

# **Supplemental Communications (2)**

(Received after 12pm on  
May 31 and before 3pm  
June 1)

## Communications

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**From:** Eva Herzer <evaherzer@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 5:40 PM  
**To:** Covello, Zoe  
**Subject:** Solar shadow

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

I am writing to express my dismay that you are planning on allowing 35 foot buildings in our residential neighborhoods. This will create shadows that for my property would mean no more vegetable garden (which provides me with produce year round) and no solar conversion. In the name of more housing you will destroy our neighborhoods' quality of life and conversion to clean energy. Please do not proceed with this 35 foot plan.

Thank you  
Eva Herzer  
1728 Tenth Street

Sent from my iPad

## Communications

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**From:** Harrington, Charlene <Charlene.Harrington@ucsf.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 5:46 PM  
**To:** Covello, Zoe  
**Subject:** Berkeley Planning Commission

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

As a Berkeley resident, I am writing to voice my opposition to proposal for 2-4 unit housing in residential neighborhoods for a 35 foot building allowance. This allowance of 35 ft. buildings by-right in all R1A, R2, R2A neighborhoods would be devastating for solar users in those neighborhoods. Charlene

Charlene Harrington, Ph.D. RN, Professor Emerita  
Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences  
University of California San Francisco  
490 Illinois St. Floor 12, Box 0612  
San Francisco, CA 94143  
415-269-4080 cell

## Communications

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**From:** Paul Newacheck <pnewacheck@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 5:56 PM  
**To:** Covello, Zoe  
**Subject:** 35 ft solar height

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I appose the 35 ft height limit by right due to its effects on solar generation on adjacent one story properties.

Paul Newacheck

## Communications

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**From:** rachel bradley <rachelbradleywood@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 6:14 PM  
**To:** Covello, Zoe  
**Subject:** Objective standards for 2-4 unit housing

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I am writing to question allowing 35 ft. residential buildings by-right in residential areas, and to request that the city conduct a proper solar study and properly analyze the impacts of additional heights on rooftop solar arrays.

Thank you,  
Rachel Bradley

## Communications

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**From:** Wendy Alfsen <wendyalfsen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 7:17 PM  
**To:** Covello, Zoe  
**Subject:** Proper Berkeley Solar Study inc. 12/21 & Oppose 35' as of right in R1A-R2-R2AR

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Planning Commission: Writing to oppose 35' as of right for 2-4 unit housing in R-1A-R2-R2A; reconsider after a proper solar shadow study including modeling on 12/21. We cannot cobat climate change without a much greater move to effective solar power - to do so we need to utilize the single story rooftops in Berkeley (not to mention sun-dependent yard gardens/trees)

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Wendy ALfsen, District 4, 1800 Allston Way, 940703  
510-684-5705  
[wendyalfsen@gmail.com](mailto:wendyalfsen@gmail.com)

## Communications

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**From:** allen.phil@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 8:16 PM  
**To:** Covello, Zoe  
**Subject:** Height Standard re: Solar Rooftop Paneling

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

To Planning Commission, ..

I don't understand the relation between 2-4 unit buildings in particular zoning districts *and* the by-right 35-foot height allowance.

I also don't understand how the dreadful path Berkeley is taking regarding overbuilding is going to make the city's future better in any way.

Don't listen to staff as if they bore a message from God.

This is addressed to the rational among you ..

phil allen  
D-1

## Communications

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**From:** Jane Graly <jgraly@pacbell.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 1:30 AM  
**To:** Covello, Zoe  
**Subject:** Rooftop solar

WARNING: This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Meaningful climate action includes rooftop solar. It's one of immediate things that concerned individuals can do support environmental change. This should be supported by local government not impeded.

Jane Graly  
2127 Oregon Street  
Berkeley



## Communications

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**From:** Tom Graly <tgraly@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 1:52 AM  
**To:** Covello, Zoe

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear commissioners,

Berkeley homeowners need assurances that their investments in climate saving solar panels will continue to operate as designed, installed, and implemented. New or expanded buildings should not have the right to obscure the sun from existing panels. I oppose the 35' heights being proposed by consultants. Please reject the in favor of assuring Berkeley homeowners right to the sun.

Tom Graly  
2127 Oregon St, Berkeley, CA 94705

## Communications

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**From:** Carla Woodworth <carla@tennypress.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 11:25 AM  
**To:** Covello, Zoe  
**Subject:** Planning Commission: Objective Standards for 2 to 4 Housing Units

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

BY EMAIL: zcovello@cityofberkeley.info

June 1, 2022

Berkeley Planning Commission  
1947 Center Street, Second Floor  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Subject: Objective Standards for Two to Four Housing Units in Residential Neighborhoods

Dear Berkeley Planning Commissioners:

I am writing to oppose the proposed plan to allow the development of 35 foot residential buildings, by right, in R1A, R2, and R2A neighborhoods.

Instead of taking action now on “objective standards”, you should recommend that the City of Berkeley commission a study to properly analyze the impacts of additional heights on rooftop solar arrays, including modeling of shadows around the winter solstice (December 21).

I also urge your staff to send a mailer to the more than 4,000 roof top solar permit holders in Berkeley to let them know about the City’s objective standard proposal. These residents have made significant investments in order to tap into renewable energy and to be good stewards of the planet. As part of a volunteer effort, I helped distribute flyers to these community members earlier this year. Residents had no idea about the City’s plans that might either make rooftop solar panels completely inoperative or severely reduce their capacity to generate electricity.

Sincerely,

Carla Woodworth  
2335 Parker Street #2  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
Email: carla@tennypress.com

## Communications

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**From:** Summer Brenner <summerbrenner@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 31, 2022 6:04 PM

**To:** Pearson, Alene <apearson@cityofberkeley.info>

**Cc:** Berkeley Mayor's Office <mayor@cityofberkeley.info>; Harrison, Kate <KHarrison@cityofberkeley.info>

**Subject:** Saving birds from collisions and death

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Alene Pearson,

You must know that up to **ONE BILLION birds** die annually from glass collisions in the US. Can't our City do its small part to minimize these deaths?

Berkeley is a North American flyway. I hope that requiring bird-safe glass in our buildings is not a challenging decision. It should be a self-evident decision.

That the City has not yet committed to bird-safe glass, I find heartbreaking --- both for the birds and for those of us who care about the environment with expectations that our elected officials care, too.

Thank you,  
Summer Brenner

## Communications

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**From:** Todd Darling <tdarling2000@yahoo.com>

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 9:15 AM

**To:** Wu, Grace <GWu@cityofberkeley.info>

**Cc:** Bartlett, Ben <BBartlett@cityofberkeley.info>

**Subject:** Comments on report to Planning Commission June 1 Please distribute to Commissioners

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Wu and Planning Commissioners,

The "objective standards" report delivered to the Planning Commission for consideration on June 1 is deficient in several important ways.

First of all it works strenuously to avoid adequate consideration of the actual "objective standards" that are the city's right under state law.

In particular, this report obfuscates, misrepresents and is deficient in regards to solar panels, solar access, and preservation and enhancement of Berkeley's resilience.

While my main concern regards solar access, I would briefly note the following:

The report only notes obliquely that with an ADU and four units, any development will be able to get a density bonus and so the actual height limit in Berkeley will be 52 feet tall, only four feet from the property line. If this is what the Planning wants to do to from the Bay to the hills, then you should have the courage to make that clear. Speculators will buy up contiguous lots and we will have blocks of market rate housing that are a solid 52 feet blocks;

Allowing no distance between units on a lot will insure the lack of resilience and meaningful open space on any lot;

150 square feet per 1000 square foot unit just allows enough space to move a couch in and out.

Important question : does "open space" include the 4 foot set back on the sides - or is it in addition to the set back?

As to the analysis of solar panels and the impact of a 35 height by right, built only 4 feet from the property line is entirely deficient. The report's models used are not appropriate or clear. Saying that a 35 foot height "only cuts 10% of the daily average" sun on a solar array at the equinox is an invalid measurement. Solar panels are oriented West or South in Berkeley, so the entire day is not the appropriate span of measurement. The right span of time is when the sun hits the array. For a West facing array that time is from around 10 am to just before sunset. Looked at that way the impact is actually between 20 and 30% or more of effective time. Secondly, when a shadow hits any part of the array, the whole array's productivity drops. (Please refer to solar study done on Derby Street that will be sent under separate cover)

In its totality, the review of solar access, and the use of only one day during the year, at only one location is wholly inadequate and leaves the city and this process open to challenge by any citizen of Berkeley. Without a thorough review the City has been cheated of a meaningful or robust conversation about this issue. The obfuscation is obvious. This treatment of the issue likely violates our rights as solar array owners and citizens.

None of the policy goals included the protection of Berkeley's environment, ability to enhance or protect resilience. In this time of climate change this absence is irresponsible, and will not serve the City for the next seven generations. The canard that our only environmental issue is maximum density is greenwashing to enhance the profits of real estate speculators, and the acceleration of gentrification and displacement. Despite handwringing by the real estate advocates there are real limits to growth that are required to fight climate change. Housing is a passive means to address climate change, and if the new residents all owns cars, while failing to generate their own electricity then we will have lost the battle.

Finally, be clear that the notion of density being the prime climate measure to address in urban areas is greenwashing. Our only climate issue is NOT density. In fact, the UN's IPCC writes that buildings create 30-40% of all greenhouse gases, and that there are limits to height and density.

Send this report back for an honest review and a complete re-do on the solar section.

Sincerely,  
Todd Darling  
Linda Darling  
Derby St.  
Berkeley, CA

## Communications

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**From:** Todd Darling <tdarling2000@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 1, 2022 1:05 PM  
**To:** Wu, Grace <GWu@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Cc:** Bartlett, Ben <BBartlett@cityofberkeley.info>; Berkeley Mayor's Office <mayor@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Subject:** Shade studies done by architect at Derby Street Location: distribute to all Planning Commissioners

**WARNING:** This is not a City of Berkeley email. Do not click links or attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Ms. Wu,

In anticipation of hearings on "objective standards" these shade studies were prepared for the 2100 block of Derby. The location is specific and the shade studies were done by two architects on their CAD. These illustrate more clearly the impact of a 35 foot tall building situated only 4 feet from a property line on a 35 foot wide lot. The fact that there are NO exceptions, regardless of lot size, orientation, or climate resilience resources in the proposed re-zoning proposal is absurd, and is a slap in the face to residents of the Berkeley flats.

Note that on March 21 the solar generation of electricity at this location does not stop until 7:00 pm, and is producing over 1Kwth of power until almost 6 pm. It produces over 3Kwh until 4:30pm. It doesn't start producing power until 9 am - two hours after sunrise.

The 35 foot structure 4 feet from the property line starts occlude the neighbor's roof at 2 pm, and covers it by 4 pm. That is a disaster for the shaded neighbor. If the height limit was lowered, or the 35 feet section only allowed at the center of the lot, then the situation might change.

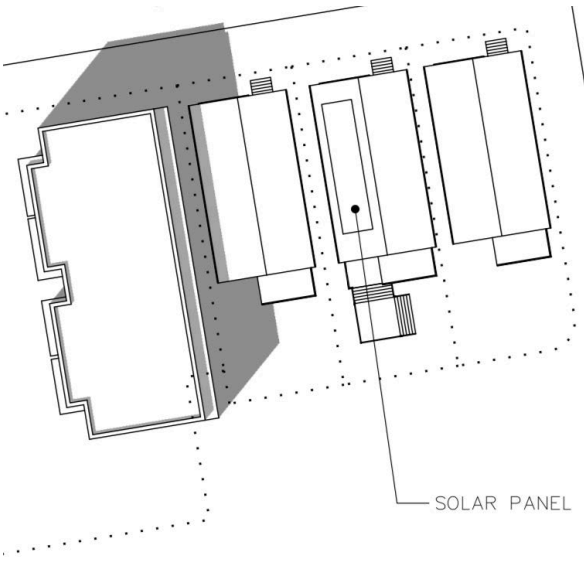
Did the consultants or the Planning Department perform any alternatives? No.  
What kind of scam is the City of Berkeley running on its citizens? One policy formulated alone? Only one set of drawings exploring one possibility?

Solar panels and electric cars will do more to actively cut green house gasses than any other action. By themselves they can remove 50-80% of our greenhouse gasses. Yes, we need more housing, but the housing we add has to respect the laws of nature - the sun. If we deprive the public this public resource, in order to build market rate housing, it is a travesty.

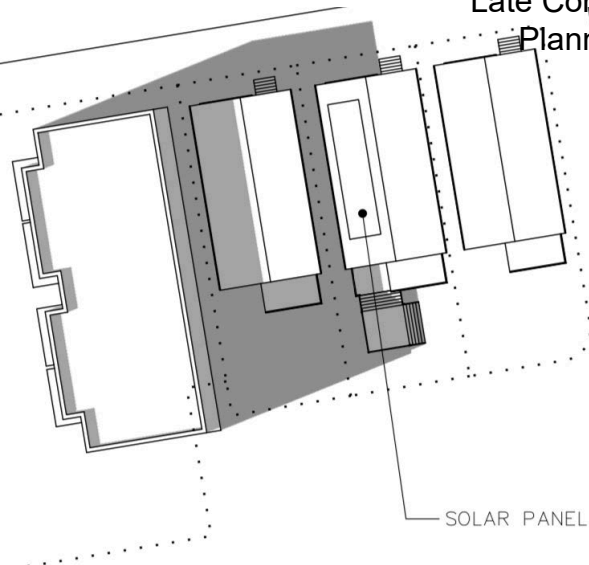
The lack of candor in this discussion surrounding housing is appalling.  
To somehow increase "affordable housing" the Planning Commission offers zero affordable housing in this proposal;.

Send this report back. Find new consultants who can provide some serious proposals that can wisely guide this process. Right now the process has an outcome they want, and are providing skewed reports to justify what cannot be justified.

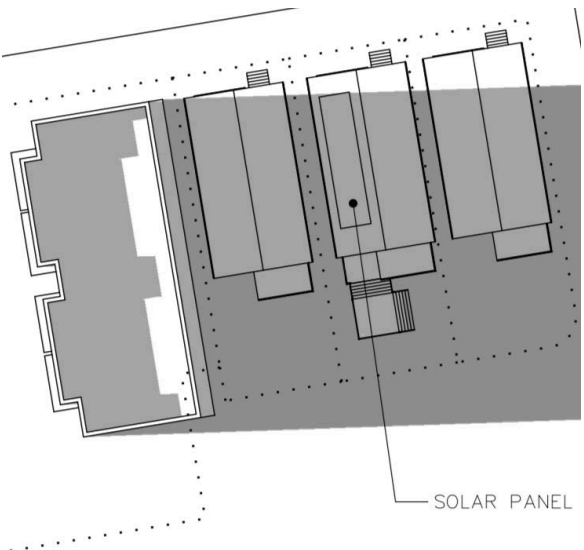
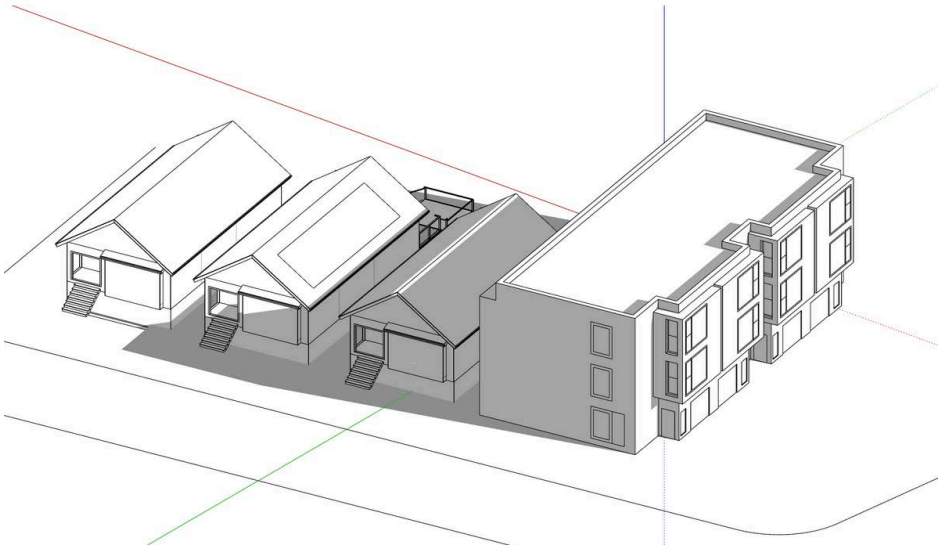
Sincerely,  
Todd Darling



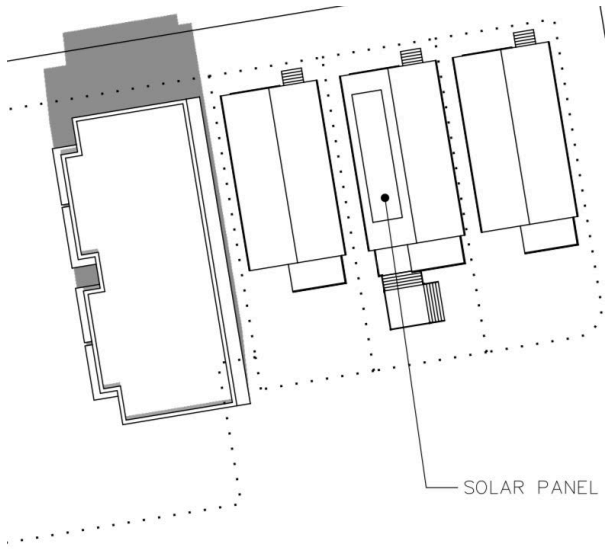
21ST MARCH @ 02:00 PM



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21ST MARCH @ 06:00 PM



21ST MARCH @ 12:00 PM