

# Thousand Friends of Martinez

January 19, 2021

Mayor Rob Schroder  
Vice Mayor Debbie McKillop  
Councilmember Mark Ross  
Councilmember Lara DeLaney  
Councilmember Brianne Zorn  
City Manager Eric Figueroa  
Deputy City Manager Michael Chandler

City of Martinez  
525 Henrietta Street  
Martinez, CA 94553

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor Schroder, Vice Mayor McKillop, Councilmembers Ross, DeLaney and Zorn, Mr. Figueroa and Mr. Chandler,

Thank you for acknowledging our letter of July 22, 2020. However, we have not heard anything since. We assumed this was because of the disruptions caused by the pandemic, but it is time to restart the Draft General Plan Update process.

The General Plan Update (GPU) will become the most important City document guiding our development for the next 30 years.

But the Draft GPU is severely flawed. The Draft is over 400 pages long and is very confusing. It has been over 5 years since the public has last seen it. Much has changed in our world in those years, and we face many issues we did not then. New residents have come to our city, and more Martinez citizens demand a say in how our city is governed.

For these and other reasons, we are very concerned about the adequacy of the current Draft GPU and of the approval process going forward.

We believe you must put in place a strongly public-oriented process that:

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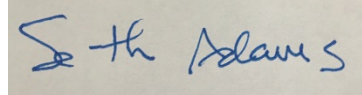
1. must allow for complete and open public study, education, critique and input to a new GPU developed by the entire community. Public input stopped six years ago and was inadequate before then---the primary input group was *disbanded* before the Draft was even completed.
2. must show the public how the Draft GPU is changed from the current General Plan, and tell us why the changes have been made. What has been added and what has been deleted?
3. must show what the Draft GPU will allow to happen in our neighborhoods, our waterfront and downtown and what it will not allow, and what will be subject to the discretion of the City Council.
4. will develop a plan that allows our City Council and other leaders to take a strong position with developers and land owners
5. will study and develop plans for many of the major issues that are inadequately (or not at all) addressed in the Draft GPU, yet will have a significant effect on our future--- climate change, fire danger, social equity, economic development, etc.
6. will carefully assess the economic needs of our City government and plan for development that works to help with our long-term fiscal deficits. That means a clear economic development strategy that plans industrial, commercial and retail development that offers better tax returns than housing does.
7. will address the need for job creation in Martinez as a goal of the Draft GPU, both for tax reasons and for environmental and economic considerations
8. will make sure the public's voice in passing Measure I (Martinez Open Space and Park Protection Initiative) is clearly reflected in the Draft GPU, not buried or piecemealed. (We believe that Measure I must be incorporated in its entirety as a special appendix to the Draft GPU, in addition to being incorporated in the Draft GPU itself.)
9. will result in a new Draft GPU that is easy to understand and accessible by the public---since it is the public's plan and guide for the future of our town. The 400 page Draft GPU is impossible to understand and is not a plan at all.

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We request the opportunity to discuss these and other issues with the appropriate person(s) in the City to help design a process that is open to the citizens of Martinez and will lead to a true public-based Draft GPU that we can all support.

The public deserves no less. After all, we will be living with the GPU that you approve long after you are gone.

Sincerely,



Mark Thomson                      Seth Adams  
Co-Facilitators for Thousand Friends of Martinez