

From: [Gabriel Gesmer](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Cc: [Julie Allecta](#)
Subject: Comment on Item 8.4 on the Council's Nov. 16 agenda
Date: Friday, November 11, 2022 11:25:28 AM

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.

The Kitchell feasibility matrix does not include a set of options that I think are worth considering. A couple of years ago the Town of Corte Madera, faced with the need to renovate its 90 year old Town Hall building, weighed similar options to those Larkspur now is weighing and in the end decided to demolish its existing building and construct a new building on the same site. Ground was broken in June 2022 for an 11,000 sf building that will cost 12.5 million dollars.

Larkspur should consider that same path.

Demolishing the existing 400 Magnolia building does not necessarily entail losing the familiar and much loved exterior of the existing building. One option in re-building would be to recreate the shell of the existing building while adopting a more functional interior layout. Another option would be to alter the dimensions of that shell while preserving the California Mission style of the existing building. And a third option would be to hold a design competition and build something new, unrelated to the old, but of equal architectural merit.

I realize that at least some of these options may lead to a loss of the current building's historic designation, but that may be a price worth paying for a more cost-effective path forward.

Gabriel Gesmer
50 Camellia Cir.
Larkspur, CA 94939