



March 11, 2020

Portola Valley Neighbors United (PVNU)  
Portola Valley, CA 94028

To Whom It May Concern,

The Town has been forwarded a copy of a flier that has been placed in the mailboxes of a number of residents regarding Stanford's housing proposal for the Wedge.

As the flier contains a number of inaccuracies regarding the relationship between the Town and the Woodside Fire Protection District, we write to correct the record.

### **1. The Town is ignoring the Fire District's warnings on wildfire danger**

Over the course of the last months, the Town has received comment letters from the Woodside Fire Protection District (WFPD) on the project. During the pre-application and application process for any land use project, the Town acts as the collector of comment letter from independent agencies and the Town's consultants on their areas of expertise. Most land use projects of a certain scope receive comment letter from independent agencies such as Westbay Sanitary District, the Sheriff's Office, and WFPD.

The Town's responsibility during this part of the application process is to ensure that all comment letters are transmitted to the applicant (in this case, Stanford University). The Town is not ignoring comments from WFPD or any other independent agency; instead, the Town ensures that the comments are part of the public record and are received by the applicant for review and comment.

The District has relayed to Town staff their comments, which have been incorporated into the EIR process; there are no outstanding concerns.

### **2. Fire modeling studies**

The Town has contracted with a consultant to conduct an environmental impact report (EIR) for the project. The development of an EIR of a project of this scope can take up to 6-8 months, and was just kicked off at a recent meeting of the Planning Commission to determine the EIR's scope

As part of the EIR, fire modeling has been requested by the Town for the project. Additionally, Stanford University has contracted with a different firm for additional fire modeling. Stanford and WFPD have

met in recent weeks to discuss the District's requests, and has conveyed to Town staff that they are satisfied with Stanford's choice and for the proposed modeling the consultant plans to conduct.

### 3. Fire Prevention Plan

WFPD and Stanford have met and have discussed the preparation of a fire prevention plan for the entire 74-acre site, including the canyons on the property. Such a plan will be presented during the EIR/land use application process.

### 4. Town/WFPD relationship

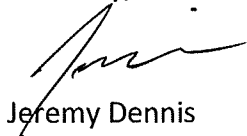
The Town and WFPD enjoy a positive, proactive relationship that involves regular communications. WFPD has expressed to Town staff their satisfaction with the level of coordination between the two jurisdictions on this project, and has not relayed any concerns related to "respect and support" for them.

### 5. Other Notes – from Town Staff only

- a. Size of project – the total project area is 7 acres for the proposed development
- b. General Plan and Zoning – the Planning Commission will be reviewing the project application at a future meeting and will determine conformity with the General Plan and Zoning Code

We hope that this joint message allays any concerns you may have about our relationship. Both the Town and the District have a strong bond, and are working together on fire-related issues on behalf of all residents.

Sincerely,



Jeremy Dennis  
Town Manager  
Town of Portola Valley



Rob Lindner  
Fire Chief  
Woodside Fire Protection District