



For Immediate Release

March 31, 2009

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Developer's plan for Hotel and Office Complex has broad support in Menlo Park

Developer David Bohannon's hotel and office complex proposal for the industrial area of Menlo Park east of Highway 101, known as Menlo Gateway, has strong community support in that city, according to a public opinion research poll Bohannon commissioned recently.

"70% of Menlo Park residents support the mixed-use hotel and office project proposed by Mr. Bohannon," said Bryan Godbe, President of Godbe Research the San Mateo based polling firm that conducted the poll. "Clearly, concerns about the local economy, jobs and tax revenue are contributing to such an overwhelming level of support."

Mr. Bohannon has proposed a 230 room hotel and private health club known as ClubSport-Renaissance. The hotel concept currently operates in Walnut Creek and Orange County, California. In addition, Bohannon is proposing to build three office buildings totaling over 700,000 square feet in the area.

"As I have been presenting this proposal to various public groups, I've heard very positive feedback and support for it," said Mr. Bohannon. "This poll confirms what I've been hearing locally from residents, business owners and community leaders. They all believe this type of local economic stimulus is very necessary now given the state of the economy."

The poll, conducted from February 25th until March 3rd, found that Menlo Park residents saw great benefit from the 1900 temporary construction jobs and the 2300 full-time jobs that would be created. The fact that the buildings and hotel complex would generate over \$1.5 million in annual new tax revenues for the City of Menlo Park was also very well viewed.

Menlo Park residents were also very supportive of the extensive green building features that Mr. Bohannon plans to incorporate into the hotel and office building designs, according to Mr. Godbe. The major concern was about the traffic that would be generated. "However", said Mr. Godbe, "even with the concern about traffic, Menlo Park residents remain very supportive of the overall concept and proposal."

Mr. Bohannon estimates that the entire project will cost approximately \$300 million dollars and take two to three years to complete. Mr. Bohannon also announced that he had reached an agreement with a local community-based organization, known as JobTrain, which will ensure that the jobs created – construction, hotel, health club and office – will be made available first to neighborhood and Menlo Park residents.

The City of Menlo Park will be taking up the schedule for project approvals on April 14th with the hope that the project will come to the City Council for a final vote next February.

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