From: Betsy Nash <BNash@menlopark.gov>
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2026 at 4:34 PM
To: Robert Bonta
Cc: Matt Senekeremian; Alex Fisch; Matthew Struhar
Subject: Follow-up email for Attorney General Bonta from Menlo Park Mayor Betsy Nash

Dear Attorney General Bonta,

I am writing to you once again because neither the City of Menlo Park nor I have heard from your office for three months – ever since we received Deputy AG Matthew Struhar's July 29 notice. The only communication we have received is you declined the City's PRA submission. The July 29 letter threatened the city with penalties of up to $6.6 million dollars if it did not process and approve the 80 Willow Road project in the manner directed. Menlo Park did not approve the project under these terms and now faces a lawsuit from the developer based on your letter. We are deeply disappointed that your office never asked the City about the background of the development application, and met with the City for only one hour just the day before sending the July 29 letter. I am also disappointed that you have not responded to our efforts to reach you all this time.

The City believes it has processed the application in accordance with all applicable state laws. The City provided the applicant timely notice of relevant deficiencies and consistently applied appropriate standards of review to the application, even as the project application changed, and relevant state laws were amended. Specific responses are detailed in the City response to Attorney General's notice of violation – please read it, including the table detailing the 5,004 new multifamily housing units that Menlo Park (a city of 33,000 people) approved in the past ten years. We welcome housing developments.

Again, I extend a personal invitation to visit this project site and imagine these buildings – taller than any buildings in California outside of San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. You will understand the irreparable damage that this massive commercial project would inflict on our infrastructure, emergency services response times, and, perhaps most significantly given the intent of the builder's remedy law itself, our jobs/housing imbalance. I want to emphasize that the project does not deliver the housing that Menlo Park needs, contrary to the very purpose of the builder's remedy law.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Betsy