

**CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW
CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)
FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Project Title

Central Expressway Sidewalk Improvements, Project 11-44

B. Lead Agency Name and Address

City of Mountain View
Public Works Department
500 Castro Street
P.O. Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

C. Contact Person and Phone Number

Joy Houghton, Assistant Civil Engineer
Public Works Department
(650) 903-6311

D. Project Location

Central Expressway between Gemini Avenue and Moffett Boulevard
Mountain View, CA 94043
City of Mountain View, County of Santa Clara, California



Exhibit 1: Location Map

The project site is located in the central section of the City of Mountain View, in the northern part of Santa Clara County, west of Highway 85 and south of Highway 101. The project site is located on the north side of Central Expressway (within the public right-of-way) between Gemini Avenue and Moffett Boulevard (see Figure 1 – Location Map).

E. Project Sponsor’s Name and Address:

City of Mountain View
Public Works Department
500 Castro Street
P.O. Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

F. General Plan Designation

The General Plan designations for the parcels adjacent to the project location, per the Mountain View 2030 General Plan, are the following: Mixed-Use Corridor, Medium Low-Density Residential, Low-Density, and General Industrial.

G. Zoning

The project site is adjacent to several parcels that are zoned CRA (Commercial/Residential-Arterial), R1 (Single-Family), R2 (One- and Two-Family), and ML (Limited Industrial).

H. Project Description

The project will provide a pedestrian walkway on the northerly side of Central Expressway (Santa Clara County Highway) between Gemini Avenue and Moffett Boulevard where no pedestrian facilities presently exist. Improvements include installing approximately 1,500' of 5' wide sidewalk, curb ramps, trees, signs, and striping. The two traffic signals at the Central Expressway and Shoreline Boulevard ramp intersections will be modified to include pedestrian signals at the crossings.

The project will fill in a significant sidewalk gap along Central Expressway that will connect residential neighborhoods north of Central Expressway and west of Shoreline Boulevard with the gateway to the Mountain View downtown and the Mountain View Transit Center at Moffett Boulevard/Castro Street.

There are approximately 80 to 90 trees within the project site that includes Coast redwoods, Deodar cedars, European hackberries, Canadian redbuds, Chinese elms, and Trees of Heaven. Although the design of the alignment of the proposed sidewalk has been designed to minimize impacts to trees, a total of 17 trees are proposed to be removed, of which ten are larger than 12" in diameter. There are nine trees (four of which are 12" or larger in diameter) that will need to be removed as part of the project because they are in conflict with the proposed sidewalk alignment. Eight trees (six of which are 12" or larger in diameter) will be removed at the southbound Shoreline Boulevard on-ramp on to Central Expressway because the trees block the views of vehicles approaching the intersection where pedestrians will be crossing. Also, low branches of existing trees may have to be pruned for vertical clearance above the new sidewalk.

Construction of the project is anticipated to start in March 2014 and last approximately one month.

I. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The project site is located at the north side of Central Expressway (within the public right-of-way) between Gemini Avenue and Moffett Boulevard/Castro Street, east of Highway 85 and South of Highway 101. The project site is adjacent to a mix of commercial and residential buildings.

The project site is bounded City of Mountain View Historic Adobe Building on the west, the Mountain View Caltrain Station and the Mountain View Valley Transportation Authority Light Rail Station on the southwest, and train and light rail tracks to the south.

J. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

County of Santa Clara
Roads and Airport Department
101 Skyport Drive
San Jose, CA 95110

II. DETERMINATION

In accordance with local procedures regarding the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Public Works Director has conducted an Initial Study to determine whether the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and on the basis of that study recommends the following determination:

The proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration is provided.

The Initial Study incorporates all relevant information regarding potential environmental effect of the project and confirms the determination that an EIR is not required.

III. FINDINGS

Based on the findings of the Initial Study, the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- A. As discussed in the preceding sections, the proposed project does not have the potential to significantly degrade the quality of the environment, including effects on animals or plants, or to eliminate historic or prehistoric sites.
- B. As discussed in the preceding sections, both short-term and long-term environmental effects associated with the proposed project will be less than significant.
- C. When impacts associated with the adoption of the proposed project are considered alone or in combination with other impacts, the project-related impacts are insignificant.
- D. The above discussions do not identify any substantial adverse impacts to people as a result of the proposed project.
- E. This determination reflects the independent judgment of the City.

Michael A. Fuller
Public Works Director

Date