

Poll finds support for Menlo project

Three 8-story towers east of Highway 101

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Sixty-five percent of Menlo Park residents surveyed said they would support a million-plus-square-foot project — that includes three eight-story towers — on the east side of Highway 101 just south of Marsh Road, according to a poll commissioned by the developer of the project.



BOHANNON

Traffic was the main concern of the 400 Menlo Park residents who were polled by Godbe Research.

The massive project includes three eight-story office buildings, a 230-room hotel with a restaurant, a health club, neighborhood retail, community facilities and parking structures with 2,600 spaces.

Developer David Bohannon said the project has been under review by city officials for more than four years. It is slated to come before City Council in late spring or early summer, he said.

Residents want the revenue

Bryan Godbe said his firm conducted the telephone survey in late February.

Respondents were asked what aspects of the project they liked. They said they

liked the \$2 million in city revenues it would generate, the \$1 million in money for schools and the \$500,000 that would go to the fire district.

They also liked the “green” environmental approach to the construction of the hotel and office complexes, and that the project would bring in 2,300 new jobs plus hire 1,900 workers to construct the one-million-plus square feet of buildings.

Concern over project's size

What residents didn't like is that the project, when completed, would generate an estimated 1,000 new car trips a day and that it may be too big and out of character for Menlo Park.

The interview was a series of questions that described the project, bit by bit, but never told those called whose project it is or provided any total square footage numbers.

Godbe said the residents' reactions to the traffic impact were lower than what is typical. And Menlo Park is asking for \$1 million in traffic impact fees, which can be used to pay for traffic improvements throughout the city.

According to the survey, the overall priorities of Menlo Park residents were improving the schools, improving the local economy, preserving the character of Menlo Park and maintaining local roads. Last on a short list was increasing the amount of affordable housing.