

April 18, 2024

I offer these comments for the General Plan Advisory Committee April 18, 2024, on Agenda 6, Public Comment:

I am writing to request that the land use designation for the property located at 500 Hopper Street, Petaluma CA be considered as part of the General Plan process. In January 2024, our nonprofit, the Petaluma River Park Foundation, acquired the 38 acres located at 500 Hopper. We are actively working to develop the property for public benefit through a robust research and community engagement process. At the core of this new place will be a public riverfront park with a series of interconnected bike and pedestrian trails and other public amenities focused on community gathering, recreation, arts and culture, and beyond.

The Foundation requests that a change in this property's land-use designation be considered as part of the General Plan process. The property is currently zoned River-Dependent Industrial. Given the Foundation's vision for the property, and that the parcel is centrally located within the city, is a critical part of the proposed Caulfield Bridge project, is within a mile of major public transportation hubs, such as SMART and the Petaluma Transit Mall, and is situated next to an existing residential development, we believe the property should be designated Mixed Use, or a combination of Mixed Use and Proposed Park.

We are available to work collaboratively with the City of Petaluma to adjust the designation, and eventually the zoning, of this land to meet the collective goals of the Foundation, the City, and our community.

Thank you for your time in considering this request.

Seair Lorentz



Executive Director
Petaluma River Park Foundation