

1505 Drake comments

From Ya-Bing Chu <[REDACTED]>  
Date Sat 1/10/2026 9:19 AM  
To Public Comment <publiccomment@burlingameorgnew.onmicrosoft.com>  
Cc CD/PLG-Emma Goldsmith <egoldsmith@burlingame.org>; CD/PLG-Ruben Hurin <RHurin@burlingame.org>

6 attachments (990 KB)

View between 1508 Bernal 1505 Drake.jpeg 1508 Bernal New Barrack .jpeg FrontBedroomView.jpeg 1505 View from 1509 Backyard.jpeg 1505 View morning ightline .jpeg Ma terBedroomView.jpeg

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Dear Burlingame Planning Committee and Staff,

I am the neighbor to the right of 1505 Drake (1509), and I was briefed by Tarun and Suchi about their proposed construction plans. Here are some thoughts that I had, for what it's worth. I've attached some photos from our property to illustrate the descriptions in this email.

1. The construction quality and aesthetic will be an excellent upgrade over the current state of the very-dated structures. The garage in particular does not appear to be structurally sound.
2. The front setback of the house is fairly in line with the houses on our side of Drake, and seems reasonable to keep the current footprint (presumably minus the rearward extension, if a maximal ADU is to be built). This also seems to help the architect optimize for privacy (attached views from the front and master bedroom windows) as it will be offset more from our rear inside and outside living areas.
3. If anything, we would certainly prefer to preserve as much sunlight and sightlines/rooflines to our property as possible, and I know this to be an aim of the architect as well. I have seen the 3d model of the house and ADU, though I do not have simulated impact on the sightlines from our property. I hear that my house, purchased in 2011, caused similar issues when it was built in 1995, and I am mindful of proverbially throwing rocks from non-glass housing.

A quick aside for context: unfortunately, our rear neighbor (1508 Bernal) has built what appears to be a longhouse barracks (joke but not really) in their backyard, completely blocking our view of the trees and natural horizon. The state ADU policies allowed them to match their ridiculously steep roof pitch. In addition to the higher elevation of their yard, and previous loss of two redwood trees that were cut down from that property, we are in the process of losing quite a bit of living ambience.

4. To the end that we can keep roof pitches reasonable and use landscaping mitigation with height to add back some natural charm to the sightlines, that would be much appreciated. I am hoping that 1508 Bernal will add landscaping, but with the ADU allowances of building to the property edges, I do not know what to expect.

To conclude, I am generally supportive of the project and do not seek to delay any approvals. I defer to the planning committee members on what is optimal and reasonable, and wish that the construction period be quick and successful.

Thanks for your time!  
Ya-Bing

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January 10, 2026

Dear Burlingame Planning Commission,

We have been residents and owners of 1900 Adeline Dr. since August, 2023. We are writing with regards to the proposed design of 1505 Drake Ave. We have been following this project with interest as our property is directly next to 1505 Drake Ave. on the left side. We appreciate that the owners, Tarun Desikan and Suchi Sastra, have spent time sharing the project plans for the property with us. We are supportive of keeping the existing footprint of the house, specifically the front setbacks because we would have less privacy in our yard if the house was setback further.

Sincerely,

*Minh-Han Cheng, Reff Cheng*

Minh-Han & Reff Cheng  
1900 Adeline Dr.

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1505 Drake Avenue

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From Jani Ochse [REDACTED]

Date Thu 2/26/2026 9 21 AM

To Public Comment <publiccomment@burlingameorgnew.onmicrosoft.com>; CD/PLG-Emma Goldsmith <egoldsmith@burlingame.org>; CD/PLG-Ruben Hurin <RHurin@burlingame.org>

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Dear Members of the Planning Commission,

I reside at 1512 Drake Avenue, where I have lived for the past thirty years. I am also the trustee for the former owner of 1505 Drake Avenue.

It was important to me that the new owners of my dear friend's home improve the property in a way that respects the neighboring residences. I am pleased that their proposal maintains the existing footprint and utilizes the original front setback.

I believe the owners have been mindful of preserving the integrity of the block. By concentrating the mass and bulk of the house in the front, they are ensuring as much privacy as possible for the surrounding neighbors which is very important to me.

Best regards,

Jani Ochse

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1505 Drake Avenue Letter of Support

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From Shannon Paley <[REDACTED]@gmail.com>  
Date Wed 2/25/2026 10:46 PM  
To Public Comment <publiccomment@burlingameorgnew.onmicrosoft.com>  
Cc CD/PLG-Emma Goldsmith <egoldsmith@burlingame.org>; CD/PLG-Ruben Hurin <RHurin@burlingame.org>; Joe Paley <joe.paley@me.com>

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We are Shannon and Joe Paley, the neighbors directly across from 1505 Drake Avenue. We have lived on Drake Avenue (at 1504) for 15 years and were close friends with Ben Gussoni, the previous owner of the Desikan's new property. We know the house and yard very well.

We were thrilled when the Desikan family purchased 1505 Drake and have had the opportunity to review their proposed plans with them. We understand they have requested a variance to preserve the existing front setback of the house when they build their new home. We are in support of this as it will look the way it always has and fits in with the neighboring houses. We have no issues with their plans at all and think the home will be a beautiful addition.

Please reach out with any questions.

Shannon & Joe Paley

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