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*Clarifying SMART stations and housing*

*Novato's SMART stations don't necessarily bring a price tag of 2,200 homes. The 2-2-0-0 number is a guideline — not a requirement — and one that is spread out across all stations.*

*Every station is different. While that number is far too high for Novato, our neighbors up north in Santa Rosa will easily exceed their share. The home total includes existing homes as well as any new ones that might go in.*

*Plus, there is 50 percent bonus for affordable homes. So we can build less while meeting the housing needs of our local workforce. They are guidelines, not requirements, for a good reason — they put neighborhoods close to train stops, where residents are at least five times more likely to use the train, cutting down on our traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.*

*Some of the information out there is misleading, but Novato residents have nothing to fear. By focusing growth close to stations we reduce traffic, lower harmful emissions, and create stronger, healthier neighborhoods.*

*Rissa Shaw*

*Friends of SMART, Marin Coordinator*