



CALIFORNIA
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



COMMITTEE FOR
GREEN FOOTHILLS

September 21, 2015

Ms. Stephanie Williams, Senior Planner
City of Mountain View Planning and Zoning Department
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
Stephanie.Williams@mountainview.gov

Re: Google Charleston Retention Basin Habitat Restoration Project

Dear Ms. Williams:

With regard to Google's proposed Charleston Retention Basin Habitat Restoration Project, please find attached a letter of support dated April 2, 2015 from the undersigned organizations.

We remain strongly in support of this project, which successfully balances trail enhancement, environmental restoration, and protection of sensitive wildlife and habitat in the ecologically valuable Charleston Retention Basin area.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Alice Kaufman, Legislative Advocate
Committee for Green Foothills

Eileen McLaughlin, Board Member
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge

Mike Ferreira, Chapter Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter

Shani Kleinhaus, Environmental Advocate
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

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

CC: Rachel Grossman, Real Estate Project Executive
Google Inc.



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April 2, 2015

Ms. Stephanie Williams, Senior Planner
City of Mountain View Planning and Zoning Department
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041
Stephanie.Williams@mountainview.gov

Re: Google Charleston Retention Basin Habitat Restoration Project

Dear Ms. Williams:

The environmental organizations signed below submit this letter in support of Google's proposed Charleston Retention Basin Habitat Restoration Project. The project, which was submitted for your consideration on January 5, 2015, includes restoration and enhancement of wetlands, the surrounding landscape, and trail system for the area just south of Stierlin Court and west of North Shoreline Boulevard.

For over a year, our organizations have engaged with Google in an effort to create comprehensive approaches to transportation, recreation and ecological connectivity and benefits. With regard to this project, elements that our organizations support include:

- Expansion of the habitat areas around the flood retention basin
- No more than 2 bridges, at the identified locations
- The "green loop" between N. Shoreline Boulevard and Charleston Rd., sited only on the southwestern side of the retention basin
- A perimeter foot path no wider than 6' for the remainder of the basin not developed with the "green loop"
- Improvements for bird watching
- Replacement of low habitat value and non-native trees with oaks and other native trees, shrubs and perennials with high habitat value and appropriate to the soil and conditions, with some non-native trees to remain
- The recommended plant palette for the vegetation plan to include trees and shrubs
- The phasing plan, including two phases with two years between each phase
- No lighting along the retention basin pathways or immediately adjacent to the retention basin

Through this collaborative process, Google has worked with our organizations to achieve

a project for which the ecological benefits surpass the adverse impacts. We hope the City of Mountain View considers and promotes this project as a model for private-public partnership that benefits all.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.



Alice Kaufman, Legislative Advocate
Committee for Green Foothills



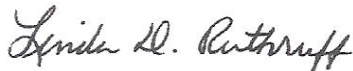
Eileen McLaughlin, Board Member
Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge



Mike Ferreira, Chapter Conservation Chair
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter



Jeanne Labozetta, Interim Executive Director
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society



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

CC: Rachel Grossman, Real Estate Project Executive
Google Inc.