

# Thousand Friends of Martinez

July 22, 2020

Mayor Rob Schroder  
Vice Mayor Mark Ross  
Councilmember Lara DeLaney  
Councilmember Noralea Gipner  
Councilmember Debbie McKillop  
City Manager Eric Figueroa  
Community & Economic Development Manager Christina Ratcliffe

City of Martinez  
525 Henrietta Street  
Martinez, CA 94553

VIA EMAIL

Dear Mayor Schroder, Vice Mayor Ross, Councilmembers DeLaney, Gipner and McKillop, Mr. Figueroa and Ms. Ratcliffe,

The General Plan Update is the single most important document governing the growth and development of Martinez over the next 30 years.

Thousand Friends of Martinez believes that the Draft General Plan Update has major defects, and that the process being used to develop it is seriously flawed. We believe that the document needs to be rewritten, and rewritten with a process that includes the public. In short: the writing of the General Plan Update needs to start over.

Attached are our critiques of the Draft General Plan Update, as well as of the process used to develop it over the last ten years. These critiques have been presented to the public, and are available at [www.thousandfriendsofmartinez.org](http://www.thousandfriendsofmartinez.org)

The preparation of these critiques was hampered by the disappearance of the General Plan Update from the City website last October, and it still cannot be found on the website today. (Looking under “Planning/NEW General Plan [Draft]” gets “HTTP Error 404.0--Not Found”.) It is very important that the General Plan Update be reposted on the website for public access, and that any

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changes the City has made to the document since it disappeared last October are clearly outlined for the public.

Since we completed our critiques, major social issues have emerged, including the coronavirus pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement. These issues portend significant changes for our nation that may directly affect the future of our town. They only underscore the need to start the General Plan Update process from scratch.

We want to work with the City and the public to restart the General Plan Update process to allow development of a General Plan Update that truly will meet the needs of our community now and for the next 30 years.

We request meeting with the City to start a dialogue regarding our concerns and the restarting of the General Plan Update process.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Mark Thomson and Seth Adams in blue ink.

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