

Communication from Public

Name: Phyllis Ling

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Council File No: 26-0340

Comments for Public Posting: My name is Phyllis Ling. I'm a resident and property owner in Chinatown/Solano Canyon, founder of Stop The Gondola, and a former board member of the Historic Cultural Neighborhood Council, when it included Little Tokyo. The concerns that Little Tokyo community members are sharing about this project, are those I heard years ago in the neighborhood council regarding both Little Tokyo and Chinatown, such as questions about whether our historic asian-american communities can continue to exist under gentrification and other pressures. Decades ago, the powers that be decided to build jails in Chinatown and Little Tokyo. And now, our communities are targeted for megadevelopments that ignore human scale and do little to integrate with our existing communities. Our communities are continually being chipped away and pushed out by efforts to "upscale" and upsize development. Efforts to support the legacy businesses and help residents stay in the neighborhoods they've known for decades are too often undermined by new luxury developments that accelerate gentrification while being completely out of scale of out of touch with the existing needs in the neighborhood. What's even more frustrating is that our communities are asking for more deeply affordable housing when other neighborhoods don't want it. In Chinatown, there are some victories, like the New High Village project, which will be on county land and be 100% affordable, between 30-60% AMI. I'm a member of the Community Advisory Committee for that project, and would urge the City to consider options that have been proposed by Little Tokyo community members for increasing the percentage of affordable units in this project. I urge you to support the Little Tokyo Community Council's ("LTCC") appeal of the City Planning Commission's approval of Vesting Tentative Tract Map No. 82974-CN-HCA. I request that the Planning and Land Use Management Committee deny all other requested entitlements and approvals for the proposed Fourth and Central ("Cold Storage") Project ("the Project"). I also express strong support for LTCC's comprehensive community comment letter.