

## Lauren Clark

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**From:** Bruce Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 28, 2022 1:48 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Housing Policies

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a new citizen of Calistoga, I want to inform you that the current housing policies should remain in place without any amendments or changes.

I moved here (from the Los Angeles area) because Calistoga is one of the few/only "villages" left in Napa County. I used to visit Napa County 50 years ago when I was stationed nearby in the USAF. Of course, much has changed since then, but Calistoga still has that village feel, despite the development of the two new mega resorts right around the corner from my new home at the Palisades Apartments. Napa County, and especially Calistoga, must remain a "get away" destination, not a "more of the same" destination. Our offering to outsiders should continue to revolve around the wine and "old fashioned" spa attractions. After all, how many high rises are there in Bordeaux, Burgundy or Champagne?

Respectfully,

Bruce Brown

**Lauren Clark**

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**From:** Norine Moses [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 27, 2022 12:20 PM  
**To:** Public Comment  
**Subject:** Keep It Simple

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Planning Commissioners:

I have studied the proposed changes highlighted by Donald Williams in the upcoming housing plan. I agree with him that if they are enacted the city will lose even more discretion in what is possible to accomplish for the good of Calistoga in an already over complicated process.

Thanks for your service to our town. Norine Moses

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** Calistoga's official housing document  
**Date:** Tue, 25 Oct 2022 15:57:48 -0700  
**From:** Donald Williams <[dwcc@sonic.net](mailto:dwcc@sonic.net)>

Dear Calistogan Concerned about Our Small Town,

This email deals with land-use decisions that will affect Calistoga for many years. It will take some time to read this email and I wouldn't trouble you with it except your comments can make an important difference. Better to know about it now than to read it afterwards in the news. Here goes...

When construction occurs here, how and why does it happen where and when it does? Who decides these things?

A big part of that answer lies in the City of Calistoga's housing policies.

Calistoga, as required by law, is presently reviewing its current housing plan. The state wants our plan revised to encourage more housing. The review is a public process. It goes through these public bodies of local residents: a housing committee; the planning commission; and the city council. The city's planning director coordinates the process. *Your comments are most welcome throughout the process.*

The next (but not final) review of the housing plan occurs at the Planning Commission meeting tomorrow night, Wednesday, Oct.26, at 5:30pm: <https://www.ci.calistoga.ca.us/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/4727/702>. The housing element is Item G.1 which contains four links.

Here is the link to the staff report that summarizes the process: <https://www.ci.calistoga.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/38692/638017833107770000>

Here is the link to the matrix that summarizes *proposed* changes to our housing plan. It takes a few minutes to figure out the matrix. <https://www.ci.calistoga.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/38688/638017832231130000>. The items in the left column list our existing housing policies. The yellow items on the right column list proposed revisions.

If you review the proposed changes, you may agree with my reaction: the *present* policies (left column) seem very reasonable. They allow local discretion and judgment considering community input.

The *proposed* policies (right column in yellow) seem problematic. They are filled with mandates that don't accommodate changing circumstances or local discretion. The strict time frames mandated in the right column are probably not realistic nor necessary. Nor do we have the personnel at city hall to perform all the tasks proposed in the right column.

At the last council meeting I asked the Planning Director if the proposed changes in the right column were final. THEY ARE NOT. THEY CAN BE CHANGED. But that will only happen with lots of public comments.

You may comment to the Planning Commission in writing at [publiccomment@ci.calistoga.ca.us](mailto:publiccomment@ci.calistoga.ca.us). *In addition, your live comments at the zoom meeting (Wed, Oct. 26 at 5:30pm would be most helpful.)*

My summary is that the proposals on the right column seem extreme, inflexible, and unnecessarily rigid. The *present* policies (the left column) are much more sensible. But I wonder what you think?

Thank you for letting the Planning Commission know your thoughts.

Regards,

Donald Williams