



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**

Board of Supervisors

**DATE:** May 14, 2004

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** June 8, 2004

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Supervisor Mike Nevin *MJN*  
Supervisor Richard Gordon *RG*

**SUBJECT:** Youth Services Center

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Concur with the recommendation of Supervisors Nevin and Gordon in their joint letter of January 27, 2004 to Mr. Cliff Donley regarding the Youth Services Center.

**BACKGROUND:**

On January 27, 2004, Supervisors Nevin and Gordon appeared at a meeting of the Highlands Association and took questions about the Youth Services Center project. At that meeting, the Supervisors provided a joint letter emphasizing their commitment to ensuring that the interests of the community were considered during the construction phase of the project, particularly in the area of mitigating any visual impacts.

**DISCUSSION:**

The San Mateo Highlands Community Association is requesting that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors concur with the letter jointly signed by Supervisors Nevin and Gordon, which lays out the points of understanding regarding the construction and landscaping of the new Youth Services Center.

**VISION ALIGNMENT:**

The concurrence with the joint recommendation of Supervisors Nevin and Gordon keeps the commitment of responsive, effective and collaborative government through goal number 20: Government decisions are based on careful consideration of future impact, rather than temporary relief or immediate gain.

# THE SAN MATEO HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

1851 Lexington Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94402

May 8, 2004

Hon. Richard Gordon, San Mateo Supervisor  
Hon. Mike Nevin, San Mateo Supervisor  
San Mateo Board of Supervisors  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: Youth Services Center

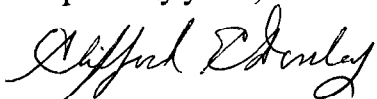
Dear Supervisors:

Thank you for your letter of January 27, 2004, concerning your commitment to working with the Highlands Community Association in minimizing the negative impacts of the new Youth Services Center project upon the surrounding neighborhoods. We also acknowledge your intention to comply with the guidelines described in the Environmental Assessment for that project.

At the April 27, 2004, meeting of the general membership of the Highlands Community Association, a motion was passed unanimously directing me to request that you jointly ask concurrence by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors in [your jointly signed] letter of January 27, 2004, which lays out the points of understanding regarding the construction and landscaping of the new Youth Services Center.

Please contact me with the date and time that this item is placed on the Board's agenda or if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully yours,



Clifford Donley, President



San Mateo County  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Hall of Justice and Records  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

**Rich Gordon**  
(650) 363-4569

**Mike Nevin**  
(650) 363-4572

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January 27, 2004

Mr. Cliff Donley  
30 Shelburne Place  
San Mateo, CA 94402

Re: Youth Services Center

We would like to take this opportunity to clarify the County's position regarding the construction of the new Youth Services Center. We are aware of the impacts to the surrounding neighborhoods and we want to express our commitment to working with your community to minimize those impacts. We intend to comply with the guidelines described in the project's Environmental Assessment. Through our meetings with HCA representatives and with the surrounding neighborhoods, it seems that some emphasis and explanation of a few of these guidelines would be beneficial.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) states that "the line-of-sight from the existing residences generally runs above the proposed structures". We want to reaffirm our commitment to this statement. Figure 10, on page 5-10 of the EA, shows a conceptual site profile that was developed before schematic drawings or regulatory approvals. The buildings in this figure are conceptual and the "line-of-sight" shown in the figure is consistent with the current design of the facility and complies with the statement in the Environmental Assessment.

Some residents have expressed concern that a mezzanine level was added to certain buildings because of the State's requirements. We assure you that the actual height of the buildings is lower than the schematic design and additional excavation compensates even more for the line-of-sight. The combination of the lowered building heights and additional excavation will result in the line of sight that is reflected in the EA.

The project's visual impacts will be minimized by using landscaping and architectural treatments. As stated in previous correspondence, there is a continuing commitment to minimize any visual impact of the project to the neighbors. The County maintains its willingness to provide a landscaped berm, utilize finishes and building colors that blend well into the

environment, use appropriate window glazing and employ lighting techniques and products that will contribute to minimizing the view of the project from all directions. We wish to express our desire to continue to work with the surrounding community to ensure that these commitments are met. Neighborhood representatives have expressed particular concerns regarding the project's construction schedule and landscape planning. We value the cooperation of the surrounding neighborhoods and we will make every effort to ensure that they are informed of and involved in these processes.

Sincerely,



MIKE NEVIN

Supervisor, County of San Mateo



RICH GORDON

Supervisor, County of San Mateo