



October 11, 2010

Dear Members of the Redwood City Community:

I'm very pleased to present to you Redwood City's New General Plan, which was approved by the City Council of Redwood City on October 11, 2010. This is a tremendously exciting milestone for Redwood City as we put into place a Plan which establishes the key goals, policies, and programs for the long-term physical development of our community. The General Plan is a highly evolved and flexible blueprint for the community, written to reflect the significant amount of public input received, as well as Planning Commission and City Council direction.

Throughout the community input process we received hundreds of ideas and comments about how the Plan should be a general guideline for what we want our City to be for future generations, how our City will look, and how development will occur. And that makes it a critically important document for today, and for tomorrow. We are most proud of the fact that this Plan sets a framework for maintaining those cherished qualities that distinguish Redwood City, while establishing a solid foundation for anticipating and responding to changing conditions over the next twenty-plus years.

Redwood City's new General Plan is an investment in the City's future. In its final build-out, the Plan can accommodate significant new housing units and a substantial number of square feet of new commercial development with the capacity to accommodate a wide variety of businesses. At the same time, it enables thoughtful, sustainable change in our community, filled with flexibility, opportunity, and great respect for Redwood City's history.

It should be recognized that the New General Plan is a living document and a work in progress, containing flexible, adjustable tools. The planning "horizon" is a constantly moving target, and as it moves further out in time, the high degree of flexibility that is built into the Plan will enable us to adapt to future unknowns and opportunities. The state and federal regulatory requirements in the Plan must be – and are – balanced by the Plan's community input and Council direction.

This Plan is a foundation for many future discussions, deliberations, and decisions. It includes a record of the community's conversation on this subject over the last few years, and as such is really a "visioning" tool – not the final word on policies. Zoning amendments, for example, will bring much more specificity to proposals and projects. At the same time, the Plan provides a higher level of certainty for the City, while reflecting and clarifying what is most important to our residents and business interests.

I hope you share my excitement at the approval of Redwood City's New General Plan, as well as my confidence and belief that this Plan contains the foresight, wisdom, and vision to help guide us as we strive to create new realities and meet evolving challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Peter Ingram", written in a cursive style.

Peter Ingram
City Manager