

**TELL THE CITY OF PALO ALTO TO DENY APPROVAL OF CASTILLEJA’S EXPANSION PLAN**

**Make Your Voice Heard**

**Step 1: Make a public statement at the March 8th City Council Meeting (6:30 PM) or donate your time to our team *(which requires that you attend the Zoom meeting)***

**If you can donate your time, please email us at info@pnqlnow.org**

**Zoom Meeting:** <https://cityofpaloalto.zoom.us/s/362027238> Meeting ID: 362 027 238 Phone:1 (669) 900-6833

**Step 2: Send a letter to the City Council:** [city.council@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:city.council@cityofpaloalto.org)

To make sure each council member receives the email, please send to individual email addresses:

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**THERE IS NO COMMUNITY BENEFIT TO CASTILLEJA’S EXPANSION PLAN FOR PALO ALTO!**

**1. 75% of Castilleja’s students come from Palo Alto**

Castilleja sits on just over 6 acres in a R-1 residential neighborhood, upon which they pay no taxes. They have been over-enrolled for 20 years. The school is requesting a 30% increase in enrollment and 74 special events per school year, a significantly number of events compared to other schools in R-1 neighborhoods.

**2. Castilleja is requesting a 30% increase in enrollment after 20 years of illegally overenrolling**

Castilleja is legally zoned for 415 students. At the height of over-enrollment, the school reached 448 students. It is estimated that over $12 million dollars was pocketed by this and that the school has never publicly accounted for. The school still exceeds its legal limit of 415 students, to allow a 30% enrollment increase on top of this violation makes a mockery of City rules and regulations.

**3. A further assault on our roadways: Embarcadero, Alma, Bryant Bike Blvd, and Neighborhood Streets**

Despite Castilleja’s projection of 300 additional car trips into the neighborhood per school day, through the creative use of traffic engineering metrics, Castilleja is claiming their project will not significantly impact Embarcadero Rd., Alma St. and narrow neighborhood streets. Residents want LESS traffic, not more!

**4. Destruction of the Natural Environment to Make Room for an Unwanted Underground Garage**

Despite increasing pollution and global warming, Castilleja plans to remove mature oaks and redwoods to make way for an underground garage, which neighbors do NOT want. Destruction of a valuable part of Palo Alto’s tree canopy to make room for 22 additional parking spots is an assault on our natural environment!

**5. Construction of a Costco-Sized Facility**

Castilleja’s plans for the construction of an oversized, boxy and institutional structure that doesn’t fit in with a residential neighborhood, is not compliant with the municipal code and causes dramatic densification of 1 residential block.

**6. Precedent-Setting Project for Palo Alto Neighborhoods**

If this project is approved, what does this mean for Palo Alto’s neighborhoods? Would YOU want a commercial underground garage exit across from your home, constant weekday traffic and off-hour events, and 5 years of commercial construction?

**Neighbors’ Plan to Castilleja**

**1. Submit a Plan that meets the City’s Municipal and Zoning Codes and sustainability goals**

**2. Modernize and rebuild the school.**

**3. Lower the requested enrollment increase. The school should earn the enrollment via decreased traffic.**

**4. Once enrollment is lowered, sufficient parking will exist, so an underground garage will not be needed.**

**5. To reduce traffic congestion and promote environmental sustainability, students and staff must arrive to campus via shuttle and non-motorized transport.**

[**Download this PDF**](https://pnqlnow.org/s/PNQL-Castilleja-Issues-July-2020.pdf) **with Major Issue Talking Points | VISIT** [**PNQLnow.org**](https://pnqlnow.org/)