

Dear Commissioners and Committee Members,

I am writing to support the Barlow Hotel Project.

First and foremost, Sebastopol needs the tax and sales revenue the Hotel will produce. As everyone involved with the City of Sebastopol is painfully aware, Sebastopol is on a crash course toward financial instability due to the ineptitude of previous Councils.

Sebastopol is still in a fiscal crisis. Measure U will not fix the problem unless a hotel is built and increases overall TOT and sales in the City.

In addition, Sebastopol has at least \$20,000,000 in outstanding infrastructure need which includes road upgrades and maintenance, parks upgrade and maintenance, and City facilities upgrades and maintenance. Currently, there is no financing available for this infrastructure. Increased revenues via TOT and increased sales from the Hotel will help to fund the current critical infrastructure need.

This Hotel should be considered a necessary component of Measure U.

The Hotel will bring visitors which will support our local businesses, which also need more customers and more sales to survive with increased operating costs which include higher labor, PG&E, water, sewer and materials costs. If we want our local businesses to stay in business, we need a hotel in our downtown.

The parking plan is realistic and should not be altered. The vast majority of people visiting Sebastopol, shopping in town, and staying at a hotel drive cars into Sebastopol. Lack of Hotel parking will make parking harder for local residents who use City lots. Sebastopol needs visitors and stores need customers; the City should make it easy for people to come into town and provide enough parking so people have easy access to our stores and restaurants.

Sebastopol is a semi-rural location. Tourists come from all over the Bay Area. Parking is necessary for both visitors and locals.

Tree selection should be chosen for 1) integration into current Barlow landscaping, 2) ease of maintenance, and 3) long-term viability.

Sebastopol needs this Hotel in order to maintain fiscal viability over the next 10 years. Sebastopol needs this Hotel in order to start chipping away at the huge infrastructure need that currently has no funding source.

Parking is necessary and will benefit all the stores in the downtown area.

Best,
Kate Haug