

Leah Gilbert
505 Johnson Street
Sausalito CA 94965
leahgrace.gilbert@gmail.com
603-957-0214
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Sausalito Planning Commission
420 Litho Street
Sausalito CA 94965

Subject: Support for the 426 Pine Street Family Home Remodel Project

Dear Members of the City Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the family home remodel project at 426 Pine Street currently under consideration. As a resident and homeowner of Sausalito, I believe that this project will enhance our community while respecting the city's regulations and guidelines.

My family and I have called Sausalito home since we purchased our house at 505 Johnson Street in June of 2017, while pregnant with our first child. We purchased our home knowing that it would need to be renovated to accommodate a growing family. As of the date of this letter, we have been fortunate to have mostly completed our home project with G Family Design, the same design firm the Beyers are working with. Since moving here, we have worked hard to establish ourselves within the community, including starting a parent group (Sausalito Mamas) that boasts over 100 members in our online community. Our oldest child just graduated from Sausalito Nursery School, and is now a kindergartener at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Academy. Our youngest is starting his second year at SNS, and he will also follow to MLK when the time comes. We could not be prouder to call Sausalito home.

We, my husband and I, have had the opportunity to review the plans for the remodel project at 426 Pine street, and it is evident to us that the project is proposing thoughtful changes to the current building. The designs will enhance the aesthetics of the building as it exists, and will contribute to the overall value of the neighborhood. Having gone through the remodeling process ourselves, I know the project adheres to the city's strict regulations and guidelines, which further assures me that it will be a positive addition to our community. Notably, this remodel will house a growing young family, which in my opinion is one of the most important aspects of the project. Sausalito needs families, and allowing this project to go through will ensure that a family is able to stay in 94965.

The family home at 426 Pine Street has been a part of our neighborhood for many years, and I believe that this remodel will allow the family to continue being a cherished part of our community's history, while the building itself will accommodate the needs of the residents of Sausalito. The proposed remodel also includes the future in mind, by incorporating sustainable materials and ensuring the home is energy efficient.

I would like to highlight the following aspects of the project that I believe make it a valuable addition to our neighborhood:

1. As mentioned, the building will be constructed with sustainability in mind. It is no secret that many homes in Sausalito are old and in need of repair to bring them up to code and also sustainability standards. Fire resistant and sustainable siding and roofing materials, solar panels, and energy efficient windows and doors are just a few of the elements this project includes. The plan also includes an outdoor landscaping plan focusing on low water and native plants that do double duty as friendly to pollinators.

2. The building includes an ADU, which will create room in a very tight housing market.

3. The approval to build this home will house a growing family who have been an integral part of the community. Additionally, having a family here to support our school system after a time of such unrest is incredibly important. Many people avoid living in Sausalito because they believe the public school system is not up to par. This could not be further from the truth, but we cannot sustain Sausalito without making it friendly to families. If a family wishes to move here, and renovate their home to accommodate their needs, but are met with consistent road blocks, they will simply leave and go to another town in Marin. Approving this project takes a step in the right direction for the future of Sausalito.

It is evident that Jake and Georgia Beyer have taken great care to create a project that respects the existing environment and contributes positively to our neighborhood's character and the diverse and distinctive design that Sausalitonis so well known for. Their willingness to collaborate with the city and neighbors to proactively address any potential concerns demonstrates their commitment to responsible and thoughtful development. Anyone calling into question whether this project will detract from the character of the neighborhood are missing the point: the character of a neighborhood is made by the people living in it, not by the structures themselves.

I trust that the City Planning Commission will carefully consider the benefits of this project for our community. Please know that I am one of many community members who strongly support this remodel.

Thank you for your time and dedication to making Sausalito a wonderful place to live.

Sincerely,

Leah Gilbert