

To: San Mateo County Board of Supervisors
From: North Fair Oaks Community Council

Re: 'Buffer zone' for the Planned Parenthood Clinic in North Fair Oaks

The North Fair Oaks Community Council commends the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors for the passage of a resolution on May 17, 2022 demonstrating the Board's 'unwavering commitment to women's reproductive freedom and healthcare privacy' as well as its request that the County Executive develop an action plan to implement this commitment for presentation to the Board on June 14, 2022. This council requests that the action plan include the creation of a 'buffer zone' around the Planned Parenthood Clinic located at 2907 El Camino Real, Redwood City, which is located within North Fair Oaks, and is thus under the jurisdiction of the County.

'Buffer zones' around facilities such as the Planned Parenthood Clinic in North Fair Oaks are not a new idea. Indeed, cities such as Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose, and Walnut Creek are either considering, or have implemented, buffer zones around similar facilities. Locally, the Redwood City Council has sent a letter to the Board requesting a buffer zone at the 2907 El Camino location, as many patients at the clinic are residents of Redwood City. As Supervisor Canepa has noted, 'we've seen an uptick of protests at clinics such as the Planned Parenthood on 2907 El Camino on the edge of Redwood City. Therefore, I agree with the Redwood City Council that the county should create a buffer zone'

Note that we are not requesting that the 'buffer zone' in any way restricts the right to free speech included in the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, a concern that has been voiced by Supervisor Slocum. Rather, we are asking that provisions be included in the county action plan which would protect patients of the clinic from potential harassment by protesters.

The North Fair Oaks Community Council thanks the Board for consideration of this request.

Signed,