

# **Supplemental Communications (1)**

**(Received before 12pm January 31)**

**Communications**

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**From:** Todd Jersey <todd@toddjerseyarchitecture.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2023 11:33 AM  
**To:** Covello, Zoe  
**Cc:** Kesarwani, Rashi  
**Subject:** Upzoning of old casting and forge sites

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Dear City of Berkeley Planning Commission,

As a both residential and professional resident of the Gilman District, I attended the presentation given last night by Mark Rhoades on behalf of a potential developer of this site. It was at this meeting I became aware of the efforts of city leadership and staff to upzone the area in question from heavy manufacturing to MU-LI.

I am writing primarily to say that **I fully support this upzoning and hope that it can happen as fast as possible and hereby request that urgency be given the project of codifying the proposal for upzoning approved by the City Council for this site.**

**I would ask the Commission and Planning Staff to allow this upzoning to happen as fast as possible and without insisting on additions of provisions and development standards** that will be addressed and can be addressed in the entitlements process. In particular, **I do not believe that any lot coverage restrictions should be imposed whatsoever on this land.** The city already has FAR, height limits and open space requirements that impose themselves on a project in MU-LI that all developers have to deal with any and all massing and open space issues are easily dealt with using these existing instruments.

I would also say that **I support a fair and reasonable staff process that may take longer than the developers timeline** and that no staff or commissioner should be bullied or pressured by any developer by any thinly veiled threats around walking away if their timeline is not met. As I mentioned to the group last night. Once the zoning is upgraded and R and D allowed this land will have a TON of development pressure and attract a ton of interest.

Thanks for your service and participation.

Todd Jersey AIA  
Board of Directors, American Institute of Architects East Bay

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