



June 22, 2021

Design Commission

c/o Ms. Anita Cerna

100 North Garfield Ave. Pasadena, CA 91101

Re: Central District Specific Plan

Dear Design Commission members:

Livable Pasadena requests some general changes to the submitted Central District Specific Plan. We learned only today that the Design Commission would be reviewing a draft of the plan and of the specifics of the plan. And so, unfortunately, we do not have the time to comment more specifically.

In looking at the proposed development limits along Lake Avenue, we are alarmed at the lack of green space provided, the increased building heights, and the zero set-backs from the street. South Lake is a shopping district where people are encouraged to walk, shop, and spend time. This is a local gathering spot. The draft plan does not seem to take that into consideration. There is a real opportunity here to build in more green spaces, better areas for people to relax or eat, and to increase street lighting. Tall buildings, no trees, and very little sidewalks or gathering spaces have been the direction of development in Pasadena. Now is the time to change that and to start to build back and preserve the Pasadena that we all love. In looking at this draft plan, where are the green spaces, setbacks and trees for an area that is adjacent to smaller residential areas? Why are you turning Lake Ave into a wide swath of concrete? It is frustrating to repeat these requests time and time again, with developments and with specific plans, with no one listening or seemingly caring about these issues - particularly in light of climate change and global warming. It seems destructive and short-sighted to continue on this path. The people that live in Pasadena only can once again ask you to plan better – but you are the ones making these decisions. We urge you to modify the draft Central District Specific Plan to better fit with the community needs. As we have said before – the consequences of projects and decisions like this are permanent. And the beautiful city we love will be gone. We can't go back.

Thank you,

Megan Foker
On behalf of Livable Pasadena