resource has been eliminated. The City does not have an affordable housing requirement that applies to non-residential projects; however, the analyses that have been prepared for the City will enable consideration of a new affordable housing impact fee applicable to non-residential development as well. Since the 2009 *Palmer* court decision (described further in the Residential Nexus Analysis), the City has not had the ability to apply its inclusionary policy to rental projects, except through negotiation. However, a bill pending in the California Legislature, Assembly Bill 2502, referred to as the "Palmer Fix" would, if adopted, restore the ability of California cities to apply inclusionary requirements to rental projects.

The analyses summarized in this report will enable the City to consider adoption of an affordable housing impact fee applicable to rental apartments, a jobs housing linkage fee applicable to non-residential development and other updates to its affordable housing policies.

## **B. Organization of this Report**

This report is organized into the following sections:

- Section I provides an introduction;
- Section II presents a summary of KMA's findings and recommendations;
- Section III summarizes the nexus analyses;
- Section IV presents analyses and materials prepared to provide context for policy decisions, including:
  - A. Multifamily Apartment Financial Feasibility Analysis – presents the analysis and findings of the real estate financial feasibility analysis for apartments;
  - B. On-site compliance cost analysis – analysis of the forgone revenue experienced by market rate residential projects in complying with the City's inclusionary policy;
  - C. Residential affordable housing requirements in other jurisdictions – provides a summary of existing inclusionary and impact fee requirements for 18 jurisdictions in Alameda and Santa Clara counties;
  - D. Non-Residential Development Costs - Analysis of development costs for various types of non-residential development as context for consideration of potential impact fee levels for non-residential development; and
  - E. Jobs housing linkage fee programs in other jurisdictions – provides information regarding 34 adopted linkage fee programs in jurisdictions throughout the Bay Area and elsewhere in California.



**II. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In this section, KMA provides a summary of the analysis findings and recommendations for the City's consideration for updates to the City's affordable housing requirements applicable to residential and non-residential development. Recommendations reflect consideration of the following factors:

1. The findings of the nexus analysis. The nexus study establishes the maximum fee that may be charged to mitigate the impacts of new development on the need for affordable housing. Impact fees for rentals and non-residential development are limited to the maximums identified by the nexus. For-sale inclusionary requirements are generally not bound by nexus findings.
2. The City's policy objectives specified in the Housing Element.
3. The current requirements in neighboring jurisdictions.
4. Setting a fee high enough to support a meaningful contribution to affordable housing in Santa Clara.
5. Setting a fee low enough to not discourage development.

**A. Residential Findings and Recommendations**

KMA's recommendations for updates to the City's Inclusionary Housing Policy, including a new impact fee for rentals, are presented in this section, along with a summary of the factors considered by KMA.

**1. Nexus Analysis Findings**

The findings of the residential nexus analysis are summarized below.

<b>Maximum Supported Residential Impact Fees, City of Santa Clara</b>				
	<i>Single Family</i>	<i>Townhome</i>	<i>Condominium</i>	<i>Apartments</i>
Per Market Rate Unit	\$71,800	\$66,800	\$51,700	\$43,400
Per Square Foot*	\$36.00	\$39.30	\$41.40	\$48.30

\* Applies to net rentable / sellable area exclusive of garage space, external corridors and other common areas.  
 Source: Keyser Marston Associates Residential Nexus Analysis.

KMA recommends that impact fees for rental projects be set below the levels shown above and that in-lieu fees applicable to for-sale projects that have ten or fewer units in the project be set below the levels identified above.

**2. Affordable Housing Requirements in Other Jurisdictions**

KMA assembled and summarized the affordable housing requirements for 18 jurisdictions in Santa Clara and Alameda Counties including those participating in the multi jurisdiction work

program plus nine additional cities selected by the participants. The following is a condensed version focusing on selected comparisons. A complete summary is provided in Section IV and Table 4 at the end of this report.

*Rentals: Overview of Adopted Rental Housing Impact Fees in Santa Clara County*

The chart below shows selected examples of cities that have adopted impact fees for rental development following the 2009 *Palmer* decision (which eliminated the ability to apply inclusionary requirements to rental projects). Requirements are clustered around \$17 per square foot, with Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and Fremont all following San Jose’s lead in establishing a rental impact fee requirement at this level. Cupertino’s fees are \$20 per square foot for projects up to 35 dwelling units per acre and \$25 per square foot for projects over 35 units per acre. The minimum size project subject to the fee ranges from five units for Mountain View down to single units for Cupertino.

Impact Fees in Other Jurisdictions – Rental Units		
City	Impact Fee	Min. Project Size Subject to Fee
Cupertino	\$20 / sq. ft. (\$25 for projects over 35 du/acre)	1 unit
San Jose	\$17/sq. ft.	3 units
Mountain View	\$17/sq. ft.	5 units
Sunnyvale	\$17/sq. ft. (\$8.50 for projects with 4 – 7 units)	4 units
Fremont	\$17.50/sq. ft.	2 units

\*See Table 3 for more detail.

*Ownership Affordable Housing Requirements*

For ownership projects, Santa Clara’s policy is fairly consistent with the other cities. The onsite requirements for the cities analyzed are also in the 10% – 15% range, with the exception of Fremont, which has a combined onsite obligation and fee payment. Unlike most of the other communities, the City of Santa Clara’s program is technically voluntary, although compliance is strongly encouraged. The following table briefly summarizes the programs.

Inclusionary Requirements in Other Jurisdictions - Ownership Units				
City	Percent	Affordability Level	Fee	Fee by Right?
Santa Clara	10%	Very Low to Moderate	None	N/A
Campbell	15%	Low and Moderate	\$34.50	Only projects 6 du/ ac. or less
Los Altos	10%	Low and Moderate	None	N/A
Cupertino	15%	½ Moderate, ½ Median	\$15 detached; \$16.50 attached \$20 multifamily	Projects under 7 units only
San Jose*	15%	Moderate	Affordability gap based on attached unit re-sales.	Yes
Mountain View	10%	Median	3% of sales price	Projects under 10 units only
Sunnyvale	12.5%	Moderate	7% of sales price	Projects under 20 units only
Fremont	Attached 3.5% + fee  Detached: 4.5% + fee	Moderate	With on-site units: Attached: \$18.50 psf Detached: \$17.50 psf  If no on-site units: Attached: \$27 psf Detached: \$26 psf	Yes

\*Suspended during litigation but to be reinstated in 2016  
See Table 3 for more detail.

### 3. Multifamily Apartment Financial Feasibility

The analysis indicates that the economics of multifamily rental projects are currently robust and projects are generally feasible at this time. Even in a strong market, rising land costs tend to absorb any "surplus" projects may have in their pro formas; however, the market is able to adjust to new costs such as increased fees in a variety of ways. One way markets can adjust is through downward pressure on land prices created when developers price new fees into the economics of their projects and adjust what they can afford to pay for land. When market rents are rising, this condition helps projects absorb increased fees. The table below illustrates how relatively modest improvements in project economics are sufficient to absorb illustrative fee levels of \$10, \$20, \$30 and \$40 per square foot. Calculations are also shown for each \$1 in new fees so calculations can be made for any fee level that may be considered.



Potential Market Adjustments to Absorb Illustrative Fee Levels	Illustrative Fee Levels				
	Each \$1 Fee	\$10 Fee	\$20 Fee	\$30 Fee	\$40 Fee
Increase in Rents/Income	0.14%	1.4%	2.8%	4.2%	5.6%
Decrease in Direct Costs	0.31%	3.1%	6.3%	9.4%	12.5%
Decrease in Land Values (based on \$120/sf)	1.02%	10.2%	20.5%	30.7%	40.9%

Adjustments are not additive. Each would independently be sufficient to absorb new fees. Depending on the market cycle and other factors, a combination of the above market adjustments would be expected to contribute in absorbing a new fee.

#### 4. Market Context

Residential market conditions in the City of Santa Clara are consistent with the county overall, which is to say in the context of the region or state, demand is very strong. The median price for units sold in recent years has been a little higher than the county as a whole. The median unit sold for a little under \$900,000 by the end of 2015.

The City of Santa Clara experiences strong developer interest for all types of residential projects – single family detached, townhomes, condominiums and rentals. The detached units tend to be smaller than in many of the neighboring cities to the west, averaging under 2,000 square feet and selling at a price in the range of \$550 psf. As is typical, townhomes are smaller selling for a little more when examined on a per square foot level, and condominiums smaller yet again, selling in the \$580 psf range on average.

Santa Clara has also experienced recent development of rental apartments. The survey indicated rents comparable to countywide averages for newly built units, or approximately \$3.60 psf for a 900 square foot unit.

See Appendix A: Residential Market Survey, appended to the Residential Nexus Analysis, for more detail and supporting data.

#### 5. Program Recommendations

KMA recommends that the City of Santa Clara consider the findings in this report, conduct public outreach, and evaluate the adoption of an impact fee for residential development.

#### B. Non-Residential Affordable Housing Impact Fees

The analysis prepared by KMA will enable the City of Santa Clara to consider adoption of a new affordable housing fee applicable to non-residential development in the City. The following section provides KMA's recommendations regarding a fee range should the City choose to move forward with establishing a new jobs housing linkage fee, along with a summary of the factors considered by KMA.

## 1. Nexus Analysis Findings

The KMA non-residential nexus analysis found very high supportable fee levels. The high fee levels supported by the analysis are not unusual for high cost areas such as Santa Clara. The nexus analysis establishes only the maximums for impact fees and will bear little relationship to the fee levels the City may ultimately select. The table below indicates the nexus analysis results.

### Maximum Fee Per Square Foot of Building Area

Building Type	Maximum Supported Fee Per Square Foot
Office	\$142.70
High Tech Office	\$158.80
Retail	\$268.00
Hotel	\$128.70
Light Industrial	\$149.60
Warehouse	\$47.80

Note: Nexus findings are not recommended fee levels.  
See Non-Residential Nexus Analysis for detail.

In our opinion, fee levels for cities should be selected based on a combination of the strength of the local real estate for the building types that will pay the fee, and local policy objectives. We also believe it is appropriate to take into account the fee levels in neighboring jurisdictions and cities that are comparable to Santa Clara in real estate demand.

## 2. Fees in Other Jurisdictions

The chart below summarizes fee levels for jurisdictions in Santa Clara County and the Peninsula that have adopted non-residential fees. The jurisdictions with the highest fees tend to be in areas with very strong demand for non-residential space, such as Palo Alto, Mountain View, and other cities within Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Peninsula. Nearby cities that do not currently have affordable housing fees on non-residential development but may consider a new fee as part of this multi-jurisdiction effort include Campbell, Los Altos, Saratoga, Fremont, Milpitas, and Santa Clara County. San Jose, neighbor to the City of Santa Clara and by far the largest city in in the County, has voted not to pursue a non-residential fee at this time. More details can be found in Section IV and Table 4.

**Non-Residential Housing Impact Fees – Santa Clara Co. & Peninsula**

Non-Residential Fees	Office \$/SF	Retail \$/SF	Hotel \$/SF	Industrial \$/SF
Mountain View	\$25.00	\$2.68	\$2.68	\$25.00
Cupertino	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Palo Alto	\$19.85	\$19.85	\$19.85	\$19.85
Sunnyvale	\$15.00	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$15.00
San Francisco	\$24.61	\$22.96	\$18.42	\$19.34
Redwood City	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	N/A
Menlo Park	\$15.57	\$8.45	\$8.45	\$8.45

See Table 4 for more details including features such as exemptions and size thresholds.

**3. Total Development Costs**

KMA estimated the total development cost associated with each building type and examined fee levels in the context of total costs. Total costs include construction, all permits and fees, land, financing and other. This facilitates an evaluation of whether the amount is likely to affect development decisions. Four non-residential prototype projects were selected for review of total development costs. The prototypes include office, hotel, retail, and light industrial. The cost estimates were prepared based on local information and our firm’s extensive work with real estate projects throughout Silicon Valley and the Bay Area. More detail on the analysis can be found in Section IV. The results are summarized below:

Total Development Costs – Non-Residential	
Building Type	Cost
Office	\$525 - \$625 per sq.ft.
Hotel	\$325 - \$425 per sq.ft.
Retail / Restaurant / Service	\$400 - \$500 per sq.ft.
Light Industrial	\$250 - \$300 per sq.ft.

One useful way to evaluate alternative fee levels is to examine them as a percent of total development costs. For example, at 2% to 5% of costs, we would see the following fee levels:

Fees as a Percent of Development Costs				
Building Type	2%	3%	4%	5%
Office	\$11 psf	\$17 psf	\$23 psf	\$29 psf
Hotel	\$7 psf	\$11 psf	\$15 psf	\$19 psf
Retail / Restaurant	\$9 psf	\$13 psf	\$18 psf	\$22 psf
Light Industrial	\$5 psf	\$8 psf	\$11 psf	\$14 psf



#### 4. Market Context

Santa Clara is a major employment center for Silicon Valley and is home to major names in the tech sector such as Intel and Nvidia. The City had in excess of 1 million square feet of office space under construction or just completed as of the first quarter of 2016. Office rents for Class A space are in the range of \$50 PSF / year on average, near the middle of the range for Silicon Valley and above the average for San Jose as well as for most of the East Bay.

The City's retail market is exhibiting strength with the recent redevelopment of a shopping center along the El Camino Real and completion of the mixed use Santa Clara Square project which includes a new whole foods.

The robust hotel market in the City is driven by the City's status as a center for business, its convention center, the recently completed Levi Stadium, Santa Clara University, as well as proximity to the San Jose airport.

The City can expect to remain a focus of the development activity in Silicon Valley in the future with the recently approved City Place Santa Clara project which includes 5.7 million square feet of office, 1.1 million square feet of retail, 250,000 square feet of food and beverage, 190,000 square feet of entertainment space, 700 hotel rooms and 1,680 residential units adjacent to Levi Stadium.

#### 5. Recommended Fee Levels for Non-Residential

Given the maximums established by the nexus analysis, the strength of Santa Clara's office, retail and hotel markets, and the fees in neighboring jurisdictions, should the City decide to proceed with a non-residential affordable housing fee, KMA recommends consideration of fees within the range of \$10 to \$15 per square foot for office and \$5 to \$10 per square foot for all other non-residential development. Adoption of fees in this range would put Santa Clara in the same range as neighboring Sunnyvale. While neighboring San Jose does not have a fee, we believe the many advantages of a Santa Clara location such as access to lower cost power through Silicon Valley Power will allow Santa Clara to remain an attractive location for new development. In our opinion, fees adopted within any moderate range would likely have little bearing on development decisions in Santa Clara. While higher fees (up to, say, \$20 for office) could probably be sustained without significantly limiting development activity, we believe the recommended range represents a good starting point for a new adoption.

The table below presents the recommended range:

KMA Recommended Fee Range, Non-Residential, City of Santa Clara	
Land Use	Recommended Fee
Office	\$10.00 to \$15.00 psf
Other Non-Residential	\$5.00 to \$10.00 psf

### III. SUMMARY OF NEXUS ANALYSES

This section provides a concise summary of the residential and non-residential nexus analyses prepared for the City of Santa Clara. The analyses provide documentation necessary for adoption of new affordable housing impact fees applicable to residential and non-residential development. The analyses establish maximum supportable impact fee levels based on the impact new residential and non-residential development has on the need for affordable housing. Findings represent the results of an impact analysis only and are not recommended fee levels.

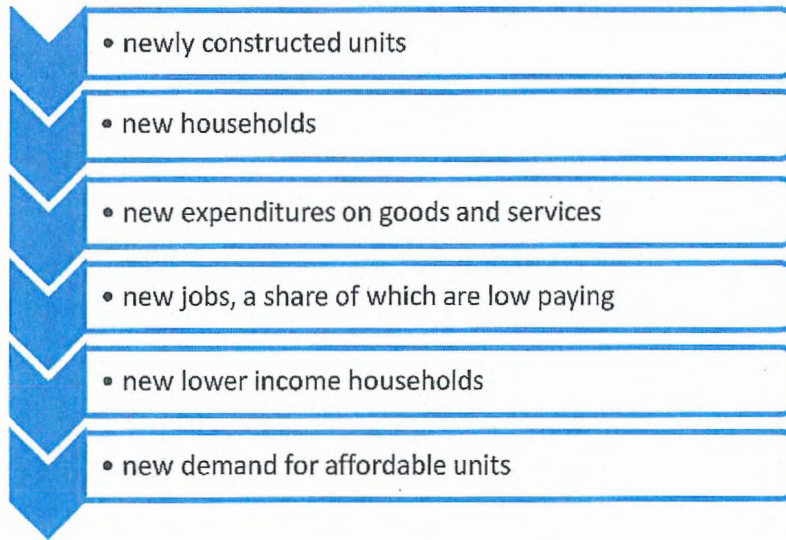
While nexus findings represent upper limits for impact fee-type requirements, inclusionary program requirements, including applicable in-lieu fees, are not bound by nexus findings based on the ruling by the California Supreme Court in the San Jose inclusionary housing case. Under current law, inclusionary requirements cannot be applied to rental units; however, this could change if currently proposed legislation is enacted (AB 2502).

Full documentation of the analyses can be found in the reports titled Residential Nexus Analysis and Non-Residential Nexus Analysis.

#### A. Residential Nexus Analysis Summary

The residential nexus analysis establishes maximum supportable impact fee levels applicable to residential development. The underlying concept of the residential nexus analysis is that the newly constructed units represent net new households in Santa Clara. These households represent new income in the City that will consume goods and services, either through purchases of goods and services or "consumption" of governmental services. New consumption generates new local jobs; a portion of the new jobs are at lower compensation levels; low compensation jobs relate to lower income households that cannot afford market rate units in Santa Clara and therefore need affordable housing.

## Nexus Analysis Concept



### 1. Market Rate Residential Prototypes

In collaboration with City staff, a total of four market rate residential prototypes were selected: three ownership prototypes and one rental prototype. The intent of the selected prototypes is to identify representative development prototypes likely to be developed in Santa Clara in the immediate to mid-term future.

A summary of the four residential prototypes is presented below. Market survey data, City planning documents and other sources were used to develop the information. Market sales prices and rent levels were estimated based on KMA's market research.

Prototypical Residential Units for City of Santa Clara				
	<i>Single Family</i>	<i>Townhome</i>	<i>Condominium</i>	<i>Apartments</i>
Avg. Unit Size	2,000 SF	1,700 SF	1,250 SF	900 SF
Avg. No. of Bedrooms	3.50	3.00	2.00	1.50
Avg. Sales Price / Rent	\$1,100,000	\$950,000	\$725,000	\$3,200 /mo.
Per Square Foot	\$550 /SF	\$559 /SF	\$580 /SF	\$3.56 /SF

### 2. Household Expenditures and Job Generation

Using the sales price or rent levels applicable to each of the four market rate residential prototypes, KMA estimates the household income of the purchasing/renting household.



Household income is then translated to income available for expenditures after deducting taxes, savings and household debt, which becomes the input to the IMPLAN model. The IMPLAN model is used to estimate the employment generated by the new household spending. The IMPLAN model is an economic model widely used for the past 35 years to quantify the impacts of changes in a local economy. For ease of presentation the analysis is conducted based on an assumed project size of 100 market rate units.

A 20% downward adjustment is made to the IMPLAN employment estimates based on the expectation that a portion of jobs may be filled by existing workers who already have housing locally. The 20% adjustment is based upon job losses in declining sectors of the local economy over a historic period. "Downsized" workers from declining sectors are assumed to fill a portion of the new jobs in sectors that serve residents.

The translation from market rate sales prices and rent levels for the prototypical units to the estimated number of jobs in sectors such as retail, restaurants, health care and others providing goods and services to new residents is summarized in the table below.

<b>Household Income, Expenditures, Job Generation, and Net New Worker Households</b>				
	<i>Single Family</i>	<i>Townhome</i>	<i>Condominium</i>	<i>Apartments</i>
Avg. Sales Price / Rent	\$1,100,000	\$950,000	\$725,000	\$3,200
Gross Household Income	\$211,000	\$187,000	\$145,000	\$131,000
Net Annual Income available	\$135,000	\$125,300	\$98,600	\$83,000
Total Jobs Generated [from IMPLAN] (100 Units)	81.4	75.5	58.6	49.3
Net New Jobs after 20% reduction for declining industries (100 units)	65.1	60.4	46.9	39.4

(1) Includes the share of income spent on housing as the required input to the IMPLAN model is income after taxes but before deduction of housing costs.

See [Residential Nexus Analysis](#) report for full documentation.

### **3. Compensation Levels of Jobs and Household Income**

The output of the IMPLAN model – the numbers of jobs by industry – is then entered into the Keyser Marston Associates jobs housing nexus analysis model to quantify the compensation levels of new jobs and the income of the new worker households. The KMA model sorts the jobs by industry into jobs by occupation, based on national data, and then attaches local wage distribution data to the occupations, using recent Santa Clara County data from the California

Employment Development Department (EDD). The KMA model also converts the number of employees to the number of employee households, recognizing that there is, on average, more than one worker per household, and thus the number of housing units in demand for new workers is reduced. For purposes of the adjustment from jobs to housing units, the average of 1.72 workers per working household in Santa Clara County is used.

<b>Adjustment from No. of Workers to No. of Households</b>				
	<i>Single Family</i>	<i>Townhome</i>	<i>Condominium</i>	<i>Apartments</i>
Net New Jobs (100 Units)	65.1	60.4	46.9	39.4
Divide by No. of Workers per Worker Household	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72
Net new worker households (100 Units)	37.9	35.2	27.3	23.0

The output of the model is the number of new worker households by income level (expressed in relation to the Area Median Income, or AMI) attributable to the new residential units and new households in Santa Clara. Four categories of addressed: Extremely Low (under 30% of AMI), Very Low (30% to 50% of AMI), Low (50% to 80% of AMI) and Moderate (80% to 120% of AMI).

Following are the numbers of worker households by income level associated with the Santa Clara prototype units.

<b>New Worker Households per 100 Market Rate Units</b>				
	<i>Single Family</i>	<i>Townhome</i>	<i>Condominium</i>	<i>Apartments</i>
Extremely (0%-30% AMI)	6.8	6.3	4.9	4.2
Very Low (30%-50% AMI)	10.3	9.5	7.4	6.2
Low (50%-80% AMI)	8.7	8.1	6.2	5.2
Moderate (80%-120% AMI)	5.6	5.2	4.0	3.3
<b>Total, Less than 120% AMI</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>18.9</b>
Greater than 120% AMI	6.6	6.1	4.8	4.1
<b>Total, New Households</b>	<b>37.9</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>23.0</b>

See [Residential Nexus Analysis](#) report for full documentation.

Housing demand is distributed across the lower income tiers. The finding that the greatest number of households occurs in the Very Low and Low income tiers is driven by the fact that jobs associated with consumer spending tend to be low-paying, such as food preparation, administrative, and retail sales occupations.

#### 4. Nexus Supported Maximum Fee Levels

The next step in the nexus analysis takes the number of households in the lower income categories associated with the market rate units and identifies the total subsidy required to make housing affordable. This is done for each of the prototype units to establish the 'total nexus cost,' which is the Maximum Supported Impact Fee conclusion of the analysis. For the purposes of the analysis, KMA assumes that affordable housing fee revenues will be used to subsidize affordable rental units for households earning less than 80% of median income, and to subsidize affordable ownership units for households earning between 80% and 120% of median income. Affordability gaps are calculated for each of the income tiers; the nexus costs are calculated by multiplying the affordability gaps by the number of households in each income level.

The Maximum Supported Impact Fees are calculated at the per-unit level and the per-square-foot level and are shown in the table below.

Maximum Supported Residential Impact Fees, City of Santa Clara				
	Single Family	Townhome	Condominium	Apartments
Per Market Rate Unit	\$71,800	\$66,800	\$51,700	\$43,400
Per Square Foot*	\$36.00	\$39.30	\$41.40	\$48.30

\* Applies to net rentable / sellable area exclusive of garage space, external corridors and other common areas.

These costs express the maximum supported impact fees for the four residential prototype developments in Santa Clara. These findings are **not** recommended fee levels.

#### B. Non-Residential Nexus Analysis Summary

The non-residential nexus analysis quantifies and documents the impact of the construction of new workplace buildings (office, retail, hotels, etc.) on the demand for affordable housing. It is conducted to support the consideration of a new affordable housing impact fee or commercial linkage fee applicable to non-residential development in the City of Santa Clara.

Full documentation of the nexus analysis is contained in the report entitled Non-Residential Nexus Analysis.

The workplace buildings that are the subject of this analysis represent a cross section of typical commercial buildings developed in Santa Clara in recent years and expected to be built in the near term future. For purposes of the analysis, the following six building types were identified:

- Office
- High Tech Office
- Hotel
- Retail / Restaurant / Service
- Light Industrial
- Warehouse



The nexus analysis links new non-residential buildings with new workers; these workers demand additional housing, a portion of which needs to be affordable to the workers in lower income households. The analysis begins by assuming a 100,000 square foot building for each of the six building types and then makes the following calculations:

- The total number of employees working in the building is estimated based on average employment density data.
- Occupation and income information for typical job types in the building are used to calculate how many of those jobs pay compensation at the levels addressed in the analysis. Compensation data is from California EDD and is specific to Santa Clara County. Worker occupations by building type are derived from the 2014 Occupational Employment Survey by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- New jobs are adjusted to new households, using Santa Clara County demographics on the number of workers per household. We know from the Census that many workers are members of households where more than one person is employed and there is also a range of household sizes; we use factors derived from the Census to translate the number of workers into households of various size. Household income is calculated depending on the number of workers per household.
- The number of Extremely Low-, Very Low-, Low-, and Moderate-Income households generated by the new development is calculated and divided by the 100,000 square foot building size to arrive at coefficients of housing units per square foot of building area. The household income categories addressed in the analysis are the same as those in the Residential Nexus Analysis.
- The number of lower income households per square foot is multiplied by the affordability gap, or the cost of delivering housing units affordable to these income groups. This is the Maximum Supported Impact Fee for the non-residential land uses.

The Maximum Supported Impact Fees for the six building types are as follows:

Building Type	Maximum Supported Fee Per Square Foot
Office	\$142.70
High Tech Office	\$158.80
Retail	\$268.00
Hotel	\$128.70
Light Industrial	\$149.60
Warehouse	\$47.80

Note: Nexus findings are not recommended fee levels. See Non-Residential Nexus Analysis for detail.

The results of the analysis are heavily driven by the density of employees within buildings in combination with the occupational make-up of the workers in the buildings. Retail has both high employment density and a high proportion of low paying jobs.

These figures express the maximum supported impact fee per square foot for the six building types. They are not recommended levels for fees; they represent only the maximums established by this analysis, below which impact fees may be set.

#### IV. CONTEXT MATERIALS

The purpose of this section is to provide information that may be useful to policy makers in considering potential amendments to the City's affordable housing requirements for residential development and potential adoption of a new affordable housing impact fee applicable to non-residential development. The following analyses and summary materials are included:

- **Multifamily Apartment Feasibility Analysis** – Section A. presents the analysis and findings regarding the financial feasibility of new multifamily market rate apartments;
- **Inclusionary Program Compliance Costs** – Section B. analyzes the cost to a market rate residential project of complying with the City's existing inclusionary policy;
- **Residential Affordable Housing Requirements in Other Jurisdictions** – Section C. provides a summary of inclusionary and impact fee requirements in other Santa Clara and Alameda county jurisdictions;
- **Non-Residential Development Cost Context** – Section D. evaluates total development costs associated with four prototypical building types to facilitate an evaluation of whether fee amounts are likely to affect development decisions; and
- **Jobs Housing Linkage Fee Programs in Other Jurisdictions** – Section E. provides information regarding adopted linkage fee programs in jurisdictions throughout the Bay Area and elsewhere in California.

##### A. Multifamily Apartment Financial Feasibility Analysis

In adopting or amending affordable housing requirements, cities typically consider a variety of public policy goals including seeking a balance between producing a meaningful amount of new affordable units and establishing requirements at a level that can be sustained by new market rate projects. This section addresses the potential impacts that new housing impact fees could have on the feasibility of new multi-family apartment projects. The analysis is specific to the cities of Santa Clara and Milpitas.

The financial feasibility analysis is focused on rental projects because the City's inclusionary housing policy for rental projects has not been enforceable since the 2009 *Palmer* decision, except through negotiation, and adoption of a new rental impact fee would represent an additional cost that would need to be absorbed within the economics of rental projects. In contrast, feasibility of for-sale projects was not analyzed as the City's inclusionary housing policy is already reflected in development economics of new for-sale projects.

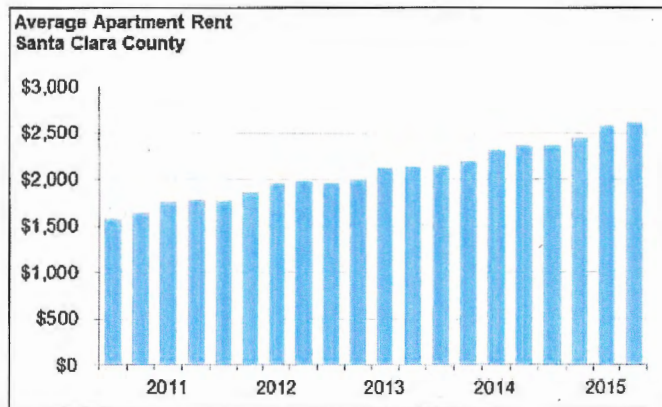


Before describing the feasibility analysis, it is useful to put the feasibility analysis into perspective by summarizing how it can be used and where limitations exist in its ability to inform a longer-term policy direction:

- **Prototypical Nature of Analysis** – This financial feasibility analysis, by its nature, can only provide a general assessment of development economics because it is based on prototypical projects rather than specific projects. Every project has unique characteristics that will dictate rents supported by the market as well as development costs and developer return requirements. This feasibility analysis is intended to reflect prototypical apartment projects in the cities of Santa Clara and Milpitas but it is recognized that the economics of some projects will likely look better and some likely worse than those of the prototype analyzed.
- **Near Term Time Horizon** – This feasibility analysis is a snapshot of real estate market conditions as of early 2016. The analysis is most informative regarding near term implications a housing impact fee could have for projects that have already purchased sites and are currently in the pre-development stages. Real estate development economics are fluid and are impacted by constantly changing conditions regarding rent potential, construction costs, land costs, and costs of financing. A year or two from now, conditions will undoubtedly be different.
- **Adjustments to Land Costs over Time** – Developers purchase development sites at values that will allow for financially feasible projects. If a housing fee is put in place, developers will “price in” the requirement when evaluating a project’s economics and negotiating the purchase price for development sites. Given that the requirements will apply to all or most projects, it is possible that downward pressure on land costs could result as developers adjust what they can afford to pay for land. This downward pressure on land prices can, at least to some degree, bring costs back into better balance with the overall economics supported by projects.

#### *Apartment Market Context*

Like most parts of the Bay Area, Santa Clara County has experienced improving apartment market conditions (for new development) in recent years as exhibited by rising rents and occupancy rates. The improvement in market conditions is attributable to robust regional job growth and the overall strength of the regional economy.



Source: RealAnswers

Many parts of Santa Clara County have experienced significant new investment in market rate apartment development in recent years due to the rapid rise in job growth and apartment rental rates as well as the availability of low cost investment capital (debt and equity).

*Financial Feasibility Analysis*

The financial feasibility analysis estimates the costs to develop a new apartment project and the rental income that could be generated by the project upon completion. If the rental income is sufficient to support the development costs and generate a sufficient profit margin, the project is considered feasible. This approach to financial feasibility, known as a pro forma approach or income approach, is common practice in the real estate industry and is utilized in one form or another by all developers when analyzing new construction projects.

This analysis organizes the pro forma as a "land residual analysis", meaning the pro forma solves for what the project can afford to pay for a development site based on the income projections and the non-land acquisition costs of the project. It then compares the residual land values with land costs in the current market in order to test whether developers can afford to buy land and develop projects. The following describes the assumptions utilized in the analysis and the conclusions drawn therefrom.

- The direct construction costs of development include all contractor labor and material costs to construct the project including general requirements, contractor fees, and contingencies. As shown in Table 1 below, the direct construction costs are estimated at \$288,000/unit. This estimate has been made based on third party construction data sources, such as RS Means, and by cost estimates for similar building types elsewhere in the market. Indirect costs of development include architecture and engineering (A&E) costs, municipal fees and permits costs, taxes, insurance, overhead, and debt financing costs. These costs have been estimated at \$104,000/unit.

- Rental income for the apartment prototype has been estimated based on apartment rent comps. Rents are estimated at \$3,100/month, or \$3.44/square foot/month. After a vacancy factor, operating expenses, and property taxes, the net operating income (NOI) is estimated at \$26,400/unit/year. Using this NOI and applying a 5.5% project return, the project value/supported investment is estimated at \$480,000/unit.
- The residual land value is derived by subtracting the development costs before land acquisition from the project value/supported investment. As shown in Table 1, the residual land value without a housing fee for the apartment prototype at 60 units per acre is approximately \$88,000/unit or \$121/square foot of land area.

Once the residual land values have been estimated, the values can be compared to prevailing land values in the market to determine whether the prototypes are financially feasible. In other words, if the residual land values are equal to or higher than market land values, then projects are generally feasible. Conversely, if the residual land values are less than market land values, some improvement in market conditions (lower development costs or higher housing values) will be needed for feasibility.

#### *Land Value Supported*

The feasibility analysis summarized in Table 1 on the next page indicates that apartment projects in the City of Santa Clara, assumed at 60 units per acre on average, can afford to pay on average \$121/square foot for land with no affordable housing fee in place. The analysis also tested the land value supported with illustrative fee scenarios of \$10 to \$40 per net square foot. As shown, the supported land value decreases by approximately \$12 - \$13 per square foot of land for each \$10 per square foot in fees added. The highest illustrative fee tested of \$40 per square foot, which is approaching the maximum supported by the nexus, is estimated to bring the residual land values down to \$72 per square foot.

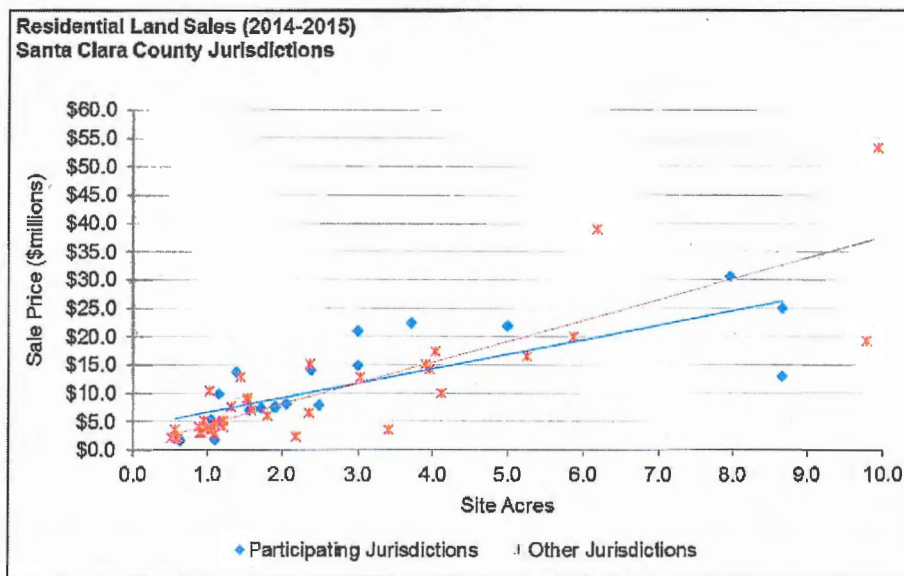


**Table 1. Summary of Apartment Feasibility Analysis  
East Santa Clara County Jurisdictions**

Program		
Average Unit Size	900 sf (NSF)	
Average Bedrooms	1.5 bedrooms	
Density	60 du/acre	
Parking	Structure	
Development Costs	\$/NSF	Total
<u>Directs</u>	\$320	\$288,000
<u>Indirects</u>		
A&E	\$16	\$14,000
Fees & Permits (excl. Affordable)	\$42	\$38,000
Overhead & Administration	\$13	\$12,000
Other Indirects	\$29	\$26,000
Debt Financing Costs	\$16	\$14,000
Total Indirects	\$116	\$104,000
Total Costs before Land	\$436	\$392,000
Operating Income	\$/NSF	Total
Gross Income (\$3,100 rent + other income)	\$43	\$38,500
(Less) Vacancy (5%)	(\$2)	(\$1,900)
(Less) Operating Expenses & Taxes	(\$11)	(\$10,200)
Net Operating Income (NOI)	\$29	\$26,400
Threshold Return on Cost	5.50% ROC	
Total Supported Private Investment	\$533	\$480,000
Residual Land Value	\$/Land SF	\$/Unit
Land Value: No Affordable Housing Fee	\$121	\$88,000
<u>Land Values With Illustrative Fee Scenarios</u>		
<i>Illustrative Fee at \$10/square foot</i>	\$109	\$79,000
<i>Illustrative Fee at \$20/square foot</i>	\$96	\$70,000
<i>Illustrative Fee at \$30/square foot</i>	\$84	\$61,000
<i>Illustrative Fee at \$40/square foot</i>	\$72	\$52,000

### Prevailing Land Values

In order to assess prevailing land values for residential development, KMA reviewed relevant land sale comparables (comps) in 2014 and 2015 as well as recent residential land appraisals. The median sale price of the land comps located within the participating Santa Clara County jurisdictions was \$92/square foot. In general, land values will be higher in superior locations such as those with convenient proximity to job centers, public transit, retail and commercial services, and freeway access, as well as for sites that are of ideal size and configuration and have appropriate entitlements for near-term residential development.



Land sales in participating jurisdictions include cities of Santa Clara, Milpitas, Campbell, and Saratoga. Median sale price in participating jurisdictions = \$92/square foot. Land sales in other jurisdictions include Mountain View, Sunnyvale, San Jose, and Cupertino.

Based on the fact that the land sales reviewed for this analysis occurred in 2014 and 2015, the values today would be higher after accounting for land value appreciation. We estimate land values are in the \$100 to \$120 per square foot range, or within the same range as the \$121 per square foot land value supported by the economics of new multifamily apartment projects as estimated in Table 1. As noted in the beginning of this section, due to the prototype approach to this analysis, some apartment projects will probably support a somewhat higher land value and some projects will support a somewhat lower land value based on location, site, and other individual project considerations.

### Feasibility Conclusion

The analysis indicates that the economics of multifamily rental projects are strong under current market conditions and that projects are generally feasible. This finding is consistent with recent

development activity in Santa Clara and Milpitas which includes several recently completed apartment projects with additional rental projects currently under construction.

*Potential Market Adjustments to Absorb New Fees*

In a strong market, developers are often faced with increasing competition for building sites. These conditions can drive up the cost of land and will have a tendency to absorb any "surplus" projects might have had in their economics. Construction costs can also rise when development activity is strong. As a result, even under the strongest of conditions, projects usually do not have a "surplus" in their pro formas available to absorb new fees. However, markets are able to adjust to new fees just as they adjust to other changing market conditions such as rents and construction costs. Just as strong feasibility conditions contribute to increasing land prices, a new fee can contribute to downward pressure on land prices as developers must build the new fee into the economics of their projects and may adjust what they are willing to pay for land as a result. This can help offset, at least to some degree, the increased cost of a new fee.

Since the feasibility analysis is a snapshot in time analysis based on current market conditions, it can be instructive to consider how relatively modest improvements in project economics (e.g. continued strong increases in rents paired with more moderated increases in construction costs) can help to absorb a new fee. By way of illustration, a \$20/square foot fee could be absorbed by any of the following market adjustments:

- An approximately 3% increase in rents
- An approximately 6% decrease in direct construction costs
- An approximately 21% decrease in land costs

Additional examples of potential market adjustments at illustrative fee levels of \$1, \$10, \$30 and \$40 per square foot are shown in the table below. These calculations can be made for any fee level that may be considered.

Potential Market Adjustments to Absorb Illustrative Fee Levels					
	<u>Each \$1 Fee</u>	<u>\$10 Fee</u>	<u>\$20 Fee</u>	<u>\$30 Fee</u>	<u>\$40 Fee</u>
Increase in Rents/Income	0.14%	1.4%	2.8%	4.2%	5.6%
Decrease in Direct Costs	0.31%	3.1%	6.3%	9.4%	12.5%
Decrease in Land Values (based on \$120/sf)	1.02%	10.2%	20.5%	30.7%	40.9%



## **B. On-Site Compliance Cost Analysis**

The inclusionary policy in Santa Clara requires developers of new for-sale projects to set aside 10% of units as affordable. KMA estimated the foregone revenue for the developer when units are sold at affordable prices (assumed at the moderate income level for purposes of the estimate); this is referred to as the 'onsite compliance costs.' KMA notes that the 'cost' is compared to the hypothetical condition of no requirement. As Santa Clara has long had its inclusionary policy in place, land values for residential development have adjusted to absorb this cost, as any developer acquiring land knows how the obligation will affect their project's economics. A primary purpose of the onsite compliance analysis is to enable an understanding of the cost associated with complying with the City's existing inclusionary policy, which is often useful as context for consideration of potential fee obligations.

KMA modeled the City's current policy of requiring 10% of the units as affordable. Table 2 presents our estimates of onsite compliance costs for ownership units. With current market rate sales prices, the cost to a developer associated with designating 10% of units at Moderate ranges from \$37,000 to \$68,000 per market rate unit or \$30 to \$34 per net square foot, depending on the prototype. Rental projects were not included in the analysis because inclusionary requirements for rentals have not been enforceable since the 2009 Palmer decision (except through negotiation). These figures should not be interpreted as recommended fee levels.

**TABLE 2  
 COST OF ONSITE COMPLIANCE AND EQUIVALENT IN-LIEU FEES  
 RESIDENTIAL NEXUS ANALYSIS  
 CITY OF SANTA CLARA, CA**

Working Draft

	Prototype 1 Single Family Detached		Prototype 2 Townhome		Prototype 3 Condominium	
Unit Size <sup>1</sup>	2,000 sq ft		1,700 sq ft		1,250 sq ft	
Number of Bedrooms <sup>1</sup>	3.5		3		2	
<b>Market Rate</b>	<i>Per SF</i>	<i>Per Unit</i>	<i>Per SF</i>	<i>Per Unit</i>	<i>Per SF</i>	<i>Per Unit</i>
Sales Prices <sup>1</sup>	\$550	\$1,100,000	\$559	\$950,000	\$580	\$725,000
<b>Affordable Prices<sup>2</sup></b>		<i>Per Unit</i>		<i>Per Unit</i>		<i>Per Unit</i>
At Moderate Income (110%)		\$420,875		\$407,050		\$354,850
<b>Affordability Gap<sup>3</sup></b>		<i>Per Unit</i>		<i>Per Unit</i>		<i>Per Unit</i>
Per Affordable Moderate Unit		\$679,125		\$542,950		\$370,150
<b>Cost of Onsite Compliance - Market Rate Units</b>	<i>Per SF</i>	<i>Per Unit</i>	<i>Per SF</i>	<i>Per Unit</i>	<i>Per SF</i>	<i>Per Unit</i>
Inclusionary Percentage @ 10.0% Mod	\$34	\$67,913	\$32	\$54,295	\$30	\$37,015

1. See Residential Nexus Analysis Table A-1.

2. Estimate calculated by KMA based on standard affordable pricing assumptions and may not reflect City's methodology.

3. The difference between the market rate sales prices and the restricted affordable price.

**TABLE 2A  
ESTIMATED AFFORDABLE HOME PRICES - Moderate Income  
RESIDENTIAL NEXUS ANALYSIS  
CITY OF SANTA CLARA, CA**

WORKING DRAFT

	Condo	Townhome	SFD	SFD
Unit Size	2-Bedroom Unit	3-Bedroom Unit	3-Bedroom Unit	4-Bedroom Unit
Household Size	3-person HH	4-person HH	4-person HH	5-person HH
100% AMI Santa Clara County 2016	\$96,400	\$107,100	\$107,100	\$115,650
Annual Income @ 110%	\$106,040	\$117,810	\$117,810	\$127,215
% for Housing Costs	35%	35%	35%	35%
Available for Housing Costs	\$37,114	\$41,234	\$41,234	\$44,525
(Less) Property Taxes	(\$4,083)	(\$4,681)	(\$4,658)	(\$5,014)
(Less) HOA	(\$4,200)	(\$3,000)	(\$1,800)	(\$1,800)
(Less) Utilities	(\$1,116)	(\$1,776)	(\$3,144)	(\$3,552)
(Less) Insurance	(\$700)	(\$800)	(\$800)	(\$900)
(Less) Mortgage Insurance	(\$4,550)	(\$5,211)	(\$5,198)	(\$5,603)
Income Available for Mortgage	\$22,466	\$25,766	\$25,635	\$27,657
Mortgage Amount	\$337,100	\$386,700	\$384,700	\$415,000
Down Payment (homebuyer cash)	\$17,750	\$20,350	\$20,250	\$21,800
Supported Home Price	\$354,850	\$407,050	\$404,950	\$436,800
<b>Key Assumptions</b>				
- Mortgage Interest Rate <sup>(1)</sup>	5.30%	5.30%	5.30%	5.30%
- Down Payment <sup>(2)</sup>	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
- Property Taxes (% of sales price) <sup>(3)</sup>	1.15%	1.15%	1.15%	1.15%
- HOA (per month) <sup>(4)</sup>	\$350	\$250	\$150	\$150
- Utilities (per month) <sup>(5)</sup>	\$93	\$148	\$262	\$296
- Mortgage Insurance (% of loan amount)	1.35%	1.35%	1.35%	1.35%

<sup>(1)</sup> Mortgage interest rate based on 15-year Freddie Mac average; assumes 30-year fixed rate mortgage.

<sup>(2)</sup> Down payment amount is an estimate for Moderate Income homebuyers.

<sup>(3)</sup> Property tax rate is an estimated average for new projects.

<sup>(4)</sup> Homeowners Association (HOA) dues is an estimate for the average new project.

<sup>(5)</sup> Utility allowances from Santa Clara County Housing Authority (2016).



### **C. Residential Affordable Housing Requirements in Other Jurisdictions**

The affordable housing requirements adopted by other jurisdictions are almost always of interest to decision making bodies. Cities inevitably want to know what their neighbors have in place for affordable housing requirements, and often want to examine other cities that are viewed as comparable on some level. The body of information on other programs not only presents what others are adopting, but also illustrates the broad range in program design and customized features available to meet local needs.

The work program design for Multi Jurisdiction Nexus Studies anticipated wide interest in the comparison jurisdictions to be covered. To keep the comparison task manageable, the participating cities and counties voted as to which cities were of greatest interest for inclusion in the comparison survey. For the most part, the participants selected their neighbors and the larger cities of the local region as being of most interest. It was a given that the existing requirements of all participant cities and counties would also be included. Ultimately, eight cities in Santa Clara County and ten cities in Alameda County were selected for inclusion in the comparison material.

A four-page chart summarizes the key features of the eighteen cities in the survey. Neither of the two participating counties have yet adopted affordable housing requirements. The chart was designed to focus on the major components of each city's program that would be most relevant to decision making by the participating jurisdictions, primarily the thresholds, the fee levels and on-site affordable unit requirements.

#### **1. Findings from the Survey**

##### *Thresholds for On-Site Affordable Requirement*

- Whether or not for-sale development projects have the choice "as of right" between paying a fee or doing on-site units is a critical feature of any program. In the eight Santa Clara jurisdictions, six require on-site units and offer no fee "buy out" without a special City Council procedure. Only San Jose and Milpitas offer the fee choice at this time. In contrast, of the ten Alameda jurisdictions, most offer fee payment "as of right."
- Most fee options are less costly to the developer than providing on-site units. High fees are necessary if the choice between building units or paying fees is to be at all competitive. The high fee cities, such as Fremont, aim to present a real choice and achieve some on-site compliance units as well as fee revenues.
- With the loss of redevelopment and tax increment resources dedicated to housing, many cities have revised their programs to generate more fee revenues. Programs can be revised to so as to alter options or incentives for projects to provide on-site units versus pay a fee based on the City's preferences.

- The loss of redevelopment has also motivated some cities to lower minimum project sizes to collect fees on very small projects, even single units. Several Santa Clara cities in the chart have adjusted their thresholds down to three to five units for fee payment, and the recently updated Cupertino program goes down to single units. The nexus analysis fully demonstrates the impact generated by single units, and as a result, some cities view charging very small projects and single units a matter of fairness and equity in an “everybody contributes” approach to meeting affordable housing challenges.
- Following the *Palmer* decision, impact fees have been the only avenue for instituting affordable housing requirements on rentals. On-site affordable units are sometimes permitted or encouraged as an alternative to fee payment.

#### *Fee Levels*

- Impact fee levels for rentals in the cities of north and west Santa Clara County cluster in the \$15 to \$20 per square foot range for rentals, notably San Jose, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and Cupertino. Most other cities have not yet adopted impact fees on rentals.
- Fees on for sale units, where permitted, in the Santa Clara cities reflect a range of approaches and levels. Several Silicon Valley cities charge fees as a percent of sales price, a practice not used much outside of Silicon Valley. The percent of sales prices reflects the higher impacts of higher priced units, borne out in the nexus analysis. The approach also scales fees in proportion to the revenue projects would forgo were a portion of units to be made affordable on-site.
- In the East Bay, Fremont is notable for its higher fees and obligation to provide both units and pay fees. To the north of Fremont, the cities of Hayward and Union City have lower fee structures. Oakland is a new adoption that will phase in fees up to \$23,000 per market rate unit, less than Berkeley but higher than neighbors to the south.
- East of the hills, some programs like Pleasanton, have been in place for decades but are more modest than most of the newer ones. Dublin is, in many ways, its own special case, with vigorous development activity and affordable unit requirements.

#### *On-Site Requirements*

- The Santa Clara cities (excluding Milpitas) have programs in the 10% to 20% range, with 15% most common.
- For the Santa Clara County programs, the affordability level applicable to for-sale projects is usually in the moderate income range, with pricing of on-site units ranging

from 90% to 120% AMI, depending on the city. A few cities do seek some units down to Low Income.

- In Alameda cities, on-site requirements are most commonly at the 15% level. Berkeley has a 20% requirement, while Hayward and Oakland have lower requirements. The Fremont percentage is lower but a fee is owed in addition to on-site units.

## 2. Other General Comments

- Impact / in-lieu fees are presented at adopted levels. Where a multi-year phase-in has been adopted, such as the new Oakland program, the full phase in amount is shown with clarification in the bottom comment section of the chart. Fees on rentals are included only when they have been adopted as impact fees, following the *Palmer* California Supreme Court ruling which precludes on-site requirements and their in-lieu fee alternatives.
- Fees are expressed in different ways from one city to the next. Some fees are charged per square foot, some are a flat fee per market rate unit, and some are charged per affordable unit owed, which is almost always over \$100,000 in the Bay Area. To convert per unit owed to per market rate unit, one can multiply the per unit amount by the percentage requirement.
- On-Site Requirement/Option for Rentals. Many city codes continue to include on-site requirement language for rental projects because codes have not been updated since the *Palmer* ruling and requirements are not being applied (except through negotiation). These requirements are not included in the chart.
- The income levels of the affordable units that are required are summarized in terms of both "eligibility" or "qualifying" levels and the pricing level that is used to establish the purchase price or rent level of the unit. The pricing level is the critical one insofar as the developer's obligation is concerned. The most typical choice for pricing level is to be consistent with the affordable housing cost definitions in the California Health & Safety Code 50052.5 and 50053.
- Virtually all cities that have on-site requirements for for-sale residential projects without the choice of fee payment, do allow fee payment with special City Council approval. Therefore, the chart notes this feature only by way of a footnote. The City's practice in granting such approvals may be more consequential than what may be written.

For more complete information on the programs, please consult the website and code language of the individual cities.

TABLE 3  
 COMPARISON OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS - RESIDENTIAL  
 PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS: SANTA CLARA COUNTY<sup>1</sup>  
 AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEXUS ANALYSES

Draft

	Campbell 2006	Los Altos Est. 1995, update 2009	Millpitas 2015	Santa Clara City Est. 1991, update 2006
Year Adopted / Updated				
Minimum Project Size				
For In-lieu/Impact Fee	FS, <6du/Ac: 10 units FS, >6 du/Ac: n/a	n/a	FS/R: 5 units	n/a
For Build Requirement	FS, <6du/Ac: n/a FS, >6du/Ac: 10 units	FS: 5 units	no build req.	FS: 10 units
Impact / In-Lieu Fee	FS: \$34.50 /sf	none	FS/R: 5% building permit value	FS: Fractional units only (Market Value - Affordable Price) x fractional unit
Onsite Requirement/Option				
Percent of Total Units	FS: 15%	FS: 10%	FS/R: 5%	FS: 10%
Income Level for Qualification	FS: Moderate	FS: Moderate If <10 units, one unit at Low.	FS/R: Low and Very Low	FS: Moderate
Income Level for Pricing(% AMI)	FS: Moderate @ 110%	Not Specified.	Not specified.	Not specified.
Fractional Units	<0.5: round down, >0.5: round up	provide unit	not specified	pay fee or provide unit
Comments		<4 du/Ac: no requirement. Also, requirements may be waived by City Council for projects of 9 units or less.	In-lieu/impact fee introduced as temporary measure while City prepares formal nexus study. Fee has not yet been assessed.	

Abbreviations: R = Rental      du = Dwelling Unit      FS = For Sale      Ac = Acre      /sf = per square foot      AMI = Area Median Income      MF = Multi-Family      SF = Single Family

1. Santa Clara County and Saratoga do not currently have an inclusionary housing requirement.

Notes: This chart presents an overview, and as a result, terms are simplified. For use other than general comparison, please consult the code and staff of the jurisdiction. Virtually all cities that do not allow fee payment by right allow developers to seek Council approval of fee payment instead of on-site units, in addition to providing options for off-site construction and land dedication.



**TABLE 3**  
**COMPARISON OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS - RESIDENTIAL**  
**NON-PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS: SANTA CLARA COUNTY**  
**AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEXUS ANALYSES**

Draft

	<b>Cupertino</b>	<b>Mountain View</b>	<b>San Jose</b>	<b>Sunnyvale</b>
<b>Year Adopted / Updated</b>	Est. 1992, update 2015	Est. 1999, rental impact fee in 2012, update 2015	Est. 2010. Rental Fee 2014.	Update 2015
<b>Minimum Project Size</b>				
For In-lieu/Impact Fee	FS/R: 1 unit	FS: 3 units R: 5 units	FS: 20 units R: 3 units	FS: 8 units R: 4 units
For Build Requirement	FS: 7 units	Mixed FS/R: 6 units FS: 10 units	no build req.	FS: 20 units
<b>Impact / In-Lieu Fee</b>	FS: Detached \$15/sf, Attached \$16.50/sf, MF \$20/sf R: <35 du/Ac \$20/sf, >35 du/Ac \$25/sf	FS: 3% of sales price R: \$17/sf	FS: based on affordability gap R: \$17 /sf	FS: 7% of sales price R: \$8.50/sf (4-7 units), \$17/sf (8+ units)
<b>Onsite Requirement/Option</b>				
Percent of Total Units	FS/R: 15%	FS/R: 10%	FS: 15%	FS: 12.5% R: On-site credits (see below)
Income Level for Qualification	FS: 1/2 Median 1/2 Moderate R: 40% Low, 60% Very Low	FS: Median R: Low	FS: Moderate	FS: Moderate
Income Level for Pricing(% AMI)	FS: Moderate @ 110%, Median @ 90% R: Low @ 60%, Very Low @ 50% AMI	FS: One unit: 90% AMI Multiple units: 80 - 100% AMI R: Ranges btwn 50-80% AMI	Moderate @ 110% AMI	Moderate @ 100% AMI
<b>Fractional Units</b>	<.5 unit owed: pay fee .5+ unit owed: round up	pay fee or provide unit	R: pay fee FS: pay fee or provide unit	pay fee or provide unit
<b>Comments</b>			Inclusionary zoning to be reinstated 2016. Downtown highrises exempt from impact fee for five years.	On-site rental: developer credited \$300,000/du (Very Low), \$150,000/du (Low). Projects with fewer than 20 units are eligible to pay in-lieu fee.

Abbreviations: R = Rental      du = Dwelling Unit      FS = For Sale      Ac = Acre      /sf = per square foot      AMI = Area Median Income      MF = Multi-Family      SF = Single Family

**Notes:** This chart presents an overview, and as a result, terms are simplified. For use other than general comparison, please consult the code and staff of the jurisdiction. Virtually all cities that do not allow fee payment by right allow developers to seek Council approval of fee payment instead of on-site units, in addition to providing options for off-site construction and land dedication.

TABLE 3  
 COMPARISON OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS - RESIDENTIAL  
 PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS: ALAMEDA COUNTY<sup>1</sup>  
 AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEXUS ANALYSES

Draft

Year Adopted / Updated	Albany 2005	Fremont Est. 2002, update 2015, full phase-in 2017	Hayward Update 2015	San Leandro 2004	Union City Est. 2001, update 2005
Minimum Project Size For In-lieu/Impact Fee For Build Requirement	FS: 5 units FS: 7 units	FS/R: 2 units no build req.	FS/R: 20 units no build req.	FS: 2 units FS: 7 units	n/a FS: 1 unit
Impact / In-lieu Fee	FS: (Market Value - Affordable Price) x units owed	FS: Attached \$27.00 no units, \$18.50 w/ aff units Detached \$26.00 no units, \$17.50 w/ aff units, R: \$17.50 no map, \$27.00 w/ map.	FS: Attached \$9.24/sf, Detached \$4/sf R: \$9.24/sf	FS: (Median Sale Price - Affordable Price) x units owed	FS: <7 units: \$160,000 /du owed, 7+ units: \$160 /sf owed
Onsite Requirement/Option Percent of Total Units	FS: 15%	FS: Attached 3.5% plus \$18.50/sf Detached 4.5% plus \$17.50/sf R: 12.9%	FS: Attached 7.5%, Detached 10% R: Attached 7.5%, Detached 10%	FS: 15%	FS: 15%
Income Level for Qualification	FS: <10 units: Low 10+ units: 50% Low, 50% Very Low	FS: Moderate Income R: 19% Extremely Low, 33% Very Low, 25% Low, 24% Moderate	FS: Moderate Income R: 50% Low, 50% Very Low	FS: 60% Moderate, 40% Low	FS: 60% Moderate, 30% Median, 10% Low.
Income Level for Pricing(% AMI)	Not specified.	FS: Moderate @ 110% AMI (120% w/approval) R: Low @ 60% AMI, Very Low @ 50% AMI, Extremely Low @ 30% AMI	FS: Moderate @ 110% AMI R: Low @ 60% AMI Very Low @ 50% AMI	FS: Moderate @ 110% AMI, Low @ 70% AMI	FS: Moderate @ 110% AMI, Median not specified (80-100%) Low @ 70% AMI
Fractional Units	<0.5: pay fee, >0.5: provide unit	pay fee or provide unit	pay fee or provide unit	<0.5: round down, >0.5: round up	pay fee or provide unit
Comments		Full phase-in levels shown. Rental projects with a subdivision map pay the higher fee. FS projects req. to provide onsite units and pay fee.		Fee calculated based on current median sales price. No fees owed since 2008.	Fee payment with City approval only. Single-unit, owner occupied projects exempt.

Abbreviations: R = Rental /sf = per square foot MF = Multi-Family  
 du = Dwelling Unit Ac = Acre AMI = Area Median Income SF = Single Family

1. Alameda County (not displayed) does not currently have an affordable housing requirement.

Notes: This chart presents an overview, and as a result, terms are simplified. For use other than general comparison, please consult the code and staff of the jurisdiction.

Virtually all cities that do not allow fee payment by right allow developers to seek Council approval of fee payment instead of on-site units, in addition to providing options for off-site construction and land dedication.

TABLE 3  
COMPARISON OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING REQUIREMENTS - RESIDENTIAL  
NON-PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS: ALAMEDA COUNTY  
AFFORDABLE HOUSING NEXUS ANALYSES

Draft

	Alameda (city)	Berkeley	Dublin	Oakland	Pleasanton
Year Adopted / Updated	2003	Est. 1986, rental fee 2011, update proposed 2016	Est. 1997, update 2005	2016	Est. 1978, update 2000.
Minimum Project Size					
For In-lieu/Impact Fee	FS: 5 units	FS/R: 5 units	FS/R: 20 units	FS/R: 1 unit	FS/R: 15 units
For Build Requirement	FS: 10 units	no build req.	FS/R: 20 units (partial)	no build req.	no build req.
Impact / In-lieu Fee	FS: \$18,431/du	FS: 62.5% x (Sale Price - Affordable Price) x units owed R: Current \$28,000/du Proposed \$34,000/du	FS/R: \$127,061 per aff unit owed (in addition to on-site)	FS/R: MF \$12,000-\$22,000, SF Attached \$8,000-\$20,000, SF Detached \$8,000-\$23,000	FS/R: MF \$2,783/du, SF <1,500 sq ft: \$2,783/du, >1,500 sq ft: \$11,228/du
Onsite Requirement/Option					
Percent of Total Units	FS: 15%	FS: 20% R: Current 10%, Proposed 20%	FS/R: 7.5%, plus fee (12.5% without fee)	FS/R: Option A 5% or Option B 10%	FS/R: MF 15% SF 20%
Income Level for Qualification	FS: 47% Moderate, 27% Low, 27% Very Low	FS: Low R: Current Very Low Proposed 1/2 Very Low, 1/2 Low	FS: 60% Moderate, 40% Low R: 50% Moderate, 20% Low, 30% Very Low	FS/R: Option A Very Low Option B Low end Moderate	FS: MF Low SF Moderate
Income Level for Pricing(% AMI)	FS: Moderate @ 110%, Low @ 70%, Very Low @ 50%	FS: Low @ 80% R: Low at 81%, Very Low at 50%	FS: Moderate @ 110%, Low @ 70% R: Moderate @ 110%, Low @ 80%, Very Low @ 50%	FS: Moderate @ 110%, Low @ 70%, Very Low @ 50% R: Moderate 110%, Low @ 50%, Very Low @ 50%	FS: MF 80% AMI SF 120% AMI
Fractional Units	<0.5: round down, >0.5: round up	pay fee	<0.5: round down, >0.5: round up	pay fee or provide unit	<0.5: round down, >0.5: round up
Comments		Council has directed City Manager to draft ordinance with proposed changes to rental program.		Fees vary by neighborhood. Fees phased in through 2020. Full fee levels shown. On-site: May choose Option A or B. Based on draft ordinance prepared for April 19, 2016 council meeting.	

Abbreviations:

R = Rental  
du = Dwelling Unit

FS = For Sale  
Ac = Acre

/sf = per square foot  
AMI = Area Median Income

MF = Multi-Family  
SF = Single Family

**Notes:** This chart presents an overview, and as a result, terms are simplified. For use other than general comparison, please consult the code and staff of the jurisdiction.

Virtually all cities that do not allow fee payment by right allow developers to seek Council approval of fee payment instead of on-site units, in addition to providing options for off-site construction and land dedication.

## **D. Non-Residential Development Cost Context**

The non-residential development cost context analysis considers the impacts a new affordable housing fee could have on the cost of development for new office, retail, hotel, and light industrial projects in Santa Clara County. The analysis enables an understanding of the relative cost burdens new fees have on various types of commercial and industrial development projects and can be useful in scaling fees by type of project.

For commercial and industrial development, the analysis considers the potential fee as a percentage of total development costs rather than the full feasibility analysis included for the multi-family apartments. One of the primary reasons a full feasibility analysis is not performed for the commercial land uses is because there is typically greater variation in the cost and rent structures for commercial projects than for housing projects. Development costs and rents can vary widely for office and retail projects due to the specialized nature of tenant improvements and lease terms from one tenant to another. Costs and revenues also vary widely for hotel projects due to the fact that hotel products range from lower cost limited service and budget hotels to highly amenitized full service and boutique hotels. Finally, affordable housing requirements applicable to non-residential development typically represents a smaller percentage of overall project cost compared to residential requirements. For these reasons, the utility of a full feasibility analysis for commercial projects is generally more limited than for housing projects. Instead an understanding of the total development cost context has generally proved sufficient to guide the selection of fee levels on non-residential projects.

### **1. Commercial Market Context**

Like the residential market, commercial projects in Santa Clara County have experienced strengthening conditions in recent years due to robust job growth and the strength of the overall regional economy. According to a recent market report from Newmark Cornish & Carey, as of Q1 2016 there was about 9.5 million square feet of office development in construction in Silicon Valley out of a total office inventory of 75 million square feet. New retail, hotel and industrial projects are also being built or are in the planning stages in various parts of the county.

### **2. Development Cost Analysis**

For the development cost analysis, KMA utilized the following four commercial prototypes.

- Office development with structured parking at 1.00 floor area ratio (FAR)
- Hotel development with surface and structured parking at 1.00 FAR
- Retail development with surface parking at 0.30 FAR
- Light industrial development with surface parking at 0.40 FAR

In preparing these prototypes it is acknowledged that there could be some differences in overall density from one jurisdiction to another as these prototypes are intended to reflect averages for



the participating jurisdictions in Santa Clara County. However, for purposes of the development cost assessment it is not necessary to analyze every variation of project density or building prototype being built or proposed to be built. The utility of the analysis lies with an understanding of the general range of development costs for new commercial projects and the impact that a new fee can have relative to those costs.

The estimates of total development costs for the commercial prototypes are shown in the following table. The costs include estimates for land acquisition, direct construction costs, and indirect and financing costs of development. In assembling the development cost estimates, KMA utilized a variety of data sources, including the following:

- Land appraisals, CoStar land comps;
- Third party construction cost data sources such as RS Means and Engineering News Record (ENR);
- Pro forma data for current non-residential projects in the Bay Area.

**Non-Residential Development Costs**  
**Santa Clara County Participating Jurisdictions**

	Office		Hotel		Retail		Light Industrial	
Building Square Feet	100,000		75,000		75,000		100,000	
Hotel Rooms			125 rooms					
Parking	Structure		Surface & Structure		Surface		Surface	
FAR	1.00 FAR		1.00 FAR		0.30 FAR		0.40 FAR	
Land Area	2.30 acres		1.72 acres		5.74 acres		5.74 acres	
	<u>\$/SF</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$/SF</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$/SF</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>\$/SF</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Land Acquisition</u>	\$115	\$11,500,000	\$45	\$3,380,000	\$200	\$15,000,000	\$88	\$8,750,000
	\$115 /land sf		\$45 /land sf		\$60 /land sf		\$35 /land sf	
<u>Directs</u>	\$348	\$34,750,000	\$227	\$17,000,000	\$175	\$13,130,000	\$143	\$14,250,000
<u>Indirects</u>								
A&E	\$21	\$2,090,000	\$14	\$1,020,000	\$11	\$790,000	\$9	\$860,000
FF&E/Tenant Improvements	\$59	\$5,850,000	\$58	\$4,380,000	\$36	\$2,700,000	\$19	\$1,900,000
Fees & Permits (excl. Afford)	\$5	\$540,000	\$8	\$590,000	\$7	\$520,000	\$5	\$480,000
Other Indirects & Financing	\$33	\$3,280,000	\$21	\$1,580,000	\$26	\$1,930,000	\$16	\$1,570,000
Total Indirects & Financing	\$118	\$11,760,000	\$101	\$7,570,000	\$79	\$5,940,000	\$48	\$4,810,000
Total Costs	\$580	\$58,010,000	\$373	\$27,950,000	\$454	\$34,070,000	\$278	\$27,810,000
Total Cost Range	\$525 - \$625/sf		\$325 - \$425/sf		\$400 - \$500/sf		\$250 - \$300/sf	

As shown, total development costs for the non-residential prototypes range from a low of approximately \$250-\$300/square foot for the light industrial prototype to a high of approximately \$525-\$625 for the office prototype.

### 3. Affordable Housing Fees Supported

In general, affordable housing fees on non-residential projects fall within a range of 1% to 5% of total development costs, with the upper portion of the range generally reserved for cities that have very strong market conditions driving non-residential development projects. As noted in Section E., current affordable housing fees on non-residential projects are as high as \$20-\$25/square foot (for office projects) in Santa Clara County jurisdictions that have such fees. Current fees for other non-residential projects, such as retail and hotel, tend to be more in the \$5-\$10 / square foot range.

The table below summarizes the range of potential fees on non-residential projects expressed as a percentage of total development cost. As an example, at 3% of total development cost, a new housing fee would range from approximately \$8 / square foot for light industrial uses to \$17/square foot for office uses. As is common in jobs housing linkage fee programs, light industrial projects tend to have lower fees than higher intensity/higher value projects such as office projects because it is generally more difficult for lower cost projects to absorb new fees. Exceptions include some Silicon Valley cities where distinctions between office and industrial have become blurred and both are charged at the same rate.

**Relative Fee Burdens\***

	Office	Hotel	Retail	Light Industrial
Total Cost Range	\$525 - \$625/sf	\$325 - \$425/sf	\$400 - \$500/sf	\$250 - \$300/sf
Fee at 1% of Total Cost	\$5.75	\$3.75	\$4.50	\$2.75
Fee at 2% of Total Cost	\$11.50	\$7.50	\$9.00	\$5.50
Fee at 3% of Total Cost	\$17.25	\$11.25	\$13.50	\$8.25
Fee at 4% of Total Cost	\$23.00	\$15.00	\$18.00	\$11.00
Fee at 5% of Total Cost	\$28.75	\$18.75	\$22.50	\$13.75

\*Fees calculated at 1-5% of mid-point of cost range.

As was done in the apartment feasibility section of this report, the following table summarizes how newly adopted fees can be absorbed by relatively minor improvements in development economics over time. For example, a newly added fee of \$20/square foot for the office prototype could be absorbed by a roughly 3% increase in rental income (\$20/square foot x 0.15%), a roughly 6% decrease in direct construction costs (\$20/square foot x 0.29%), or a roughly 17% decrease in land values (\$20/square foot x 0.87%). It is noted however that construction costs and rents tend to move in the same direction. Therefore, increases in rents would need to exceed increases in costs in order to produce a net gain in a project's economics.

**Potential Market Adjustments to Absorb Every \$1/SF Fee**

	Office	Hotel	Retail	Light Industrial
Increase in Rents/Income	0.15%	0.23%	0.19%	0.31%
Decrease in Direct Costs	0.29%	0.44%	0.57%	0.70%
Decrease in Land Values	0.87%	2.22%	0.50%	1.14%

**E. Jobs Housing Linkage Fees in Other Jurisdictions**

Information on other jobs housing linkage fee programs in nearby or comparable cities is often helpful context in considering new or updated fees. The following section provides information assembled regarding other programs in the Bay Area and elsewhere in California including information on customized features such as size thresholds, exemptions, and build options.

More than 30 cities and counties in California have commercial linkage fees, with the majority of these programs within the Bay Area and greater Sacramento. In Southern California, a few cities have linkage fee programs, of which San Diego is the largest example. Several communities in Massachusetts have linkage fees, including Boston and Cambridge. Seattle recently expanded its linkage fee program city-wide. Boulder, Colorado adopted a new city-wide program last year. Portland and Denver are each in the process of exploring new linkage fee adoptions.

Silicon Valley and the Peninsula, which has some of the strongest real estate market conditions in the Bay Area, is where many of the jurisdictions with the highest fee levels are found. For office, fee levels range from \$15 (Sunnyvale) to \$25 per square foot (Mountain View). Several cities have recently updated fee levels (Cupertino, Mountain View, Sunnyvale), or newly adopted fees (Redwood City). For retail and hotel, fee ranges are much broader as some jurisdictions have adopted similar fee levels across all building types while others have lower fee levels for retail and hotel.

Within the East Bay, fees have been adopted at a more moderate range. For office, fee levels for communities in the inner East Bay (west of the hills) range from \$3.59 (Newark) to \$5.24 (Oakland). Retail fees range from \$2.30 (Alameda) to \$4.50 (Berkeley). Oakland's program covers only office and warehouse and exempts other uses such as retail.

The table on the following page provides an overview of fee levels for selected examples in Santa Clara County, the Peninsula, and the East Bay. A more complete overview of these programs, and many others, is presented on Table 4 at the end of this section.



**Affordable Housing Fee Levels in Selected Communities**

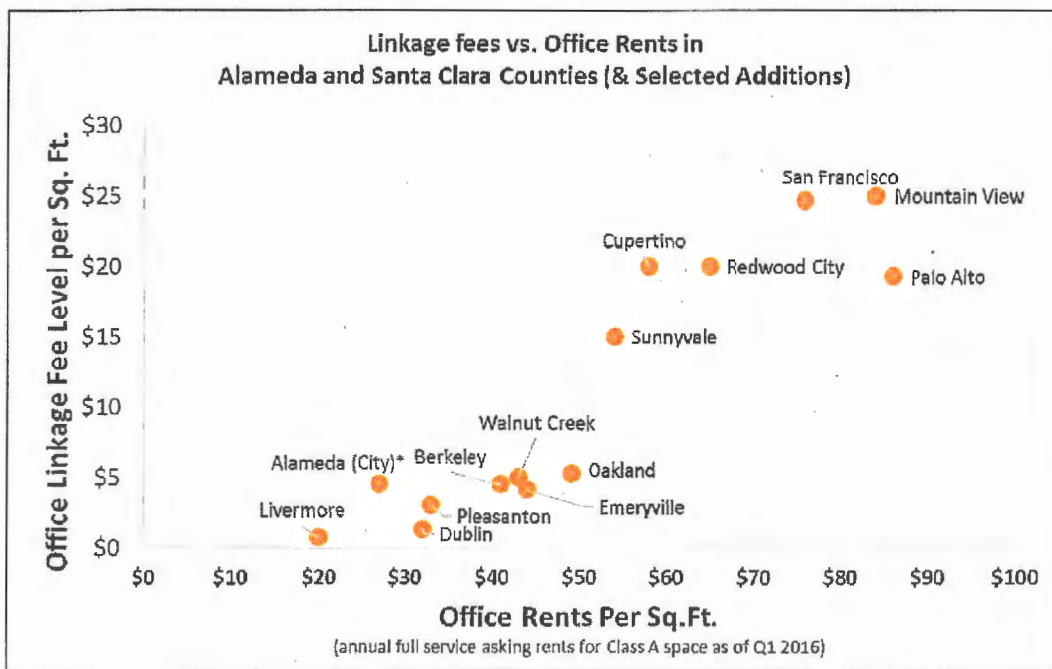
<b>Non-Residential Linkage Fees</b>	<b>Office \$/SF</b>	<b>Retail \$/SF</b>	<b>Hotel \$/SF</b>	<b>Industrial \$/SF</b>
<b><u>Santa Clara Co. &amp; Peninsula</u></b>				
Mountain View	\$25.00	\$2.68	\$2.68	\$25.00
Cupertino	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Palo Alto	\$19.85	\$19.85	\$19.85	\$19.85
Sunnyvale	\$15.00	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$15.00
San Francisco	\$24.81	\$22.96	\$18.42	\$19.34
Redwood City	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	N/A
<b><u>East Bay: West of Hills</u></b>				
Oakland	\$5.24	N/A	N/A	N/A
Berkeley	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$4.50	\$2.25
Alameda (City)	\$4.52	\$2.30	\$1.85	\$0.78
Emeryville	\$4.10	\$4.10	\$4.10	\$4.10
Newark	\$3.59	\$3.59	\$3.59	\$0.69
<b><u>East Bay: East of Hills</u></b>				
Walnut Creek	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	N/A
Pleasanton	\$3.04	\$3.04	\$3.04	\$3.04
Dublin	\$1.27	\$1.02	\$0.43	\$0.49
Livermore	\$0.76	\$1.19	\$1.00	\$0.24

N/A = No fee or no applicable category

As a way to provide context in terms of the market conditions in each of the communities, the chart on the following page shows office linkage fees (the building type that usually has the highest fees) in relation to office rents by city. Office rents are an indicator of market strength and major driver of real estate values.



**Office Linkage Fees vs. Average Office Rents in Selected Communities**



\*Rents for City of Alameda apply to Class B/C space (Class A rents not available)  
Sources: Office rents from market research reports prepared by Colliers International.

By way of comparison, average asking rents for Class A office space in Santa Clara are currently around \$50 per square foot.

**Ordinance or Program Features**

Linkage fee programs often includes features to address a jurisdiction's policy objectives or specific concerns. The most common are:

- *Minimum Threshold Size* – A minimum threshold sets a building size over which fees are in effect. Programs with low fees often have no thresholds and all construction is subject to the fee. Thresholds, which reduce fees for smaller projects, are more common for programs with more significant fees. Some jurisdictions establish a building size over which the fee applies. Sometimes the fee applies to the whole building, and sometimes the fee applies only to the square foot area over the threshold. Thresholds are often employed to minimize costs for small infill projects in older commercial areas, when such infill is a policy objective. There is also some savings in administrative costs. The disadvantage is lost revenue. Oakland and Berkeley are examples of communities employing thresholds while Alameda, Newark, and others do not. Mountain View has a reduced charge for the first 10,000 square feet of office space and the first 25,000 square feet of retail or hotel development.

- *Geographic Area Variations and Exemptions* – Some cities with linkage fee programs exclude specific areas such as redevelopment areas or have fees that vary based on geography. A geographic area variation can also be used to adjust the fee in jurisdictions where there is a broad difference in economic health from one subarea to the next. This is generally more common among large cities with a diverse range of conditions.
- *Specific Use Exemptions* – Some cities charge all building types while others choose to exempt specific uses. A common exemption is for buildings owned by non-profits which typically encompasses religious, educational/institutional, and hospital building types. Some programs identify specific uses as exempt such as schools and child care centers.

A more complete listing of the programs surveyed along with information about ordinance features such as exemptions and thresholds is contained in Table 4 at the end of this section.

TABLE 4

## SUMMARY OF JOBS HOUSING LINKAGE FEE PROGRAMS, CALIFORNIA

DRAFT

Jurisdiction	Yr. Adopted/ Updated	Fee Level (per Sq.Ft. unless otherwise noted)	Thresholds & Exemptions	Build Option/ Other	Market Strength	Comments
<b>SAN FRANCISCO, PENINSULA, SANTA CLARA COUNTY</b>						
San Francisco Population: 829,000	1981 Updated 2002, 2007	Retail / Entertainment \$22.96 Hotel \$18.42 Production Dist. Repair \$19.34 Office \$24.61 Research and Development \$16.39 Small Enterprise Workspace \$19.34	25,000 gsf threshold Exempt: freestanding pharmacy < 50,000 SF; grocery < 75,000	Yes, may contribute land for housing.	Very Substantial	Fee is adjusted annually based on the construction cost increases.
City of Palo Alto Population: 66,000	1984 Updated 2002	Nonresidential Dvlpmnt \$19.85	Churches; universities; recreation; hospitals, private educational facilities, day care and nursery school, public facilities are exempt	Yes	Very Substantial	Fee is adjusted annually based on CPI.
City of Menlo Park Population: 33,000	1998	Office & R&D \$15.57 Other com./Industrial \$8.45	10,000 gross SF threshold Churches, private clubs, lodges, fraternal orgs, public facilities and projects with few or no employees are exempt.	Yes, preferred. May provide housing on- or off-site.	Very Substantial	Fee is adjusted annually based on CPI.
City of Sunnyvale Population: 145,000	1984 Updated 2003 and 2015.	Industrial, Office, R&D: \$15.00 Retail, Hotel \$7.50	Office fee is 50% on the first 25,000 SF of building area. Exemptions for Child care, education, hospital, non-profits, public uses.	N/A	Very Substantial	Fee is adjusted annually based on CPI.
Redwood City Population: 80,000	2015	Office \$20.00 Hotel \$5.00 Retail & Restaurant \$5.00	5,000 SF threshold 25% fee reduction for projections paying prevailing wage. Schools, child care centers, public uses exempt.	Yes. Program specifies number of units per 100,000 SF.	Very Substantial	Fee is adjusted annually based on ENR.
City of Mountain View Population: 77,000	Updated 2002 / 2012 /2014	Office/High Tech/Indust. \$25.00 Hotel/Retail/Entertainment. \$2.68	Fee is 50% on building area under thresholds: Office <10,000 SF Hotel <25,000 SF Retail <25,000 SF	Yes	Very Substantial	Fee is adjusted annually based on CPI.
City of Cupertino Population: 60,000	1993, 2015	Office/Industrial/R&D \$20.00 Hotel/Commercial/Retail \$10.00	No minimum threshold.	N/A	Very Substantial	Fee is adjusted annually based on CPI.
Note: This chart has been assembled to present an overview, and as a result, terms are simplified. The information is recent but not all data has been updated as of the date of this report. In some cases, fees are adjusted by an index (such as CPI) which may not be reflected. For use other than general comparison, please consult the code and staff of the jurisdiction.						

TABLE 4  
SUMMARY OF JOBS HOUSING LINKAGE FEE PROGRAMS, CALIFORNIA

DRAFT

Jurisdiction	Yr. Adopted/ Updated	Fee Level (per Sq.Ft. unless otherwise noted)	Thresholds & Exemptions	Build Option/ Other	Market Strength	Comments
<b>EAST BAY</b>						
City of Walnut Creek Population: 66,000	2005	Office, retail, hotel and medical \$5.00	First 1,000 SF no fee applied.	Yes	Very Substantial	Revised every five years.
City of Oakland Population: 402,000	2002	Office/Warehouse \$5.24	25,000 SF exemption	Yes - Can build units equal to total eligible SF times .00004	Substantial	Fee due in 3 installments. Fee adjusted with an annual escalator tied to residential construction cost increases.
City of Berkeley Population: 116,000	1993 2014	Office Retail/Restaurant Industrial/Manufacturing Hotel/Lodging Warehouse/Storage Self-Storage R&D \$4.50 \$4.50 \$2.25 \$4.50 \$2.25 \$4.37 \$4.50	7,500 SF threshold.	Yes	Substantial	Annual CPI increase. May negotiate fee downward based on hardship or reduced impact.
City of Emeryville	2014	All Commercial \$4.10	Schools, daycare centers.	Yes	Substantial	Fee adjusted annually.
City of Alameda Population: 76,000	1989	Retail Office Warehouse Manufacturing Hotel/Motel \$2.30 \$4.52 \$0.78 \$0.78 \$1,108	No minimum threshold	Yes. Program specifies # of units per 100,000 SF	Moderate	Fee may be adjusted by CPI.
City of Pleasanton Population: 73,000	1990	Commercial, Office & Industrial \$3.04	No minimum threshold	Yes	Moderate	Fee adjusted annually.
City of Dublin Population: 50,000	2005	Industrial Office R&D Retail Services & Accommodation \$0.49 \$1.27 \$0.83 \$1.02 \$0.43	20,000 SF threshold	N/A	Moderate	
City of Newark Population: 44,000		Commercial Industrial \$3.59 \$0.69	No min threshold Schools, recreational facilities, religious institutions exempt.	Yes	Moderate	Revised annually
City of Livermore Population: 84,000	1999	Retail Service Retail Office Hotel Manufacturing Warehouse Business Park Heavy Industrial Light Industrial \$1.19 \$0.90 \$0.76 \$583/ rm \$0.37 \$0.11 \$0.76 \$0.38 \$0.24	No minimum threshold Church, private or public schools exempt.	Yes; negotiated on a case-by- case basis.	Moderate	
<small>Note: This chart has been assembled to present an overview, and as a result, terms are simplified. The information is recent but not all data has been updated as of the date of this report. In some cases, fees are adjusted by an index (such as CPI) which may not be reflected. For use other than general comparison, please consult the code and staff of the jurisdiction.</small>						



TABLE 4

## SUMMARY OF JOBS HOUSING LINKAGE FEE PROGRAMS, CALIFORNIA

DRAFT

Jurisdiction	Yr. Adopted/ Updated	Fee Level (per Sq.Ft. unless otherwise noted)	Thresholds & Exemptions	Build Option/ Other	Market Strength	Comments
<b>MARIN, NAPA, SONOMA, SANTA CRUZ</b>						
County of Santa Cruz Population: 267,000	2015	All Non-Residential \$2.00	No minimum threshold	N/A	Substantial	
County of Marin Population: 257,000	2003	Office/R&D \$7.19 Retail/Rest. \$5.40 Warehouse \$1.94 Hotel/Motel \$1,745/rm Manufacturing \$3.74	No minimum threshold	Yes, preferred.	Substantial	
San Rafael Population: 59,000	2005	Office/R&D \$7.64 Retail/Rest./Pers. Services \$5.73 Manufacturing/LI \$4.14 Warehouse \$2.23 Hotel/Motel \$1.91	5,000 SF threshold. Mixed use projects that provide affordable housing are exempt.	Yes. Program specifies number of units per 1,000 SF.	Substantial	
Town of Corte Madera Population: 9,000	2001	Office \$4.79 R&D lab \$3.20 Light Industrial \$2.79 Warehouse \$0.40 Retail \$8.38 Com Services \$1.20 Restaurant \$4.39 Hotel \$1.20 Health Club/Rec \$2.00 Training facility/School \$2.39	No minimum threshold	N/A	Substantial	
City of St. Helena Population: 6,000	2004	Office \$4.11 Comm./Retail \$5.21 Hotel \$3.80 Winery/Industrial \$1.26	Small childcare facilities, churches, non-profits, vineyards, and public facilities are exempt.	Yes, subject to City Council approval.	Substantial	
City of Petaluma Population: 59,000	2003	Commercial \$2.19 Industrial \$2.26 Retail \$3.78	N/A	Yes, subject to City Council approval.	Moderate/ Substantial	Fee adjusted annually by ENR construction cost index.
County of Sonoma Population: 492,000	2005	Office \$2.64 Hotel \$2.64 Retail \$4.56 Industrial \$2.72 R&D Ag Processing \$2.72	First 2,000 SF exempt Non-profits, redevelopment areas exempt	Yes. Program specifies number of units per 1,000 SF.	Moderate	Fee adjusted annually by ENR construction cost index.
City of Cotati Population: 7,000	2006	Commercial \$2.08 Industrial \$2.15 Retail \$3.59	First 2,000 SF exempt Non-profits exempt.	Yes. Program specifies units per 1,000 SF	Moderate	Fee adjusted annually by ENR construction cost index.
County of Napa Population: 139,000	Updated 2014	Office \$5.25 Hotel \$9.00 Retail \$7.50 Industrial \$4.50 Warehouse \$3.60	No minimum threshold Non-profits are exempt	Units or land dedication; on a case by case basis.	Moderate / Substantial	
City of Napa Population: 79,000	1999	Office \$1.00 Hotel \$1.40 Retail \$0.80 Industrial, Wine Pdn \$0.50 Warehouse (30-100K) \$0.30 Warehouse (100K+) \$0.20	No minimum threshold Non-profits are exempt	Units or land dedication; on a case by case basis.	Moderate/ Substantial	Fee has not changed since 1999. Increases under consideration.
Note: This chart has been assembled to present an overview, and as a result, terms are simplified. The information is recent but not all data has been updated as of the date of this report. In some cases, fees are adjusted by an Index (such as CPI) which may not be reflected. For use other than general comparison, please consult the code and staff of the jurisdiction.						

TABLE 4  
SUMMARY OF JOBS HOUSING LINKAGE FEE PROGRAMS, CALIFORNIA

DRAFT

Jurisdiction	Yr. Adopted/ Updated	Fee Level (per Sq.Ft. unless otherwise noted)	Thresholds & Exemptions	Build Option/ Other	Market Strength	Comments
<b>SACRAMENTO AREA</b>						
City of Sacramento Population: 476,000	1989 Most recent update, 2005	Office \$2.25 Hotel \$2.14 R&D \$1.91 Commercial \$1.80 Manufacturing \$1.41 Warehouse/Office \$0.82	No minimum threshold Mortuary, parking lots, garages, RC storage, Christmas tree lots, B&Bs, mini-storage, alcoholic beverage sales, reverse vending machines, mobile recycling, and small recyclable collection facilities	Pay 20% fee plus build at reduced nexus (not meaningful given amount of fee)	Moderate	North Natomas area has separate fee structure
City of Folsom Population: 73,000	2002	Office, Retail, Lt Industrial, and Manufacturing \$1.54 Up to 200,000 SF, 100% of fee; 200,000-250,000 SF, 75% of fee; 250,000-300,000 SF, 50% of fee; 300,000 and up, 25% of fee.	No minimum threshold Select nonprofits, small child care centers, churches, mini storage, parking garages, private garages, private schools exempt.	Yes Provide new or rehab housing affordable to very low income households. Also, land dedication.	Moderate/ Substantial	Fee is adjusted annually based on construction cost index
County of Sacramento Population: 1,450,000	1989	Office \$0.97 Hotel \$0.92 R&D \$0.82 Commercial \$0.77 Manufacturing \$0.61 Indoor Recreational Centers \$0.50 Warehouse \$0.26	No minimum threshold Service uses operated by non-profits are exempt	N/A	Moderate	
City of Elk Grove Population: 158,000	1989 (Inherited from County when Incorporated)	Office none Hotel \$1.87 Commercial \$0.64 Manufacturing \$0.72 Warehouse \$0.77	No minimum threshold Membership organizations (churches, non- profits, etc.), mini storage, car storage, marinas, car washes, private parking garages and agricultural uses exempt	N/A	Moderate	Office fee currently waived due to market conditions.
Citrus Heights Population: 85,000	1989 (Inherited from County when Incorporated)	Office \$0.97 Hotel \$0.92 R&D \$0.82 Commercial \$0.77 Manufacturing \$0.61 Indoor Recreational Centers \$0.50 Warehouse \$0.26	No minimum threshold Membership organizations (churches, non- profits, etc.), mini storage, car storage, marinas, car washes, private parking garages and agricultural uses exempt	N/A	Moderate	
Rancho Cordova Population: 67,000	1989 (Inherited from County when Incorporated)	Office \$0.97 Hotel \$0.92 R&D \$0.82 Commercial \$0.77 Manufacturing \$0.61 Indoor Recreational Centers \$0.50 Warehouse \$0.26	No minimum threshold Membership organizations (churches, non- profits, etc.), mini storage, car storage, marinas, car washes, private parking garages and agricultural uses exempt	N/A	Moderate	
Note: This chart has been assembled to present an overview, and as a result, terms are simplified. The information is recent but not all data has been updated as of the date of this report. In some cases, fees are adjusted by an index (such as CPI) which may not be reflected. For use other than general comparison, please consult the code and staff of the jurisdiction.						

TABLE 4

SUMMARY OF JOBS HOUSING LINKAGE FEE PROGRAMS, CALIFORNIA

DRAFT

Jurisdiction	Yr. Adopted/ Updated	Fee Level (per Sq.Ft. unless otherwise noted)	Thresholds & Exemptions	Build Option/ Other	Market Strength	Comments	
<b>SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA</b>							
City of Santa Monica Population: 92,000	1984 Updated 2002, 2015	Retail	\$9.75	1,000 SF threshold Private schools, city projects, places of worship, commercial components of affordable housing developments exempt.	N/A	Very Substantial	Fees adjusted annually based on construction cost index.
		Office	\$11.21				
		Hotel/Lodging	\$3.07				
		Hospital	\$6.15				
		Industrial	\$7.53				
		Institutional	\$10.23				
Creative Office	\$9.59						
Medical Office	\$6.89						
City of West Hollywood Population: 35,000	1986	Non-Residential (per staff increase from \$4 to \$8 anticipated for FY16-17)	\$8.00	N/A	N/A	Substantial	Fees adjusted by CPI annually
City of San Diego Population: 1,342,000	1990 Updated 2014	Office	\$1.76	No minimum threshold Industrial/ warehouse, non-profit hospitals exempt.	Can dedicate land or air rights in lieu of fee	Substantial	
		Hotel	\$1.06				
		R&D	\$0.80				
		Retail	\$1.06				

Note: This chart has been assembled to present an overview, and as a result, terms are simplified. The information is recent but not all data has been updated as of the date of this report. In some cases, fees are adjusted by an index (such as CPI) which may not be reflected. For use other than general comparison, please consult the code and staff of the jurisdiction.

**Anna McGill**

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**From:** ECCO Builders Inc <omid@eccobuilders.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 10, 2017 11:31 AM  
**To:** Anna McGill  
**Subject:** RE: Development Stakeholder Meeting- Updates to Affordable Housing Requirements

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Anna:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Affordable Nexus Study. Unfortunately, I missed the meeting yesterday. However, here are my comments regarding the affordable housing nexus study:

1. On page 18, the Study's suggestion that developers will pay less for the land to adjust for the cost of the in lieu fee is wrong. In a hot market such as current one, the demand for developable land is usually high. As the result, the developers will have to compete with each other for the available land. In my 20 years of experience as a developer, I have found that developers have always passed the additional costs to the future buyers. This additional cost could include the in lieu fee, overhead and the profit.
2. In the past few years everyone has been talking about affordable housing, however, the cost of new residential construction has increased substantially due to new building codes, additional local government fees such as Park in lieu fees, school fees, and new environmental regulations and processes. Adding a new affordable housing in lieu fee will further drive the cost of housing higher for the average residents in the City. I believe it would be more beneficial to keep the housing cost down for everyone by controlling the required fees. Keep in mind that as the cost of housing increases, the City will be forced to charge higher in lieu fees to keep up with the housing market. Of course, higher fees will further increase the housing cost for average residents.

I hope these comments are helpful to you. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 408-666-6556.

Sincerely;

Omid Shakeri

**From:** Anna McGill [<mailto:AMcGill@SantaClaraCA.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 23, 2016 5:22 PM  
**Cc:** Anna McGill <[AMcGill@SantaClaraCA.gov](mailto:AMcGill@SantaClaraCA.gov)>; Lee Butler <[LButler@SantaClaraCA.gov](mailto:LButler@SantaClaraCA.gov)>; John Davidson <[JDavidson@SantaClaraCA.gov](mailto:JDavidson@SantaClaraCA.gov)>; Andrew Crabtree <[ACrabtree@SantaClaraCA.gov](mailto:ACrabtree@SantaClaraCA.gov)>  
**Subject:** Development Stakeholder Meeting- Updates to Affordable Housing Requirements



## Anna McGill

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**From:** Donna West <dwestsfo@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2017 7:06 AM  
**To:** Anna McGill  
**Cc:** teresa.oneillSC@gmail.com  
**Subject:** 2017 Jan Affordable Housing Survey Planning meeting  
**Attachments:** Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Anna McGill, Associate Planner  
(408) 615-2458  
[AMcGill@santaclaraca.gov](mailto:AMcGill@santaclaraca.gov)

Dear Anna:

Dear Anna:

Thank you very much for this opportunity to attend the Affordable Housing Survey planning meeting last night, January 12, 2017. The presentation is excellent and easy to understand. The points I list in this email is missing from the prepared survey and crucial to the outcome.

I am grateful that I voted for our current City Council who works diligently to watch over the city assets. I am watching meetings remote and in person, this past six months and I sent two emails to the council. I asked and received a City Proclamation for awareness of the dreadful dementia disease for Alzheimer's Association in June 2016. (please see attached document copy) Again, thank you very much.

I am City of Santa Clara resident of more than 30 years, active City of Santa Clara Business License, active SB50 vendor withOUT paid contract opportunities.

I worked in the City of Mountain View, CA for recent three years, 2013 – 2016, running the payroll for a company of 200 employees until the company ceased in 2016. I am grateful for my tech savvy skills working with the computer, bookkeeping, payroll, and writer at my current baby boomer age. I drive in our current traffic every day.

Missing Survey points:

My own talking points to Congress (Mr. Honda and Mr. Khanna) as a volunteer legislative advocate with the Alzheimer's Association in San Jose, CA; include baby boomer generation doubling with retirement statistics in the next ten years. From this city presentation: there will be an additional 42 units of affordable housing for seniors. 1) Where am I, a baby boomer, downsizing in the City of Santa Clara? And where are care givers and people (patients) affected with diseases such as cancer, dementia, and Alzheimer's Disease currently living and downsizing? These challenges are to double over the next ten years.

- I agree to much more impact fees for new (future) housing and businesses.
- What about the current problems we have today, 2017? I drive to West San Jose and Cupertino to purchase groceries, restaurants and daily needs. This is because of the current crowds and traffic in Santa Clara. I am a victim of a stolen car in 2012 (Santa Clara police report).
- Job to Housing ratio quoted is estimated 2 units for 1 job in the City of Santa Clara. If there are jobs in Santa Clara and I am a current resident, where is my job? I am searching for work for more than a year. Are we able to set a priority for Santa Clara jobs for only the current residents of all ages?

I am excited to be a part of the solution – how may I assist? Online work applications do not help.

Sincerely and grateful for my expensive small housing unit,

Donna West

[dwestsfo@gmail.com](mailto:dwestsfo@gmail.com)

(408) 564-0751 Email first

An interesting article about Technology Companies, Small Business, and Local Communities

<http://hiddensiliconvalley.com/2017/01/08/how-do-silicon-valley-tech-companies-small-businesses-and-local-communities-support-each-other/>

## Anna McGill

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**From:** sudsjain@zoho.com on behalf of Sudhanshu Jain <suds@sudsjain.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 13, 2017 4:39 PM  
**To:** Anna McGill  
**Cc:** Lee Butler; John Davidson; Teresa O'Neill  
**Subject:** Re: Powerpoint Slides from Nexus Outreach Meetings: Affordable Housing Requirements Update

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

I'm shocked that Staff has chosen to set fees well below what KMA has recommended especially when the supported fees (full mitigation) are \$128/sqft for hotels.

Perhaps too much pressure from the Chamber of Commerce and not enough discussions with affordable housing advocates.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

**Non-Residential Fee Considerations**

- Office (\$5-10/sq. ft.)
- Hotel (\$0/sq. ft.)
- Retail (\$0/sq. ft.)
- Light Industrial (\$2-5/sq. ft.)

KMA recommendation:

The table below presents the recommended range:

<b>KMA Recommended Fee Range, Non-Residential, City of Santa Clara</b>	
<i>Land Use</i>	<i>Recommended Fee</i>
Office	\$10.00 to \$15.00 psf
Other Non-Residential	\$5.00 to \$10.00 psf

AND VALUES FOR OTHER CITIES:

## Non-Residential Housing Impact Fees – Santa Clara Co. & Peninsula

Non-Residential Fees	Office \$/SF	Retail \$/SF	Hotel \$/SF	Industrial \$/SF
Mountain View	\$25.00	\$2.68	\$2.68	\$25.00
Cupertino	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$20.00
Palo Alto	\$19.85	\$19.85	\$19.85	\$19.85
Sunnyvale	\$15.00	\$7.50	\$7.50	\$15.00
San Francisco	\$24.61	\$22.96	\$18.42	\$19.34
Redwood City	\$20.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	N/A
Menlo Park	\$15.57	\$8.45	\$8.45	\$8.45

See Table 4 for more details including features such as exemptions and size thresholds.

On 1/13/2017 4:08 PM, Anna McGill wrote:

Hello,

Many thanks for participating in the public outreach meetings held this week regarding the City of Santa Clara's Affordable Housing Nexus Study. The slides to the presentations can now be found on our [website](#).

Please note the presentations for the community meetings on January 9<sup>th</sup> and January 12<sup>th</sup> have the same slides. As such, only the slides dated January 12, 2017 have been put on the website.

Best Regards,

Anna McGill | Associate Planner  
Community Development Department  
1500 Warburton Avenue | Santa Clara, CA 95050  
O:408.615.2450 | D: 408.615.2458



**City of  
Santa Clara**  
The Center of What's Possible

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Lee Butler, Planning Manager  
City of Santa Clara  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Lee,

REthink Development and Ensemble Investments are contacting the City in regards to proposed affordable housing impact fees. We attended the development stakeholder meeting on January 9, and are concerned that feedback from the development community is not reflected in the staff report prepared for the January 25 Planning Commission meeting, or more importantly, in the proposed fees.

We offer the following input on the proposed fees, and would like the opportunity to discuss this issue further with the City before fees are adopted.

- Considering the jobs/housing imbalance in Santa Clara and the City's goals and policies for adding new market-rate housing, we believe that no or minimal additional affordable housing requirements or impact fees should be placed on new residential projects.
  - Santa Clara is badly in need of more housing. The proposed fees penalize new market-rate housing making it difficult if not infeasible to build in certain cases. Several precedents demonstrate that this approach is not effective, including policies in the cities of Portland.
  - Residential projects would be infeasible in some areas of the City, and commercial projects would be incentivized through the fee structure. This would result in commercial development instead of residential in many areas. In Tasman East in particular this might greatly slow development of residential units. With the already high fee structures of parks, schools, etc., adding an affordable housing impact fee for Tasman will make it comparatively more profitable and much less risky to continue existing industrial/manufacturing uses or convert existing structures to office, rather than develop residential.
  - Market-rate home prices and rents will increase as a result of the fees, increasing the cost of living in Santa Clara
  - The proposed fees would particularly difficult for smaller development projects, and could effectively stop this type of development because those developers don't have the size or breadth to undertake tax credit deals for their affordable housing.
  - The fees would reduce land values up to 40%, in many cases to a value below that of current improvements.
  - The General Plan projects development of 13,222 units of new housing between 2010 and 2025. To support the construction of these units, the Plan includes several policies; 5.3.2-P1 in particular specifies that the City will "encourage the annual construction of the housing units necessary to meet the City's regional housing needs assessment by reducing constraints to housing finance and development." The proposed residential fees conflict with this and other General Plan goals and policies relating to residential development.
  - More market rate housing will help all affordability levels because of supply and demand. Residents desiring to move to new mixed-use buildings will leave older properties where rents are naturally less, freeing up those units at more affordable levels.



- If new affordable housing impact fees for residential projects will be adopted, we strongly encourage the City to consider the following additional steps:
  - Complete additional studies, such as a feasibility study, to ensure that there are adequate incentives to ensure new market-rate housing. Currently, the proposed policy changes do not include any incentives.
  - Conduct additional outreach and create additional opportunities for the development community and other stakeholders, such as property owners, to engage with the City on this issue. As an example, the City of Oakland undertook a similar process to create an affordable housing impact fee in 2015/2016. Oakland's process was conducted over a 6 month period and included six impact fee stakeholder working group meetings. More information on Oakland's process is available here: <https://goo.gl/OI27Te>
  - Strongly consider phasing in the impact fee or level of affordable housing required over the next few years. Projects that have been working toward getting entitlements over the last few years – based on Specific Plans, of which the timing is out of developer control – should not be penalized for City processes taking time. Going from no impact fee to large fees will severely impact feasibility of development projects.
  - Consider creating impact fee zones, similar to the City of Oakland. Fee zones could be developed using General Plan land use designations, median home value, and other metrics.

We appreciate the City's careful consideration of the comments above, and look forward to working with the City to ensure that affordable housing is produced in Santa Clara while still supporting new market-rate housing development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Edwards".

Steve Edwards, Founder and Principal  
REthink Development



**MidPen**  
HOUSING

Building Communities. Changing Lives.

February 8, 2017

Santa Clara City Council  
City Hall – Council Chambers  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Subject: Housing Impact Fees

Dear Madame Mayor and Honorable Members of the City Council,

MidPen Housing Corporation ("MidPen") is one of the nation's leading non-profit developers, owners and managers of high-quality affordable housing. In the forty-five years since it was founded, MidPen has developed over 100 communities and 7,500 homes for working and low-income families, seniors and special needs individuals throughout Northern California. Given our roots on the Peninsula and in Silicon Valley, the majority of these units are located in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. We value our deep relationships with local partners, including the City of Santa Clara, which is the home of two of our communities, Riverwood Gardens and Riverwood Place, which together provide permanently affordable homes for 219 households. Yet the demand for more affordable homes is great, as evidenced by the nearly 500 families on the waiting lists for these two communities.

MidPen is submitting this letter in support of the adoption of Residential and Non-Residential Housing Impact Fees by the City of Santa Clara. These fees are based on the demand created by new employment for new below market housing and would contribute to the production of much-needed affordable and moderate income housing in Santa Clara. In the midst of a severe mismatch in our region between jobs and housing, we hope that the City will seize the opportunity to establish a new funding source to create housing opportunities at all income levels.

We commend staff for recommending a Residential Rental Impact Fee of \$25-35/sq.ft., which is in line with neighboring communities, and a For-Sale Residential Fee for smaller projects that is close to the maximum supported fee. However, we would encourage City Council to follow Planning Commission's recommendation to establish an Office Impact Fee that is more in line with its peer jurisdictions and the Keyser Marston Associates (KMA) nexus study recommendation of \$10-15/sq.ft., rather than the proposed \$5-10/sq.ft. fee. The neighboring cities of Mountain View, Cupertino, Palo Alto, Menlo Park and Sunnyvale have adopted Office Impact Fees ranging from \$15-25/sq.ft. Furthermore, KMA's study took into account the average office rents in Santa Clara and these neighboring jurisdictions to develop their recommendations and determined that a \$10-15/sq.ft. fee would be economically feasible, and would likely have little impact on development decisions in Santa Clara.





February 13, 2017

Ms. Anna McGill, Associate Planner  
Community Development Department  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Dear Ms. McGill:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the City of Santa Clara's proposed Affordable Housing Requirements. The comments below provide our perspective as a long-term Santa Clara property owner as well as a prospective developer of a site that is part of the City's recently approved Lawrence Station Area Plan (LSAP).

**Background:**

Westlake Urban has owned the property at 3069 Lawrence Expressway since 1975. The 3.8-acre site is currently occupied by three fully leased industrial buildings. Westlake Urban was an active participant in the City's planning process that led to the LSAP approval and the certification of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The City Council's approval of the LSAP designated the Westlake Urban site for high density residential use with the potential development of up to 328 multi-family residential units.

**Comments:**

Affordable housing is urgently needed in the Bay Area and Westlake Urban strongly supports efforts by cities to increase the supply. The need has never been greater but the tools to create affordable housing are extremely limited, especially since cities no longer have redevelopment agencies. The City of Santa Clara is wise to consider policies that would incentivize the construction of affordable housing. However, there are times when well-intentioned policy changes have unintended consequences. The Keyser Marston Nexus study raises several policy questions that if not critically understood, will have significant, unintended consequences such as:

- Reducing the overall supply of housing as more developers deploy their capital elsewhere. To fully understand the effects of the proposed policy, one must understand the assumptions and nuances to the financial feasibility analysis shown on Table 1 (Page 20) of the KMA study. Table 1 included a soft cost estimate of \$104K per unit and that cost includes *developer overhead* - the developer's administrative costs. It is unclear whether KMA included *developer profit* in any of the numbers provided. While a developer's required profit varies based on risk level, a profit of 15-20% is somewhat typical to justify the financial risk associated with development projects. If Table 1 doesn't include a developer profit commensurate with the risk taken, lending institutions and equity investors won't invest and the housing units will not be built.
- Significant delays for housing projects currently under consideration as land values are renegotiated/reduced to reflect the new fees;



- Inadvertently increasing the amount of luxury housing so that project rents/cash flow from luxury units are sufficient to absorb the fee increase;
- Limiting the total number of affordable housing units because market rate projects can't absorb the fee increase.
- Inadvertently incentivizing projects with low densities as those would have a lower fee than high density projects. (Page 6: \$20/sf for low and \$25/sf for high)
- Reduced fee revenue by exempting non-residential and small scale residential projects (No explanation or justification provided in the analysis).

The proposed fee increase comes at a time when both new affordable and market rate housing is in short supply. The KMA study assumes that new development can pay fees high enough to solve the affordable housing problem *at scale* and that the market is robust enough to absorb a substantial affordable housing fee. We believe that these assumptions need to be carefully examined. Cities and housing developers must contend with numerous risks and realities that are outside of their control including:

- Rents result from market conditions and cannot be increased above market to absorb the proposed fees. After a long period of rent increases, Bay Area market rents are softening. 2017 rents are 5% lower in SF and 8% lower in Oakland than 2016 rents.
- Development costs (soft costs, interest rates and operating expenses) are continuing to increase and construction costs have skyrocketed in the last year.
- Lending institutions are tightening up their underwriting criteria. Additional fees and/or on-site affordable units will negatively affect the ability to obtain both construction and permanent financing,

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Westlake Urban respectfully requests that the City Council delay action on the Affordable Housing program to provide additional time for staff and the community to fully examine the potential for unintended consequences that could exacerbate the housing affordability crisis. The timing of the proposed fee comes at a time when residential projects are already having to absorb a significant increase in parkland fees (\$30k/unit) threatening their economic feasibility. In the event the city elects to enact a new fee program, we would ask that the city consider the following:

1. Include fees for office and retail development in addition to residential to lessen the burden on new rental housing.
2. Delay the date for the imposition of the fee to provide a longer lead time for existing projects to be built and for property values to be reset/reduced to reflect the new fees.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

*Gayle Quinn*

E:340E824D13A402...

Gayle C. Quinn

Managing Director



**MidPen**  
HOUSING

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Additionally, while KMA's analysis determined that a fee of \$5-10/sq.ft. for all Non-Residential developments other than Offices is financially feasible and recommended, only a \$2-5/sq.ft. Light Industrial Fee was initially proposed. This proposed Light Industrial Fee is much lower than those adopted in neighboring jurisdictions, which range from \$8.45-\$25/sq.ft. We encourage City Council to heed the Planning Commission's recommendation to consider a higher Light Industrial fee that is congruent with the KMA fee recommendation and those in peer cities.

Furthermore, no Housing Impact Fees were initially proposed for either Retail or Hotel uses, despite the local strength of these markets and the KMA analysis that fees in the range of \$5-10/sq.ft. are recommended and economically feasible. In comparison, neighboring jurisdictions have adopted Retail and Hotel Fees ranging from \$2.68-\$19.85/sq.ft. Since new retail and hotel businesses create many new low-salary jobs, they increase the demand for affordable housing and therefore should be included in the uses that are levied a fee to offset their impact. We echo Planning Commission's recommendation to adopt Hotel and Retail Fees and encourage City Council to set these at levels consistent with peer jurisdictions and the nexus study recommendations.

The funds collected by these local impact fees can be leveraged significantly with external funding sources, which support development of housing for 60% Area Median Income (AMI) levels and below. For this reason, and because the 10% inclusionary units that are built on-site are exclusively in the 80-120% AMI range, we recommend that the Housing Impact Fees collected be targeted mainly to housing that is at or below 60% AMI. The advantage of impact fees is that jurisdictions have the flexibility to set priorities for the use of the funds that align with locally relevant issues and solutions. We encourage City Council to consider how these funds can be used to address a range of unmet housing needs at different income levels in Santa Clara.

We greatly appreciate the City of Santa Clara's consideration of these Housing Impacts Fees and continued leadership in advancing solutions to the housing crisis that is affecting our communities.

Sincerely,

Nevada V. Merriman  
Director of Housing Development

## Anna McGill

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**From:** Shawn Milligan <shawn@milliganlandcompany.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2017 3:00 PM  
**To:** Anna McGill  
**Cc:** Mark Tersini  
**Subject:** Re: Notification: City of Santa Clara Affordable Housing Nexus Study

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Anna,

I have the following comments regarding Keyser Marston's nexus study.

- The nexus study refers to 18 other jurisdictions who have adopted similar measures. Have these communities experienced an increase in the supply of both market rate and subsidized housing? If so, how much? How many more people can afford a home because of these measures?
- Santa Clara County recently passed a \$900 million bond initiative for subsidized housing and there's discussion of the State launching a \$3 billion initiative in November. What is the impact of these measures on KMA's analysis? How can the City get its fair share of these public resources?
- The maximum fees outlined in KMA's reports inadequately consider a developer risk's and the returns required to obtain construction financing. We believe that the additional fees as outlined make housing more expensive, will stifle new supply and ultimately lead to reduced construction activity. If the City adopted the recommended impact fee to provide subsidized housing, how much additional home price or rent would non-subsidized owners or renters have to pay so the developer's risk/return ratio wouldn't change?
- KMA further asserts that a rising market and downward pressure on land values will absorb the costs. Economic theory runs counter to these assertions. The reality is that landowners make rational decisions when selling their property and many projects can't pass these additional costs along especially with rising construction costs and City impact fees such as parks over the last several years. How will the City meet its housing goals considering these facts?
- The nexus study also breaks housing types into single family, townhouse, condominium and apartments. Condominiums and apartments utilize a variety of construction methods. Over time, more and more multi-family units will shift from Type V (wood) to Type III (steel) to Type I (concrete). Type I construction has a significantly different cost structure than Type V. What is the impact of these different cost structures on the proposed maximum impact fees?
- The City of Santa Clara is highly regarded in Silicon Valley. The City has benefitted from a progressive, pro-investment attitude. This attitude and a lower cost of doing business relative to other local municipalities has given the City of Santa Clara a regional competitive advantage. While the focus of these comments has been on the residential recommendations in the report, KMA also recommends a linkage fee be adopted for commercial construction. Santa Clara has one of the best tax bases in the region because it has attracted some of the best companies in the world within its borders. How would a linkage fee impact demand for commercial space in Santa Clara? Is the City willing to give away its competitive advantage to other municipalities by adopting KMA's recommendations?



Thank you in advance for your efforts.

Regards,

Shawn Milligan  
Milligan Land Company, LLC  
408-838-8655

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**From:** Anna McGill <AMcGill@SantaClaraCA.gov>  
**Date:** Friday, February 3, 2017 at 3:21 PM  
**Cc:** Andrew Crabtree <ACrabtree@SantaClaraCA.gov>, Lee Butler <LButler@SantaClaraCA.gov>, John Davidson <JDavidson@SantaClaraCA.gov>, Anna McGill <AMcGill@SantaClaraCA.gov>  
**Subject:** Notification: City of Santa Clara Affordable Housing Nexus Study

Hello All,

This is a friendly reminder that the Affordable Housing Nexus Study will be discussed at the City Council meeting on **Tuesday, February 21, 2017 at 7:00pm** in the City Hall Council Chambers (1500 Warburton Avenue). If you plan on submitting written comments, please have these to me no later than **Friday, February 10, 2017**. This will allow staff to include written comments in the packet given to Council Members and provide answers to any questions raised. Any comments received after this date will be forwarded onto Council Members or provided at the meeting.

If you have any questions, or if I can assist in any way, do let me know.

Kind Regards,

**Anna McGill** | Associate Planner  
Community Development Department  
1500 Warburton Avenue | Santa Clara, CA 95050  
O:408.615.2450 | D: 408.615.2458



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*Habitat for Humanity  
East Bay/Silicon Valley*

Kevin Zwick, Treasurer  
*Housing Trust Silicon Valley*

Kathy Thibodeaux, Secretary  
*KM Thibodeaux Consulting LLC*

Shiloh Ballard  
*Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition*

Bob Brownstein  
*Working Partnerships USA*

Christine Carr  
*Silicon Valley Bank*

Rahul Chandhok  
*San Francisco 49ers*

Katie Ferrick  
*LinkedIn*

Amie Fishman  
*Non-Profit Housing Association  
of Northern California*

Javier Gonzalez  
*Google*

Poncho Guevara  
*Sacred Heart Community Service*

Jan Lindenthal  
*MidPen Housing*

Jennifer Loving  
*Destination: Home*

Mary Murlagh  
*EAH Housing*

Chris Neale  
*The Core Companies*

Andrea Osgood  
*Eden Housing*

Kelly Snider  
*Kelly Snider Consulting*

Jennifer Van Every  
*The Van Every Group*

**Staff**

Leslye Corsiglia  
*Executive Director*

TRANSMITTED VIA EMAIL

February 10, 2017

Honorable Mayor Gillmor and Members of the City Council  
City of Santa Clara  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA

**Re: February 21, 2017 City Council Meeting – Affordable Housing  
Requirements Update**

Dear Mayor Gillmor, Vice Mayor O'Neill, and Councilmembers Caserta, Davis,  
Kolstad, Mahan and Watanabe:

Silicon Valley at Home (SV@Home) is the voice of affordable housing in Silicon Valley, representing a broad range of interests, from leading employers who are driving the Bay Area economy to labor and service organizations, to nonprofit and for-profit developers who provide housing and services to those most in need. Our mission is to drive the creation of affordable housing for a more vibrant and equitable Silicon Valley, and we believe that affordable housing impact fees provide a critical tool for advancing this mission.

On behalf of our members, we thank you for your consideration of the proposed impact fees for both residential and non-residential development, and we look forward to engaging in the public process as your discussions on this issue continue in the future. By taking action on the nexus study recommendations and proactively engaging stakeholders in the process, the City of Santa Clara has set an example for the other jurisdictions participating in the multi-jurisdictional nexus study effort.

We are submitting this letter in support of the adoption of residential and non-residential impact fees for new development in Santa Clara, which would provide much-needed funding for affordable housing. This funding is critical given Santa Clara's high jobs-housing imbalance – the second-highest in the County, with close to 3 jobs for each housing unit – and exceedingly high rents. Recent data shows that the median rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Santa Clara is \$2,895 (Zillow Rental Data, December 2016). The need for more affordable housing is thus especially dire for low-income workers, with over 9 low-wage workers competing for every affordable unit in the City (UC Davis Center for Regional Change, October 2016).

Along with several SV@Home member organizations – including MidPen Housing, the Core Companies, Eden Housing, Greenbelt Alliance, and the Silicon Valley Law Foundation – we had the opportunity to participate in a stakeholder meeting in January with staff of the Housing and Community Development Department to discuss the Santa Clara nexus study findings. In this letter, we offer our recommendations in response to staff's proposal presented at the January stakeholder meeting as well issues raised by the Planning Commission regarding the proposed changes to Santa Clara's affordable housing requirements.

#### **For-Sale Residential Inclusionary Requirements and In Lieu Fees**

- **For-sale inclusionary requirements:** We request that the City Council consider increasing the for-sale inclusionary housing requirement to 15 percent. This level is in line with several other Santa Clara County jurisdictions, including Cupertino, San Jose, Campbell, and Palo Alto, as well as with former Redevelopment Agency inclusionary policies.
- **For-sale alternative compliance options:** Additionally, we recommend that the City adopt a policy that provides developers with flexibility in meeting inclusionary requirements. Rather than requiring every development with 10 or more units to provide inclusionary units, developers should have the option to choose from multiple alternative compliance options. These may include paying the in-lieu fee, partnering with an affordable housing developer to build deed-restricted units, dedicating land to the City for future affordable housing development, or purchasing units in other developments. Such options may result in more affordable units or more deeply affordable units being built if the City or an affordable housing developer can access leveraged funds (such as tax credit funding). Furthermore, flexibility allows the developer to pursue the option that works best with the market rate project, recognizing that all developments are different in terms of size, product type, and pricing.

#### **Rental Residential Impact Fees and Alternative Compliance Options**

- **Rental residential impact fees and alternative compliance options:** We support the staff proposal to adopt a residential rental fee of \$25 per square foot. By setting the fee at a level commensurate with those of neighboring jurisdictions, which range from \$17 to \$25 per square foot, the City can expect that the fee will likely not deter development.
- **Rental residential alternative compliance options:** As with the in-lieu option for for-sale development, we also support the provision of alternative compliance options for rental residential developers, such as building fees on site or other approaches mentioned above, as a means for meeting their affordable housing obligations. If developers are to meet the City's affordable housing requirements by providing 15% affordable units rather than paying the fee, we strongly recommend that the City require these units to be affordable to low-income households earning 60 percent of AMI or below. As established by the nexus study, the need for affordable housing resulting from new development is created primarily by low-income working households, so it is critical that the units created through the city's affordable housing requirements are affordable to these low-income workers.

#### **Non-Residential Impact Fees and Other Recommendations**

- **Non-residential impact fees:** We support the recommended fee ranges identified by Keyser Marston Associates through the nexus study (\$10-\$15 per square foot for office and \$5-\$10 per

Honorable Mayor Gillmor and Members of the City Council  
February 21, 2017 City Council Meeting – Affordable Housing Requirements Update  
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square foot for all other non-residential). Adopting fees for retail and hotel uses is especially important because, as shown in the nexus study, these types of development generate the greatest need for affordable housing for workers. SV@Home strongly recommends that the Council adopt fees for all non-residential uses to address the need for affordable housing that they create.

- **Grace period for pipeline developments:** We support the staff proposal for a six- month grace period following the adoption of new impact fees as well as the idea to allow an even longer grace period for projects with site control. However, we believe that an additional 2.5 year grace period, as suggested by the Planning Commission, is longer than necessary. Instead, we propose a 1.5 year grace period for such projects.

Again, we thank you for your leadership on this issue as well as your ongoing efforts to prioritize affordable housing in Santa Clara. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input and are happy to respond to any questions you may have. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our above recommendations.



Pilar Lorenzana-Campo  
Policy Director



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San Jose, CA 95113  
(408) 983-0856

February 10, 2017

Santa Clara City Council  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

**RE: Affordable Housing Nexus Study**

Dear Mayor Gillmor and Santa Clara City Councilmembers:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the city of Santa Clara's affordable housing nexus study findings and staff's proposed housing impact and commercial linkage fees.

Greenbelt Alliance is the San Francisco Bay Area's leading organization working to protect natural and agricultural landscapes from sprawl development and help our cities and towns grow in smart ways to make the region great for everyone. We are the champions of the places that make the Bay Area special, with more than 10,000 supporters and a 59-year history of local and regional success.

We strongly support the city's decision to examine adjustments to its fee structures to help address the Bay Area's housing affordability challenges. Providing more homes that are affordable for residents across the income spectrum will have a broad array of benefits for Santa Clara and the region. By allowing more people to be able to live close to where they work, it will shorten commutes and reduce traffic, cut air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, put less financial and emotional strain on our residents and workforce, and relieve development pressure on our farms, forests, and watershed lands at the edge of the region.

We would especially like to thank the city for involving non-profit organizations, residents, and stakeholders as you consider implementing these proven housing affordability solutions.

As the city develops its proposal, we urge you to consider the following four recommendations:

1. Commercial linkage fees are a smart tool to help address our jobs-housing imbalance

Particularly in Silicon Valley, we have not provided sufficient homes to accommodate our growing workforce. According to recent data from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, from 2011 to 2015, only one home was built for every eight new jobs across the Bay Area.



Establishing commercial linkage fees is a promising method to address housing affordability and our jobs-housing imbalance. Most neighboring jurisdictions have already established commercial linkage fees. Santa Clara stands to benefit by doing the same.

2. Do not exempt hotel or retail uses from commercial linkage fees

Unfortunately the proposed policy would exempt hotel and retail developments from the commercial linkage fee. Yet these land uses typically employ a predominantly low-wage workforce--the portion of the workforce that is most in need of affordable housing options. The city should not provide preferential treatment to these segments of the commercial real estate market without mitigating for impacts of these developments on the housing market. Our strong commercial development market and outsized affordability crisis warrant the establishment of commercial linkage fees on all commercial uses. This recommendation is supported by KMA, the city's consultants; housing advocates; residents; and the Planning Commission.

3. Increase the proposed commercial linkage fees

City staff's proposed commercial linkage fee levels are below KMA's recommended range of \$10-\$15 per square foot for office development and \$5-\$10 per square foot for other non-residential building types. Santa Clara's neighbors have set commercial linkage fees as high as \$25. Higher linkage fees are essential to help provide the affordable homes needed for our growing economy and improve the city's jobs-housing imbalance.

4. Adopt staff's rental residential fee proposal

We strongly support the staff's proposed fee range for market-rate rental developments of \$25-\$35 per square foot. These fees will make a meaningful contribution to addressing the city's housing affordability needs and are well within the range of economic feasibility, so will not discourage new compact infill development--a win-win situation for the city.

We appreciate that the City of Santa Clara is taking these important steps to address housing affordability and encourage smart development patterns. We look forward to working with you during this process to make Santa Clara an even better place to live.

Sincerely,

*Kiyomi Honda Yamamoto*

Kiyomi Honda Yamamoto  
Greenbelt Alliance  
Regional Representative, South Bay  
[kyamamoto@greenbelt.org](mailto:kyamamoto@greenbelt.org)



February 16, 2017

Honorable Mayor and City Council  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Reg: Affordable Housing Policy Update

Dear Mayor and City Council,

We are writing in regards to the affordable housing policy updates that are currently under review by the City Council. As you know, The Core Companies is working to develop the Santa Clara Sustainable project. This innovative project, located at 90 North Winchester Boulevard, includes a game-changing urban farm and incorporates a broad range of affordability which will help address the housing needs of seniors, senior veterans and others in the community that are at risk of displacement as a result of rising property values and rents. As we continue to work with staff to move the project forward, we would like to suggest a few items for the Council to consider as part of the updates to the affordable housing policy.

- For large residential projects, with for-sale, rental or a combination thereof, with greater than 100 units where the overall percentage of affordable units exceeds 50%, the policy update should allow the City Council the ability to work with the applicant to determine a mix that meets or exceeds the site-specific affordability requirement.
- Similarly, for residential projects that are sited on public land where preexisting agreements between the City of Santa Clara and another public entity has determined the ratio of affordable to market rate units, the City Council should have the flexibility to determine the site-specific affordability requirement.
- In regards to pipeline projects, we believe the City should exempt projects from any updates to the existing affordable housing ordinance if an applicant has a signed purchase and sale agreement with the underlying landowner or other transactional agreement, i.e. an ENA or DDA, prior to the date of adoption of an updated ordinance, or has formally filed an initial planning application.

We respectfully request that the Council consider these three points as part of the policy analysis that is currently underway. The Core Companies looks forward to working with staff, the community and others to continue to bring a very innovative project forward and are thankful for the opportunity to provide the suggested policy recommendations as part of this process.

Sincerely,

Paul Ring  
Vice President of Development  
The Core Companies

Excerpt of Meeting Minutes from Planning Commission meeting.

- B.** Project Name: Affordable Housing Requirements Update  
Location: City-Wide  
Project Description: Review of Affordable Housing Requirements and consideration of potential residential and non-residential fees (2016 Santa Clara Affordable Housing Nexus Study) to support provision of Affordable Housing.

**Discussion:** Associate Planner Anna McGill provided an overview of the Affordable Housing Requirements Update and the results of the Affordable Housing Nexus Study and stated that the Nexus Study was a multi-jurisdiction nexus study with participation from 12 jurisdictions across Santa Clara County and Alameda County. She noted that the basic idea of the Nexus Studies is to look at affordability levels that would meet the needs for persons working and living in Santa Clara, and the subsidies that would be required to achieve those levels. She briefly reviewed the City's current affordable housing policy, listed some of the ways impact fees could be used, listed considerations on setting fees, and summarized the comments from outreach meetings.

In response to Commissioner questions, Staff reported on fees from other cities, the approach of other jurisdictions, the option of raising fees with a cost escalator for market adjustments, and that staff consider a tiered impact fee for with lower proportional fees for smaller projects.

The Commission expressed concern over the lack of impact fees for retail and hotel establishments, and stated that comparing Santa Clara to San Jose is not an equitable comparison. San Jose needs more jobs in their city and the City of Santa Clara needs more housing. The Commission encouraged being competitive with neighboring cities as a goal, with San Jose being an exception.

Staff stated that retail and hotel uses provide general fund revenues, which then fund services across the city.

The Commission inquired about the meaning of total jobs generated per 100 housing units created.

Staff stated that for jobs generated, the rates are created by analyzing the number of additional jobs that are created in service industries when employers add jobs. A few examples of the service jobs provided are retail services, restaurant services, and transit oriented services.

The Commission inquired about the meaning of New Worker Households per 100 housing units created.

Staff stated it is a calculation to account for the fact that many households have more than one worker, and that the number of housing units needed corresponds to households as opposed to workers.



The Commission inquired about the Nexus Study's logic and how the fee will assist housing needs among low income jobs that would be generated as a result of the new housing created.

Staff explained that the Nexus study demonstrates linkages between the development of new market rate residential units and new non-residential buildings and the need for additional affordable housing in the City of Santa Clara. This is done by analyzing the number of market rate units sold and jobs created through non-residential building types and the demand that has on services across the city. It then looks at the service jobs created from this demand, which vary across compensation levels, and the housing needed to support these varying compensation levels. In order to support the City's goals of reducing commute trips and relieving congestion, there is a need to provide affordable housing within the Santa Clara.

The Commission inquired about the meaning of Maximum Supported fee per square foot.

Staff stated the Nexus Study establishes an affordability gap and uses it to determine per square foot the maximum rate that could be charged to fill that gap.

The Commission inquired about the affordability gap and how the number is derived.

Staff stated that Keyser Marston Associates (KMA) determined the affordability gap by setting key assumptions for median house price across the city and number of jobs created through new non-residential building types and the service jobs that would be created based on this demand. KMA then looked at average wages across these service jobs, and determined the affordability gap between market rate housing and compensation levels.

The City will then look at its Regional Housing Needs Assessment to determine how much affordable housing is needed to fill the requirements for very low, low and moderate AMI levels.

The Commission agreed with a six month grace period and noted that if site control is gained during this time, the developer should not be subject to the fee requirements.

The Commission reiterated that fees should be tiered to reflect size and scale of projects. Having the scaled fee would probably make it less prohibitive for small retailers.

The Commission recommended setting the rates in line with KMA's suggestions at \$10-15 for office uses and \$5-10 for other non-residential uses (Hotel, Retail, Light Industrial). These fee levels would not hinder development that would otherwise come forward and give the City the opportunity to collect meaningful funds. To remain competitive with other jurisdictions, Commissioners suggested setting fee levels slightly below neighboring jurisdictions.



The Public Hearing was opened.

Brianna Bohonok, representing Urban Planning Partners and on behalf of Rethink Development, stated a concern with anything that would discourage or inhibit development in the City. She stated that the proposed residential rental impact fee would make rental development difficult and infeasible in some areas, particularly with smaller projects. The size of the development firm needs to be considered as smaller firms do not have the same ability to handle these fees as larger firms. The fees proposed encourage non-residential development, and could potentially deter residential development. Lastly, she noted that market rate home prices, rental rates, and the cost of living will increase as a result of the proposed fees.

Sarah McIntire, representing Mid Pen Housing Corporation, stated amidst the jobs housing imbalance, the housing impact fee is a key tool that cities are implementing to be able to address the need for local funding of affordable housing. Since the Governor dissolved cities' redevelopment agencies in 2012, affordable housing lost the largest source of local financing, and the mandate for providing housing at all levels still remains. She stated support of the proposed residential housing impact fee. She is also in support of the proposed fee levels for residential for sale projects and recommends a higher fee for office and light industrial. She further stated local funding dollars are key to leveraging outside funds in making affordable housing work. She encouraged the City to target the majority of these impact fees to providing affordable housing at 60% and below of the Area Median Income.

A member of the public expressed support of the Nexus Study.

Meredith Rupp, representing Greenbelt Alliance, stated they are in support of an impact fee of \$25 to \$35 per square foot on the rental housing. This helps provides homes for those most in need without discouraging development. The fees will assist in addressing the jobs housing imbalance.

The Public Hearing was closed.

Chair Kelly summarized their recommendations:

- Lower impact fee level for rental residential (more closely in line with nearby jurisdictions at \$17-20/ sq. ft.).
- Higher impact fee level for office and light Industrial building types (more closely in line with KMA's recommendations at \$10-15 for Office and \$5-10 for Light Industrial). Do not compare to San Jose.
- Set an impact fee level for hotel and retail in line with KMA's recommendations and nearby jurisdictions.
- Scaling fees based on project size and/or density.
- Grandfathering period: Developers would be exempt from fees if they are able to demonstrate site control within this grace period.