

## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Karuna Jaggar <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 10:51 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA; Henninger, Tona, BOS Dist4  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** In strong support of Mosaic Project in Castro Valley

Dear Mr Lopez and Supervisor Miley,

I am writing in support of the Mosaic Project, which provided an invaluable experience for both of my daughters when they attended as 4th graders in 2014 and 2017 respectively. As a result of her time at Mosaic, my older daughter became a playground peacekeeper in elementary school, supporting the peer conflict resolution. Both girls continue to draw from the tools and lessons as they successfully navigate increasingly complex social challenges, they are each committed to giving back and have volunteered every year of high school as cabin leaders at Mosaic.

We have seen how valuable the program is and are excited for more students and families to benefit from the Mosaic Project with a permanent home in Castro Valley. We are grateful to know that the County staff recommends this project after years of planing and careful review, and we are hopeful the camp will finally move forward.

Thank you,  
Karuna Jaggar  
East Bay resident and parent  
[REDACTED]

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Molly Forstall <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 6:26 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** Support for the Mosaic Project in Castro Valley

My name is Molly Forstall and I am writing in support of the Mosaic Project building its permanent home in Castro Valley.

My husband and I have made the Mosaic Project one of our top philanthropic priorities because we strongly believe in its work toward a peaceful future by uniting children of diverse backgrounds, providing them with essential community building skills, and empowering them to become peacemakers. We have known its co-founder and Executive Director, Lara Mendel, for nearly 40 years. Lara developed the Mosaic curriculum (including co-writing several award-winning songs) from scratch after a comprehensive review of the relevant academic literature. As the Executive Director of a brand-new nonprofit, Lara simply refused to entertain the possibility that it might fail and put her heart and soul into making it succeed. Her passion for Mosaic's mission is infectious and has never waned in the 25 years since its inception.

Both of our children have benefited immensely from their involvement in the Mosaic Project. Our daughter, Freya (Stanford '22, M.Ed. '23), served as a cabin leader as a senior in high school and subsequently developed a civics education curriculum and undergraduate honors thesis based on Mosaic principles. Currently a fifth grade teacher at Montclair Elementary in Oakland, she was thrilled to bring her class to Mosaic's Outdoor Project last fall. And our son, Nils (Stanford '25), was a member of the Mosaic Gap Year Crew, a program created in response to several college-age students clamoring to work at Mosaic during the pandemic.

Our children aren't the only ones who have benefited from their participation in the Mosaic Project. Thousands of children over 25 years have also done so. Indeed, 90% of 4th and 5th grade Outdoor Project participants report that the experience changed them, and 99% recommend Mosaic. By building its permanent home in Castro Valley, Mosaic will be able to serve more students and thereby spread peace in our community.

Sincerely,  
Molly Forstall

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## **Lopez, Albert, CDA**

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**From:** Chantal Byrne <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 4:37 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA; Henninger, Tona, BOS Dist4  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of The Mosaic Project

Dear Supervisor Miley and Mr. Lopez,

This letter strongly supports The Mosaic Project's development site in Castro Valley for its permanent headquarters to help it continue its important work in the community. The positive impact on families and communities is evident and the project deserves continued support.

### **Mosaic's impact on my family**

I was introduced to The Mosaic Project in 2016 while touring its temporary campsite in Napa (that later burned down due to the Napa fires). At the time, I was a young parent with a 7 year old, 5 year old and a 2yr toddler. At my first visit, I witnessed young children aged 9 and 10 years describing challenging situations they experienced at school and at home and how they made these children feel. I was blown away by the ability of these young children to describe, digest and suggest ways in which they could handle these situations if presented with them again. These are interactions and discussions that adults would have hard time dealing with and putting words to, let alone 9 and 10 year old. The Mosaic staff effectively and positively went through a well-designed curriculum to help young children understand the differences between assertive communication, aggressive communication and passive communication, for example. I left Mosaic that day knowing I wanted my children to attend the Mosaic Project Outdoor School and Youth Leadership Program one day.

As a new parent, Mosaic's curriculum helped me to raise my children. The Mosaic Project provided a framework and easy-to-grasp curriculum that helped me parent when my children faced tough issues such as school bullying and being made fun of for their body shape. My eldest son, Aidan (16) joined Mosaic's Youth Leadership Program and enjoys making young kids feel comfortable and seen. Aidan's experience at The Mosaic Project's Outdoor School was truly transformative and has helped him understand that he enjoys working with people in a team environment. The program focused on peacebuilding, empathy, and conflict resolution. This gave Aidan the skills to navigate social situations more effectively, and noticeably increased his confidence and willingness to engage with others.

### **Impact on the community**

The Mosaic Project's impact extends beyond individual participants and resonates throughout the community. By fostering a deeper understanding of diversity and promoting peaceful conflict resolution, the project builds stronger, more inclusive communities. Their curriculum engages students, staff, and families, creating positive change within schools and beyond. They are empowering youth to become peacemakers and creating a more just and equitable society where everyone can thrive. The lasting impact is evident in the testimonies of alumni who, even years later, report being more likely to empathize with others, interrupt discrimination, and resolve conflicts peacefully. The Mosaic Project is creating a generation of thoughtful, compassionate, and engaged citizens who are equipped to build a brighter future for all.

### **What Mosaic Brings to Castro Valley**

By holding its permanent and environmentally sustainable headquarters in Castro Valley, The Mosaic Project will attract the attention of national and world leaders in education and peacemakers. The ability to hold year-round programming for education staff, teachers and parents for future generations cannot be understated. The site in Castro Valley will be a model center for equity, empathy and communication, and there will be nothing like it in the world! Its nationally recognized, award-winning, ground-breaking curriculum will be a beacon to the rest of the state, country and world and will attract many future peacemakers.

***Please consider the immense value of The Mosaic Project to the community and support its continued efforts. Their programs teach skills, shape character, and build a more peaceful and inclusive world.***

Sincerely,

Chantal Byrne (former Board Member)

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Dave Otten <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:37 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** Mosaic Project hearing...

Dear Mr. Lopez,

I am writing to urge you to approve The Mosaic Project's conditional use permit application (public hearing on 8/25/25). As a parent of two children who both attended the program as students, and continue to volunteer as cabin leaders in high school and college, I can honestly say there are few educational experiences that have been as profound and formative for them as Mosaic. Their amazing crew of dedicated teachers fill a huge hole in the social emotional learning landscape of modern schooling, and my kids constantly bring up lessons, songs, and poems in casual conversation even years later. I am also a high school teacher with many of my own students having been cabin leaders for the Mosaic project, and I am continually blown away by what an outsized impact this program makes in their lives. They write about the experience in college applications and job applications for a decade or more - Can you think of other programs that can boast that?

This program serves kids all over the Bay Area, but it has struggled to find a permanent central location that minimizes travel impact on the children, environment, and program budget. My kids both spent hours on a bus winding their way through Santa Cruz mountain roads - not an easy start to an emotionally charged week. And since the Mosaic Project has had to rent from other facilities, they sometimes have had to pivot and move operations at the whim of facility owners, disrupting hundreds of kids and teachers. In short, they need a central, permanent home, and their proposed site in Castro Valley is perfect.

I've been following the years-long, thorough investigations into this project and know that the County staff supports it. Please join them and vote to move this project forward immediately for the sake of Castro Valley and wider Bay Area students, parents and communities.

Sincerely,

David Otten  
High School Teacher

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Amy Grigsby <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:28 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** In support of the Mosaic Project (CVMAC hearing scheduled for 8/25/2025)

Dear Mr. Lopez:

I am writing in support of the Mosaic Project's request for a conditional use permit to build a permanent home here in the Bay Area -- to be discussed at the upcoming Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council hearing.

The Mosaic Project is very dear to us. For each of our three sons, the outdoor school was an experience they treasured when they were in elementary school. The community, the cohort, the activities, games, songs, and the joy of being in nature were exhilarating to them.

The Mosaic Project program is extraordinary, and that it takes place outdoors is remarkable. In addition to the empathy, connection and community building skills that our sons learned at the Mosaic Project, they also gained a deep appreciation and a respect for nature. The outdoor school our sons attended was enchanting, and when the children packed up to leave, it was impeccable. The care that the Mosaic Project shows for the children is well known, but the attention and stewardship of the land was beautiful to witness.

Our son, Cameron, came home from the outdoor school hoping to return. As soon as he was eligible, he applied for the Mosaic Project Youth Leadership program. He attended trainings and retreats and joined the Youth Board. He returned to the outdoor school to serve as a counselor and cabin leader. His experiences as a youth leader with Mosaic and at the outdoor school were transformative. He gained a remarkable new group of cherished friends from all over the Bay Area; he loved the retreats, community events and parties; he became a skilled and compassionate counselor and cabin leader. And these experiences led to his leadership at Berkeley High and later, to significant awards and internships. He received an award from the Mayor of Berkeley and congressional recognition for his community service. When he applied to colleges, he was offered any number of grants and scholarships based upon his commitment to social justice and public service. All of this was possible due in part to the Youth Leadership Project and to Lara Mendel, who found opportunities for Cameron, steadfastly supported him, and wrote him countless beautiful letters of recommendation.

What our sons learned from Mosaic has stayed with them. One of our sons is now a wildlife biologist for the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, and our son, Cameron works with special needs children in a bilingual immersion public school in San Francisco.

What we hope for is that the amazing experiences our sons had at Mosaic continue to be accessible for more children so that they too, can experience the joy of nature, the wonderful cohort, the transformative power of the Mosaic Project program, and the growth and change that comes from being a camper, and hopefully someday, a counselor and cabin leader.

It is our understanding that the proposal for a permanent home for Mosaic is well vetted and supported. That Mosaic's vision could materialize in such a beautiful place is deeply gratifying.

In appreciation of the Mosaic Project and with gratitude for your consideration.

Amy and Roy Grigsby

[REDACTED]

Berkeley, CA 94705

[REDACTED]

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Linda Cliff <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 12:48 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** Re: Mosaic Project Testimony

Oops . . .

"Good Evening. Thank you for allowing me to speak to you all.

My name is Linda Tonini Cliff. I have been a resident of Castro Valley for all but a few years of my life. And I believe it is my responsibility to be an active and vocal member of this community. As such, I am currently on the H.A.R.D. Foundation Board of Directors, having recently served as its president for three years. I am also Treasurer of the Castro Valley Women's Club and a member of the League of Women Voters, Eden Area Chapter.

Today I am here to speak to you in favor of the approval of the Environmental Impact Report for the Mosaic Project. Over the past few years, I have been to a number of their fundraising events and have visited the Castro Valley property on several occasions. For 25 years, they have successfully demonstrated their invaluable worth and continued service to our children. I can't imagine a more perfect setting for their permanent home than here in Castro Valley. I welcome them as my neighbors.

Thank you!"

On Thu, Aug 21, 2025, 12:37 PM Linda Cliff <[REDACTED]> wrote:  
Good afternoon Albert,

I will be reading the following statement at the MAC meeting next Monday night. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Linda Cliff <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 12:38 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** Mosaic Project Testimony

Good afternoon Albert,

I will be reading the following statement at the MAC meeting next Monday night. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Kirsten Chapman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 21, 2025 9:08 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** Re: The Mosaic Project - Notice of Public Hearing and Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR)  
**Attachments:** MosaicProjectComments\_Chapman.pdf

Good morning Mr. Lopez,

Please find attached my comment letter on the Mosaic Project ahead of the hearing on August 25th.

Please let me know if I need to submit this via mail or if this is sufficient.

Thanks,  
Kirsten

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**From:** Lopez, Albert, CDA <Albert.Lopez@acgov.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2025 11:28 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA <Albert.Lopez@acgov.org>  
**Subject:** The Mosaic Project - Notice of Public Hearing and Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR)

Hello interested community member, please find attached a Public Hearing notice for the above-mentioned project. The Final Environmental Impact is also now available for public viewing on the County's website at:

<https://www.acgov.org/cda/planning/ceqa-projects/index.htm> (scroll down to Mosaic Project)

If you have provided comments on the draft EIR, you can find the entire response to comments in the Final EIR at the link above.

For public agencies who have provided comments on the FEIR, please consider this legal notice that the FEIR for this project (including responses to your specific comments) is available for your review.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to reach out via email or the phone number below. Thank you,

**Albert V. Lopez (He/Him)** | Planning Director  
**ALAMEDA COUNTY | Community Development Agency**  
**Planning Department**  
224 W. Winton Avenue, Room 111 • Hayward, CA 94544  
Office 510-670-5426 | Fax 510-785-8793  
[albert.lopez@acgov.org](mailto:albert.lopez@acgov.org) | [www.acgov.org/cda](http://www.acgov.org/cda)

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Kirsten Chapman

██████████  
Castro Valley, CA 94552

**SUBJECT: Comments Mosaic Project – PLN2020-00093**

Dear Mr. Lopez and Member of the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council,

I live in the Columbia neighborhood, approximately 0.9-mile to the south of the Mosaic Project Site (Project Site). My property is immediately adjacent to Cull Canyon (the canyon), which is a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Unfortunately, due to distance, we were not notified of this project and only learned of it recently from a resident in the canyon. Because the Columbia neighborhood is not within 0.25-mile radius of the Project Site, we have not been notified of the Project. However, given how sparsely populated the canyon is, I can only assume that the notification requirement covered a handful of nearby residents. In good faith, the Columbia neighborhood should have been notified considering there is nothing but flammable trees and vegetated open space between the Project Site and the neighborhood.

Each year my fire insurance is increased, and many of my neighbors have been dropped by their insurance companies due to the high fire risk of the canyon. Given that the Mosaic Project (Project) would increase the use of flammable materials in the canyon (such as barbeques, fire pits, gasoline powered equipment, and propane tanks), I fear that our insurance premiums will go up and/or our coverage will be dropped as a result of the Project. In addition, the Columbia neighborhood shares the one-and-only emergency evacuation route with residents and visitors of the dead-end canyon, which is concerning enough without an added population to canyon.

As a property owner within close proximity to the Project Site, *I want to express my concern about the Project, for both existing residents in the area and proposed future users at the Project Site.* In particular, I'm concerned about:

- increased fire hazards as a result of the Project,
- emergency evacuation,
- safety of existing residents and proposed users, and
- impacts to existing public services like the Alameda County Fire District (ACFD) and the Castro Valley Unified School District (CVUSD).

Unfortunately, I'm unable to attend the hearing on August 25<sup>th</sup>. I'm a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) consultant myself and have a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) hearing to attend in another Bay Area jurisdiction. Instead of my oral comments at the hearing, please consider these written comments.

**Draft Fire Safety and Emergency Response Plan (Appendix F of the Draft EIR)**

- Has the Alameda County Fire District (ACFD) reviewed this draft Response Plan (Plan) and provided comments? According to page 5-16 of the Final EIR, "the ACFD will review the site plans and fire evacuation plan prior to construction to ensure that the proposed project meets the code requirements." This sounds like ACFD has not yet reviewed. This seems imperative prior to the approval of this project.

- Has the Plan considered the traffic in the event of an emergency? Cull Canyon is a dead-end road with only one lane in each direction until Heyer Avenue. The vast amount of existing occupants who use this route as their ONLY way to evacuate their homes, school, and/or place of work creates an alarming logical nightmare. Adding a project of this size is of concern not only to the existing occupants, but should also be a concern of an outdoor school who would be placing students at risk in an area with only one escape route. Individuals who currently use this route as their only option to leave the area include:
  - All residents and visitors of Cull Canyon
  - Residents of the Columbia neighborhood (550 households)
  - Students of Canyon Middle School (approximately 1,330 students when school is in session)
  - Visitors to the Cull Canyon Recreational Area (seasonal)
- Up to 95 students would be at risk in the event of an emergency at the Project Site and could get stranded in the canyon. This would require attention from the Fire Department, which would take away already impacted resources from the existing community.
- Per the Plan, the Project has established an emergency evacuation agreement with the Castro Valley Unified School District (CVUSD).
  - **Impact to Existing CVUSD Students During an Emergency.** How does this agreement with the CVUSD impact the existing students at Canyon Middle School? If there is an emergency in the canyon (fire, earthquake) during school hours, the middle school would be impacted as well and may also need to evacuate. Are there enough school buses on campus to provide two school buses to Mosaic, AND evacuate the Canyon Middle School students? How would this impact other nearby CVUSD schools as well? Vannoy, Independent, and Marshall are all within close proximity to Canyon Middle School, and may require emergency evacuation.
  - **Travel Time in the Event of an Emergency.** The Response Plan states that Canyon Middle School is 7 minutes from the Mosaic Site. However, does this account for the availability of school bus drivers? What if an emergency happens when school is not in session? How long will it take to get a school bus driver up to Canyon Middle School and out to the Mosaic Site, which can be operational 5 days per week, 24 hours per day? Please consider, not just the drive time to the site (including the drive time for the bus driver to get to the bus from wherever they are), but also the drive time away from the site in the event of an emergency. With thousands of people using the same (and only) route to escape an emergency, it is likely the bus will be sitting in traffic, rather than escaping, putting children at extreme risk.
  - **Added Traffic to Cull Canyon in the Event of an Emergency.** It's a nice thought that the Project operator can warn parents not to go to the Mosaic Site in the event of an emergency. But if parents are notified of the emergency, there's a good chance that many of them will attempt to go into the canyon, adding more traffic to the area. This

should be enforced by a traffic stop into the canyon in the event of an emergency; no members of the public should be able to enter Cull Canyon.

- Please also consider school buses entering a one-lane-in-each-direction, dead-end street with no shoulders during an emergency and how this could impact the emergency response vehicles who must respond to a fire or other emergency. And how this could impact the residents of the canyon and the surrounding communities (like the Columbia neighborhood) trying to use the same escape route.
- The Plan does not include information about an emergency water supply. How will the site planning ensure that a fire, should it start at the Mosaic Site, is contained/stopped? How will it be ensured that the site does not tap into the existing emergency water supply, which will be needed in an event of an emergency for other properties?
- As described in more detail below, the one-and-only evacuation route (Cull Canyon Road) is located in a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, liquefaction zone, earthquake-induced landslide zone, flood zone, and a dam failure inundation zone. If one of these natural disasters should occur, blocking Cull Canyon Road, the students could be trapped in the canyon. This issue should be disclosed in the Plan and an alternative route should be determined (to my knowledge, there are none; perhaps hike out?).

#### **Castro Valley Unified School District (Appendix O of the Final EIR)**

A letter dated March 23, 2021 has been included as Appendix O to the Final EIR, which was released in August 2025. The letter was inadvertently excluded from the Draft EIR; it should have been provided as a citation on page 4.15-19 and within the Administrative Record. The letter expresses general support for the project and offers future collaboration.

- Why is an appendix to the Final EIR four years old? This was written by the FORMER superintendent (Parvin Ahmadi). The FORMER Board of Education members are listed in the header. Are the current officials of CVUSD aware of the Project? They should be notified of the Project so that they can properly commit and consider the current state excess resources, if any, available for the Project. It would have been more appropriate if the letter were included as an appendix to the Draft EIR (dated December 2023). But since it was not included or cited in the Draft EIR, an updated letter should have been requested to be included in the Final EIR.
- A SEPARATE emergency response plan should be written and approved by CVUSD that explains how CVUSD would be impacted in the event of an emergency, given that they would provide vital resources (school buses, school bus drivers, and “other facilities” according to the Appendix O letter) to the Project Site. As discussed above, the CVUSD emergency response plan for the Project should include:
  - How this agreement with the CVUSD would impact the existing students at Canyon Middle School in the event of an emergency.
  - If there are enough school buses on campus to provide two school buses Mosaic AND evacuate the Canyon Middle School students.
  - Disclose impacts to other nearby CVUSD schools in the event that resources are sent to the Project Site. Vannoy, Independent, and Marshall are all within close proximity of

Canyon Middle School, and may require emergency evacuation. Priority should be given to the safety and wellbeing of CVUSD students over the visiting students at the Project Site.

### **Mosaic Student Safety**

As correctly stated on page 5-5 of the Final EIR, per the California Supreme Court ruling *CBIA v. BAAQMD*, CEQA is not required to consider the effects of the existing environment on future residents or users of a proposed project. While this fine for CEQA purposes, the County of Alameda has a duty to consider the safety and wellbeing of students who may visit this site. Approving a project in an unsafe environment would be irresponsible and detrimental. Please consider the following site risks:

- Per the Alameda County General Plan (Figure 10-1), the Project Site is in a **High Fire Hazard Severity Zone**.
- Per the Alameda County General Plan (Figure 10-3), the Project Site is on or immediately adjacent to a **liquefaction zone**. The length of Cull Canyon Road from the north, all the way to the intersection of Crow Canyon to the south, is located in a liquefaction zone. Even if an earthquake would not trigger liquefaction at the Project Site, it could impact Cull Canyon Road, blocking the only escape route out of the canyon.
- Per the Alameda County General Plan (Figure 10-3), the Project Site is on or immediately adjacent to an **earthquake-induced landslide zone**. The majority of Cull Canyon Road from the north, all the way to the intersection of Crow Canyon to the south, is located in an earthquake-induced landslide zone. Even if an earthquake would not trigger a landslide at the Project Site, it could impact Cull Canyon Road, blocking the only escape route out of the canyon.
- Cull Creek, which is subject to **flooding** during rain events, runs through the Project Site. Cull Creek also runs adjacent to Cull Canyon Road. Should flooding occur at any point along the creek, this could impact emergency access to or from the Project Site.
- Per the Alameda County General Plan (Figure 10-2), Cull Canyon Reservoir could result in result in **dam failure inundation** towards Cull Canyon Road. In the event of an earthquake, Cull Canyon Road could be blocked, with no alternative routes out of the canyon.

With all of these natural disaster risks, as shown in the County's General Plan, the Project Site is absolutely not suitable as an outdoor camp for children. At the very least, there should be a condition of approval stating that the operators of the camp shall offer a disclaimer to the parents and guardians of the campers to show the risks their children are facing when visiting for an extended period of time.

### **Other Comments**

- Recently a sign was posted at the intersection of Cull Canyon and Columbia that restricts vehicles over 38 feet in height from the canyon. How will this restriction impact planned construction vehicles used for construction of the Project?
- Feral pigs are a huge issue in the canyon. They are constantly destroying property in the Columbia neighborhood and are often aggressive, especially around their young. On my property, they have dug UNDER my fence several times and accessed my backyard, even walking up to the deck and the sliding doors. While feral pigs are not addressed in the Draft EIR, this

issue is broadly addressed in Response ORG3-48 on pages 5-70 to 5-71 of the Final EIR. Nonetheless, the property owners need to be aware that these feral pigs could destroy their property unless correctly fenced-in (and even then, they could still dig and access the Project Site). The operators of the Project should also have specific protocol when encountering these aggressive animals when on nature hikes. The feral pigs in the canyon are a very serious problem and should not be taken lightly.

- Again, I am extremely concerned about the increased use of flammable materials in an area of High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Barbeques, fire pits, gasoline powered equipment (mowers, engines), and propane tanks. While the propane tanks are existing at the Project Site, these would be used with far greater frequency than under existing conditions. As a parent to a third grader myself, I can't imagine 95 visiting fourth- and fifth-graders being entirely responsible around barbeques and fire pits. One spark from a barbeque, or one kid goofing off around a fire pit, could ignite the entire canyon.

As previously mentioned, those of us living in the adjacent Columbia neighborhood were not aware of this project until recently (and I'm a CEQA consultant; any mention of an EIR near my house has my immediate attention). Therefore, we never had the opportunity to comment on it during the CEQA process. I hope that you will at least consider our concerns when deciding whether to approve the Project. The canyon is absolutely not suitable for a new development project, given the environmental hazards of the area and one access road. Adding a new population to an environmentally unsafe area will impact both current residents and future users.

Please, for the safety of our valued community, do not approve this Project.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Chapman

P.S. From one CEQA consultant to another, please pass along my appreciation to Placeworks. Although I don't agree with the merits of the Project, I think the Draft and Final EIR are well-written.



## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Sashooscka <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 9:38 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** In Support of The Mosaic Project

Dear Supervisor Miley,

I am pleased to be writing you this letter in support of The Mosaic Project's application for a home in Castro Valley. I am a youth leader at The Mosaic Project, and have spoken at fundraisers and been involved with Mosaic for about a year.

Right now, I am 15 years old, and from debate, music, and sports, I can say that Mosaic is the most impactful thing I have ever done outside of school. From learning and practicing its lessons to teaching kids, I believe I have found my happy place, along with many other kids, within the Mosaic community. Everyone I have met has been the kindest, most thoughtful people who have supported me in every step of the way in learning how to lead a cabin. I have experienced first hand the growth and reach of Mosaic, meeting kids from everywhere, and in just a week, seeing them grow and become a new, better version of themselves. This is truly magical to see, and to think that Mosaic has the incredible opportunity to reach out to more kids makes me extremely proud to be a part of.

A permanent residence in Castro Valley will quadruple the amount of kids experiencing the magic of Mosaic, and will provide an asset in making Mosaic last for as long as possible. I would love to see Mosaic grow and thrive in the future, and its own residence in Castro Valley will serve as a catalyst for change in the best way possible.

Thank you so much for considering this project! I am thrilled to see what the future has in store for Mosaic, and how many more kids I will get to see grow and change.

Sincerely,

Alexander Abdey  
Youth Leader, The Mosaic Project  
Hillsborough, CA

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** James Abdey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 9:11 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** Support for Mosaic permit application

Dear Mr. Lopez,

I am writing to you today in steadfast support of The Mosaic Project's application for a permanent home. I am a returning Mosaic Youth Leader who has had a front row seat to see the good that Mosaic does to the Bay Area community.

The two weeks I have worked with The Mosaic Project have not only given the children I work with skills in conflict resolution, peacemaking, and friendship, but also given myself a truly transformative experience. Being able to work with The Mosaic Project has allowed me to see the good in humanity, through the lessons taught and the progress I see with the kids I work with.

A consistent site for The Mosaic Project would be an amazing step forward in Bay Area community health, allowing us to be more creative with activities, and overall make the experience even more eye-opening for the 4th and 5th graders involved.

The Mosaic Project has been tirelessly working with a team of engineers for 7 years to make sure that the future site is environmentally friendly, and to respond to any and all concerns raised by their future neighbors. They are in it for the long haul when it comes to being a good neighbor and changing the community for the better.

Thank you for considering this project. Your support will help Mosaic create a brighter future for the world.

Sincerely,

James Abdey, Age 15  
Youth Leader  
Hillsborough, CA

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Freya Forstall <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 3:00 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for the Mosaic Project

Dear Mr. Lopez,

I am writing to you in strong support of a permanent camp location for the Mosaic Project in Castro Valley. I have been working with the Mosaic Project for nearly ten years as a cabin leader, an intern, and a partner teacher. I can safely say that my life would not be the same without Mosaic.

As a seventeen year old, my cabin leader training gave me an eye-opening opportunity to interact with many people from vastly different backgrounds. Throughout my two weeks actually in cabins with students, I learned how much I love working with kids, which definitely contributed to my decision to become a teacher! I both taught and learned from Mosaic staff, cabin leaders, and students, which deepened my understanding of societal inequality and the fundamental role that each individual has in creating a peaceful world.

As a partner teacher, I brought my second ever class of fifth graders from Montclair in OUSD to the Mosaic Project last October. They had the most amazing time. I saw students form friendships that never would have happened were it not for Mosaic. They talked about their friends, sang the songs, reminisced about the amazing moments, and practiced their Mosaic skills throughout the rest of the school year. One of my students chose to use a Personal Narrative writing assignment to explore his experience of the Very Unusual Dinner and how it impacted his understanding of inequality. I was especially awed by many of my neurodivergent and/or shy students who absolutely flourished at the Outdoor School. Mosaic creates a place for all students to express themselves. I was in awe as a cabin leader and am in awe now by Mosaic's ability to responsibly lead complicated, empathetic conversations with young people of all backgrounds, while simultaneously creating a joyful environment full of laughter, games, music, and friendship.

The benefits of a permanent camp for Mosaic cannot be overstated. So many more schools deserve to attend the program, and the lives of so many kids are just waiting to be changed by Mosaic. Having autonomy and permanence over their space will allow the Mosaic Project to thrive creatively and dive even deeper into the Mosaic magic all of our community members know and love. A permanent camp will help Mosaic spread the skills, hope, and love needed for a peaceful world, which are more necessary now than ever before.

Castro Valley has the opportunity to be a partner to an incredibly impactful organization, to be a pioneer in the future of peace education. This is an amazing opportunity to support students just like mine to learn fundamental skills in an unforgettable setting. Mosaic staff have been thorough with their research, ensuring that the camp will make Castro Valley an even stronger community. I strongly urge you to support the Mosaic Project's use of this land.

--  
Best,

Freya Forstall  
5th Grade Teacher  
OUSD - [REDACTED]

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Jane Grossman <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 2:59 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** Support letter for the Mosaic Project in Castro Valley

Dear Director Lopez,

I am writing to express my sincere support for The Mosaic Project. I have personally witnessed the profound positive impact that the program has on young individuals.

My niece and nephew attended Mosaic's camp, and my nephew subsequently served as a youth leader after his year as a camper. As you are aware, the program brings together children from diverse backgrounds, which had a significant influence on both my niece and nephew.

The friendships formed through Mosaic have had a lasting impact. My nephew's best men at his wedding included individuals from various backgrounds. This demonstrates the transformative power of his experiences at Mosaic during his formative years.

In an era characterized by polarization, the work of The Mosaic Project is of paramount importance. Programs like this are essential in fostering understanding and empathy, and I am confident that they are not only necessary within Castro Valley but also globally.

I believe that the presence of The Mosaic Project will elevate Castro Valley's reputation as a welcoming and inclusive community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jane Grossman

[REDACTED]  
Reno, NV 89511

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Andrea Raider <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 12:23 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA; Henninger, Tona, BOS Dist4  
**Subject:** Strong support for the Mosaic Project

Dear Mr. Lopez and Supervisor Miley,

My name is Andrea Raider, and I have been a supporter of The Mosaic Project for over a decade. I first learned about Mosaic when my children were in elementary school, and I remember wishing their school could participate in the camp experience. Years later, through mutual friends, I met Lara Mendel and was able to introduce my children to the principles Mosaic teaches through various community events and fundraisers.

Since then, our family has kept many of those values in mind: kindness, listening, and respect, and we are impressed by how Mosaic helps kids put them into practice. In a world that often feels increasingly combative and harsh, we appreciate the way Mosaic teaches empathy and de-escalation skills, giving young people tools to handle conflict with understanding rather than anger.

A permanent home in Castro Valley would allow Mosaic to provide these valuable experiences to countless children, many of whom might never otherwise have access to such opportunities. I believe this would enrich not just the participants but the wider community, bringing more empathy, unity, and understanding to our shared home.

The long review of this project has been thorough and thoughtful, and the County staff has recommended its approval. I urge you to move this project forward without delay so Mosaic can continue to change lives from a stable and welcoming home base in Castro Valley.

Sincerely,  
Andrea Raider

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** r isom <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 20, 2025 10:02 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** Mosaic Public Hearing on 8/25  
**Attachments:** lopez\_mosaic.pdf

Mr. Lopez.

Please see letter in support of Mosaic attached.

Thank you,

Richard Isom

[REDACTED]  
Middletown, DE 19709

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August 20, 2025

Andrea Isom  
Richard Isom

[REDACTED]  
Middletown, DE 19709

Albert Lopez, Planning Director, Alameda County

Dear Mr. Lopez:

We are writing in strong support of the Mosaic Project, a nonprofit dedicated to dismantling the pyramid of violence and replacing it with a pyramid of peace. Their mission is rooted in the belief that lasting peace is built not by ignoring cycles of harm, but by transforming the very structures that allow them to persist.

We have supported Mosaic since its inception in 2000 and continue to do so. We have known the founders of Mosaic for many years prior to its inception in 2000, and known their individual dedication, integrity, and honor and see that those qualities have been instilled in the principles of Mosaic.

Lastly, we strongly believe that Mosaic's presence in Castro Valley will enrich the community and they will be trusted stewards of the land.

Thank you for allowing us to share our thoughts (and experiences) regarding Mosaic.

Please feel free to contact us (isom69@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

  
Andrea Isom

  
Richard Isom



## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Andrew Stein <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 3:35 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA; Henninger, Tona, BOS Dist4  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for The Mosaic Project at Castro Valley's MAC Hearing

Dear Mr. Lopez and Mr. Miley,

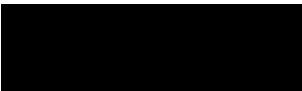
Thank you for your consideration of the Mosaic Project's proposed use permit. I am writing to express my strong support for our organization's land development application for the property at 17015 Cull Canyon Road in Castro Valley. After years of rigorous environmental review and community engagement, The Mosaic Project has demonstrated its commitment to responsible development and environmental stewardship while advancing a vital educational mission that serves our broader community.

As a Board member, I've seen first hand the benefits that the Mosaic Project brings to communities. The Mosaic Project is creating an environmentally sustainable center for equity, empathy, and effective communication across differences. Our mission is to work toward a peaceful future by uniting children of diverse backgrounds, providing them with essential community building skills, and empowering them to become peacemakers through transformative experiences.

I respectfully urge you to approve The Mosaic Project's land development application. Our organization represents exactly the kind of thoughtful, mission-driven development that enhances communities while protecting the environment.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership in supporting projects that make our community stronger, more inclusive, and more resilient.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Stein



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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Albert Chan <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 11:57 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA; Henninger, Tona, BOS Dist4  
**Subject:** Letter of Support: Mosaic Project at Castro Valley's MAC Hearing

Dear Mr. Lopez and Mr. Miley,

**Thank you for your thoughtful review of the Mosaic Project's proposed use permit.** I am writing to express my strong support for its approval.

**First, as a Mosaic board member, I have seen firsthand how Mosaic transforms communities.** For nearly 25 years, Mosaic has equipped students with the tools to combat discrimination and build empathy—skills that are urgently needed in our society. Few organizations are as effective at fostering human connection and preparing young people to lead with compassion.

**Second, as an environmental professional with over 15 years of experience in sustainability—including my current work at Stanford University on water and climate—I am committed to ensuring Mosaic is a responsible steward of the land.** I will personally use my expertise and network to help the organization carefully assess and address environmental impacts with diligence and care.

**Finally, and most importantly, I write to you as a Castro Valley parent of two young children.** While our schools are strong, they urgently need more support in addressing bullying and discrimination. Having Mosaic in our community would not only enrich our children's education, but also strengthen the culture of compassion, respect, and belonging for all families.

**Mosaic will be a tremendous asset to Castro Valley, and I urge you to approve their permit.** Please let me know if I can provide further information or support in this process.

Best regards,  
Albert Chan

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** TAMMY OLSON <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 18, 2025 11:35 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA; Henninger, Tona, BOS Dist4  
**Subject:** Mosaic Project Approval

Dear Mr. Lopez and Supervisor Miley,

My name is Tammy Olson, and both of my daughters participated in Mosaic Project sessions when they were in 5th grade. Later, my oldest returned as a youth leader in 9th grade. These experiences shaped not only my girls but also our entire family. They formed friendships across differences that they never would have had otherwise, and they learned conflict-resolution skills they still use as young adults (they are now 23 and 25).

I support Mosaic having a permanent home in Castro Valley because I have seen firsthand how powerfully it brings people together and teaches the skills our communities most need. I believe children, families, and residents across Castro Valley will benefit from this resource being established here.

I also know the investigations into this project have been thorough and have gone on for years. County staff recommends this project, and I am excited to see it move forward without further delay.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Tammy Olson

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** David Hochschild <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 17, 2025 10:50 AM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA; tana.henninger@acgov.org  
**Subject:** Support for conditional use permit for The Mosaic Project

Dear  
Director Lopez and Supervisor Miley:

We  
are writing today to respectfully request your support for the Mosaic Project's conditional use permit in order to build the organization's permanent home in the Bay Area.

Our  
daughter Rosa was fortunate enough to participate in the Mosaic project and it was deeply impactful for her in learning all the skills our society and our world need the most today - how to work together in a diverse setting, how to listen respectfully to one another, how to resolve conflicts amicably and how to be a good citizen. As parents, we are grateful for what this remarkable organization provides.

The  
Mosaic Project is a truly bright light for young people in a challenging time. We really hope you are able to support this important milestone moment by allowing them to build their permanent home.

Sincerely  
yours,

David  
Hochschild and Cynthia Li, MD

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Barbara Colbert-Pace <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 14, 2025 6:01 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA; Henninger, Tona, BOS Dist4  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Support for The Mosaic Project

Dear Albert, Tona, and Nate,

My name is Barbara, and this is a letter of support for The Mosaic Project to have a permanent home in Castro Valley. I'm not able to be at the August 25 meeting in person to speak, so I hope this letter will help convey my point of view as to why this is the best investment ever for more peaceful and inclusive communities.

- My two children (now adults) LOVED their experience with The Mosaic Project camp while in elementary school in Berkeley, CA. My son was lucky enough to also be a counselor for The Mosaic camp when he was in high school.
- I know that The Mosaic Project camp experiential learning/direct engagement helped both of them develop life skills to become successful, happy adults
- Positive, hands-on experience about empathy, respect, appreciating differences in others, getting along with others, etc... how can the community not benefit from this?

Knowing that after multi-years investigations, the County staff fully supports this project — I am certain that it would be the greatest decision for everyone!

Best,  
Barbara Colbert-Pace

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## Lopez, Albert, CDA

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**From:** Sheri Prud'homme <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 13, 2025 8:25 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Albert, CDA  
**Subject:** Support of the Mosaic Project having a permanent home in Castro Valley

Dear Mr. Lopez,

I am writing in enthusiastic support of the Mosaic Project's permanent camp home in Castro Valley. My son attended Mosaic as a camper in 5th grade and came home inspired to be a peace-builder, singing the songs that convey the values of the curriculum and having made new friends from different backgrounds than his own. As a highschooler, he has been part of the Mosaic Youth Leadership Program and volunteered a week each year as a cabin leader. That has been an incredibly valuable experience for him, growing his confidence, building on the Mosaic values, and giving him experience for college applications and resumes. Just this summer, he was part of Wilderness Leadership Program in Colorado, and the leaders asked him and another Mosaic program graduate to lead a 45-minute workshop on how to engage conflicts constructively when they arise in a group. They did so with ease, drawing on the skills and tools they had learned in Mosaic, and it benefitted the whole group. These are exactly the kind of skills all young people need to be developing to help all of us navigate living in diverse communities, now perhaps more than ever.

Having a permanent home, especially one easily accessible to students in Alameda County, will allow this program to be available to even more children and youth in our communities. Looking back in 50 years, this will be one of the wonderful things that we collectively made happen for the young people of our communities today and in generations to come. The ripple effect on this one will be remarkable!

Through being a long-time supporter of the Mosaic Project, I know that the years-long investigations into this project have been thorough and that County staff recommend this project moves forward. I'm excited for it to move forward as soon as humanly possible!

Sincerely,

Sheri Prud'homme

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Rev. Dr. Sheri Prud'homme  
Associate Professor of Religion and Education  
Starr King School for the Ministry

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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