

**From:** [Levi C. Maaia](#)  
**To:** [City Clerk Group](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Rezoning Kenwood Village – A Vital Step for Goleta's Future  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 19, 2023 8:39:13 PM

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Dear Honorable City Council Members,

I am writing to express my support for the rezoning of the proposed Kenwood Village development to residential high-density in Goleta's revised Housing Element. As a local business owner, I firmly believe that this project is a crucial and necessary step towards addressing the housing challenges that our community faces, and it holds immense potential for a more sustainable and vibrant future for Goleta Valley and the entire South Coast.

Kenwood Village, as an infill property, boasts a unique opportunity to enhance the existing neighborhood, as it is currently surrounded on three sides by houses and condominiums and prominently fronts Calle Real. This strategic location makes it an ideal choice for a high-density residential development that will contribute positively to the community fabric.

One of the most pressing issues we face today is the scarcity of housing for our adult children and workers. In my business, I have personally experienced the impact of the housing shortage on our workforce. Talented individuals are compelled to seek opportunities in other areas due to the lack of available housing, and this poses a considerable challenge for local businesses like ours. The departure of skilled workers not only disrupts the growth of our businesses but also hinders the overall economic development of the entire region.

Furthermore, the ever-increasing number of commuters traveling from distant areas to work in Goleta and Santa Barbara has resulted in detrimental consequences. The environmental impact of extended commutes in automobiles not only affects our local air quality but also contributes to the broader issue of climate change. Additionally, longer commutes rob individuals of valuable time they could be spending with their families, leading to strained work-life balance and reduced well-being.

The shortage of housing also poses significant challenges for healthcare and emergency services on the South Coast. As we have witnessed in the past, delayed response times due to the distance traveled by emergency and healthcare workers can have dire consequences in critical situations and disasters. Rezoning Kenwood Village and providing adequate housing options will enable us to attract and retain first responders and healthcare personnel, ensuring a robust, swift and efficient response to emergencies.

By supporting the development of new housing, the Goleta City Council can be directly responsible for positive environmental, social and economic impacts. Therefore, I strongly urge you to support and approve the rezoning of Kenwood Village to residential high-density in the revised Housing Element. This project represents a golden opportunity to tackle the pressing issue of housing shortages and create a more inclusive, sustainable, and thriving community.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I hope that my support for Kenwood Village will be one of many voices advocating for positive change.

Very truly yours,  
**Levi C. Maaia**