

Dear Portola Valley Community,

After serving for 17 years on the Portola Valley Council, it is time to step down and give someone else a chance. Therefore, I am not running for re-election this November.

I am proud to have worked with my colleagues on programs, policies and projects that mattered. A few highlights include: the building of the Town Center campus, the daylighting of Sausal Creek, the creation of the Spring Down Vernal Pond, the Farmer's Market, the 2009 joint Woodside-Portola Valley-WFPD Firewise Committee, the Race & Equity Committee, a long list of sustainability initiatives as well as the Sustainability Committee in all its iterations, the first panel with Congresswomen Eshoo and Speier to discuss the regional airplane noise issue, the 2016 Housing Strategic Plan and consequent comprehensive and inclusive community process for the 2023 Housing Element, the passage of the strictest Home Hardening Ordinance in the County, and the imminent installation of the Cal Water smart water meters.

As a member on San Mateo County boards and committees, I worked with County supervisors, my colleagues on other City Councils, and staff to create the first-ever water agency in San Mateo County, One Shoreline, and the first-ever 101 Express Lanes project in the County with the most ambitious Community Benefits program in the country. On the SMC Library JPA, I worked to restructure the distribution of funding to make it fairer for all, and approved funds for new libraries in Half Moon Bay, Brisbane, and Atherton. I sat on the SMC Poet Laureate Committee, choosing our first three County Poet Laureates. Finally, I was a board member and chair on the influential SMC City/County Association of Governments as our charge expanded to include active transportation such as bike/ped, green infrastructure, more consequential climate change work, and housing.

Thank you for having faith in my leadership even when my stands were controversial. As a seasoned elected official once told me, "If you aren't making people unhappy, you aren't doing your job, and.... sometimes you must lead people where they don't want to go." Ever aware of the bigger picture and the greater good, I tried to live by these words, wrenching at times as it could be.

As I wind down my tenure on the Portola Valley Town Council and look ahead toward a new horizon, I will always honor these 17 years of public service.

Thank you for the privilege of serving.

Maryann Moise Derwin  
Council member, Town of Portola Valley  
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