RE: PLN2019-00258 Proposal to Amend Subdivision Text

I am a voting member of the AAC representing the general public. I participated in the editing of the letter of recommendations which you will receive as part of this review process for the referenced text amendment proposal; however, I feel the need to write individually to express my view that the goals of POST and MidPen and the local agricultural/ranching communities can, and should be, complementary and collaborative.

As a lifetime resident of San Mateo County and a fifth generation Californian whose grandparents were all farmers and ranchers, I am a dedicated supporter of these activities remaining a vital part of our regional economy. I am also a supporter of MidPen and POST in their mission to secure and steward open spaces and agricultural lands in our South Bay Area.

As a decades long customer of farmers markets and community supported food sources (agriculture, fishing and ranching), I am committed to promoting a healthy, regionally sourced food economy. I am equally committed to conserving open space, natural resources and wildlife habitat. I feel it is important to the quality of life for all in our region to enjoy respectful and thoughtful recreational use as access to these open spaces. As I write, I’m very aware I am giving voice to so many of my neighbors and colleagues who shop CSA’s and our local farmers markets and frequently head out to open space trails on weekends with their families and friends (or at least they did prior to our current sheltering and social distancing orders). In fact, in these current and future ‘new normal’ times, research has shown open space access to nature’s wilder areas will be all the more critical to mental and physical health, even in constricted circumstances.

I would strongly urge a solution that acknowledges and enables the goals for a supported ag and ranching economy into the future as well as respectful public access through these food resource and open space lands. It is important to apply knowledge and creative problem-solving talents toward the best longterm solution for all parties rather than an expedited decision that might critically compromise either local food system or open space access.

Thank you for your consideration. May the best decision arise from your deep listening to all viewpoints and ‘design thinking’ talents, applying users’ inputs into the final ‘product’. (The last a nod to my career in user centered research/design in tech.)

Respectfully,
Judith Humburg, Resident of Menlo Park