



To: Environmental Planning Commission
City of Mountain View
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

Sent via email to: epc@mountainview.gov

October 12, 2022

Re: Google Middlefield Park Master Plan

Dear Chair Cranston, Vice Chair Yin, and EPC Commissioners,

The undersigned environmental organizations are pleased to support Google's Middlefield Park Master Plan (Plan). The Plan realizes the vision of the East Whisman Precise Plan for innovation and sustainability, for increased canopy and native vegetation, and for ecological connectivity and resiliency. We appreciate the effort to transform an area that today consists of parking lots and older office buildings into a mixed-use neighborhood with parks, trees and habitat.

Our organizations have been following the Middlefield Park project since the Plan was submitted to the City of Mountain View in fall 2020. In our September 2021 letter to Council, we supported the project and asked clarifying questions focusing on ecological, mobility and sustainability elements of the plan. Google has since provided answers to our questions, and we expect to engage with Google further in the design phase.

We believe Middlefield Park will align with Mountain View's Biodiversity Strategy and sustainability goals and contribute to the broader ecological and human health of the city and its residents. We appreciate the Plan has incorporated the following features:

- A focus on site ecology through aggregation of open space areas, creating habitat corridors and using native plant species with high value to birds and pollinators
- Green spaces include a significant expansion of the existing tree canopy with thought given to planting water-wise and native tree species, expanding on a regional "re-oaking" strategy

- Plants and green spaces incorporated in public as well as private spaces such as courtyards
- Consideration of bird-safe design to reduce bird collisions
- Consideration of light pollution reduction strategies to support human and ecological health
- Locating housing and shopping near public transit and prioritizing improvements for pedestrians and bikes to reduce car dependency

We recommend that the district utility system be included to ensure efficiency and resilience in Phase One, which is entirely residential.

We respectfully ask members of the Environmental Planning Commission to support Google's Middlefield Park Project. We plan to follow the project as it is implemented, delivering a mixed-use project that truly weaves nature into the urban landscape.

Sincerely yours,

Gita Dev, Co-Chair, Sustainable Land Use Committee
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Rani Fischer, Environmental Advocacy Assistant
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Linda Ruthruff, Conservation Chair
California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Alice Kaufman, Policy and Advocacy Director
Green Foothills



October 19, 2022

Re: Item 4.1 – Middlefield Park Master Plan

Dear Chair Cranston and Members of the Environmental Planning Commission:

The LWV supports government action to provide affordable housing for all Californians. As such, we have been enthusiastic about the Middlefield Park Master Plan throughout the process, with its large amount of housing around transit with planned amenities.

We accept the results of the independent analysis of the BMR Alternative Mitigation, and we would like to reiterate its finding that the affordable housing is predicated on “significant external funding sources.” As Council was made aware in their August review of the Affordable Housing Strategic Plan, there is a major shortfall in the City’s internal funding availability. Other funding sources also remain very competitive.

As such, we would like to see Google, Lendlease, and the City continue to work on providing concrete steps to ensure that this housing does get built. This is especially important because Mountain View’s draft Housing Element depends on this and North Bayshore for a large portion of its site inventory, as mentioned in the “Progress in Meeting the RHNA” and “Specific/Master Plan Areas” sections of the [HCD review letter](#).

(Please send any questions about this email to Kevin Ma at housing@lwvlamv.org)

Thank you for considering our input.

Karin Bricker, President of the LWV of Los Altos-Mountain View

cc: Lindsay Hagan Aarti Shrivastava

From: BRUCE KARNEY

Sent: Monday, October 17, 2022 1:57 PM

To: epc@mountainview.gov

Cc: Brooke Ray Smith; Nikki Lowy; Hagan, Lindsay <Lindsay.Hagan@mountainview.gov>; Planning Division <Planning.Division@mountainview.gov>

Subject: Carbon Free Mtn. View Endorses Google Middlefield Park Project

Dear EPC Members,

Carbon Free Mountain View has received two briefings by Google and LendLease on the Middlefield Park Proposal, the most recent coming at a General Meeting on Aug. 18, 2022 that was held via Google Meet.

The CFMV members who attended the meeting voted to formally endorse the Middlefield Park Proposal. (Council member Showalter attended the meeting but recused herself from the decision by logging off prior to the voting.)

CFMV urges your approval of the project. We believe that this project will create an attractive new "urban village" of the kind that the City has endorsed for the last 10+ years. We are impressed by the high percentage of affordable residential units as well as other features of the proposal.

Speaking for myself alone, I think there is good reason to believe that once it is complete the innovative design of the new neighborhood will make it the least carbon-intensive neighborhood in Mountain View. As such, I expect it will inspire other large-scale redevelopments to match or exceed what Google and LendLease intend to accomplish.

Cheers,
Bruce Karney

Chair, Carbon Free Mountain View



Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
c/o Aaron Grossman
817 Montgomery Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

October 19, 2022

City of Mountain View Environmental Planning Commission
City Hall, 500 Castro Street
PO Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: 5.1 Middlefield Park Master Plan

Dear Chairperson Cranston and Environmental Planning Commissioners:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning (MVCSP) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Google/Lendlease (Applicant) Middlefield Park Master Plan (Master Plan).

MVCSP has provided extensive public comment during the development of the East Whisman Precise Plan and the EPC and City Council Study Sessions on the Master Plan. We have expressed and now continue to express **strong support for the overall mixed use development framework provided in the Master Plan**. Our full support for approval was contingent on the many follow-up studies and deliberations that address the issues identified during public comment, EPC review, and City Council review.

We would like to congratulate City Staff and the Applicant for addressing a wide range of issues that are reflected in the update of the Master Plan and the many Exhibits to the staff report. We are particularly pleased with the details and outcomes of the following:

The Phasing Plan identified in Exhibit 10 provides many community benefits in the first phase of the project. The Applicant is providing 850 market rate housing units and proposing the dedication of 2.4 acres for potentially 380 affordable housing units in Phase I. If fully delivered, this provides a very proactive start to the Job-Housing Linkage Program. In addition, Gateway Park, the Bridge Open Space, and the Ellis POPA are proposed to be delivered in Phase I. Finally, the Applicant will initiate the almost \$19 million Small Business Diversification and Nonprofit Inclusion Program (Small Business Program) also in Phase I.

The Small Business Program details along with the Community Benefits analysis in Exhibits 11 and 12 are very responsive to both the EPC and City Council comments during their February and March 2021 study sessions. This small business program for local businesses owned by women and individuals from underserved backgrounds will be a very valuable asset to the community.

The Development Review Committee (DRC) has provided very important input to the design aspects of the Master Plan. The updated Master Plan now reflects many excellent urban design details, including a very good conceptual design of the Ellis Park POPA. The park network in the Master Plan is a blueprint for a parkland gem in the East Whisman area.

MVCSP has significant concern with the actual delivery of affordable housing units as part of the Master Plan. The following are our concerns and recommended actions for the EPC to consider:

The analysis of the dedicated land for affordable housing in Exhibit 13 highlights the many significant challenges for a sizable delivery of 380 units of affordable housing units. In the early 2021 meetings of EPC and the City Council, MVCSP along with many on the EPC had a desire for inclusionary affordable housing development but looked forward to the economic analysis in order to make a final determination if the land dedication alternative was financially feasible. We do concur with the Seifel/Strategic Economics conclusion that there are **POTENTIALLY** more benefits with the dedicated land for affordable housing option, but would require between \$63.7 to \$80.6 million without a City Contribution and \$22.5 to \$39.4 million with a City Contribution. It is our understanding from email correspondence with City staff that the decision on a City Contribution would be at a later date if the Master Plan is approved and the developer proceeds. Also, according to City staff, there has not been further analysis on whether or not the substantial financing resources are actually feasible for project delivery with or without a City Contribution. This is understandable since the purpose of the Seifel/Strategic Economic analysis was, as explained by City staff, “a best attempt to identify what the funding gap could be based on what factors we know.”

MVCSP supports the land dedication alternative ONLY IF City Council commits to a City Contribution and City housing staff is reasonably sure (from what we know today) that a financing package can be secured when the land is transferred to the City. We recommend that the EPC ask the City Council about their current intent for a City Contribution. We also recommend that the EPC ask the City Community Development staff, based on current circumstances, what the probability is of securing the necessary funding to actually build the affordable housing units.

Additionally, if the land dedication alternative is granted, MVCSP wants the 20% or 380 units to be delivered. While the Applicant has proposed to front load the affordable housing units in Phase I, their proposal is for 20% below market rate (BMR) units or 380 units whereas the Seifel/Strategic Economics analysis concludes that only 338 units can be delivered on the two parcels totalling 2.4 acres. According to email correspondence with the Applicant, they worked with an architecture firm to conduct a test fit analysis for the 2.4 acres and that work validated their 380 unit total yield. They have cited examples where actually more than the 380 affordable housing units could possibly be delivered on the same site based on different design variables.

MVCSP recommends that the EPC request an amendment to the Development Agreement that incorporates any potential deficit of affordable housing as inclusionary affordable housing in Phase 3 of the Master Plan. This is essentially a contingency plan if the design process after the land has been transferred reveals that there will be less than 380 units accommodated on the two parcels.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Cliff Chambers

for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

Cc:

Lindsay Hagan, Assistant Community Development Director

Micaela Hellman-Tincher, Housing & Neighborhood Services Manager

Aarti Shrivastava, Assistant City Manager / Community Development Director

Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager

Heather Glaser, City Clerk

About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a local volunteer-based organization dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!

For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.

To contact us, send email to mvcsp.info@gmail.com.



CARPENTERS LOCAL UNION 405

SERVING SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

October 18, 2022

City of Mountain View
Environmental Planning Commission
City Hall, 2nd Floor
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

RE: Carpenters Union Local 405 Support for the Middlefield Park Master Plan

Dear: Chair Cranston and Commissioners,

The members of Carpenters Local 405 in Mountain View and the surrounding Bay Area strongly support the approval and development of the Middlefield Park Master Plan. This mixed-use project will not only provide much needed housing, it will also generate thousands of construction jobs and provide an opportunity for locals to begin or continue a career in the construction industry.

This Master Plan has highlighted the best in what development should look like in the City of Mountain View. With the creation of up to 1,900 housing units next to new offices and existing public transportation, and the dedication of open space with connectivity that provides access for the public to enjoy, this development aligns with the goals of the City's East Whisman Precise Plan.

We applaud the collaboration between Google and City Staff on the Middlefield Park Master Plan, which will enhance the City of Mountain View for many years to come.

With this plan's commitment to the City of Mountain View, the Carpenters Union, residents, and our community at large, we strongly encourage you to support this project.

Sincerely,

Sam Munoz
Senior Field Representative

From: James Kuszmaul

Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 7:10 AM

To: epc@mountainview.gov

Cc: contact@mvyimby.com

Subject: Public Comment on Item 4.1 Middlefield Park Master Plan

To the Environmental Planning Commission:

Mountain View YIMBY is thrilled to see the Middlefield Park Master Plan being finalized and look forward to the transformation of the area into a walkable, bikeable, mixed-use neighborhood with new housing which will help to alleviate Mountain View's housing shortage. We hope that the remaining permitting and approval processes for the individual buildings in this plan will be streamlined to the greatest extent feasible, so that the new housing—market rate and deed-restricted affordable housing—will be available as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

James Kuszmaul

On behalf of the members of MV YIMBY



SILICON VALLEY LEADERSHIP GROUP

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DATE

October 19, 2022

Ahmad Thomas, CEO
Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Jed York, Chair
San Francisco 49ers

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Zoom Video Communications

James Gutierrez, Vice Chair
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CrowdSmart

Sharon Ryan
Bay Area News Group

Siva Sivaram
Western Digital

Tom Werner
Mainspring Energy

Environmental Planning Commission
City of Mountain View
500 Castro St.
Mountain View, CA 94041

RE: Middlefield Park Master Plan

Dear Environmental Planning Commissioners,

On behalf of the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, I am writing in support of the Middlefield Park Master Plan that will implement the city's vision to transform outdated and underutilized office buildings and parking lots into a walkable neighborhood with new homes, parks, amenities, and jobs.

The Silicon Valley Leadership Group is driven by more than 350 member companies to proactively tackle issues to improve our communities and strengthen our economy, with a focus on education, energy, the environment, health care, housing, tax policy, tech & innovation policy, and transportation. Among the top concerns of our members is a need for housing affordable for all incomes here in the Bay Area.

Middlefield Park will catalyze the broader East Whisman area's transformation into a sustainable, transit-oriented neighborhood with jobs and housing using the smart growth principles in the City's East Whisman Precise Plan. This plan proposes up to 1,900 homes, including 20% affordable homes, which will be delivered by dedicating land to the City of Mountain View.

As seen in other jurisdictions, dedicating land for standalone affordable housing enables the opportunity for more units at deeper levels of affordability, using tax credits, matching state and federal funding, and other affordable housing tools. This plan is also a critical part of the city's effort in meeting the regional housing needs assessment (RHNA) goals.

The redevelopment of Middlefield Park will spur the creation of thousands of well-paying jobs and provide economic opportunity to small businesses while adding significant additional annual tax revenue to the City, County and school districts. Middlefield Park is like catching lightning in a bottle that will spark opportunities for jobs, housing, and open space amenities, benefiting residents for years to come.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

Vince Rocha
Vice President, Housing and Community Development
Silicon Valley Leadership Group