

# Appendix A – Written Comments and Transcript of Verbal Comments

Part Five:

- Individual Comments (JOHNSON through PANELL)

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To the EIR consultants, the Planning Commissioners and City Council,

1.1

Saratoga Retirement Community is widely know for it's beautiful green campus - full of trees, bushes, walking paths, & lovely landscaping.

The new PRS Expansion Plan plans to eliminate most of this beauty by packing it with more housing & more buildings. There are 124 beautiful large trees (& much more greenery) scheduled for destruction.

Our park & outdoor recreation area will be taken from us. Our trees & our birds will be gone. It will be incredibly sad & depressing for those of us in the last years of our lives.

*Yours Truly,  
Gayle P. Johnson ~ 14500 Grinvale Ave  
Apt. 5325 Saratoga, CA 95070*

8/10/23

Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

2.1

Saratoga has been named Tree City USA every year since 2006 and has won several national awards for its trees like America in Bloom's Best Tree Canopy, Best Urban Forest and Best Tree Heritage Program from 2015-2017.

However, after recent winter storms, Saratoga's tree canopy faced several threats from extreme rainfall and strong winds. At least 13 large trees and 15 limbs had to be removed from Saratoga roads. Others fell on private property.

At a time when trees are being lost due to weather, it is sad to think that the City would allow perfectly healthy trees to be chopped down for the sake of building housing. Such is the plan before the City Council and Planning Commission when a developer is proposing several buildings be built at Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) that would take down 124 trees, 65 of which are protected by the City's code. Some of these large trees are over 100 feet tall and six feet in diameter. They provide shade, habitat for birds and other animals and contribute to the beauty of the SRC campus. They buffer noise, cool the environment at a time of record breaking heat and help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

SRC does not need the proposed buildings at the sake of losing one of the things that makes it so special to the residents....tall, majestic, healthy trees. I urge the City Council and the Planning Commission to reject this plan in favor of "no plan" or at the very least the resident's alternative plan.

*Sincerely,  
Gayle P. Johnson and Mamaduke  
Apt. 5325*



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

3.1 I am a resident at the Saratoga Retirement Community.

We are strongly against building these apartment building right in the center of our campus.

For SRC, the Odd Fellows Historical park is equivalent to the "Central Park" In New York City. It is a safe outdoor area for us to stroll, for us and our neighbors to walk their dogs.

These paths are very accessible even for residents with walkers. We come out of our apartment and walk around to get sunshine and fresh air.



In contrast, the DEIR suggests that these campus walking paths and open space can be substituted by the nearby San Marcos Open space (p.3-260 DEIR). Can you imagine residents taking their walkers along the Odd Fellows Lane easement, walking along the roads without pedestrian paths, going up the hill to the San Marcos Open Space? Yes, it is only 300 feet to the southeast of the Project site, but that is "as the crow flies" distance. One has to climb up a steep embankment—inaccessible except by a 2.5-mile round trip along the road or by helicopter. This shows complete lack of understanding of the seniors' needs nor respect for seniors' quality of life.

Please do NOT allow the apartment building to be built on this open space.

*Sincerely,  
Gayle P. Johnson and Marmaduke  
Apt. 5323 8/6/23*

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

4.1

One of the reasons that I chose Saratoga Retirement Community is the attractive outdoor green space. The bucolic campus is one of the assets of the entire Saratoga City. Here seniors can relax and have fresh air.



I am against Pacific Retirement Service's building the two story high apartment which will occupy all the green space we have. Please do NOT build these apartments. This green space is an irreplaceable jewel.  
Thanks you for listening,

*Gayle P. Johnson* July 27, 2023  
*Apt 5325*



**Rawnsley, Emma**

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**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:53 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on SRC EIR  
**Attachments:** Saratoga City input on EIR for SRC.docx

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**Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner**

City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us) | [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

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**From:** stjohanson@pacbell.net <stjohanson@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 9, 2023 6:01 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Comments on SRC EIR

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Please see attached.

Steve Johnson  
SRC resident

## Saratoga City input on EIR for SRC

1.1

The most significant environmental impact of the PRS proposal would be to drastically and permanently degrade a unique and iconic part of the city of Saratoga, by scraping mature trees from major portions of the Saratoga Retirement Community ("SRC") campus. PRS then would jam SRC full of new buildings, thus converting it from a bucolic campus into downtown San Jose.

And to what end? So that PRS can check the box for cramming a square peg into a round hole, by forcing its standard CCRC one-size-fits-all financial structure onto an SRC retirement home that in its current configuration has consistently generated operating profits for its owners.

There is no benefit to Saratoga in allowing this to happen.

Please require PRS to go back to the drawing board and come up with a less destructive option.

To the EIR consultants, the Planning Commissioners and City Council,

1.1

Saratoga Retirement Community is widely know for it's beautiful green campus - full of trees, bushes, walking paths, & lovely landscaping.

The new PRS Expansion Plan plans to eliminate most of this beauty by packing it with more housing & more buildings. There are 124 beautiful large trees (& much more greenery) scheduled for destruction.

Our park & outdoor recreation area will be taken from us. Our trees & our birds will be gone. It will be incredibly sad & depressing for those of us in the last years of our lives.

STEVE JOHNSON *Steve Johnson* 8/17/23 Apt. 6138

ELEONORE JOHNSON *E. Johnson* 8/17/23 V

To EIR consultants, Planning commission and City council,

1.1

I am a resident at the Saratoga Retirement Community.

When I read the DEIR, I found the report ignoring the environment and the lives of our residents on campus. There are issues which cannot be mitigated to less than significant as suggested in the DEIR.

Here are a few examples on Recreation and Open Space:

1) We lose our Odd Fellows historical park if Building A is allowed. The EIR section 3.15.1 listed 28 acres of existing public park facilities within one mile of project site.. SRC expansion will have no impact on a single existing public recreate facility."

Let me ask, "Where is the study for the impact on the SRC residents? Even though there are 28 acres nearby, would you ask your elderly parents to take Uber to one of these parks with their walkers? At present, the park on campus is accessible any time and day, residents take their walkers to the park, sit on the chair and enjoy fresh air. Neighbors come with their dogs, walk or bike around the campus. This park serves many citizens. To eliminate this park has a very significant environmental impact. But The DERI REC-1 never studies the impact on the residents if you eliminate the park.

2) Loss of the open space on SRC

Building A and Meeting room take away the remaining 6% of our accessible open green space. EIR 3.15.1 environmental setting listed that the new trail connects the Project to the San Marcos Open Space approx. 300 feet SE of the Project site. Please note the 300 feet is "as the crow flies" distance. One has to climb up a steep embankment—inaccessible except by a 2.5-mile round trip along the road or by helicopter! While on campus, we currently have safe and smooth paths for the seniors to enjoy the open space. Many senior here have mobility issues, poor eye sight, hard at hearing and limited physical strength, they are not able to go on any of the suggested open space or hiking trails. DEIR ignores the special needs of the Seniors on campus. The analyses are inappropriate, irrelevant and discriminating against the senior population.

Yours Truly  
Gayle P. Johnson - 14500 Prunetale Ave  
Apt. 5325 Saratoga, CA. 95078  
Norma Marshall  
apt 4101  
8/10/23

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner,  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Planning commissioner and the City Council,

1.1

We residents here at Saratoga just love our bocce ball court. That & our putting green are our only outdoor games on campus. We also enjoy the chairs & picnic tables set up in that same park. The large oak tree there was lost in a storm last year & it has not been replaced with anything — not even grass or ground cover. Why? Because the PRS Expansion project plans to eliminate this park entirely (our only park) to make way for more buildings.

If we wanted a campus full of buildings we would have moved to any number of more financially reasonable ones in the Bay Area.

Please help us save our green space.

Alan King  
6134

Alan King

8/6/2023



August 6, 2023

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
City of Saratoga  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 05070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

2.1

Among the many concerns we residents have about the PRS Expansion plan, one is more esthetic, less rational, and difficult to quantify: the threat to our historically and architecturally significant central building, known as the Manor. This iconic white stucco-clad building is a glory to behold--graceful and inviting in spite of its bulk, proud with its two bell towers and arched colonnades. The building itself will not undergo significant changes under this plan (though one exterior wall will be pierced), but the proposed addition of the Meeting Room, dangling offhandedly from its west side, will detract from the Manor's classic beauty. It will ruin the aspect of a beautiful building, perfectly sited on its plot.


This handsome Mission Revival style building is impressive. Its size and bulk fit the site, which was doubtless the premier spot on the property when it was built in 1912: on the crown of a knoll that dominates its surroundings. The building's prominent setting confirmed the importance of its purpose: the housing of elderly residents, which the Odd Fellows took seriously.

When the Odd Fellows developed this property in the early 2000s to create today's continuous care community, they took pains to respect and preserve the Manor and the style it set. Changes to the interior were made with care, and exterior alterations were minimal. Importantly, the purpose and use of all the new facilities continued to fulfill the Odd Fellows' original commitment to house the elderly.

Besides intruding on the Manor's setting, the Meeting Room's building site would eliminate one of the few spaces left on campus where there is greenery shaded by mature trees, which will be sacrificed.

Even if the new Meeting Room were to be sensitively designed to compliment the Manor, it will inevitably diminish the visual impact of that grand structure. A classical building is a style defined by symmetry, which will be forever abrogated. Future visitors and historians will never be able to see the Manor as we do; they will look and wonder why anyone was allowed to tack on such an appendage. Their only option will be to crop it out of their photos!

Sincerely,

 Alan King 8/6/23  
# 6134



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner,  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

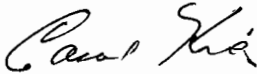
Dear Planning commissioner and the City Council,

1.1

We residents here at Saratoga just love our bocce ball court. That & our putting green are our only outdoor games on campus. We also enjoy the chairs & picnic tables set up in that same park. The large oak tree there was lost in a storm last year & it has not been replaced with anything — not even grass or ground cover. Why? Because the PRS Expansion project plans to eliminate this park entirely (our only park) to make way for more buildings.

If we wanted a campus full of buildings we would have moved to any number of more financially reasonable ones in the Bay Area.

Please help us save our green space.

CAROL KING  
  
14500 FRUITVALE AVE  
SARATOGA  
APT 5312 8/9/23

**Rawnsley, Emma**

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**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 10:23 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community

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**Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner**

City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us) | [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

---

**From:** elaine klein <elainerochelleklein@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 19, 2023 10:54 AM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community

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Elaine C. Klein

14500 Fruitvale Ave, apt 5106

Saratoga, CA 95070

**PERSONAL RESPONSE TO DEIR FOR SARATOGA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY EXPANSION PLAN**

1.1 My husband, Robert B. Klein, and I moved into SRC less than one year ago. We left our home in New York City to afford us quiet, beauty, safety and a caring supportive

1.1  
Cont

environment in the CCSC of our first choice. (We visited many others in the Santa Cruz and Santa Clara regions, where our daughter and family live). At the time we were both quite well, but we anticipated a decline as we age from our present 85 (Bob) and 82 (Elaine) years, respectively. We both felt it would be especially important if and when we needed the care offered by SRC's health care facility/center (HCC) and felt confident in what we had been told about SRC.

At the time we were learning about SRC, we were briefly told about the potential expansion plan, but were assured two things, among many others:

- 1) We would not be 'disturbed' in any way by the expansion, should it take place within our lifetimes (which it was suggested it would not — 'way down the road')
- 2) The HCC would be of the highest quality and be able to support us as our health needs expanded.

Based on what we saw, what we read, what we heard and were told, we were assured that any expansion would, ultimately, be for the benefit of all SRC residents now and in the future. It was with this knowledge that we signed on as residents.

Almost a year later (we moved in on Sept 21, 2022), the 'expansion campaign' has taken a turn for the worse — much worse — and we write you at this time to PLEASE consider and honor your commitment to SRC's residents, who will be calling this their 'last home,' as we will.

1.2

We are very concerned/worried about the many many problems that others have written about (e.g. the loss of much of the natural beauty of our campus, especially the age-old trees that make the landscape so unique, the preservation of the few open spaces we now have and enjoy (e.g. the Odd Fellows Park at the center of campus), the noise and pollution and disruption of construction right in our midst that will be brought to residents, etc, etc. In fact, in reading all of the materials very carefully, we cannot not think of ONE good reason for this particular expansion design to take place, at least where present residents are concerned.

1.3

1) The most outrageous, to us, aspect of the proposal — given what we have written above — is its extremely disappointing attention (or lack thereof) to **the improvement of the HCC**. This facility, we have learned, has long been on the list of SRC's most-needed-improvements and, as a lay person, I see very little in the few details provided that gives me any confidence that this will be the facility that a fine institution like SRC should be offering.

In fact, There is a huge **void** in the details for the HCC remodel other than reducing the 99 beds to 54 and converting all the rooms to private including private toilet and shower. Wouldn't this be the opportune time to learn from the all the studies done post covid to design SRC HCC with details to mitigate the next pandemic. In other words, the careful location and design of the HCC **should be #1 on your list of priorities**. (Right now, the vague construction schedule shows it as *phase four*.

(Parts of the following commentary were adapted from others' comments):

1.4

2) After reading all the possible road closures and road re-alignments and the fact that Emergency Medical Response (EMR) vehicles are very frequently on the campus day and night, it seems **urgent that the Emergency Access be built immediately!** This is the access from Chester Ave with a wide sweep to accommodate fire trucks onto Odd Fellows Drive. For years, residents have begged for this as San Marcos/Odd Fellows drive in the only way in and out of the campus. With all the daytime truck congestion and debris removal during the proposed construction, there needs to be a safe way for fire and emergency vehicles to access the campus.

3) **Air Quality, Noise, and vibration analysis** were all missing for the interior environment that in-patients in the HCC would be subjected to during the remodel. While the DEIR concerns itself with the exterior environment, no one has examined what the in-patients must endure trapped in their beds during this construction. In an important study done in Cleveland Clinic and reported in The Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine, October 1, 2019, Amjad Kanj MD et al reported in article, "**What are the Risks to Inpatients During Hospital Construction or Renovation**", found that "Hospital construction ultimately will serve the interests of patients but it also can put in-patients at risk of mold disease, Legionnaires Disease, sleep deprivation, and exacerbation of lung disease."

4) **Solar panels and Water Saving standards** were also missing for the HCC remodel plans. There were plans for solar panels for other buildings as well as "Build it Green" ideas but nothing for the HCC.

5) **Impact MF-S-3 Direct adverse effects on human beings** inside (and outside) a HCC that is being remodeled, as well as to residents in nearby housing. There is a lot of analysis on the outside air, water, noise and vibration but nothing for "Sensitive Receptors" who are unable to move or relocate, trapped as such in their beds and bedrooms in a HCC that is being remodeled. An abled bodied resident can request a change of location if overwhelmed with noise , dust and vibration but no such options are available to the in-patient recovering in a HCC that is undergoing a remodel.

Thank you to the Planning Commissioners and City Council members and their staffs for making this comment process possible. I hope comments will be granted the serious attention they deserve.

Sincerely,

Dr. Elaine C. Klein  
Prof Emerita  
City University of New York  
New York, NY

**Rawnsley, Emma**

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**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2023 4:50 PM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community plans

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Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

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**From:** Mary Ann Lahann <ma.lahann@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 2, 2023 2:52 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community plans

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1.1

Good day. If I am seeing the Master Plan correctly, it is planned to place a new fitness center right in front of the original Hacienda. If that is the plan, I have to object. The main Hacienda should be preserved and the view of it too. Especially as the relatively recent tree removal has made the Hacienda much more visible, especially from the college grounds. A new fitness center plopped right down on the front lawn is an abomination to the beauty and history of The Odd Fellows Home and the City of Saratoga.

We have lived at the corner of Fruitvale and Douglass since 1971 and have sadly seen so much of Saratoga's natural beauty stained by ill considered development. There must be a better place for a gym than the front lawn, the first thing we see when we enter the grounds.

Thank you

Mary Ann Lahann  
Gerald Lahann  
Joyce Lahann

19516 Douglass Ln.  
Saratoga  
408-867-3936 land  
408-335-3802

19516 Douglass Ln.  
Saratoga  
408-867-3936 landline  
408-335-3802 cell

## Rawnsley, Emma

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**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2023 10:57 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: SAVE SRC

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#### Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner

City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
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Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

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**From:** Betsy Landergren <betsylan@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 8:26 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** SAVE SRC

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Dear Ms. Richardson,

Thanks for your concern in this matter.

Elizabeth Landergren  
Saratoga, CA

Let me ask you a question.

1.1 If you had a swimming pool in your back yard, & you were told, "We're taking it away from you & building an apartment house in its place."

How would you feel?

1.1  
Cont.

If they told you that it would be of minimal impact on you because the YMCA a few miles from you has a very nice pool.

How would you feel?

And if they said to you: “We’re taking your remaining yard away from you to build even more apartments. No matter. You have have plenty of open space just a few miles away.”

How would you feel?

And what if you couldn’t drive to get to that pool or park or open space?

And what if you had limited mobility — and even hiring an Uber would be out of the question?

And what if you currently pay for those lovely resources which were promised to you even before you moved in?

And what if you had to continue to pay for these amenities even after they were taken away from you?

How would you feel?

Would this be of minimal impact to you? Minimal to your life style, to your comfort, to your well being, to your very health?

The DEIR does not even begin to understand or address these issues.

These matters not only affect the 200 Independent Residents of SRC, but the 130+ Residents in Assisted Living, the 18 folks in Memory Care, the 60 patients in the Health Center, the families who visit us, and all the outside residents who live in the areas surrounding the SRC campus who use our space for their own enjoyment.

Put yourself for a moment in the place of all those folks. And NOW, How do you feel?

We are not against enhancements & modernizations. But please review & adopt the Residents Plan. It addresses & implements the needed improvements but without the devastating impact that the PRS plan would have on our lives.





# SARATOGA

California

Commenter: LANDERGREN-E-2

Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Meeting  
August 2, 2023

Comment Form  
(please print)

6 Aug 23

Name\*:

Eliz. Landergren

Affiliation (if any):\*

14500 Fruitvale

Email address:\*

Cottage 6102

Comment:

Saratoga 95070

2.1

"Minimal Impact"

Thats what your report says of Building D.

If That goes thru, my entire house will be demolished & I will have to be relocated.

Minimal impact, my A\*\*! I will lose my home — my final home (I thought) & so will my neighbor.

And this for only 11 apartments that could be built elsewhere.

\* Please print. Your name and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.

Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments can also be emailed.

Mailing address:

Saratoga Retirement Community  
c/o Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Email:

Cynthia Richardson  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us)

Public Comment Period:

July 6, 2023 to August 21, 2023

Comments will be accepted until August 21, 2023 by 5:00 PM

3.1

Saratoga Retirement community is already solvent, in the black!

Yes we need improvements to our Health Care Center, but we don't need the enormous building projects proposed by PRS.

This proposed project will not only negatively affect the residents for the rest of their lives, but all our neighbors will be subjected to noise, pollution, traffic, & disruption for years.

And the result? **More money for PRS** & a remaining campus of buildings —not mature trees, not a park, not flat outdoor space for the residents. Welcome to New York City.

Elizabeth L. Landergren  
14500 Fruitvale Ave # 6102  
Saratoga 95070

✓ yes, I wrote this letter  
8/6/2023



Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Ave  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

4.1

I have lived at Saratoga Retirement Community for just 2 years, but a couple months ago I was told that my home (and that of my neighbor's) would be demolished to make room for an 11 unit 2-story apartment building. I'm sure you can imagine my distress.

I later learned that that plan is just one of the suggested "reforms" that have been proposed for our lovely campus.

My daughter lives in Los Altos & I really wanted to love the Terraces of Los Altos. However, I fell in love with the trees and open space here at SRC. So I paid \$750,000. for the privilege of moving into my cottage — none of it refundable.

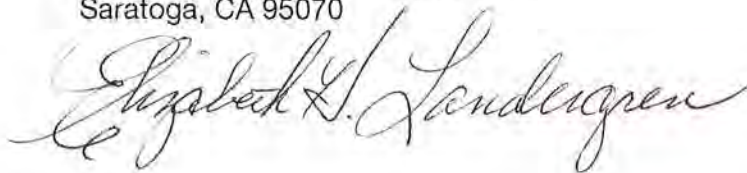
Now I find that there are plans to destroy that very open space around the entire campus, along with over 100 lovely, gracious trees and our only small park.

The SRC residents have submitted a plan that minimizes this destruction yet covers the needs of expansion. I hope this plan will be adopted.

I have watched the Saratoga kids come to our campus to take prom pictures. I have met neighbors strolling through our grounds enjoying the shade & walking paths. And all our residents moved here because they fell in love with this place that so far has not become institutionalized.

Please help us preserve our trees, our open space, our treasured homes.

Elizabeth Landergren  
14500 Fruitvale Ave. Cottage 6102  
Saratoga, CA 95070





# SARATOGA

California

Commenter: LANDERGREN-E-5

Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Meeting  
August 2, 2023

Comment Form  
(please print)

6 Aug 23

Name\*:

E H Landergren

Affiliation (if any):\*

Saratoga Retirement

Email address:\*

Comment:

5.1

Please do not destroy our lovely MANOR  
Building by attaching a Meeting Room.  
It won't technically be attached, but it  
might as well be. It will destroy  
the design of the whole acreage.

EHL

\* Please print. Your name and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.

Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments can also be emailed.

Mailing address:

**Saratoga Retirement Community**  
c/o Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Email:

**Cynthia Richardson**  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us)

Public Comment Period:

July 6, 2023 to August 21, 2023

Comments will be accepted until August 21, 2023 by 5:00 PM





# SARATOGA

California

Commenter: LANDERGREN-E-6

Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Meeting  
August 2, 2023

Comment Form  
(please print)

6 Aug 23

Name\*:

Eliz Landergren Cottage 6102

Affiliation (if any):\*

14500 Fruitvale Ave

Email address:\*

Comment:

Saratoga

6.1

Please do not take away our  
only park - our only flat space,  
green space, bocce court

\* Please print. Your name and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.

Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments can also be emailed.

Mailing address:

**Saratoga Retirement Community**

c/o Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Email:

**Cynthia Richardson**

[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us)

Public Comment Period:

July 6, 2023 to August 21, 2023

**Comments will be accepted until August 21, 2023 by 5:00 PM**



# SARATOGA

California

Commenter: LANDERGREN-E-7

Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Meeting  
August 2, 2023

Comment Form  
(please print)

Aug 6, 2023

Name\*:

Betsy Landergren

Affiliation (if any):\*

Saratoga Retirement Community

Email address\*:

betsy.lan@pacbell.net

Comment:

Please seriously consider the Residents' Plan if buildings absolutely have to be constructed. The other plans will disrupt the Entire Campus

\* Please print. Your name and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.

Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments can also be emailed.

Mailing address:

**Saratoga Retirement Community**  
c/o Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Email:

**Cynthia Richardson**  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us)

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**EIR N.**

EIR FORM TO PROVIDE INPUTS TO THE PLANNING DEPT OF SARATOGA CITY, CA.  
email to: Cynthia Richardson <[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us)>

**THESE ARE MY COMMENTS ABOUT THE PRELIMINARY EIR OF THE SARATOGA RETIREMENT  
COMMUNITY EXPANSION PROPOSAL.**

1. Version of EIR: SCH#2021110366 July 2023
2. Alternate Plan Numbers: Circle Alt 2 & 3
3. Name of Submitter: *Patricia Lewis*
4. Residence of Submitter: Street: 14500 Fruitvale Ave, Apt *4215*  
City: Saratoga State: CA - 95070 Date: 7/22/2023
5. Date of Submission: July 2023 Do you approve of the EIR: **NO**
6. Topic: Name of the topic of your comments:  
Objections to the EIR as presented on multiple issues, including Alt 1,2,3
7. EIR Page numbers: From Pg 2-34 Par 2.4.4 TO: Pg IV EIR
8. Describe your concern with the DEIR:

THIS IS A VERY SCARY PLAN WHICH WILL OVERWHELM THE THEN RESIDING RESIDENTS, ENDANGERING THEIR LIVES AND LIMBS.

1.1

**F. TRAFFIC CONTROL : 2.4.4 Pg. 2-34 Par 3**

Emergency access routes within the campus would be maintained throughout construction. **Colfax Lane and West Cottages Lane** would be **temporarily rerouted** for approximately 3 months (!!!) during Phases 2 and 3; however, at least two of the three access roads would be open for emergency vehicle access at all times.

This rerouting of just 3 months is illusory, and does not address how residents of the cottages will be able to enter their garages, etc.

**This is a real double talk. In one section it is said that analysis and resolution of the traffic within the SRC campus during construction is an SRC issue, and that the EIR does not address such.** It just Promises that emergency routes will be open – but what about normal inhabitants??

**In another section it is stated that the Park would be used for staging During the whole XX years of construction.**

This is really a grand!

Effort to destroy, endanger and encumber the lives of residents for who knows how many years.

The last stated duration was announced on July 20, 2023 by the PRS hired Consultant and Project Leader, that it would take 7 (seven) years to complete the construction of plan 3, so for all these years we would be looking at dirt, trucks, etc.

1.1 Saratoga Retirement community is already solvent, in the black!

Yes we need improvements to our Health Care Center, but we don't need the enormous building projects proposed by PRS.

This proposed project will not only negatively affect the residents for the rest of their lives, but all our neighbors will be subjected to noise, pollution, traffic, & disruption for years.

And the result? **More money for PRS** & a remaining campus of buildings —not mature trees, not a park, not flat outdoor space for the residents. Welcome to New York City.

*Patricia Lewis*

*David Lewis*

*14500 Juniper Ave, 4215  
Saratoga Ca 95070*

*8/6/23*



August 6, 2023

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
City of Saratoga  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 05070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

2.1

Among the many concerns we residents have about the PRS Expansion plan, one is more esthetic, less rational, and difficult to quantify: the threat to our historically and architecturally significant central building, known as the Manor. This iconic white stucco-clad building is a glory to behold--graceful and inviting in spite of its bulk, proud with its two bell towers and arched colonnades. The building itself will not undergo significant changes under this plan (though one exterior wall will be pierced), but the proposed addition of the Meeting Room, dangling offhandedly from its west side, will detract from the Manor's classic beauty. It will ruin the aspect of a beautiful building, perfectly sited on its plot.

This handsome Mission Revival style building is impressive. Its size and bulk fit the site, which was doubtless the premier spot on the property when it was built in 1912: on the crown of a knoll that dominates its surroundings. The building's prominent setting confirmed the importance of its purpose: the housing of elderly residents, which the Odd Fellows took seriously.

When the Odd Fellows developed this property in the early 2000s to create today's continuous care community, they took pains to respect and preserve the Manor and the style it set. Changes to the interior were made with care, and exterior alterations were minimal. Importantly, the purpose and use of all the new facilities continued to fulfill the Odd Fellows' original commitment to house the elderly.

Besides intruding on the Manor's setting, the Meeting Room's building site would eliminate one of the few spaces left on campus where there is greenery shaded by mature trees, which will be sacrificed.

Even if the new Meeting Room were to be sensitively designed to compliment the Manor, it will inevitably diminish the visual impact of that grand structure. A classical building is a style defined by symmetry, which will be forever abrogated. Future visitors and historians will never be able to see the Manor as we do; they will look and wonder why anyone was allowed to tack on such an appendage. Their only option will be to crop it out of their photos!

Sincerely,

*Peterson Lewis*  
*David Lewis*

*14500 Fruitvale Ave. #4215*  
*Saratoga CA 95070*

To the EIR consultants, Planning Commssioners and City Council,

3.1

Here is a very important issue which has not been studied thoroughly. The consequence is significant.

**Emeregecnyn Evacuation needs more study**

- Emergency Evacuation on SRC campus, which also involves our neighbors on Chester Ave. San Marcos Lane and the Fellowship Plaza, needs more study. It is a a basic health and safety issue.
- How to evacuate the Skilled Nursing patients during emergency evacuation, when at least 40 ambulance has to come to campus. How can the independent Living senior residents driving themselves out in this case? They are all expected to evacuate using their own vehicles according to the management per instruction from our administration ( June 21 2023)
- The gates on Chester Ave. for the 80 additional Fellowship plaza apartment and the additional 52 SRC apartments are inadequate for emergency evacuation. These gates will not be able to handle the ambulances, the fire trucks and the additional cars. Even now before the constructions, it is already a real threat of safety and health. The report does not have any detailed study and do not have plans to mitigate the danger.

***Impact TRA-4: Project-Related Interference with Emergency Access***

*The Project could result in inadequate emergency access. Mitigation: MM-TRA-3a: Construction Traffic Control Plan*

The Project could result in inadequate emergency access. It has significant impact, not mitigated in the DEIR studies. Referring to Mitigation: MM-TRA-3a: Construction Traffic Control Plan

*Peterson Lewis*  
*David Lewis*

*14500 Fruitvale Ave #215  
Fruitvale, Ca 95070*



Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

4.1

Saratoga has been named Tree City USA every year since 2006 and has won several national awards for its trees like America in Bloom's Best Tree Canopy, Best Urban Forest and Best Tree Heritage Program from 2015-2017.

However, after recent winter storms, Saratoga's tree canopy faced several threats from extreme rainfall and strong winds. At least 13 large trees and 15 limbs had to be removed from Saratoga roads. Others fell on private property.

At a time when trees are being lost due to weather, it is sad to think that the City would allow perfectly healthy trees to be chopped down for the sake of building housing. Such is the plan before the City Council and Planning Commission when a developer is proposing several buildings be built at Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) that would take down 124 trees, 65 of which are protected by the City's code. Some of these large trees are over 100 feet tall and six feet in diameter. They provide shade, habitat for birds and other animals and contribute to the beauty of the SRC campus. They buffer noise, cool the environment at a time of record breaking heat and help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

SRC does not need the proposed buildings at the sake of losing one of the things that makes it so special to the residents....tall, majestic, healthy trees. I urge the City Council and the Planning Commission to reject this plan in favor of "no plan" or at the very least the resident's alternative plan.

*Patricia Lewis*  
*David Lewis*

*14500 Fruitvale Ave #4215*  
*Saratoga, Ca 95070*

*8/6/23*

5.1

Saratoga Retirement community is already solvent, in the black!

Yes we need improvements to our Health Care Center, but we don't need the enormous building projects proposed by PRS.

This proposed project will not only negatively affect the residents for the rest of their lives, but all our neighbors will be subjected to noise, pollution, traffic, & disruption for years.

And the result? **More money for PRS** & a remaining campus of buildings —not mature trees, not a park, not flat outdoor space for the residents. Welcome to New York City.

*Patricia Lewis*

*Denny Lewis*

*14500 Fruitvale Ave #4215  
San Francisco, CA 94070*

*8/6/23*

6.1

The DEIR has reviewed the Project plans for a building B in front of the Historical Manor Building and the proposed Meeting room attached to the side of the same Manor Building with astonishing different standards.

In the case of Building B the EIR found a conflict with the Historical Manor that could not be mitigated **(See Table 3.5-1- Item 9 and 10 of the Summary of Project Adherence to Secretary of Interior's Standard for Rehabilitation )**

**In that same table, 3.5-1 The finding for item #9 found a potential conflict with the meeting room.**

The next page ,3-94 , item 2 states

"The proposed construction of the Meeting Room and its attachment to the West elevation the Manor building thru a building hyphen would also remove and/or alter character defining features represented in the west (secondary) elevation."

On page 3-101 the EIR further states

"The proposed construction of the Meeting Room Addition as part of the Project could potentially result in the substantial adverse change in the Manor Building due to the potential for damage during construction"

The symmetry of the Manor Building is forever lost with the Meeting Room attached to its western wall of the Manor.

**The Meeting Room needs a specific evaluation under CUL-1.**

Additionally, there has been no evaluation of the environmental impact of the Residents living in Apartments 1101,1202 and 1203 during construction or after wards with their apartment windows on the western manor wall being mostly blocked out by the new Meeting Room.

**At a minimum EIR evaluations and mitigations should be reviewed for AES-1 Scenic Vista, HAZ-i hazardous emissions, NOI-1increased noise levels, NOI-2 vibrations & dust, POP-2 displacement of people, and MFS-3 adverse impact on human beings.**

*Patricia Lewis  
David Lewis*

*14500 Lunitale Ave #4215  
Fresno, Ca 95070  
8/6/23*



1.1 Saratoga Retirement Community is widely know for it's beautiful green campus - full of trees, bushes, walking paths, & lovely landscaping.

For many of us, this is one of the reasons why we chose to move to SRC.

1.2 The new PRS Expansion Plan plans to eliminate most of this beauty by packing it with more housing & more buildings. There are 124 beautiful large trees (& much more greenery) scheduled for destruction.

Our park & outdoor recreation area will be taken from us. Our trees & our birds will be gone. It will be incredibly sad & depressing for those of us in the last years of our lives.

LING LIN  
Ling Lin  
Apr. 5308

To EIR consultants, Planning commission and City council,

I am a resident at the Saratoga Retirement Community.

2.1

When I read the DEIR, I found the report ignoring the environment and the lives of our residents on campus. There are issues which cannot be mitigated to less than significant as suggested in the DEIR.

Here are a few examples on Recreation and Open Space:

1) We lose our Odd Fellows historical park if Building A is allowed. The EIR section 3.15.1 listed 28 acres of existing public park facilities within one mile of project site.. SRC expansion will have no impact on a single existing public recreate facility."

Let me ask, "Where is the study for the impact on the SRC residents? Even though there are 28 acres nearby, would you ask your elderly parents to take Uber to one of these parks with their walkers? At present, the park on campus is accessible any time and day, residents take their walkers to the park, sit on the chair and enjoy fresh air. Neighbors come with their dogs, walk or bike around the campus. This park serves many citizens. To eliminate this park has a very significant environmental impact. But The DERI REC-1 never studies the impact on the residents if you eliminate the park.

2) Loss of the open space on SRC

Building A and Meeting room take away the remaining 6% of our accessible open green space. EIR 3.15.1 environmental setting listed that the new trail connects the Project to the San Marcos Open Space approx. 300 feet SE of the Project site. Please note the 300 feet is "as the crow flies "distance. One has to climb up a steep embankment—inaccessible except by a 2.5-mile round trip along the road or by helicopter! While on campus, we currently have safe and smooth paths for the seniors to enjoy the open space. Many senior here have mobility issues, poor eye sight, hard at hearing and limited physical strength, they are not able to go on any of the suggested open space or hiking trails. DEIR ignores the special needs of the Seniors on campus. The analyses are inappropriate, irrelevant and discriminating against the senior population.

L/N & L/N  
Long Lew.  
Apt. 5308  
8/8/23



To EIR consultants, Planning Commissioner and City Council

Here are some points that you should consider in the Saratoga Retirement Community Expansion plan.

3.1

**The question is not when will the next Pandemic hit, but what are we doing to prepare for it?**

As a lay person when it comes to very technical details, I reviewed the DEIR for the proposed expansion of the Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) as best as I could.

I found a huge **void** in the details for the Health Care Center (HCC) remodel other than reducing the 99 beds to 54 and converting all the rooms to private including private toilet and shower. It was disappointing since this seems the opportune time to learn from the all the studies done post covid and to design SRC HCC with details to mitigate the next pandemic.

The conversion of the semi-private bedrooms and baths to private is a good start but the vague construction schedule shows that as **phase four**. With recent studies showing that **shared** bedrooms and bathrooms helped enable the spread of the Covid pathogen, **the priority for this conversion should be Project #1**. ( See article in AARP,1/3/2023 by Emily Paulin).

The following are other details that were **missing in the SRC DEIR** for the HCC:

**Emergency Response:** after reading all the possible road closures and road re-alignments and the fact that Emergency Medical Response (EMR) vehicles are very frequently on the campus day and night, it seems **urgent** that the **Emergency Access Road be built first!** This is the access from Chester Ave with a wide sweep to accommodate fire trucks onto Odd Fellows Drive. For years, residents have begged for this as San Marcos/Odd Fellows drive in the only way in and out of the campus. With all the daytime truck congestion and debris removal during the proposed construction, there needs to be a safe way for fire and emergency vehicles to access the campus.

**Air Quality, Noise, and vibration analysis** were all missing for the interior environment that in-patients in the HCC would be subjected to during the remodel. While the DEIR concerns itself with the exterior environment, no one has examined what the in-patients must endure trapped in their beds during this construction. In an important study done in Cleveland Clinic and reported in The Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine, October 1, 2019, Amjad Kanj MD et al reported in article,"

**What are the Risks to Inpatients During Hospital Construction or Renovation"**, found that "Hospital construction ultimately will serve the interests of patients but it also can put in-patients at risk of mold disease, Legionnaires Disease, sleep deprivation, and exacerbation of lung disease."

**Solar panels and Water Saving standards** were also missing for the HCC remodel plans. There were plans for solar panels for other buildings as well as "Build it Green" ideas but nothing for the HCC.

**Impact MF-S-3 Direct adverse effects on human beings** inside a HCC that is being remodeled. There is a lot of analysis on the outside air, water, noise and vibration but nothing for "Sensitive Receptors" who are unable to move or relocate, trapped as such in their beds and bedrooms in a HCC that is being remodeled. An abled bodied resident can request a change of location if overwhelmed with noise , dust and vibration but no such options are available to the in-patient recovering in a HCC that is undergoing a remodel.

In Summary:

**Build** the access road appropriate for fire trucks from Chester to Odd Fellows Road **first**.

If a new state of the art **HCC** is out of the question, then current in-patients at HCC must be re-located and the HCC must be **remodeled with latest Covid regulations**. This is the next in priority for the health and safety of SRC residents.

LING LIN  
Ling Lin 5308  
Apt.



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner,  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Planning commissioner and the City Council,

1.1

We residents here at Saratoga just love our bocce ball court. That & our putting green are our only outdoor games on campus. We also enjoy the chairs & picnic tables set up in that same park. The large oak tree there was lost in a storm last year & it has not been replaced with anything — not even grass or ground cover. Why? Because the PRS Expansion project plans to eliminate this park entirely (our only park) to make way for more buildings.

If we wanted a campus full of buildings we would have moved to any number of more financially reasonable ones in the Bay Area.

Please help us save our green space.



May Lin

14500 Fruitvale Ave

# 1103

8-12-2023

To EIR Consultants, Planning Commissioners and City Council,

I find the EIR studies are inadequate, here are my concerns,

2.1

1. Where is the parking tabulation? It should be included in the DEIR as it talked about parking many times, but there is NO clear comparison of parking spaces. Parking is listed as #10 In project objectives. How many parking spaces in Alt. 2 compared with the current parking spaces? How many surface and underground parking spaces? Where are they?
2. No mention in the details of renovating Skilled Nursing, even though it is the Project objectives #4. Where is the schedule and how will the renovation carry on while the patients are in the nursing home? What is the environmental impact on noise, vibration, dust during construction? The length is said to be 2 years, are these rooms renovated in sequential or in parallel? We had very bad experience while the management was doing the balconies repair in 2018-2021. It took 9 months to repair each balcony while residents had no natural light, no fresh air and cannot use the terrace. The repair was done as one block at a time so the whole block of balconies were under this kind of situation for 9 months at least. No compensation for the residents during the entire repair period. Is there any assurance that the renovation will be finished in 2 years? How do you enforce the schedule and the length of renovation? It should be clearly stated in the EIR. If the renovation is lengthened the environmental impact will be bigger.

Thank you for your attention,

May Liu

May Liu

14500 Fruitvale Ave, #1103

8-12-2023



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

3.1

I am a resident at the Saratoga Retirement Community

I enjoy playing Bocce with my neighbors every week, some times twice a week. It is a healthy and fun outdoor activity.

I am very upset that the Pacific Retirement Services has proposed a master plan to build a two-story apartment at the site of our Odd Fellows Historical Memorial park with its FULL- size Bocce ball court. The proposed replacement court would only be 2/3 of the current court.

Please do NOT build these apartments. The Bocce ball court is the most important outdoors facility. Over 60 residents regularly enjoy the games. Some of our senior citizens come to play even using walkers!



May Lin

May Lin

14500 Fruitvale Ave #1103

8-12-2023

To EIR consultants, Planning commission and City council,

I am a resident at the Saratoga Retirement Community.

1.1

When I read the DEIR, I found the report ignoring the environment and the lives of our residents on campus. There are issues which cannot be mitigated to less than significant as suggested in the DEIR.

Here are a few examples on Recreation and Open Space:

1) We lose our Odd Fellows historical park if Building A is allowed. The EIR section 3.15.1 listed 28 acres of existing public park facilities within one mile of project site.. SRC expansion will have no impact on a single existing public recreate facility."

Let me ask, "Where is the study for the impact on the SRC residents? Even though there are 28 acres nearby, would you ask your elderly parents to take Uber to one of these parks with their walkers? At present, the park on campus is accessible any time and day, residents take their walkers to the park, sit on the chair and enjoy fresh air. Neighbors come with their dogs, walk or bike around the campus. This park serves many citizens. To eliminate this park has a very significant environmental impact. But The DERI REC-1 never studies the impact on the residents if you eliminate the park.

2) Loss of the open space on SRC

Building A and Meeting room take away the remaining 6% of our accessible open green space. EIR 3.15.1 environmental setting listed that the new trail connects the Project to the San Marcos Open Space approx. 300 feet SE of the Project site. Please note the 300 feet is "as the crow flies" distance. One has to climb up a steep embankment—inaccessible except by a 2.5-mile round trip along the road or by helicopter! While on campus, we currently have safe and smooth paths for the seniors to enjoy the open space. Many senior here have mobility issues, poor eye sight, hard at hearing and limited physical strength, they are not able to go on any of the suggested open space or hiking trails. DEIR ignores the special needs of the Seniors on campus. The analyses are inappropriate, irrelevant and discriminating against the senior population.

CECELIA LUNG  
Apt. 1209 phone 7309  
Aug 5, 2023  
Cecelia Lung



To EIR consultants, Planning Commissioners and City Council,

2.1

When I read the DEIR, I found the report ignoring the environment and the lives of our 200 Independent Living residents on campus. There are issues which cannot be mitigated to less than significant as suggested in the DEIR.

Here are a few examples on Recreation and Open Space:

1) The full size 91-feet long Bocce ball court cannot be replaced by the shorter 2/3 length court. DEIR 3-260 stated, "These facilities would be reconstructed elsewhere on campus, although some of the reconstructed facilities may be of a smaller size than the existing facilities."

Please note The facility has to be full size. The reconstructed elsewhere is vague and Needs more specifics.

We have over 60 regular players with many different competitive teams on campus. This is the most popular outdoor activity for the SRC senior population, even residents with walkers strive to play. We do not agree with the conclusion in Impact REC-2. The impact is Significant. This facility would be demolished to create space for proposed Building A. We object building A.

2) The new building A and meeting room would remove ALL the remaining outdoor recreation green space. The space is currently not on any previously disturbed areas. The residents depend on this space to have fresh air, to have outdoor recreation, to relax and to enjoy the natural vista. The wide range indoor recreation activities cannot replace the outdoor recreation activities. We disagree with the Impact REC-2 analysis.

The Impact analysis for REC-1 concludes "the Project is not anticipated to cause a substantial increase demand for public open space and recreational facilities within the city." But there is no analysis of the impact on the residents and the neighbors. There are over 200 Independent Living residents who use this space daily, the daily demand is large. The environmental impact is significant when you eliminate this space.

CECELIA LUNG  
Apt. 1209 phone#7309  
Aug 5, 2023  
Cecelia Lung



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CECELIA LUNG  
APT. 1209 Phase # T309  
Aug. 5, 2023  
Cecelia Lung

**Rawnsley, Emma**

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**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2023 11:04 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community  
**Attachments:** IMG\_0896.HEIC

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Report Suspicious

**Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner**

City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us) | [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

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**From:** MARILYN MANIES <marilynmanies@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 11, 2023 8:57 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Ms. Richardson,

1.1

I am a resident of SRC and have many objections to the DEIR as I find it full of statements that are just not true. One of them is referencing the increased traffic from workmen, building machines, etc. if the project was to proceed. We have been told we can schedule the vehicles that come onto the campus. This is ludicrous. Do they really think the mailman, food delivery trucks, repairmen and deliveries will bend to the schedule of the others? Just take a look at his photo which shows how Pavilion Circle can look even now without the chaos of construction.

We don't want this expansion, but if we must tolerate it, at least pick the Residents Alternative which places the apartment building in an area that is not in the busiest center of the campus.

Thank you,  
Marilyn Manies



1.1  
Cont.





Dear EIR Consultants, Planning commissioners and Saratoga City Council

2.1

Today I asking you to please *block any proposal involving construction of the proposed meeting room appendage to the Manor building and Building A.*

The DEIR failed to address the environmental impacts on the local residents. Too often, the impact on nonresidents is given priority over the effect on those of us actually, daily, affected by this project.

Here are the reasons:

### 1. Obliteration of Odd Fellows Historical Park

Construction of Building A would cover up most of the green space currently designated as Odd Fellows Home of California Historical Park, dedicated with a plaque on the site in August, 2008. The proposed meeting room addition to the Saratoga City Heritage landmark Manor building, also a part of the Historical Park, would permanently destroy the architectural symmetry of the beautiful Manor. Together, the new buildings would completely wipe out these important historic resources. The DEIR needs to include the cultural and historic impact of the development covering over the entire Historical Park.



### 2. Loss of Mature Trees and Green Vista

Construction of Building A and the meeting room would require the removal of every protected, mature tree in the Historical Park. The expansive green space would be replaced by a huge two-story apartment building. The DEIR states that although “new buildings may alter the views for individual residents within the campus or on neighboring properties, they would not substantially affect views of scenic vistas from public vantage points or for a substantial number of City residents.” The priority here seems to be people living in other areas of Saratoga and people looking in that direction from vantage points miles away. As one of those “individual residents,” I find this an insulting judgement, which ignores the senior residents and is a blatant discrimination of elders.

The DEIR also mentions that removal of trees and the subsequent noise generated by their removal would have a significant impact on the habitats and lifecycles of local bats. While I agree that this is an important consideration (and argument against tree removal), the DEIR makes no mention of the impact of these losses on the elderly residents who are not able to easily relocate their residences to a nearby open area and must endure the noise and disruption in their homes.

### 3. Loss of Green Space and Outdoor Recreation Facilities

The proposed Building A and meeting room addition to the Manor building would remove *all* of the current green space and outdoor recreation facilities at SRC. The DEIR says that this will have “no impact on open space and recreation facilities for City residents.” This statement seems to relegate SRC residents and many of our neighbors to nonresident status and completely dismisses the impact of the loss of outdoor facilities on these people. SRC residents and our neighbors shop and pay taxes in Saratoga—and we vote.



2.1  
Cont.

**Current View: Odd Fellows Park from West Cottages Lane**

- Redwood and oak trees will be eliminated
- All green space replaced with massive Building A
- All recreational sites are eliminated by Building A



**Same view if PRS plan is approved**

- Building A occupies entire open space of Odd Fellows Park
- View from street becomes of balconies and buildings, instead of trees and green open space
- Bocce Ball Court reduced from 91 feet to 60 feet, and shade eliminated



This green space, the Odd Fellows Historical Park, currently sports paved pathways with many benches and tables. A large number of SRC residents (average age 85) have mobility issues requiring canes, walkers, wheelchairs, or motorized assistance to get around. For them and others with physical disabilities, this park is the only accessible outdoor recreation available. The DEIR states that there are other paths and trails within a short driving

distance, and even one trail accessible from SRC by a 300-ft path up a steep incline, but these are in no way accessible to residents whose disabilities prevent them from driving or using unpaved trails. The DEIR seems to overgeneralize the population they are assessing and therefore fails to accurately determine the impact on them.

In addition to SRC residents, many neighbors visit the Historical Park regularly to walk their dogs or bicycle in the safe, quiet area. Removing the park means that everyone in the area would have to travel elsewhere to find a similar quiet green space.

**4. "Replacement" Bocce Ball Court Not a Usable Replacement**



The current 91-foot, regulation size bocce ball court and other outdoor recreation facilities such as a putting green would be removed if Building A is constructed. The DEIR states that *smaller* replacements would be built in a tiny area west of Building A, and these smaller facilities would be enough for SRC residents and not impact most Saratoga residents. The "replacements" are not fine with us. At present, more than 60 residents regularly play bocce ball here. Bocce ball is also a popular spectator sport for many more residents,

2.1  
Cont.

especially those with limited mobility, for whom it is easily accessible by the paved paths through the Historic Park.

The "replacement" bocce ball court would be only 60 feet in length, 2/3 of regulation size. Some of the SRC teams compete with outside teams on regulation 91-foot courts. Losing our 91-foot court means that those residents would have to find another court, who knows where, to practice for competition. The proposed 60-foot "replacement" is unacceptable and indicates another example of the devaluation of the impact of this project on residents.

In summary, there are many reasons why constructing Building A and the meeting room addition to the Manor building would have a negative effect on the historic, environmental, and human aspects of the Saratoga Retirement Community and its neighbors. Here I have listed only a few of the most important reasons for me. There are other options for development that can meet all goals without either of those buildings. We accept a project with limited buildings or the Residents' alternative which gives minimal impact on the residents' environment.

At the very least, please insure that the entire impact of constructing those buildings is evaluated in the environmental impact study. As it is now, the DEIR seems to have overlooked or undervalued many impacts on those of us most affected.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Manies  
Marilyn Manies  
Apt. 5307  
8/21/23



8/6/23

Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

3.1

Saratoga has been named Tree City USA every year since 2006 and has won several national awards for its trees like America in Bloom's Best Tree Canopy, Best Urban Forest and Best Tree Heritage Program from 2015-2017.

However, after recent winter storms, Saratoga's tree canopy faced several threats from extreme rainfall and strong winds. At least 13 large trees and 15 limbs had to be removed from Saratoga roads. Others fell on private property.

At a time when trees are being lost due to weather, it is sad to think that the City would allow perfectly healthy trees to be chopped down for the sake of building housing. Such is the plan before the City Council and Planning Commission when a developer is proposing several buildings be built at Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) that would take down 124 trees, 65 of which are protected by the City's code. Some of these large trees are over 100 feet tall and six feet in diameter. They provide shade, habitat for birds another animals and contribute to the beauty of the SRC campus. They buffer noise, cool the environment at a time of record breaking heat and help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

SRC does not need the proposed buildings at the sake of losing one of the things that makes it so special to the residents....tall, majestic, healthy trees. I urge the City Council and the Planning Commission to reject this plan in favor of "no plan" or at the very least the resident's alternative plan.

Marilyn Manies  
Marilyn Manies  
Apt. 5307



8/13/23

To the EIR consultants, the Planning Commissioners and City Council,

4.1

Saratoga Retirement community is already solvent, in the black!

Yes we need improvements to our Health Care Center, but we don't need the enormous building projects proposed by PRS.

This proposed project will not only negatively affect the residents for the rest of their lives, but all our neighbors will be subjected to noise, pollution, traffic, & disruption for years.

And the result? **More money for PRS** & a remaining campus of buildings—not mature trees, not a park, not flat outdoor space for the residents. Welcome to New York City.

Marilyn Manier  
Apt. 5307

8/13/23

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

5.1

My name is Marilyn Manies and I have been a Saratoga resident for over 40 years. During that time, I have dealt with the City arborist regarding the removal of a non-native tree in my yard prior to re-landscaping. I learned to appreciate how Saratoga protects its trees and its reputation as a City of Trees.

Currently I live at Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) and find it unconscionable for the City to approve a project that would remove over 120 trees, 65 of which are protected under the Saratoga Municipal code section 15-50.080.

Yes, the plan is to replace those trees with many more, but can you seriously replace redwoods and oaks over 100 feet tall? These trees enhance the beauty of SRC, provide shade for the residents, homes for birds, buffer noise, and remove carbon from the air.

I implore you to vote down the proposed development that threatens our way of life and the beauty of the place where we live.

Marilyn Manies

*Marilyn Manies*  
*Apt 5307*

8/13/23

6.1

Summary of impact on **Historical Preservation** of the Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) campus by the PRS proposed expansion

Manor building built in 1912 is on the Heritage Resources Inventory of City of Saratoga and the PRS proposal has to be in compliance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of the Historic Properties part 68.3 Standards b. Rehabilitation – 1. 2. & 9.– New construction will not destroy historic materials, features and spacial relationships that characterize the property. See reference: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/36/68.3>

6.2

- Building B will obscure the front view of the iconic Manor building from the Odd Fellows Lane. PRS proposal will also eliminate the green open space in front of the main Manor entry way, together with the many big trees.
- Meeting Room will encroach and over-powering the west side of the Manor building. The open space and the trees surrounding the Manor building will be replaced by the Meeting Room. Meeting room is attached to the Manor through a converted window/door and a 27-foot-long corridor, barely separating it from the Manor.
- Odd Fellows Historical park used regularly as outdoors space by residents will be replaced by a 2-story building. The historical oak trees and redwoods will all be removed.
- Sixty eight (68) trees, mostly protected trees, such as majestic redwood trees, oak trees and palm trees, some over 100 years old, will all be removed, to make room for Buildings A, B and Meeting room.

6.3

There is a better way. Please see the Residents' Alternative plan, which does not add Building A, B and Meeting room, therefore eliminates the above problems completely see website : [preserveSRCcampus.org](http://preserveSRCcampus.org)

Marilyn Manies  
Apt. 5307



7.1 My name is Marilyn Manies and I have been a resident of Saratoga for over 40 years. I respect the amount of work that has gone into writing this very detailed 646 page draft EIR. I have spent many hours reading it and I respectfully reject many items being labeled LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.

It is MORE THAN SIGNIFICANT to me and the hundreds of other SRC residents that 124 trees will be removed from our campus. No amount of smaller replacement trees can replace the towering oaks and redwoods, some over 100 feet tall.

7.2 It is MORE THAN SIGNIFICANT the our only campus park with bocce court would be destroyed and replaced by a huge apartment building. Suggesting that residents aged 75-102 go to neighboring parks shows how out of touch <sup>the writers</sup> you are. Many of our people do not drive and only get around with canes, walkers and wheelchairs. Having close-by recreation is vital to their health.

7.3 It is MORE THAN SIGNIFICANT that residents would be subjected to extremely loud noise for up to 5 years and suggesting that they would get relief at night is unrealistic. Retired people are home most of every day. All day long they will be subjected to noise from trucks, backhoes, air compressors, drill rigs, bulldozers, excavators, fork lifts, generators and more. To describe this as less than significant is ludicrous.

7.4 Traffic now on San Marcos and Odd Fellows Drive is constant with vehicles going to SRC and Friendship Plaza: daily UPS, Fed Ex, mail trucks, food delivery trucks, workers and residents. We are the #1 destination of fire trucks and ambulances in Saratoga with those vehicles coming almost daily. Add to this large numbers of construction workers and all their equipment. I do not believe this congestion will be LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT.

7.5 Emergency evacuation is questionable even now. What will it be if roads are jammed with trucks and equipment during construction. This problem is MORE THAN SIGNIFICANT.

7.6 These and many other factors lead me to believe that a high number of mitigations suggested in this document are misleading and incorrect. Thank you for listening.

*Up 5307  
8/13/23*



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner,  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Planning commissioner and the City Council,

8.1

We here at SRC have moved here to spend our remaining years in the lovely verdant town that is Saratoga. Our senior community is a vibrant part of this town. Many of us have lived for years in our Saratoga homes before moving to the Retirement Community.

You can imagine our dismay & distress when we learned that PRS has plans to destroy our greenery to make way for more buildings & apartments. The residents have presented a plan that would not have nearly the ugly environment impact as the PRS plan.

We hope the City of Saratoga will seriously consider this alternate plan—one that would establish both the new residences and the needed improvements of other buildings, but would not have the disastrous impact on our campus.

Marilyn Manier  
Apt. 5307

8/6/23

9.1

Bullet points for Skilled Nursing issues

- Fails to address the requirement for a health center while the current one is remodeled.
- Not to mention completely ignoring the residents plan for building a new one while continuing to use the old one before replacing it with a residential building.
- No mention in the details of renovating Skilled Nursing, where is the schedule and how they will do it while the patients are in the nursing home.
- What is the environmental impact on noise, vibration, dust during construction?
- The length is said to be 2 years, are these rooms renovated in sequential or in parallel? We had very bad experience while the management was doing the balconies repair in 2018-2021. It took 9 months to repair each balcony while residents had no natural light, no fresh air and cannot use the terrace. The repair was done as one block at a time so the whole block of balconies were under this kind of situation for 9 months.

Marilyn Manies  
Marilyn Manies  
Apt 5307

8/12/23

Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

10.1

I have been a resident of Saratoga for over 40 years. Two years ago I moved from my 5 bedroom house with its large lot into a 2 bedroom apartment with a 12 x 5' balcony. I was happy to leave behind the responsibilities of home ownership, not so with leaving the garden. I spent time in the garden every day and it was my "happy place." I need to have outside space...to walk, to enjoy the view of the mountains, to work in the garden, to enjoy the beautiful trees. It is imperative that I have outdoor space for my mental and physical well being.

Now I am living at Saratoga Retirement Community and I am writing to ask that the City not take away something that is of such value to me and other seniors: trees and open space. The expansion proposed by PRS would allow the destruction of over 120 trees and put a multi-story building in our Memorial Park. We residents need this bucolic outdoor space and did not move here to be surrounded by buildings. The residents have spent a lot of time and energy coming up with an alternate plan to the one proposed by PRS. It provides the desired housing and still protects our lifestyle. To suggest that seniors aged 70-100 drive to the local Saratoga parks is ludicrous. Many do not drive. Many use walkers, canes and wheelchairs and that suggestion was cruel. The DEIR shows complete lack of caring and understanding of the needs of our seniors! I urge you to vote to preserve our lifestyle by not taking away our only park and recreation area and by either voting for no expansion or for the Preserve Alternative.

Sincerely,

*Marilyn Manies*

Marilyn Manies

*Apt. 5307*



11.1

My name is Marilyn Manies and I have been a resident of Saratoga for over 40 years. I currently live at Saratoga Retirement Community.

I appreciate your difficult job on the Planning Commission. We at SRC understand the pressure being placed upon cities to provide more housing. Soon you will be asked to consider a construction proposal which has a daunting 680 page document, the draft Environmental Impact Report. This EIR recommended a proposal which threatens our way of life, and we feel it does not adequately or impartially present the housing options before you.

In the draft EIR, the out-of-state management company describes a plan to build a two story apartment building and underground garage in the Odd Fellows Historical Park, our only outdoor recreation area. It removes our

11.2

bocce ball court, the most popular activity on the campus. It cuts down 124 trees, 65 of which are protected by the City's Code. We're talking about massive oaks, towering redwoods, some as tall as 100 feet and 6 feet in diameter. We value Saratoga being awarded the title of Tree City, USA and the city's history of protecting this valuable resource.

The applicant's plan would build a meeting room attached to the historic manor building thus losing the building's symmetry and obstructing the view of the manor as you approach it. It also takes away the open green space with its beautiful protected redwood trees.

11.3

When this case comes before you, you will have to make an important decision. The residents of SRC acknowledge the need for increased housing, but we do not support their plan that disturbs the lifestyle we are paying for and expect to enjoy for the rest of our lives. The residents have proposed an alternative plan that provides the same number of housing units (52) and is much less invasive. The Residents Plan requires the removal of only 41 trees (compared to 124), and retains our only park and recreation area. It also restricts the construction to only one area rather than the entire campus.

I urge you to seriously consider the Resident's Alternative Plan.  
 Thank you.

Marilyn Manies  
 8/13/23 Apt. 5307

Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

12.1

Saratoga has been named Tree City USA every year since 2006 and has won several national awards for its trees like America in Bloom's Best Tree Canopy, Best Urban Forest and Best Tree Heritage Program from 2015-2017.

However, after recent winter storms, Saratoga's tree canopy faced several threats from extreme rainfall and strong winds. At least 13 large trees and 15 limbs had to be removed from Saratoga roads. Others fell on private property.

At a time when trees are being lost due to weather, it is sad to think that the City would allow perfectly healthy trees to be chopped down for the sake of building housing. Such is the plan before the City Council and Planning Commission when a developer is proposing several buildings be built at Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) that would take down 124 trees, 65 of which are protected by the City's code. Some of these large trees are over 100 feet tall and six feet in diameter. They provide shade, habitat for birds and other animals and contribute to the beauty of the SRC campus. They buffer noise, cool the environment at a time of record breaking heat and help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

SRC does not need the proposed buildings at the sake of losing one of the things that makes it so special to the residents....tall, majestic, healthy trees. I urge the City Council and the Planning Commission to reject this plan in favor of "no plan" or at the very least the resident's alternative plan.

*Marilyn Manies*  
*resident of Saratoga 40 years*  
*8/13/23*  
*Apt - 5307*



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

8/13/23  
Comment Letter: FORM-11  
MANIES-M-13

## REVIEW OF DEIR FOR SARATOGA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY EXPANSION PLAN

**The question is not when will the next Pandemic hit, but what are we doing to prepare for it?**

13.1

As a lay person when it comes to very technical details, I reviewed the DEIR for the proposed expansion of the Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) as best as I could.

I found a huge **void** in the details for the Health Care Center (HCC) remodel other than reducing the 99 beds to 54 and converting all the rooms to private including private toilet and shower. It was disappointing since this seems the opportune time to learn from the all the studies done post covid and to design SRC HCC with details to mitigate the next pandemic.

The conversion of the semi-private bedrooms and baths to private is a good start but the vague construction schedule shows that as **phase four**. With recent studies showing that **shared** bedrooms and bathrooms helped enable the spread of the Covid pathogen, the priority for this conversion should be **Project #1**. ( See article in AARP, 1/3/2023 by Emily Paulin).

The following are other details that were **missing in the SRC DEIR** for the HCC:

**Emergency Response:** after reading all the possible road closures and road re-alignments and the fact that Emergency Medical Response (EMR) vehicles are very frequently on the campus day and night, it seems **urgent** that the Emergency Access Road **be built first!** This is the access from Chester Ave with a wide sweep to accommodate fire trucks onto Odd Fellows Drive. For years, residents have begged for this as San Marcos/Odd Fellows drive in the only way in and out of the campus. With all the daytime truck congestion and debris removal during the proposed construction, there needs to be a safe way for fire and emergency vehicles to access the campus.

**Air Quality, Noise, and vibration analysis** were all missing for the interior environment that in-patients in the HCC would be subjected to during the remodel. While the DEIR concerns itself with the exterior environment, no one has examined what the in-patients must endure trapped in their beds during this construction. In an important study done in Cleveland Clinic and reported in The Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine, October 1, 2019, Amjad Kanj MD et al reported in article, "**What are the Risks to Inpatients During Hospital Construction or Renovation**", found that "Hospital construction ultimately will serve the interests of patients but it also can put in-patients at risk of mold disease, Legionnaires Disease, sleep deprivation, and exacerbation of lung disease."

**Solar panels and Water Saving standards** were also missing for the HCC remodel plans. There were plans for solar panels for other buildings as well as "Build it Green" ideas but nothing for the HCC.

**Impact MF-S-3 Direct adverse effects on human beings** inside a HCC that is being remodeled. There is a lot of analysis on the outside air, water, noise and vibration but nothing for "Sensitive Receptors" who are unable to move or relocate, trapped as such in their beds and bedrooms in a HCC that is being remodeled. An abled bodied resident can request a change of location if overwhelmed with noise, dust and vibration but no such options are available to the in-patient recovering in a HCC that is undergoing a remodel.

In Summary:

**Build** the access road appropriate for fire trucks from Chester to Odd Fellows Road **first**.

If a new state of the art **HCC** is out of the question, then current in-patients at HCC must be re-located and the HCC must be **remodeled with latest Covid regulations**. This is the next in priority for the health and safety of SRC residents.

Thank you to the Planning Commissioners and City Council members and their staffs for making this whole comment process possible.

Marilyn Manies  
Apt. 5307



8/13/23

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

14.1

My name is Marilyn Manies and I have been a Saratoga resident for over 40 years. During that time, I have dealt with the City arborist regarding the removal of a non-native tree in my yard prior to re-landscaping. I learned to appreciate how Saratoga protects its trees and its reputation as a City of Trees.

Currently I live at Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) and find it unconscionable for the City to approve a project that would remove over 120 trees, 65 of which are protected under the Saratoga Municipal code section 15-50.080.

Yes, the plan is to replace those trees with many more, but can you seriously replace redwoods and oaks over 100 feet tall? These trees enhance the beauty of SRC, provide shade for the residents, homes for birds, buffer noise, and remove carbon from the air.

I implore you to vote down the proposed development that threatens our way of life and the beauty of the place where we live.

Marilyn Manies

Apt. 5307

To EIR consultants, Planning Commissioners and City Council,

15.1

When I read the DEIR, I found the report ignoring the environment and the lives of our 200 Independent Living residents on campus. There are issues which cannot be mitigated to less than significant as suggested in the DEIR.

Here are a few examples on Recreation and Open Space:

1) The full size 91-foot long Bocce ball court cannot be replaced by the shorter 2/3 length court. DEIR 3-260 stated, "These facilities would be reconstructed elsewhere on campus, although some of the reconstructed facilities may be of a smaller size than the existing facilities."

Please note The facility has to be full size. The reconstructed elsewhere is vague and Needs more specifics.

We have over 60 regular players with many different competitive teams on campus. This is the most popular outdoor activity for the SRC senior population, even residents with walkers strive to play. We do not agree with the conclusion in Impact REC-2. The impact is Significant. This facility would be demolished to create space for proposed Building A. We object building A.

2) The new building A and meeting room would remove ALL the remaining outdoor recreation green space. The space is currently not on any previously disturbed areas. The residents depend on this space to have fresh air, to have outdoor recreation, to relax and to enjoy the natural vista. The wide range indoor recreation activities cannot replace the outdoor recreation activities. We disagree with the Impact REC-2 analysis.

The Impact analysis for REC-1 concludes "the Project is not anticipated to cause a substantial increase demand for public open space and recreational facilities within the city." But there is no analysis of the impact on the residents and the neighbors. There are over 200 Independent Living residents who use this space daily, the daily demand is large. The environmental impact is significant when you eliminate this space.

Marilyn Manies  
Apt. 5307  
Marilyn Manies

8/6/23

8/13/23

16.1

Bullet points for Skilled Nursing issues

- Fails to address the requirement for a health center while the current one is remodeled.
- Not to mention completely ignoring the residents plan for building a new one while continuing to use the old one before replacing it with a residential building.
- No mention in the details of renovating Skilled Nursing, where is the schedule and how they will do it while the patients are in the nursing home.
- What is the environmental impact on noise, vibration, dust during construction?
- The length is said to be 2 years, are these rooms renovated in sequential or in parallel? We had very bad experience while the management was doing the balconies repair in 2018-2021. It took 9 months to repair each balcony while residents had no natural light, no fresh air and cannot use the terrace. The repair was done as one block at a time so the whole block of balconies were under this kind of situation for 9 months.

Marilyn Manies  
Apt 5307



**Rawnsley, Emma**

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 17, 2023 10:08 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community

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Report Suspicious

**Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner**

City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us) | [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

---

**From:** Jonathan Mansbridge <jonathanmansbridge@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 14, 2023 11:57 AM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Ms Richardson:

1.1

We bought into SRC because it had attractive gardens and amenities that we liked, by comparison with similar facilities. If the PRS proposal, were built it would destroy these open spaces, and with the recent expansion of retirement facilities we might well consider other possibilities. The alternative proposed by the residents appears to meet much the same objectives as the PRS proposal but without causing as much disruption to the pleasant and attractive ambiance of the present installation. This includes such features as the impressive facade of the main building, the landscaping, described elsewhere as bucolic, facilities such as the bocce court and other amenities. It appears that the PRS plan would destroy much of that, while the residents' proposal keeps much of it intact.

1.1  
Cont.

There are highlighted, among the reviews of the project that have been circulated, many deficiencies of the plan, particularly how the job would actually be performed. These would, presumably, be mitigated to some degree by the time the project was initiated, but the lack of thought towards these questions at this stage does not inspire confidence. Others, such as the provision of adequate HEPA filtration in the HVAC system, seem to have been ignored.

We would strongly urge you to consider the proposed expansion in terms of features of the plan put forward by the residents.

Sincerely

Vera Morhenn, Jonathan Mansbridge

Apartment 2510.

**Rawnsley, Emma**

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2023 9:57 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Save Saratoga Retirement Community

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Report Suspicious

Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner  
City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
crichardson@saratoga.ca.us |  
[https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!0Byar8mMj5WKI734mKAs21GOao9calWBoPmW-Z1TmQPtPWl16cnlpwRMdT575c\\_d4gVjRxt3mhG1A91WC1OGP8\\_P\\_2Cy\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!0Byar8mMj5WKI734mKAs21GOao9calWBoPmW-Z1TmQPtPWl16cnlpwRMdT575c_d4gVjRxt3mhG1A91WC1OGP8_P_2Cy$)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

-----Original Message-----  
From: mona maxfield <monamaxfield@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2023 10:06 PM  
To: Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
Subject: Save Saratoga Retirement Community

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

1.1 Save Saratoga Retirement Community from the trauma of unnecessary construction which our elderly population could not survive! The confusion and noise would be far to disruptive for people to survive.

Jack Maxfield.  
Sent from my iPhone



**Rawnsley, Emma**

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:45 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Please Save Saratoga Retirement Community Now!!

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Report Suspicious

Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner  
City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
crichardson@saratoga.ca.us |  
[https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!0tpwZTD-CTCciqKEooDeF2caPTfAC2ZiQKMxNujvvPc5rq0BdTqfKK47Fk5xPXU15F4IRh2hNpaDHlpKlr-TmtegxVdl\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!0tpwZTD-CTCciqKEooDeF2caPTfAC2ZiQKMxNujvvPc5rq0BdTqfKK47Fk5xPXU15F4IRh2hNpaDHlpKlr-TmtegxVdl$)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

-----Original Message-----

From: mona maxfield <monamaxfield@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2023 2:23 PM  
To: Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
Subject: Please Save Saratoga Retirement Community Now!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

2.1 Saratoga Retirement Community has been our home and the home of many hundreds of others and we love it right the way it is. Please don't change it and destroy our beautiful home. Thank you. from Jack Maxfield, Resident

Sent from my iPhone

**Rawnsley, Emma**

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:46 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Please Save Saratoga Retirement Community Now!

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

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Report Suspicious

Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner  
City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
crichardson@saratoga.ca.us |  
[https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!3RJkOH-mh8OE3c1tbSwXEWr2n0yW0jLaaBrkhle0ql1niZI0gZQIS5AUdzpMHN9R9nFLfbuKmW\\_54oxzqvg0HRe7ZQP7\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!3RJkOH-mh8OE3c1tbSwXEWr2n0yW0jLaaBrkhle0ql1niZI0gZQIS5AUdzpMHN9R9nFLfbuKmW_54oxzqvg0HRe7ZQP7$)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

-----Original Message-----

From: mona maxfield <monamaxfield@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2023 2:28 PM  
To: Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
Subject: Please Save Saratoga Retirement Community Now!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

3.1 The noise, destruction, lack of parking, complete disruption of the lives of hundreds of senior residents at our beautiful community would be the worst thing that could happen to our home. Please don't let it happen.  
Thank You, from Jack Maxfield

Sent from my iPhone

**Rawnsley, Emma**

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2023 9:56 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Preserve Saratoga Retirement Community!!

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Report Suspicious

Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner  
City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
crichardson@saratoga.ca.us |  
[https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!zyiQPadnSLHakwjOx45EOel0fMmMkIOCHTJE5hcbDUhwxZEIRnQXV-v2Ev6VdmoTpDpfTQPWJaCKLRRk8ZwipEt6HAY\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!zyiQPadnSLHakwjOx45EOel0fMmMkIOCHTJE5hcbDUhwxZEIRnQXV-v2Ev6VdmoTpDpfTQPWJaCKLRRk8ZwipEt6HAY$)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

-----Original Message-----

From: mona maxfield <monamaxfield@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2023 9:41 PM  
To: Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
Subject: Preserve Saratoga Retirement Community!!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

1.1 Save Saratoga Retirement Community from unnecessary expansion!! Our elderly community's many residents could not survive all the disruptions, noise and confusion that this would bring. Please vote against it!

Sent from my iPhone



**Rawnsley, Emma**

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2023 9:57 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community

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Report Suspicious

Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner  
City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
crichardson@saratoga.ca.us | [https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us;!!ETWISUBM!ywi-2pAjjZDEPczzlb8jOsc2LflsyFSZDjP-WgcJ4dO9ytgy4W7YWBtdFe4cMVbyDTvb1kS8DJrwcchxYINyC6k8i3lJ\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us;!!ETWISUBM!ywi-2pAjjZDEPczzlb8jOsc2LflsyFSZDjP-WgcJ4dO9ytgy4W7YWBtdFe4cMVbyDTvb1kS8DJrwcchxYINyC6k8i3lJ$)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

-----Original Message-----

From: mona maxfield <monamaxfield@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2023 9:51 PM  
To: Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
Subject: Saratoga Retirement Community

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

2.1 Save Saratoga Retirement Community from the terrible trauma of construction! Our elderly population could not survive the disruption and trauma of such a terrible event at our home. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**Rawnsley, Emma**

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:45 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Save Saratoga Retirement Community - Home to several hundred senior citizens!

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Report Suspicious

Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner  
City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
crichardson@saratoga.ca.us |  
[https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!xDr3IEWC52Umnpgdl8kc1RSbDepW6Xty4JJXBllmDvC9VG94R9qXDsfkwbTYffITfCK4Sk7Umq4H4C\\_1HhBd5VHKcYHt\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!xDr3IEWC52Umnpgdl8kc1RSbDepW6Xty4JJXBllmDvC9VG94R9qXDsfkwbTYffITfCK4Sk7Umq4H4C_1HhBd5VHKcYHt$)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

-----Original Message-----

From: mona maxfield <monamaxfield@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2023 2:15 PM  
To: Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
Subject: Save Saratoga Retirement Community - Home to several hundred senior citizens!

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

3.1 Please help us save Saratoga Retirement Community as the home for hundreds of seniors. The residents could not tolerate the confusion, noise, destruction of our buildings and campus - we love the way it is right now. Please save it as the home of hundreds of happy seniors.

Sent from my iPhone

**Rawnsley, Emma**

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:46 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Preserve Saratoga Retirement Community Now

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

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Report Suspicious

Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner  
City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
crichardson@saratoga.ca.us |  
[https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!zAE\\_IrlbtyiGwlhdQkmbNvnkBxi8GVYBgXXUby1Kvl\\_cW1JUzLIJJsifigKXd5aGHHs3FtrXEBrgibLJg\\_9Ukkzd-hRB\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.saratoga.ca.us/!!ETWISUBM!zAE_IrlbtyiGwlhdQkmbNvnkBxi8GVYBgXXUby1Kvl_cW1JUzLIJJsifigKXd5aGHHs3FtrXEBrgibLJg_9Ukkzd-hRB$)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

-----Original Message-----

From: mona maxfield <monamaxfield@gmail.com>  
Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2023 2:36 PM  
To: Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
Subject: Preserve Saratoga Retirement Community Now

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

4.1 Please help save Saratoga Retirement Community from being torn apart! Hundreds of seniors live here and love it as our home! Please keep the bulldozers away. Thank you very much.

Sent from my iPhone



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

1.1 Support for the Alternate 1 Plan  
at Saratoga Retirement Community

I implore you to stop the devastation planned by PSR to our beautiful Saratoga Retirement Community.

I understand that improvements are needed — and the Alternative 1 plan addresses all those needs. But it does not have the devastating environment impact that the PSR plan has.

We love our trees. We love our Historic Park. We love our paths thru our serene campus.

Please don't make our last years a living hell. Alternative 1 makes the necessary improvements without the devastating impact.

Thank you,

Patricia E. McGlynn

Patricia E. McGlynn

SR#5208

Aug 6, 2023

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

2.1

One of the reasons that I chose Saratoga Retirement Community is the attractive outdoor green space. The bucolic campus is one of the assets of the entire Saratoga City. Here seniors can relax and have fresh air.



I am against Pacific Retirement Service's building the two story high apartment which will occupy all the green space we have. Please do NOT build these apartments. This green space is an irreplaceable jewel.

Thanks you for listening,

Patricia E. McGlynn

Patricia E. McGlynn

SAC #5208

Aug 6, 2023

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

3.1

We residents here at Saratoga just love our bocce ball court located in our beautiful Historic Park. That & our putting green are our only outdoor games on campus. We also enjoy the chairs & picnic tables set up in that same park.

The large oak tree there was lost in a storm last year & it has not been replaced with anything — not even grass or ground cover. Why? Because the PRS Expansion project plans to eliminate this park entirely (our only park) to make way for more buildings.

If we wanted a campus full of buildings we would have moved to any number of more financially reasonable ones in the Bay Area.

Please help us save our green space.

Patricia McGlynn  
Patricia McGlynn  
SRC #5208  
Aug 6, 2023



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

4.1

Saratoga Retirement community is already solvent, in the black!

Yes we need improvements to our Health Care Center, but we don't need the enormous building projects proposed by PRS.

This proposed project will not only negatively affect the residents for the rest of their lives, but all our neighbors will be subjected to noise, pollution, traffic, & disruption for years.

And the result? **More money for PRS** & a remaining campus of buildings — not mature trees, not a park, not flat outdoor space for the residents. Welcome to New York City.

Thank you for your consideration,

Patricia E. McGlynn

Patricia E. McGlynn

SRC #5208

Aug 6, 2023

August 6, 2023

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
City of Saratoga  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 05070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

5.1

Among the many concerns we residents have about the PRS Expansion plan, one is more esthetic, less rational, and difficult to quantify: the threat to our historically and architecturally significant central building, known as the Manor. This iconic white stucco-clad building is a glory to behold--graceful and inviting in spite of its bulk, proud with its two bell towers and arched colonnades. The building itself will not undergo significant changes under this plan (though one exterior wall will be pierced), but the proposed addition of the Meeting Room, dangling offhandedly from its west side, will detract from the Manor's classic beauty. It will ruin the aspect of a beautiful building, perfectly sited on its plot.

This handsome Mission Revival style building is impressive. Its size and bulk fit the site, which was doubtless the premier spot on the property when it was built in 1912: on the crown of a knoll that dominates its surroundings. The building's prominent setting confirmed the importance of its purpose: the housing of elderly residents, which the Odd Fellows took seriously.

When the Odd Fellows developed this property in the early 2000s to create today's continuous care community, they took pains to respect and preserve the Manor and the style it set. Changes to the interior were made with care, and exterior alterations were minimal. Importantly, the purpose and use of all the new facilities continued to fulfill the Odd Fellows' original commitment to house the elderly.

Besides intruding on the Manor's setting, the Meeting Room's building site would eliminate one of the few spaces left on campus where there is greenery shaded by mature trees, which will be sacrificed.

Even if the new Meeting Room were to be sensitively designed to compliment the Manor, it will inevitably diminish the visual impact of that grand structure. A classical building is a style defined by symmetry, which will be forever abrogated. Future visitors and historians will never be able to see the Manor as we do; they will look and wonder why anyone was allowed to tack on such an appendage. Their only option will be to crop it out of their photos!

Sincerely,

Patricia E. McGlynn  
Patricia E. McGlynn #5208  
Aug 6, 2023

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

6.1

Saratoga Retirement Community is widely know for it's beautiful green campus - full of trees, bushes, walking paths, & lovely landscaping.

The new PRS Expansion Plan plans to eliminate most of this beauty by packing it with more housing & more buildings. There are 124 beautiful large trees (& much more greenery) scheduled for destruction.

Our park & outdoor recreation area will be taken from us. Our trees & our birds will be gone. It will be incredibly sad & depressing for those of us in the last years of our lives.

Thank you,

Patricia McGlynn

Patricia McGlynn

SRC #5208

Aug 26, 2023



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

To EIR consultants, Planning commission and City council,

I am a resident at the Saratoga Retirement Community.

7.1 When I read the DEIR, I found the report ignoring the environment and the lives of our residents on campus. There are issues which cannot be mitigated to less than significant as suggested in the DEIR.

Here are a few examples on Recreation and Open Space:

1) We lose our Odd Fellows historical park if Building A is allowed. The EIR section 3.15.1 listed 28 acres of existing public park facilities within one mile of project site.. SRC expansion will have no impact on a single existing public recreate facility."

Let me ask, "Where is the study for the impact on the SRC residents? Even though there are 28 acres nearby, would you ask your elderly parents to take Uber to one of these parks with their walkers? At present, the park on campus is accessible any time and day, residents take their walkers to the park, sit on the chair and enjoy fresh air. Neighbors come with their dogs, walk or bike around the campus. This park serves many citizens. To eliminate this park has a very significant environmental impact. But The DERI REC-1 never studies the impact on the residents if you eliminate the park.

2) Loss of the open space on SRC

Building A and Meeting room take away the remaining 6% of our accessible open green space. EIR 3.15.1 environmental setting listed that the new trail connects the Project to the San Marcos Open Space approx. 300 feet SE of the Project site. Please note the 300 feet is "as the crow flies" distance. One has to climb up a steep embankment—inaccessible except by a 2.5-mile round trip along the road or by helicopter! While on campus, we currently have safe and smooth paths for the seniors to enjoy the open space. Many senior here have mobility issues, poor eye sight, hard at hearing and limited physical strength, they are not able to go on any of the suggested open space or hiking trails. DEIR ignores the special needs of the Seniors on campus. The analyses are inappropriate, irrelevant and discriminating against the senior population.

Thank you,

Patricia E. McGlynn

Patricia@McGlynn #5208

Aug 6, 2023

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner,  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Planning commissioner and the City Council,

8.1

I came to live at SRC because it was by far the most beautiful senior living place around. As I look out my front window, I see beautiful greenery— large evergreens, a smoke tree, sycamore trees, crepe myrtle trees & more — many of them many years old.

If the expansion plan of PRS is approved, I will see none of these beauties. And I mean NONE. Every single one is destined to be hacked down. EVERY SINGLE ONE.

This is an unbearable loss. I (& the entire community) will lose the beauty, the shade, the oxygen, and the serenity that these lovely trees afford.

Please do not let this happen.

Thank you for listening,

Patricia E. McGlynn

Patricia E. McGlynn #5208 SRC

Aug. 6, 2023



Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

9.1

Saratoga has been named Tree City USA every year since 2006 and has won several national awards for its trees like America in Bloom's Best Tree Canopy, Best Urban Forest and Best Tree Heritage Program from 2015-2017.

However, after recent winter storms, Saratoga's tree canopy faced several threats from extreme rainfall and strong winds. At least 13 large trees and 15 limbs had to be removed from Saratoga roads. Others fell on private property.

At a time when trees are being lost due to weather, it is sad to think that the City would allow perfectly healthy trees to be chopped down for the sake of building housing. Such is the plan before the City Council and Planning Commission when a developer is proposing several buildings be built at Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) that would take down 124 trees, 65 of which are protected by the City's code. Some of these large trees are over 100 feet tall and six feet in diameter. They provide shade, habitat for birds another animals and contribute to the beauty of the SRC campus. They buffer noise, cool the environment at a time of record breaking heat and help to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

SRC does not need the proposed buildings at the sake of losing one of the things that makes it so special to the residents....tall, majestic, healthy trees. I urge the City Council and the Planning Commission to reject this plan in favor of "no plan" or at the very least the resident's alternative plan.

Patricia McGlynn  
Patricia McGlynn  
SRC #5208  
Aug 6, 2023



~~S&P~~ Cynthia Richardson Project Planner

Comment Letter: FORM-12  
MCGLYNN-P-10

Dear EIR consultants, Planning Commissioners and City Council,  
I am a resident in the Manor building of the Saratoga Retirement Community.

10.1

I oppose the building of the proposed Meeting Room. It will have a very significant impact on the Manor residents during construction.

The noise level is beyond the acceptable level as you noted in the DEIR report Table 4.5-6. Construction zone would generate noise levels of up to 95 dBA for the four west-facing units within the western wing of the Manor Building. 95 dBA is like fire alarms in our hallways!! This **would exceed** the FTA's recommended construction noise criteria of 80 dBA. Such loud noise is very disturbing and causes mental health issues. Particularly for long duration, not just a few minutes but many hours during the day and for many months.

The mitigation suggested that the noise is only during day time, so it will be quiet during after work hours. This report does not consider the seniors at all. We take naps and stay indoors most of the time during the day. These loud noise will be intolerable.

We come here to enjoy our last years peacefully and quietly and we paid an enormous amount of our savings to retire at this lovely place. Please do not build this Meeting room which is directly attached to the Manor.

We do NOT need it!

Patricia McGlynn  
~~Patricia McGlynn~~  
SR#5208  
Aug 6, 2023



# SARATOGA

California

Commenter: MCGLYNN-P-11

Draft Environmental Impact Report  
Meeting  
August 2, 2023

Cynthia Richardson Project Planner

## Comment Form (please print)

Name\*: Patricia McGlynn

Affiliation (if any)\*: SRA resident #5208

Email address\*: tishmcglynn335@gmail.com

Comment:

I oppose the PRS development plan.

I do not want to lose 124 trees. Some are over 100 feet tall and 6 feet in diameter.

85 of these trees are protected per City code 15-50-050

These provide clean air, soil stabilization, noise buffering and climate control!

Please do not do this to our lovely home!

\* Please print. Your name and comments become public information and may be released to interested parties if requested.

Please either deposit this sheet at the sign-in table before you leave today, or fold, stamp, and mail. Insert additional sheets if needed. Comments can also be emailed.

Mailing address:

Saratoga Retirement Community  
c/o Cynthia Richardson  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Email:

Cynthia Richardson  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us)

Public Comment Period:

July 6, 2023 to August 21, 2023

Comments will be accepted until August 21, 2023 by 5:00 PM



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

EIR N.

EIR FORM TO PROVIDE INPUTS TO THE PLANNING DEPT OF SARATOGA CITY, CA.  
email to: Cynthia Richardson <[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us)>

THESE ARE MY COMMENTS ABOUT THE PRELIMINARY EIR OF THE SARATOGA **RETIREMENT COMMUNITY EXPANSION PROPOSAL.**

1. Version of EIR: SCH#2021110366 July 2023
2. Alternate Plan Numbers: Circle Alt 2 & 3
3. Name of Submitter: *Patricia E. McGlynn*
4. Residence of Submitter: Street: 14500 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 5208  
City: Saratoga State: CA. - 95070 Date: 7/22/2023
5. Date of Submission: July 2023 Do you approve of the EIR: **NO**
6. Topic: Name of the topic of your comments: *DEIR*  
Objections to the EIR as presented on multiple issues, including Alt 1,2,3
7. EIR Page numbers: From Pg 2-34 Par 2.4.4 TO: Pg IV EIR

12.1

8. Describe your concern with the DEIR: *doesn't address how to mitigate noise levels and pollution*  
*\* THIS IS A VERY SCARY PLAN WHICH WILL OVERWHELM THE THEN RESIDING RESIDENTS, ENDANGERING THEIR LIVES AND LIMBS.*

12.2

F. **TRAFFIC CONTROL** : 2.4.4 Pg. 2-34 Par 3  
Emergency access routes within the campus would be maintained throughout construction. **Colfax Lane and West Cottages Lane** would be **temporarily rerouted** for approximately 3 months (!!!) during Phases 2 and 3; however, at least two of the three access roads would be open for emergency vehicle access at all times.

*\* This rerouting of just 3 months is illusory, and does not address how residents of the cottages will be able to enter their garages, etc.*

**This is a real double talk. In one section it is said that analysis and resolution of the traffic within the SRC campus during construction is an SRC issue, and that the EIR does not address such.** It just Promises that emergency routes will be open – but what about normal inhabitants??

*\* In another section it is stated that the Park would be used for staging During the whole XX years of construction. This is really a grand!  
Effort to destroy, endanger and encumber the lives of residents for who knows how many years.*

The last stated duration was announced on July 20, 2023 by the PRS hired Consultant and Project Leader, that it would take 7 (seven) years to complete the construction of plan 3, so for all these years we would be looking at dirt, trucks, etc.

*Thank you,  
Patricia E. McGlynn  
Patricia E. McGlynn #5208  
Aug. 6, 2023*



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

13.1

Just look at these photos. Can you see why we treasure our campus? If you allow PRS to build these monstrous apartment buildings, we will lose our outdoors recreation, our green open space, our views, our protected mature trees and the fresh air.

We strongly against building these apartment building right in the center of our campus.

**Current View: Odd Fellows Park from West Cottages Lane**

- Redwood and oak trees will be eliminated
- All green space replaced with massive Building A
- All recreational sites are eliminated by Building A



**Same view if PRS plan is approved**

- Building A occupies entire open space of Odd Fellows Park
- View from street becomes of balconies and buildings, instead of trees and green open space
- Bocce Ball Court reduced from 91 feet to 60 feet, and shade eliminated

Aug 6, 2023

Thank you Patricia E McGlynn #5208 Cynthia E McGlynn

To the EIR consultants, Planning Commssioners and City Council,

14.1

**Here is a very important issue which has not been studied thoroughly. The consequence is significant.**

**Emeregecny Evacuation needs more study**

- Emergency Evacuation on SRC campus, which also involves our neighbors on Chester Ave. San Marcos Lane and the Fellowship Plaza, needs more study. It is a a basic health and safety issue.
- How to evacuate the Skilled Nursing patients during emergency evacuation, when at least 40 ambulance has to come to campus. How can the independent Living senior residents driving themselves out in this case? They are all expected to evacuate using their own vehicles according to the management per instruction from our administration ( June 21 2023)
- The gates on Chester Ave. for the 80 additional Fellowship plaza apartment and the additional 52 SRC apartments are inadequate for emergency evacuation. These gates will not be able to handle the ambulances, the fire trucks and the additional cars. Even now before the constructions, it is already a real threat of safety and health. The report does not have any detailed study and do not have plans to mitigate the danger.

***Impact TRA-4: Project-Related Interference with Emergency Access***

*The Project could result in inadequate emergency access. Mitigation: MM-TRA-3a: Construction Traffic Control Plan*

\* The Project could result in inadequate emergency access. It has significant impact, not mitigated in the DEIR studies. Referring to Mitigation: MM-TRA-3a: Construction Traffic Control Plan

Thank you!

Tish McGlynn

Patricia @ McGlynn

#5208

Aug 6, 2023



Barbara Merrill,  
14500 Fruitvale Ave. Apt. 1206 Saratoga  
95070

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Comment Letter: FORM-16  
MERRILL-B-1

1.1

I am a resident at the Saratoga Retirement Community.

We are strongly against building these apartment building right in the center of our campus.

For SRC, the Odd Fellows Historical park is equivalent to the "Central Park" In New York City. It is a safe outdoor area for us to stroll, for us and our neighbors to walk their dogs.

These paths are very accessible even for residents with walkers. We come out of our apartment and walk around to get sunshine and fresh air.



In contrast, the DEIR suggests that these campus walking paths and open space can be substituted by the nearby San Marcos Open space (p.3-260 DEIR). Can you imagine residents taking their walkers along the Odd Fellows Lane easement, walking along the roads without pedestrian paths, going up the hill to the San Marcos Open Space? Yes, it is only 300 feet to the southeast of the Project site, but that is "as the crow flies" distance. One has to climb up a steep embankment—inaccessible except by a 2.5-mile round trip along the road or by helicopter. This shows complete lack of understanding of the seniors' needs nor respect for seniors' quality of life.

Please do NOT allow the apartment building to be built on this open space.

15.2

I have been a resident at SRC for 14 years and love our community. It would be a travesty to make any drastic changes. Respectfully

Barbara Merrill  
Former BOD member of Saratoga  
Senior Center



Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner,  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Planning commissioner and the City Council,

2.1

We here at SRC have moved here to spend our remaining years in the lovely verdant town that is Saratoga. Our senior community is a vibrant part of this town. Many of us have lived for years in our Saratoga homes before moving to the Retirement Community.

You can imagine our dismay & distress when we learned that PRS has plans to destroy our greenery to make way for more buildings & apartments. The residents have presented a plan that would not have nearly the ugly environment impact as the PRS plan.

We hope the City of Saratoga will seriously consider this alternate plan—one that would establish both the new residences and the needed improvements of other buildings, but would not have the disastrous impact on our campus.

2.2

Thank you for your time and effort on our behalf. I am a previous member of the BAD of the Senior Center and hope this unfortunate proposal by PRS will be defeated.

Barbara Merrill  
14500 Fruitvale Ave. #1206  
Saratoga, CA 95070

## Rawnsley, Emma

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:38 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community

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### Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner

City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us) | [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

---

**From:** wmeyercord@aol.com <wmeyercord@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 4, 2023 9:26 AM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community

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Dear Ms. Richardson,

1.1 My name is Phyllis Meyercord. My husband and I have lived at Saratoga Retirement Community for a little over a year. Thankfully we are still healthy for our age and enjoy the ability to walk among the beautiful environs of our community. If the area is abuzz with trucks and heavy equipment, this activity will not be possible for us and other seniors who live here.

We ask that you consider the impact that this proposal would make on our lives.

Thank you for hearing our side of the story.

Phyllis Meyercord  
Unit 4219  
[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

August 4, 2023

Cynthia Richardson  
Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Subject: Saratoga Retirement Community

Dear Ms. Richardson,

1.1

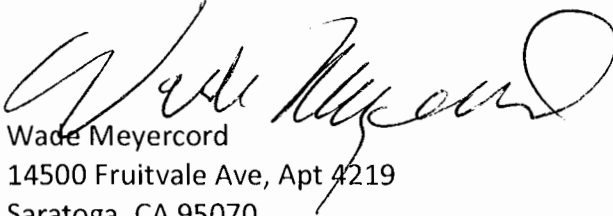
My name is Wade Meyercord, a resident at Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC). My wife and I moved here in May of 2022. We were attracted here by the ambiance and rolling hills filled with many trees. We now discover that the proposed expansion plan will require removal of 124 trees from the campus.

We have a number of friends who are making their retirement decisions between SRC and competing venues who tell the remaking of this campus with the removal of a huge number of trees is a deciding factor in their decision.

The promise to plant a large number of new trees does not cut the mustard. It will take many years for new trees to grow to a point where a reasonable ambiance is created.

I strongly urge you to not allow the construction of the proposed building in the site of the Historic Park in the center of the SRC campus.

Sincerely,



Wade Meyercord  
14500 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 4219  
Saratoga, CA 95070



To EIR consultants, Planning Commissioner and City Council

Here are some points that you should consider in the Saratoga Retirement Community Expansion plan.

2.1

**The question is not when will the next Pandemic hit, but what are we doing to prepare for it?**

As a lay person when it comes to very technical details, I reviewed the DEIR for the proposed expansion of the Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) as best as I could.

I found a huge **void** in the details for the Health Care Center (HCC) remodel other than reducing the 99 beds to 54 and converting all the rooms to private including private toilet and shower. It was disappointing since this seems the opportune time to learn from all the studies done post covid and to design SRC HCC with details to mitigate the next pandemic.

The conversion of the semi-private bedrooms and baths to private is a good start but the vague construction schedule shows that as **phase four**. With recent studies showing that **shared** bedrooms and bathrooms helped enable the spread of the Covid pathogen, the priority for this conversion should be **Project #1**. ( See article in AARP, 1/3/2023 by Emily Paulin).

The following are other details that were **missing in the SRC DEIR** for the HCC:

**Emergency Response:** after reading all the possible road closures and road re-alignments and the fact that Emergency Medical Response (EMR) vehicles are very frequently on the campus day and night, it seems **urgent** that the Emergency Access Road **be built first!** This is the access from Chester Ave with a wide sweep to accommodate fire trucks onto Odd Fellows Drive. For years, residents have begged for this as San Marcos/Odd Fellows drive is the only way in and out of the campus. With all the daytime truck congestion and debris removal during the proposed construction, there needs to be a safe way for fire and emergency vehicles to access the campus.

**Air Quality, Noise, and vibration analysis** were all missing for the interior environment that in-patients in the HCC would be subjected to during the remodel. While the DEIR concerns itself with the exterior environment, no one has examined what the in-patients must endure trapped in their beds during this construction. In an important study done in Cleveland Clinic and reported in The Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine, October 1, 2019, Amjad Kanj MD et al reported in article, "**What are the Risks to Inpatients During Hospital Construction or Renovation**", found that

"Hospital construction ultimately will serve the interests of patients but it also can put in-patients at risk of mold disease, Legionnaires Disease, sleep deprivation, and exacerbation of lung disease."

**Solar panels and Water Saving standards** were also missing for the HCC remodel plans. There were plans for solar panels for other buildings as well as "Build it Green" ideas but nothing for the HCC.

**Impact MF-S-3 Direct adverse effects on human beings** inside a HCC that is being remodeled. There is a lot of analysis on the outside air, water, noise and vibration but nothing for "Sensitive Receptors" who are unable to move or relocate, trapped as such in their beds and bedrooms in a HCC that is being remodeled. An abled bodied resident can request a change of location if overwhelmed with noise, dust and vibration but no such options are available to the in-patient recovering in a HCC that is undergoing a remodel.

In Summary:

**Build** the access road appropriate for fire trucks from Chester to Odd Fellows Road **first**.

If a new state of the art **HCC** is out of the question, then current in-patients at HCC must be re-located and the HCC must be **remodeled with latest Covid regulations**. This is the next in priority for the health and safety of SRC residents.

*Phyllis Meyercord*  
PHYLLIS MEYERCORD, Apt. 4219  
08/12/2023

To the EIR consultants, the Planning Commissioners and  
City Council,

3.1

Saratoga Retirement community is already solvent, in the  
black!

Yes we need improvements to our Health Care Center, but  
we don't need the enormous building projects proposed by  
PRS.

This proposed project will not only negatively affect the  
residents for the rest of their lives, but all our neighbors  
will be subjected to noise, pollution, traffic, & disruption  
for years.

And the result? **More money for PRS** & a remaining  
campus of buildings—not mature trees, not a park, not flat  
outdoor space for the residents. Welcome to New York  
City.

*Phyllis Meyercord, Apt. 4219*

*PHYLLIS MEYERCORD*

*08/12/2023*

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner,  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga, CA 95070

Dear Planning commissioner and the City Council,

4.1

I came to live at SRC because it was by far the most beautiful senior living place around. As I look out my front window, I see beautiful greenery — large evergreens, a smoke tree, sycamore trees, crepe myrtle trees & more — many of them many years old.

If the expansion plan of PRS is approved, I will see none of these beauties. And I mean NONE. Every single one is destined to be hacked down. EVERY SINGLE ONE.

This is an unbearable loss. I (& the entire community) will lose the beauty, the shade, the oxygen, and the serenity that these lovely trees afford.

Please do not let this happen.

Thank you for listening,

*Phyllis Meyercord, Apt. 4219*  
PHYLLIS MEYERCORD

08/12/2023



Aug 14, 2023

To EIR consultants, Planning Commissioner and City Council

Here are some points that you should consider in the Saratoga Retirement Community Expansion plan.

2.1

**The question is not when will the next Pandemic hit, but what are we doing to prepare for it?**

As a lay person when it comes to very technical details, I reviewed the DEIR for the proposed expansion of the Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) as best as I could.

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The conversion of the semi-private bedrooms and baths to private is a good start but the vague construction schedule shows that as **phase four**. With recent studies showing that **shared** bedrooms and bathrooms helped enable the spread of the Covid pathogen, the priority for this conversion should be **Project #1**. ( See article in AARP, 1/3/2023 by Emily Paulin).

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" Hospital construction ultimately will serve the interests of patients but it also can put in-patients at risk of mold disease, Legionnaires Disease, sleep deprivation, and exacerbation of lung disease."

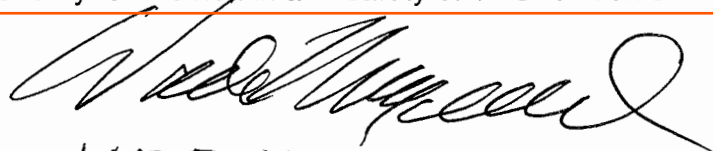
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In Summary:

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If a new state of the art **HCC** is out of the question, then current in-patients at HCC must be re-located and the HCC must be **remodeled with latest Covid regulations**. This is the next in priority for the health and safety of SRC residents.



WADE MEYERCORD, APT 4215

14500 FRUITVALE AVE

To the EIR consultants, the Planning Commissioners and City Council,

3.1

Saratoga Retirement Community is widely know for it's beautiful green campus - full of trees, bushes, walking paths, & lovely landscaping.

The new PRS Expansion Plan plans to eliminate most of this beauty by packing it with more housing & more buildings. There are 124 beautiful large trees (& much more greenery) scheduled for destruction.

Our park & outdoor recreation area will be taken from us. Our trees & our birds will be gone. It will be incredibly sad & depressing for those of us in the last years of our lives.



WADE MEYERCORD

SBC

APT. 4219

## Rawnsley, Emma

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:44 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community #1

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### Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner

City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us) | [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

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**From:** Harlen & Beata Ng <hbng59@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 6, 2023 1:41 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community #1

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To: Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

From: Harlen & Beata Ng, 14500 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 6157, Saratoga, CA 90570

Subject: Comments on the Draft EIR - Reduce Scope of Expansion Plan

1.1

If we take an overview the the Proposed PRS Expansion Plan for the SRC Campus, We see a congested Concrete Jungle. There is not space for the residents to enjoy the outdoors for playing games, exercise or sitting to visit other residents. We are confined to our rooms and view to the outside through our window, we'd only see walls of concrete and windows, not trees or open space. We don't need or want this concrete



1.1

Cont.

view. Buildings A and B are bad for the campus. Building A covers our only Open Space for outdoor recreation and Building B blocks the frontal view of the Iconic Manor Building.

Only Building C make sense for the Campus. Allow Building C, New Meeting Room and New Fitness Center to be built.

Thank You,

-Harlen and Beata Ng



## Rawnsley, Emma

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:44 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Committee #2

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Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

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**From:** Harlen & Beata Ng <hbng59@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 6, 2023 1:51 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Committee #2

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To: Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

From: Harlen & Beata Ng, 14500 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 6157, Saratoga, CA 90570

Subject: Comments on the Draft EIR - Traffic Nightmare

2.1

Traffic will be stopped and DEIR avoids problem - Currently, our roads within SRC Campus are narrow and already difficult to navigate. Even the less traveled South Cottages Lane is currently congested because 3 cottages are being remodeled, this is because many pickup trucks are doubled parked blocking the road, and we must wait at time to drive through in & out.

The DEIR doesn't cover this near impossible problem - Help!

-Harlen & Beata Ng





## Rawnsley, Emma

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:45 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community #3

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### Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner

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[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us) | [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us)  
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**From:** Harlen & Beata Ng <hbng59@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 6, 2023 2:24 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community #3

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To: Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

From: Harlen Ng, 14500 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 6157, Saratoga, CA 90570

Subject: Comments on the Draft EIR - Cancel the Entire Expansion Plan

3.1 The DEIR should not be judging the finances at this time.

PRS has changed their operating values towards servicing Senior Retirement Communities over many years. They are in the growth-mode of maximizing the income/profit on CCRC's. Their early focus was on providing good care for senior retired residents, not anymore! PRS purposely reorganized to refocus and

3.1  
Cont.

attracting very high paid executives (look at their annual salaries) to maximizing Income from SRC's future expansion and future income. They have outlived their compassion for the elderly.

They are unfit to help and understand the elderly living in a CCRC, and who living out their remaining years in a very beautiful camps with limited open space for our enjoyment.

Cancel the entire Expansion Plan.

Thank You,  
-Harlen and Beata Ng

## Rawnsley, Emma

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:48 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community #4

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Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

---

**From:** Harlen & Beata Ng <hbng59@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 6, 2023 8:02 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community #4

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To: Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

From: Harlen Ng, 14500 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 6157, Saratoga, CA 90570

Subject: Comments on the Draft EIR - Noise, Dust and Construction Vibration Pollution

4.1

The DEIR doesn't cover all the noise, dust, and heavy equipment ground vibration we will experience for 7 or more years. Why is this? PRS picks and hires the EIR company and directs them what to include in the EIR, so the EIR doesn't discuss this pollution.



4.1  
Cont. Y This pollution will happen for at least 7 years or more, all during the expansion work. We, the residents, did not move here to live through this pollution period and do not want to experience it. We came to SRC to live out our lives with the few years we have left to enjoy them. Y

Please let us enjoy our passing years and cancel the PRS SRC Expansion Plan.

Thank You,

-Harlen and Beata Ng

## Rawnsley, Emma

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:50 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community - DEIR #2

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### Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner

City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us) | [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

---

**From:** Harlen & Beata Ng <hbng59@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2023 11:28 AM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community - DEIR #2

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To: Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

From: Harlen & Beata Ng, 14500 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 6157, Saratoga, CA 90570

Subject: Comments on the Draft EIR - Missing Impact of Trees Removed and Climate Change

There are 124 trees that are to be removed including 28 Coastal Redwood Trees Redwoods. One of the Coastal Redwood Tree is gigantic with an 81 inches diameter - so sad. Our SRC Campus will really look different without these magnificent trees. When and if the Story Poles are erected, yellow Ribbons must be tied around each tree to be removed. Then everyone will be able to visualize the full impact of these missing trees from our SRC Campus.

5.1  
Cont.

What about Global Warming and Climate Change? It is well known that Earth's temperature is at its tipping point weather-wise due to Climate Change. Some of our huge Coastal Redwood Trees will be cut down, and it is known that Coastal Redwood Trees are the most efficient in converting CO2 to O2 (oxygen) which the earth badly needs. These 124 trees need to be saved.

Update the EIR to address the impact of removing the 124 trees with respect to Climate Change, and also plan to mark all trees to be removed when the Story Poles are erected.

Thank You,

-Harlen and Beata Ng



## Rawnsley, Emma

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:49 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community DEIR

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### Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner

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Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

---

**From:** Harlen & Beata Ng <hbng59@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2023 9:25 AM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community DEIR

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To: Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

From: Harlen & Beata Ng, 14500 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 6157, Saratoga, CA 90570

Subject: Comments on the Draft EIR - Noise, Dust and Ground Vibration Pollution are Missing

6.1

During the construction at the SRC Campus of 7 years or more, the DEIR doesn't cover the Noise, Dust and Ground Vibration Pollution from heavy construction equipment. This noise is right next to the current apartment buildings and cottages, and this is where the current residents live their daily lives.

6.1  
Cont.

During the construction period, it would be safer for all residents to stay indoors to avoid the pollution and avoid any possibility of getting injured from the construction workers and equipment. We came here to live out our lives in a quite environment, and this includes living outdoors exercising and visiting with fellow residents daily. We are sure this Pollution and the possibility of construction accidents will shorten some of our lives.

Address this missing pollution and accident safety in the EIR.

Thank You,  
  
-Harlen and Beata Ng

**Rawnsley, Emma**

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:50 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community - DEIR #3

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**Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner**

City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us) | [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us)  
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**From:** Harlen & Beata Ng <hbng59@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2023 12:06 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community - DEIR #3

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To: Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

From: Harlen & Beata Ng, 14500 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 6157, Saratoga, CA 90570

Subject: Comments on the Draft EIR - Going Green is Missing

7.1

The EIR currently doesn't not address "Going Solar." There are many benefits of having our solar systems' Sun to produce electricity and hot water.

Our entire SRC Campus is void of any use of solar energy. We must use solar to lower the cost of electricity and lower the cost of heating hot water. The major benefit of Going Solar is to save the use of fossil fuel and reduce producing CO2. One other benefit is when we are faced with electric power outage, the installed solar system will be able to supply electricity. Our current emergency electric generators will not have to work so hard and waste fossil fuel. Installing Solar will also benefit the Earth by reducing the use of fossil fuel to generate electricity and the same is true for heating hot water.

Update the EIR to include the use of Solar to benefit the Earth – Save the Earth. @font-face {font-family:"Cambria Math"; panose-1:2 4 5 3 5 4 6 3 2 4; mso-font-charset:0; mso-generic-font-family:roman; mso-font-pitch:variable; mso-



font-signature:-536870145 1107305727 0 0 415 0;}p.MsoNormal, li.MsoNormal, div.MsoNormal {mso-style-unhide:no;mso-style-qformat:yes;mso-style-parent:"";margin:0in;mso-pagination:widow-orphan;font-size:12.0pt;font-family:"Times New Roman",serif;mso-fareast-font-family:"Times New Roman";}.MsoChpDefault {mso-style-type:export-only;mso-default-props:yes;font-family:"Calibri",sans-serif;mso-ascii-font-family:Calibri;mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin;mso-fareast-font-family:Calibri;mso-fareast-theme-font:minor-latin;mso-hansi-font-family:Calibri;mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin;mso-bidi-font-family:"Times New Roman";mso-bidi-theme-font:minor-bidi;}div.WordSection1 {page:WordSection1;}

**Rawnsley, Emma**

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**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 10, 2023 11:53 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community - DEIR #4

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**Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner**

City of Saratoga | Community Development Department  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue | Saratoga, CA 95070  
[crichardson@saratoga.ca.us](mailto:crichardson@saratoga.ca.us) | [www.saratoga.ca.us](http://www.saratoga.ca.us)  
Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

---

**From:** Harlen & Beata Ng <hbng59@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 9, 2023 3:47 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community - DEIR #4

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To: Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner

From: Harlen & Beata Ng, 14500 Fruitvale Ave, Apt 6157, Saratoga, CA 90570

Subject: Comments on the Draft EIR - Off-Limit Areas on the SRC Campus

8.1 ✓ Areas of the SRC Campus that must NOT be used to build any new buildings.





8.3  
Cont.

It appears the only Building C is the only building without objection to be built on the SRC Campus.

Thank you,

-Harlen and Beata Ng

Dear Mr. Richardson,

Comment Letter: FORM 13  
NIEMAND-B-1

1.1

Open space has value beyond its use for recreation, socializing, or refreshing one's soul. It contributes importantly to how we perceive a structure or space intellectually and physically-- whether it reads as gracious and inviting or cramped and mean, whether we want to pause in it or keep moving. It enhances the setting for whatever structure it frames, creating a pleasant showcase for man's handiwork. Open space around a town stimulates a rural feel; a tiny park in a busy city becomes a cherished refuge; a "good building site" provides space around a structure that enhances it, allows it to breathe. Thus, the slope before the Manor is critical to its perfect setting and is therefore valuable open space. Not by any stretch would that slope be described as a "good building site," just as the Odd Fellows Park would never be a choice setting for an apartment building. In either case, those proposed structures, with no open space, will appear hemmed in, shoehorned into their sites, which are too small for the structures designed for them. At the same time, their former value as open space has been squandered.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Niemand  
14500 Fruitvale Ave. #5207  
Saratoga, CA 95070

8/6/23

*Dear Ms. Richardson,*

2.1 Saratoga Retirement community is already solvent, in the black!

Yes we need improvements to our Health Care Center, but we don't need the enormous building projects proposed by PRS.

This proposed project will not only negatively affect the residents for the rest of their lives, but all our neighbors will be subjected to noise, pollution, traffic, & disruption for years.

And the result? **More money for PRS** & a remaining campus of buildings —not mature trees, not a park, not flat outdoor space for the residents. Welcome to New York City.

2.2

*Improvements to the Health Care Center  
are justified and important; the expansion  
projects are unnecessary and will destroy  
the quality of life for all of us residents.*

*Gwendolyn Niemand*

*SRC # 5207*

*14500 Fruitvale Ave.*

*Saratoga, CA 95070*

*8/7/23*



August 6, 2023

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
City of Saratoga  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 05070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

3.1

The proposal to attach a Meeting Room building to the historic Manor building on the SRC campus is a wrong-headed plan. This iconic Mission Revival-style structure represents the heart of this community, whose purpose is to provide housing for the elderly. Its solidity and its classic design have set the style and provided the visual anchor to the community for more than 100 years. It has been recognized for its historic merit by the City of Saratoga. Of course, the setting of a historic building deserves as much protection as the building itself, since a building cannot be perceived without it.

The Manor's prominent setting confirmed the importance of its original purpose: the housing of elderly residents. In 1912, before social security and other social services, retirement homes were a new concept and filled a critical need. The Odd Fellows took seriously the care of their elderly members; this building replaced an earlier structure at a different location.

This handsome Mission Revival-style building is impressive for several reasons. First, its size and bulk fit the site, which was doubtless the premier spot on the property when it was built: the crown of a knoll that dominates its surroundings. The classical design of the building is achieved through its symmetry; adding a wing to its west side will forever destroy that.

Besides intruding on the Manor's setting, the current proposal to site the proposed Meeting Room on the downsloping west side of the Manor would also eliminate one of the few spaces left on campus where there is greenery shaded by trees, an area that has no purpose but to please the eye and refresh the soul. Many mature trees will be sacrificed, at a time when the importance of the tree canopy is increasingly appreciated as a hedge against global warming.

The iconic building itself will not undergo significant changes under this plan (though one exterior wall will be pierced), but the proposed addition of the Meeting Room, dangling offhandedly from its west side, will forever ruin the aspect of a beautiful building, perfectly sited. Viewers will never again see its original perfection, try as they might. And when they drive up to SRC, their initial view of the Manor will include the large Meeting Room, obstructing the handsome white structure on the knoll.

Sincerely,

*Brenda Niemand*  
14500 Fruitvale Ave - #5207  
Saratoga, CA 95070

*Dear Mr. Richardson*

4.1

We residents here at Saratoga just love our bocce ball court located in our beautiful Historic Park. That & our putting green are our only outdoor games on campus. We also enjoy the chairs & picnic tables set up in that same park.

The large oak tree there was lost in a storm last year & it has not been replaced with anything — not even grass or ground cover. Why? Because the PRS Expansion project plans to eliminate this park entirely (our only park) to make way for more buildings.

If we wanted a campus full of buildings we would have moved to any number of more financially reasonable ones in the Bay Area.

Please help us save our green space.

4.2

*Without open space, this campus  
will lose its charm and character —  
the reason we chose this place.*

*Brenda Niemand  
SRC #5207  
14500 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA 95070  
8/7/23*

Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

Aug. 6, 2023  
Comment Letter: FORM-11  
NIEMAND-B-5

## REVIEW OF DEIR FOR SARATOGA RETIREMENT COMMUNITY EXPANSION PLAN

5.1

### The question is not when will the next Pandemic hit, but what are we doing to prepare for it?

As a lay person when it comes to very technical details, I reviewed the DEIR for the proposed expansion of the Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) as best as I could.

I found a huge **void** in the details for the Health Care Center (HCC) remodel other than reducing the 99 beds to 54 and converting all the rooms to private including private toilet and shower. It was disappointing since this seems the opportune time to learn from the all the studies done post covid and to design SRC HCC with details to mitigate the next pandemic.

The conversion of the semi-private bedrooms and baths to private is a good start but the vague construction schedule shows that as **phase four**. With recent studies showing that **shared** bedrooms and bathrooms helped enable the spread of the Covid pathogen, the priority for this conversion should be **Project #1**. ( See article in AARP, 1/3/2023 by Emily Paulin).

The following are other details that were **missing in the SRC DEIR** for the HCC:

**Emergency Response:** after reading all the possible road closures and road re-alignments and the fact that Emergency Medical Response (EMR) vehicles are very frequently on the campus day and night, it seems **urgent** that the Emergency Access Road **be built first!** This is the access from Chester Ave with a wide sweep to accommodate fire trucks onto Odd Fellows Drive. For years, residents have begged for this as San Marcos/Odd Fellows drive is the only way in and out of the campus. With all the daytime truck congestion and debris removal during the proposed construction, there needs to be a safe way for fire and emergency vehicles to access the campus.

**Air Quality, Noise, and vibration analysis** were all missing for the interior environment that in-patients in the HCC would be subjected to during the remodel. While the DEIR concerns itself with the exterior environment, no one has examined what the in-patients must endure trapped in their beds during this construction. In an important study done in Cleveland Clinic and reported in The Cleveland Clinic Journal of Medicine, October 1, 2019, Amjad Kanj MD et al reported in article, "**What are the Risks to Inpatients During Hospital Construction or Renovation**", found that "Hospital construction ultimately will serve the interests of patients but it also can put in-patients at risk of mold disease, Legionnaires Disease, sleep deprivation, and exacerbation of lung disease."

**Solar panels and Water Saving standards** were also missing for the HCC remodel plans. There were plans for solar panels for other buildings as well as "Build it Green" ideas but nothing for the HCC.

**Impact MF-S-3 Direct adverse effects on human beings** inside a HCC that is being remodeled. There is a lot of analysis on the outside air, water, noise and vibration but nothing for "Sensitive Receptors" who are unable to move or relocate, trapped as such in their beds and bedrooms in a HCC that is being remodeled. An abled bodied resident can request a change of location if overwhelmed with noise , dust and vibration but no such options are available to the in-patient recovering in a HCC that is undergoing a remodel.

In Summary:

**Build** the access road appropriate for fire trucks from Chester to Odd Fellows Road **first**.

If a new state of the art **HCC** is out of the question, then current in-patients at HCC must be re-located and the HCC must be **remodeled with latest Covid regulations**. This is the next in priority for the health and safety of SRC residents.

Thank you to the Planning Commissioners and City Council members and their staffs for making this whole comment process possible.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Niemand  
14500 Fruitvale Ave. - # 5207  
Saratoga, CA 95070



1.1

Saratoga Retirement Community is widely know for it's beautiful green campus - full of trees, bushes, walking paths, & lovely landscaping.

The new PRS Expansion Plan plans to eliminate most of this beauty by packing it with more housing & more buildings. There are 124 beautiful large trees (& much more greenery) scheduled for destruction.

Our park & outdoor recreation area will be taken from us. Our trees & our birds will be gone. It will be incredibly sad & depressing for those of us in the last years of our lives.

MARIE O'FLAHERTY  
Marie O'Flaherty  
apt (5219) 8-15-2023

To the EIR consultants, the Planning Commissioners and City Council,

2.1

We residents here at Saratoga just love our bocce ball court located in our beautiful Historic Park. That & our putting green are our only outdoor games on campus. We also enjoy the chairs & picnic tables set up in that same park.

The large oak tree there was lost in a storm last year & it has not been replaced with anything — not even grass or ground cover. Why? Because the PRS Expansion project plans to eliminate this park entirely (our only park) to make way for more buildings.

If we wanted a campus full of buildings we would have moved to any number of more financially reasonable ones in the Bay Area.

Please help us save our green space.

Marie O'Flaherty

( Apt 5219 ) 8-15-2023

To the EIR consultants, the Planning Commissioners and City Council,


1.1

We residents here at Saratoga just love our bocce ball court located in our beautiful Historic Park. That & our putting green are our only outdoor games on campus. We also enjoy the chairs & picnic tables set up in that same park.

The large oak tree there was lost in a storm last year & it has not been replaced with anything — not even grass or ground cover. Why? Because the PRS Expansion project plans to eliminate this park entirely (our only park) to make way for more buildings.

If we wanted a campus full of buildings we would have moved to any number of more financially reasonable ones in the Bay Area.

Please help us save our green space.

  
Jim K. Omura  
Manor Unit 1204



Dear EIR consultants, Planning Commissioners and City Council,  
I am a resident in the Manor building of the Saratoga Retirement Community.

2.1


I oppose the building of the proposed Meeting Room. It will have a very significant impact on the Manor residents during construction.

The noise level is beyond the acceptable level as you noted in the DEIR report Table 4.5-6. Construction zone would generate noise levels of up to 95 dBA for the four west-facing units within the western wing of the Manor Building. 95 dBA is like fire alarms in our hallways!! This **would exceed** the FTA's recommended construction noise criteria of 80 dBA. Such loud noise is very disturbing and causes mental health issues. Particularly for long duration, not just a few minutes but many hours during the day and for many months.

The mitigation suggested that the noise is only during day time, so it will be quiet during after work hours. This report does not consider the seniors at all. We take naps and stay indoors most of the time during the day. These loud noise will be intolerable.

We come here to enjoy our last years peacefully and quietly and we paid an enormous amount of our savings to retire at this lovely place. Please do not build this Meeting room which is directly attached to the Manor.

We do NOT need it!

  
Jim K. Omura  
Manor Unit 1204

## Rawnsley, Emma

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2023 4:40 PM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community

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

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Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

---

**From:** Daniel Onn <danielonn2002@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 7, 2023 7:47 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community

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Hello Mr.Richsrdson,

1.1

As a Saratoga Neighborhood Safety Watch Officer I have monitored Pulsepoint and there are many 911 calls with sirens to the Saratoga Retirement Community. Is there a way to not use sirens or overuse 911? Why can't they have their own Ambulance. I think the buses are overusing 911 and am afraid that the addition of units will increase the calls. The Data shows that they get the most calls in our community. Can we avoid the Fire Truck responding ob an EMS call ttere as they have their own team? Can you stop the many sirens in our community going to and from there?

I oppose the expansion until we get the sirens under control as well as the 911 calls. .

Thanks,

Daniel

## Rawnsley, Emma

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2023 4:40 PM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community

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---

**From:** Daniel Onn <danielonn2002@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, July 7, 2023 7:48 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community

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Hello Mr.Richsrdson,

2.1

As a Saratoga Neighborhood Safety Watch Officer I have monitored Pulsepoint and there are many 911 calls with sirens to the Saratoga Retirement Community. Is there a way to not use sirens or overuse 911? Why can't they have their own Ambulance. I think the nurses are overusing 911 and am afraid that the addition of units will increase the calls. The Data shows that they get the most calls in our community. Can we avoid the Fire Truck responding ob an EMS call ttere as they have their own team? Can you stop the many sirens in our community going to and from there?

I oppose the expansion until we get the sirens under control as well as the 911 calls. .

Thanks,

Daniel

## Rawnsley, Emma

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 2:53 PM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community

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### Cynthia Richardson | Project Planner

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---

**From:** Jan Panell <jannekep123@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2023 5:29 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community

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Dear Ms. Richardson,

1.1 A developer's proposed building plan for the Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) campus would demolish the full-sized Bocce Ball court that over 60 residents use several times a week for healthy outdoor recreation and socialization. This is the only outdoor recreation site on our campus. In addition to being lots of fun, Bocce Ball provides new residents with a wonderful opportunity to become integrated into the fabric of the SRC community. The game requires only modest skills, and is one that people can enjoy well into their 90s.

Our Bocce Ball court is the crown jewel in the Oddfellows Historic Park. It would be a shame to destroy the Bocce Ball court and the historic site on which it is situated for the sake of the developer's proposed two-story building.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, one which we SRC seniors consider so important to our physical and mental well-being.



Jan Panell  
SRC Resident

Rawnsley, Emma

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 3:34 PM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community

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Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

**From:** Jan Panell <jannekep123@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2023 5:52 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community

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Dear Ms. Richardson,

2.1 As you are probably aware, there are many continuing care retirement communities in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) is one of them. After touring most of these communities, we decided on the Saratoga Retirement Community because of its beautiful, open, tree-studded campus. This bucolic setting benefits the seniors who live here by providing clean air, shade, and safe walking areas.

Many neighbors from the adjoining neighborhoods also benefit from our lovely grounds, regularly strolling through and around our beautiful campus - mothers with babies in strollers, families going for an evening walk together, young bicyclists learning to bike in a safe place. They, like we, benefit from the traffic-free, open green space that SRC provides.

These benefits would all be lost if Pacific Retirement Community's proposed two-story apartment building is allowed. This proposed building would destroy the beautiful green space that we and our neighbors so enjoy and treasure. It would also significantly increase traffic in an area that is currently

2.1  
Cont.

tranquil and almost traffic-free. SRC's beautiful, open, tree-studded campus is a jewel in the crown of Saratoga, Tree City USA. Please do not allow these apartments to be built.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, which we SRC residents consider to be of vital importance.

Jan Panell  
SRC Resident

Rawnsley, Emma

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2023 2:53 PM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: Saratoga Retirement Community

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Office Hours Mondays and Thursdays

**From:** Jan Panell <jannekep123@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2023 6:21 PM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** Saratoga Retirement Community

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Dear Ms. Richardson,

- 3.1
- A developer for Pacific Retirement Services has proposed building a two-story apartment building in the center of the Saratoga Retirement Community Campus. Doing so would remove the safe, outdoor paths that currently allow senior residents to exercise in sunshine and fresh air. These paths are quite accessible, even for people using walkers.

By contrast, the DEIR suggests that if the proposed development was to be built, comparable walking paths could be located in the nearby San Marcos Open Space (p. 3 - 260, DEIR). The DEIR claims that the San Marcos Open Space is only 300 feet to the southeast of the proposed project site. However, that measurement is the direct air distance. The only way to access the San Marcos Open Space is by walking up a very steep embankment, which is completely inaccessible except by taking a 2.5 mile round trip walk along the road. Most seniors, especially those using walkers, are not capable of getting to the San Marcos Open Space. The proposed project would thus significantly and



3.1  
Cont. negatively impact the quality of life for Saratoga Retirement Community residents and its neighbors. Please do not allow this apartment building to be built.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Jan Panell  
Saratoga Retirement Community Resident.

Jan Panell  
14500 Fruitvale Ave. #1207  
Saratoga, CA. 95070

City Of Saratoga  
Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA. 95070

*Re: Saratoga Retirement  
Community*

Dear Ms. Richardson,

4.1

Botanist and medical biochemist Diana Beresford-Kroeger has a plan for addressing climate change: preserving and planting trees. Trees play a vital role in supporting human health as well as the health of our planet. Saratoga, known since 2006 as Tree City, USA, and nationally recognized for its Best Tree Canopy, Best Urban Forest, and Best Tree Heritage Program, has done a wonderful job of protecting its beautiful trees and, by extension, its citizens.

The Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) has a plan as well, but it differs significantly from that of botanist Beresford-Kroeger. SRC's plan involves chopping down 124 trees. Sixty-five of these trees are protected by the City's code. Some of these trees are over 100 feet tall and measure six feet in diameter. They offer shade, habitats for birds and other animals, and contribute to the beauty of the SRC campus and the city of Saratoga, and to the health of its residents.

The prolonged California drought and our recent winter storms have already threatened the health of Saratoga's tree canopy: extreme rainfall and strong winds caused at least 13 large trees and 15 limbs to be removed from city roads, while other trees fell on private property. At a time when trees have been lost to extreme weather, and at this time of climate crisis, when the continued health of our planet and its inhabitants requires the preservation and planting of trees, it would be a shame for the City of Saratoga to allow tall, healthy, majestic trees to be removed for the sake of a building project.

4.2

I urge the Saratoga City Council and the Planning Commission to reject SRC's proposed plan in favor of "No Plan", or at the very least, the "Residents' Alternative Plan".

Sincerely,



Jan Panell

**Rawnsley, Emma**

---

**From:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 24, 2023 10:45 AM  
**To:** Rawnsley, Emma  
**Subject:** FW: In Connecticut, an 82-Year-Old's Crusade to Combat Heat by Planting Trees - The New York Times

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**From:** Jan Panell <jannekep123@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 20, 2023 9:26 AM  
**To:** Cynthia Richardson <crichardson@saratoga.ca.us>  
**Subject:** In Connecticut, an 82-Year-Old's Crusade to Combat Heat by Planting Trees - The New York Times

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Dear Ms. Richardson,

5.1 Here is an article from the NY Times about how one community is combatting climate change by planting trees. Please help us combat climate change here in Saratoga at the Saratoga Retirement Community by keep our existing trees and refusing to approve PRS's proposed expansion plan. This plan would result in the loss of 124 trees, 65 of which are protected by the City's code. Some of these trees are over 100 feet tall and six feet in diameter. These are heritage trees, whose preservation we owe our children, our grandchildren, and our beautiful city.


Sincerely,  
Jan Panell

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/08/20/us/trees-heat-wave-new-haven-ct.html>

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows


## One Neighborhood, 90 Trees and an 82-Year-Old Crusader

Ed Rodriguez is on a mission to convince his neighbors that they need trees to help combat summer heat — and to make the world a better place. It's not alv

 **By Colbi Edmonds**  
Reporting from New Haven, Conn.  
Published Aug. 20, 2023 Updated Aug. 22, 2023

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emma.rawnsley@gmail.com

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Maria Gonzalez, who lives in New Haven, Conn., was envious of the other side of her street. It was lined with trees, offering some beauty as well as a shield from this summer's unusual heat. But the sidewalk directly in front of her residence was bare, with trash littering patches of grass.

Then she met her neighbor Ed Rodriguez, an 82-year-old tree evangelist on a mission to fill the neighborhood with trees. Ms. Gonzalez was a willing convert.

This month, Mr. Rodriguez planted a crabapple tree in front of her home — his 90th tree in 13 years.

“I love to dig and mess around in the soil,” said Mr. Rodriguez who grew up in Puerto Rico, where he said he was surrounded by trees. He moved to the New Haven neighborhood in the 1960s.

As the United States sweats through another unbearable summer of record-breaking heat, planting more trees has emerged as a practical solution to cooling cities, especially areas known as “heat islands” where concrete and congestion magnify already brutal temperatures.

Yet filling a neighborhood with trees is not as simple as it seems. Funding and maintenance are issues for cities grappling with crime and housing. And not everyone, it turns out, wants a tree.



“I love to dig and mess around in the soil,” said Ed Rodriguez, who grew up in Puerto Rico but moved to Connecticut in the 1960s. Christopher Capozziello for The New York Times

Mr. Rodriguez, who volunteers with the Urban Resources Initiative, a nonprofit partnered with Yale University, spends much of his time persuading his neighbors that trees are worth the trouble. Because the trees are planted by a volunteer organization, residents have to take some responsibility for making sure the trees survive and thrive.

The city of New Haven pays for tree planting and maintenance through a contract with the Urban Resources Initiative. Residents are responsible for watering the trees for the first three years.

He said that renters, who make up a large portion of his neighborhood, often thought they did not have the right to plant one. And some people don't want to deal with maintenance or the nuisance of raking up leaves.

One neighbor whom Mr. Rodriguez talked to feared a shade tree would attract people who might see it as a spot for using drugs. Others wondered why the focus was on trees when their neighborhood had other issues.

“I try to convince them that the purpose and the outcome of having trees is greater” than the downsides, he said. He makes his pitch that trees filter the air, provide shade and enhance the property — and the butterflies are a plus, he added.

Urban forests — the forests and green spaces in cities and towns — have, on average, temperatures that are 2.9 degrees Fahrenheit lower than unforested urban areas, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

And research from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that temperatures in urban heat islands could be as much as 20 degrees higher than those in other neighborhoods. That puts poor residents and communities of color at greater risk for serious health problems caused by heat.





A tree that was recently planted by Mr. Rodriguez in New Haven. As the country sweats through another unbearable summer of record-breaking heat, planting more trees has emerged as a practical solution to cooling cities. Christopher Capozziello for The New York Times

Urban Resources Initiative volunteers said it was important for people to be able to pick their own trees from about 60 species.

“They’re the ones who are taking care of the tree by watering it every week, and so it becomes part of their family,” said Miche Palmer, a manager for the GreenSkills program, which is one of the Urban Resources Initiative’s efforts.

Urban Resources Initiative workers will check on a tree one, two and five years after it is planted. After the last benchmark, if everything is going well, the tree “graduates” and no longer is checked on by staff.

The program has planted nearly 11,000 trees in New Haven since 1995, with an average survival rate of more than 90 percent, managers said. It can take about 10 years for trees to provide shade, depending on the species. The trees the Urban Resources Initiative plants are usually around seven years old.

“It might not be exactly how folks thought relief would come, but if we talk about the long game, we could see these trees bring more than just cooling of temperatures, but it has all of these other benefits that could flow to communities,” said Beatra Wilson, assistant director of Urban and Community Forestry, a part of the U.S. Forest Service that helps fund tree-planting efforts around the country.



Jess Jones, left, and Zach Herring planting a crab apple tree with two young helpers from the neighborhood. Urban Resources Initiative volunteers say it’s important for people to have a say in picking their own trees from about 60 species. Tony Cenicola/The New York Times

Mr. Rodriguez, who retired in 2006 after working for 35 years at the Yale New Haven Hospital including a Spanish and English interpreter, tries to make every tree planting a neighborhood event.

Mr. Rodriguez knows heat and a lack of trees aren’t the only issues his community is facing — there is noise from cars, litter and high taxes. But to him, trees are more than just shade and beauty. They are symbols of what is possible, important steps in the right direction.

“We need them for the beauty and all the benefits,” he said.

Earlier in August, students from Yale and Urban Resources Initiative workers joined him to plant his 90th tree, and neighbors gathered around to watch. Once the crab apple was firmly embedded in the soil outside Ms. Gonzalez’s home, Mr. Rodriguez flagged down an ice cream truck and bought treats for the crowd.

**A correction was made on Aug. 21, 2023:** An earlier version of this article misstated how long residents are responsible for watering new trees planted by the Urban Resources Institute. It is for three years, not five.

When we learn of a mistake, we acknowledge it with a correction. If you spot an error, please let us know at [nytimes@nytimes.com](mailto:nytimes@nytimes.com). [Learn more](#)

**Colbi Edmonds** is a reporter for the National desk and a member of the 2023-24 New York Times Fellowship class. [More about Colbi Edmonds](#)

A version of this article appears in print on , Section A, Page 12 of the New York edition with the headline: One City, 90 Trees and an 82-Year-Old Crusader

Paul Panell  
14500 Fruitvale Ave. #1207  
Saratoga, CA. 95070

City Of Saratoga  
Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA. 95070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

1.1

As a Stanford engineer and long-time supporter of the Sierra Club, I am proud to be living in the City of Saratoga, known since 2006 as Tree City USA and nationally recognized for its Best Tree Canopy, Best Urban Forest, and Best Tree Heritage Program.

Science informs us that trees play a vital role in protecting the environment and its inhabitants by cooling the air, removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, and buffering noise. In addition, trees provide shade and habitats for birds and other animals, as well as beautifying the areas in which they grow.

We lost at least 13 large trees in Saratoga last winter, and 15 limbs required removal from Saratoga roadways – this following a years-long drought which was already detrimental to tree survival. A developer for the Saratoga Retirement Community (SRC) has proposed removing even more trees from the City of Saratoga, to make way for a building project on the SRC campus. This plan would require chopping down 124 trees, 65 of which are protected by the City's code. These are beautiful, mature trees – some over 100 feet tall and measuring six feet in diameter. They are irreplaceable allies in our fight to maintain livable conditions on our planet, and should not be sacrificed for the sake of a building project.

1.2

I strongly urge the Saratoga City Council and the Planning Commission to reject SRC's proposed plan in favor of "No Plan", or at the very least, the "Residents' Alternative Plan".

Sincerely,

  
Paul Panell

Paul Panell  
14500 Fruitvale Ave. #1207  
Saratoga, CA. 95070

City Of Saratoga  
Cynthia Richardson, Project Planner  
13777 Fruitvale Ave.  
Saratoga, CA. 95070

Dear Ms. Richardson,

2.1

I am currently one of the leaders of the men's and women's Bocce Ball League at the Saratoga Retirement Community. Over 60 residents regularly participate in our Bocce Ball games which take place several times each week. As you may know, Bocce Ball is a healthy outdoor activity that many seniors are able to enjoy well into their 90s. It requires only a modest amount of skill, is very social in nature, and thus is highly beneficial to the physical and mental health of SRC residents.

Due to a developer's proposed building plan for the SRC campus, we risk losing this invaluable recreational resource. According to this plan, our full-size Bocce Ball court would be demolished to make way for a two-story apartment building on the site. We don't want or need a two-story apartment building, but we do need a regulation-size Bocce Ball court to help us maintain our physical and mental well-being.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, which we SRC seniors consider so important.



Paul Panell