



CITY OF EMERYVILLE

INCORPORATED 1896

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February 21, 2007

Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan
County of Sacramento
700 H Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Supervisor MacGlashan:

I was the Mayor of Emeryville, California (population approximately 7,000) in 1991, when a cohousing community designed by Chuck Durrett and Katie McCamant was approved to be built in our town. I have been the Mayor and a Councilmember for the past 19 years. As is so often the case with multi-family housing, there was considerable concern about the project. In fact, it was originally denied by the Planning Commission and only approved on appeal to the City Council.

The cohousing neighbors have been a great plus to our town. The residents are particularly good citizens. They participate in local issues. One resident ran for and won a seat on the School Board. At the time, the School District was in disarray, with a corrupt Superintendent. Now the test scores are improving; I attribute a lot of that improvement to the participation and leadership of the cohousing members. The City and School District are working closely to provide a better educational experience for our children.

Other residents have been involved in schools, volunteered for various City Committees, and have participated in a wide variety of City activities. They have modeled how to accomplish environmentally sensitive, appropriately scaled multi-family developments. I can assure you that they have been a great contribution to our town.

Moreover, their cohousing community has been a catalyst to improve their local neighborhood. They took an old, abandoned warehouse and remodeled it to create Doyle Street Cohousing (www.emeryville-cohousing.org). Their homes are now selling for more than twice the original prices. The cohousing community has revitalized the local neighborhood.

Please feel free to call me at (510) 652-2199 if you have any questions. I urge you to support the cohousing community being proposed in Orangevale.

Sincerely,

Nora Davis
Emeryville Mayor