City of Mountain	DATE:	May 24, 2022
View	CATEGORY:	Public Hearing
COUNCIL	DEPT.:	Public Works and Community Development
REPORT	TITLE:	East Whisman Precise Plan Development Impact Fee Nexus Study and East Whisman Development Impact Fee

RECOMMENDATION

- 1. Adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Mountain View to Adopt the East Whisman Precise Plan Development Impact Fee Nexus Study, to be read in title only, further reading waived (Attachment 1 to the Council report).
- 2. Introduce an Ordinance of the City of Mountain View Adding Chapter 47 to the Mountain View City Code Regarding Precise Plan Development Impact Fees and the East Whisman Precise Plan Development Impact Fee, to be read in title only, further reading waived, and set a second reading for June 14, 2022 (Attachment 2 to the Council report).
- 3. Adopt a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Mountain View Adopting Rates for the East Whisman Precise Plan Development Impact Fee and Amending the City of Mountain View Master Fee Schedule to Include Such Fee, to be read in title only, further reading waived (Attachment 3 to the Council report).
- 4. Authorize the Finance and Administrative Services Director to establish the necessary accounts for the new impact fees.

BACKGROUND

In 2019, the City adopted the East Whisman Precise Plan, which established a vision for the 412-acre Precise Plan area. This vision included a light-industrial/office area into a new transit-oriented mixed-use neighborhood, including housing affordable to a range of incomes, new open space and mobility infrastructure, pedestrian-accessible neighborhood commercial uses, sustainability standards, and transportation demand management. A key part of this vision is a network of street improvements that support pedestrian and bicycle access throughout the Precise Plan area, which provide additional transportation capacity without the expense of providing additional vehicular street lanes. These mobility improvements include bicycle lanes,

cycle tracks, pedestrian crossings, streetscape improvements (landscaping, pedestrian amenities), and grade-separated pedestrian/bicycle crossings of the light rail and State Route 237. In addition, the Environmental Impact Report for the Precise Plan identified congestion impacts to local and nearby intersections and necessary water and wastewater infrastructure to serve new development. The Precise Plan also includes a funding program to help pay for these improvements, including the recommended impact fee.

As required by California State law, an impact fee nexus study must be prepared and adopted to establish the legal and policy basis for adopting a new or increased development impact fee. A nexus study establishes a reasonable relationship between new development and the needs and costs of facilities and improvements to serve the development and maximum impact fees per State law. The Nexus Study for the proposed fee, provided in Exhibit 1 to Attachment 1, was prepared by Willdan Financial Services, with technical assistance from Fehr & Peers (transportation consultants).

The Nexus Study presents a maximum allowable fee for all land uses to fund part of the costs of East Whisman Potable Water, Local Transportation, Sewer, and Recycled Water improvements. The City Council can adopt fees less than the maximum amount supported by the Nexus Study based on policy direction or other considerations, such as regional economic competitiveness. However, under State law, a jurisdiction cannot adopt fees higher than the maximum amount supported by the Nexus Study. Information on impact fees from surrounding cities is included in this report for reference.

ANALYSIS

Overview

The East Whisman Precise Plan includes significant residential, office, retail, and hotel growth. To serve that growth, the Precise Plan identified approximately \$151.5 million of public infrastructure improvements. The East Whisman Development Impact Fee (EWDIF) is a key funding source that would help pay for these improvements.

Per State law, development impact fees can be used to finance capital facility and infrastructure costs needed to serve new development. These fees cannot be used to pay for the operation and maintenance costs of any facilities or infrastructure. These fees also cannot be used to pay for the cost of remedying existing deficiencies. Improvements that will serve both new development and the existing population and employment are allocated using a fair-share approach based on proportionality.

Any impact fee must be based on a reasonable nexus between the new development and the costs of new facilities and improvements needed to serve such growth and must be supported

by specific findings that demonstrate this nexus. Recommended findings are included in the attached resolutions.

The proposed fees are necessary to pay for four different types of improvements: transportation, potable water, recycled water, and sewer. The recommended fees for each of the different improvement types are included in Attachment 3 and the total is summarized in Table 1, below.

Land Use	Total Recommended Fee	Notes
Office/R&D	\$10.75 per square foot	
Retail	\$18.16 per square foot	Neighborhood commercial uses, with recorded
		restrictions, are exempt
Hotel	\$6,567 per room	
Residential		Affordable units are exempt
Studio Units	\$2,888 per unit	
1-Bedroom Units	\$3,356 per unit	
2-Bedroom Units	\$5,155 per unit	
3-Bedroom Units	\$6,223 per unit	
Per Additional Bedroom	\$864 per unit	

 Table 1—Recommended East Whisman Development Impact Fees

Relationship to Other Fees and Requirements

The City has a range of existing fees and requirements on development Citywide as well as those specific to the East Whisman Precise Plan area, including Affordable Housing, Park Land, Transportation, Sewer and Water Capacity Charges, Community Benefits, and others. The following items summarize the relationship of the proposed EWDIF to other fees and requirements.

- **Citywide Affordable Housing and Parkland**—There is no overlap between the proposed EWDIF and these requirements since the EWDIF will not be used for affordable housing or park land.
- **Citywide Transportation Impact Fee (TIF)**—The City adopted the TIF in 2018. This fee is for Citywide multi-modal transportation improvements to implement the Multi-Modal Improvement Plan, which brings the City into compliance with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA's) Congestion Management Program. There is no overlap between the EWDIF and the TIF because the EWDIF explicitly excluded improvements that were included in the Multi-Modal Improvement Plan.

- **Citywide Sewer and Water Capacity Charges**—The City adopted Sewer and Water Capacity Charges in 2014. The fee is based on the share of infrastructure cost attributed to the additional demand development placed on the water and sewer systems. Developments "buy in" for their proportionate share of capacity needed in the City's existing water and sewer system facilities and assets. Future growth is not considered in the charges; therefore, there is no overlap between the EWDIF and the charges.
- East Whisman Community Benefits—The East Whisman Precise Plan includes a Community Benefits program, which requires projects that apply for and receive Bonus Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to provide additional funds to support improvements in the area. Community Benefits are another resource that is anticipated to help fill the funding gap for the Precise Plan's improvements.
- Frontage Improvements, New Streets, Street Easements, and Public Access Easement Dedications—The Precise Plan includes a range of mobility requirements on new development to help build out the multi-modal vision for the area, including frontage improvements, new streets, street dedication for widened sidewalks, and public access easement dedication for public paths through blocks. The proposed EWDIF does not include any of these improvements since new development is required to construct them on their frontage or site through project conditions of approval.

Projects Included

Transportation Improvements

The Precise Plan identifies transportation improvements necessary to serve growth in East Whisman. These improvements include:

- Grade-separated pedestrian/bicycle crossing of State Route 237 from Ferguson Drive to Ravendale Drive between Central Expressway and Middlefield Road.
- Grade-separated pedestrian/bicycle crossing of the VTA Light Rail tracks near the terminus of Maude Avenue.
- Midblock pedestrian crosswalks.
- Bicycle lanes, buffered bicycle lanes, and cycle-tracks (protected bikeways).
- Pedestrian streetscape improvements and wayfinding.

• Improvements to Level of Service (LOS)-deficient intersections identified in the East Whisman Precise Plan Environmental Impact Report.

A map of the Precise Plan transportation improvements is shown in Figure 1. A full list can be found on Page 17 of Exhibit 1 to Attachment 1. The Nexus Study does not include any projects that are being constructed through development requirements; therefore, not all projects shown in the Precise Plan are included in the Nexus Study.

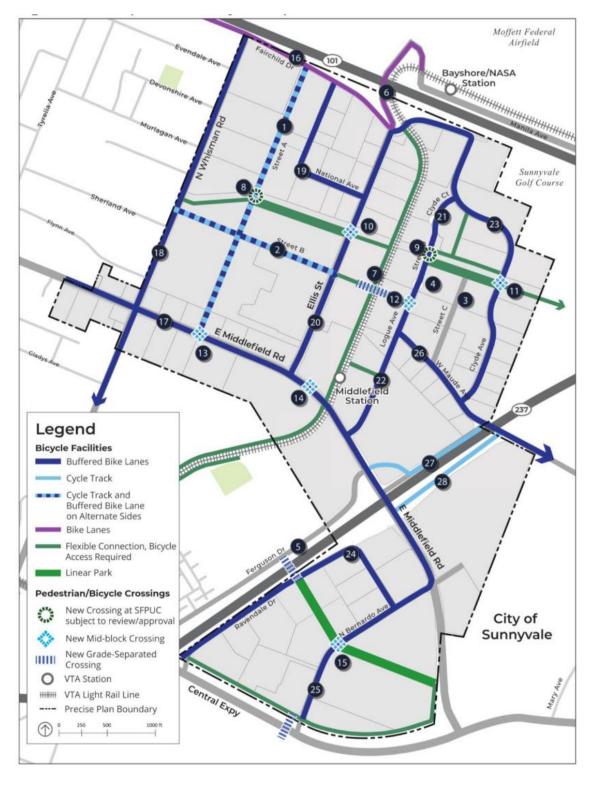


Figure 1: Transportation Improvements in the Precise Plan

Transportation improvements are allocated to new development in various ways. The Nexus Study allocates the responsibility of improvements as follows:

- For nonvehicular improvements, the responsibility of the improvements is allocated to new development based on the share of trips generated by that development (38.9%).¹
- For vehicular-intersection improvements that address an LOS deficiency, the responsibility is based on the proportion of new trips through that intersection.

Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) is not an input in the study. This is because VMT is a measure of regional impacts to infrastructure, while the projects are improvements serving local trips.

Water/Wastewater Improvements

The Precise Plan and Precise Plan EIR identify water and wastewater improvements necessary to serve new development in East Whisman. These improvements include upsizing various pipes in the area.

These improvements are allocated as follows:

- If an improvement is necessary to correct an existing deficiency, then the Nexus Study does not allocate any responsibility to new development.
- If only a portion of the improvement is necessary to correct an existing deficiency, while new development increases the extent of necessary improvements, then the Nexus Study apportions the latter responsibility to new development.

Recycled Water Study

On March 22, the City Council reviewed the Recycled Water Feasibility Study Update, which analyzed options, including expanding the City's recycled water system to East Whisman (Attachment 4—<u>March 22, 2022, Recycled Water Council Report</u>). Council supported staff recommendations for the future expansion of the recycled water system to East Whisman, via Shoreline Boulevard and Middlefield Road, and a second recycled water storage reservoir at a future neighborhood park in the East Whisman area. This direction has been integrated into the cost estimates used for the Nexus Study, with cost-shares divided between existing and new development.

¹ Net new office was assumed to generate fewer trips than existing office, based on the new TDM and monitoring requirements that apply to new development.

Growth Studied

The East Whisman Precise Plan EIR studied the growth shown in Table 2. These growth amounts were used in the Nexus Study.

	Fee Baseline (2017)	Cumulative Precise Plan	Change
Office Square Feet (1,000s)	6,443	8,896	2,453
Retail Square Feet (1,000s)	54	154	100
Hotel Rooms	0	200	200
Residential Units	1	5,070	5,069

Table 2—Growth Studied in the Precise Plan

Several recent developments are part of the new Precise Plan's growth. Table 3 lists those projects and whether they will be subject to the fee. Two recently-approved projects with executed development agreements (DA) agreed to pay the fee as a DA term, up to a specified amount. These DAs require payment at the lesser of the fee or an amount specified in the DA (which is greater than the fee in both cases). Therefore, these developments will pay the nexus fee. State law provides exemptions for certain residential projects in the pipeline before the fee is enacted. Nonresidential projects under review will be subject to the fee.

Table 3—East Whisman	Pipeline Developments

Address	Description	Status	Notes				
Pipeline Projects Paying the Fee							
700 East Middlefield Road	Office	Phase I Constructed, Phase II Approved	Development Agreement				
465 Fairchild Drive/600 Ellis Street	Office	Approved	Development Agreement				
189 North Bernardo Avenue	Office	Under Review					
Middlefield Park Master Plan	Mixed-Use	Under Review					
500 Ellis Street	Office and Hotel	Under Review					
Pipeline Projects Not Payin	g the Fee						
400 Logue Avenue	Residential	Approved	Per staff's recommenda- tion to exempt approved projects				
320 Logue Avenue	Residential	Under Review	State law exemption				

The two pipeline projects not paying the fee are residential projects that would demolish office space. This uncollected fee income is estimated at \$1.57 million if the City Council adopts the staff recommendation (including exemption of affordable units).

Staff recommends that projects approved prior to the introduction of the Ordinance (May 24, 2022) be exempt from the fee, except for those projects that agreed to pay the fee or its equivalent through a negotiated Development Agreement. This is included in the draft Ordinance (Attachment 2). In addition, as noted above, some additional residential projects may be exempt under State law if they submit preliminary applications before the ordinance is effective.

Maximum Supportable Fees

The Nexus Study identifies total maximum supportable fees as shown in Table 4. The Nexus Study outlines how the total cost of the projects was developed and the amount of the cost that can be allocated to the new development. Impact fees cannot fund costs associated with remedying existing deficiencies in public facilities but may include the costs attributable to the increased demand for public facilities reasonably related to the development project. This means that the development impact fee levied against parcels in the East Whisman Precise Plan Area cannot fund the share of infrastructure improvements needed to serve existing development or new development that is not subject to the fee. The City Council could adopt the maximum fee amounts or could adopt lower fees depending on other Council policy considerations. However, fees higher than the Nexus Study supports for each type of land use cannot be adopted. Any fee adopted lower than what is shown in the table will require additional funding from other City and/or outside sources to fund all the identified projects.

Land Use	Tr	ansportation Facilities	Vater cilities	Sewer Icilities	V	cycled Vater cilities	Total
Office/R&D/Industrial (per 1,000 Sq. Ft.)	\$	5,35 <mark>1</mark>	\$ 299	\$ 923	\$	4,177	\$ 10,750
Retail (per 1,000 Sq. Ft.)		13,059	299	618		4,177	18,153
Hotel (per Room)		2,505	231	618		3,213	6,567
<u>Residential (per DU, by Bedrooms)</u>							
Studio	\$	1,278	\$ 193	\$ 517	\$	900	\$ 2,888
1		1,496	223	609		1,028	3,356
2		2,281	344	923		1,607	5,155
3		2,762	416	1,117		1,928	6,223
Per Additional Bedroom		392	58	157		257	864
					_		
Sources: Tables 3.5, 4.7, 5.8 and 6.6.							

Table 4—Maximum Supportable Fees

Allocation of Cost for Existing and New Development

Based on the maximum supportable fees, the following Table 5 outlines the costs assigned to existing development and new development based on their share of the cost of the improvements in the East Whisman Nexus Study.

Table 5—Cost-Share Based on Maximum Supportable Fee Revenue

No.	Development Type	Share
1	Existing Development	\$96,806,000
2	Pipeline Exempt Projects	\$1,569,000
3	Total Existing and Pipeline Projects	\$98,376,000
4	New Development	
а	Office	\$25,850,000
b	Hotel	\$1,288,000
С	Market-rate Residential	\$19,047,000
d	Affordable Residential	\$5,154,000
е	Retail	\$1,778,000
f	Governmental/Nonprofit	Minimal
5	Total New Development	\$53,117,000
6	Total Cost of Nexus Study Improvements	\$151,493,000

Note: Pipeline Projects are current estimates noted in Table 3. Additional residential projects may be exempted per State law as discussed earlier. Totals may not add due to rounding.

As shown in the table, up to approximately \$53.1 million or 35% of the Nexus Study improvements can be funded by charging impact fees per the current estimates. The balance of \$98.4 million to fund the improvements will have to come from other funding sources, which will be discussed later in this report.

Comparison with Other Cities

Impact fees levied in other South Bay-specific or precise plan areas similar to East Whisman were reviewed and compared to the maximum supportable fees in Table 4. This analysis is summarized in Table 6, which shows an estimate of total impact fees and an estimate of the fees as a percent of market value. The full analysis is provided in Attachment 5.

No.	City/Area	340-unit Apartment,	262-Unit	218K SF
		plus 5K SF Retail	Condominium	Office
1	East Whisman, without Fees	\$22.6 (6.7%)	\$17.2 (3.8%)	\$8.5 (3.0%)
2	East Whisman, with Fees	\$24.4 (7.3%)	\$18.7 (4.2%)	\$10.1 (3.6%)
3	North Bayshore	\$22.6 (6.7%)	\$17.2 (3.8%)	\$20.5 (7.2%)
4	Sunnyvale (Tasman Crossing,	\$21.9 (6.4%)	\$19.0 (5.0%)	\$6.4 (2.8%)
	Fair Oaks Junction, Peery Park)			
5	Santa Clara (Lawrence Station	\$12.6 (4.4%)	\$9.5 (2.5%)	\$3.3 (2.6%)
	Area Plan)			
6	Milpitas (Transit Area Specific	\$4.3 (1.4%)	\$0.6 (0.2%)	\$9.1 (12.9%)
	Plan)			
7	Fremont (Warm Springs	\$11.5 (5.1%)	\$9.0 (2.8%)	\$3.1 (4.7%)
	Community Plan)			

Table 6—Comparison of Fees for Specific Project Types to Those in Other Cities (in Millions)

Note: All cells show an estimate of the total impact fee obligation in millions, followed by an estimated percent of project market value in parentheses. Impact fees include Capital and Fire Facilities, Transportation, Parks, Affordable Housing (Commercial Linkage), Water, Sewer, Storm Drain, and Public Art.

The table shows that the City of Mountain View already has the highest fees on apartments among the areas studied. This is largely due to the Park Land Dedication Fee, which is the highest single fee identified. Adding the EWDIF would further increase these fees. However, the Precise Plan's Jobs-Housing Linkage requirement is intended to help address these additional costs by requiring office projects to help construct residential projects.

Office uses would have higher fees than other areas studied (except North Bayshore) but a commensurate fee obligation as a percentage of market value. This is due to the significantly higher value of office in Mountain View compared to areas like Fremont and Milpitas.

Potential Fee Exemptions and Reductions

The City Council may choose to adopt fees lower than the maximum supportable fees in Table 4. This could be based on the regional competitiveness analysis, above, or it could be based on the development feasibility of desired land uses. However, lowered fees would result in lost income to the City for funding the improvements, which would need to be supplemented from other sources.

Staff recommends the following fee reductions, which are reflected in the Ordinance (Attachment 2):

- **Affordable Housing**—Affordable housing is a significant cost on market-rate development and often requires subsidy from the City. Most other fees exempt affordable housing. If affordable housing is exempted from this fee, it could result in lost income of approximately \$5.15 million.
- **Neighborhood Commercial Uses**—Most retail and similar neighborhood-serving uses are important to the Plan's goals to create a complete, walkable neighborhood. Developers do not often volunteer to provide these uses since they generally do not support project feasibility. The Precise Plan includes several incentives for including neighborhood commercial uses, such as exemption from FAR. Adopting the full fee could negate those incentives. If neighborhood commercial uses are exempted from the fee, it could result in lost income of approximately \$1.78 million.²
- **Government and Nonprofit**—Nonprofit and public-serving uses are given similar incentives in the Precise Plan and help contribute to the range of services available in the area. It is uncertain how much this exemption would result in lost income, but it is expected to be marginal.

These recommendations will result in increasing the deficit from the cost share estimated for new development by \$6.93 million. As discussed below, expected funding sources will not be enough to reach the cost of improvements. Staff, therefore, recommends only providing the

² Retail is in the recommended fee schedule in Attachment 3. This is because some developers may choose not to record a restriction on the property limiting the space to neighborhood commercial uses, there may be some retail uses that are not neighborhood-serving, and development replacing retail would be entitled to subtract this amount from their fee obligation.

exceptions for affordable housing, neighborhood commercial retail, and government/nonprofit uses as described, above, and not reducing the fee amounts.

Other Funding Sources

The nexus can only support new development bearing a portion of the cost of the Precise Plan's improvements. Of the roughly \$151.5 million of necessary improvements, the EWDIF can only generate a maximum of 35% or roughly \$53.1 million.³ If the City Council also chooses to exempt affordable housing, neighborhood commercial retail (and similar uses), and nonprofits, the EWDIF can only generate a maximum of \$46.2 million or about 30.5% of the total costs of improvements. The remaining \$105.3 million must be funded from other sources.

These other funding sources include:

- East Whisman Precise Plan Community Benefits—Projects in East Whisman that request Bonus FAR provide Community Benefits, as defined in the Precise Plan, through payment or providing the benefits themselves in lieu of payment based on the parameters in the Precise Plan. Based on a review of approved and pending projects under review, over the remaining build-out of the Precise Plan, approximately \$30 million in Community Benefits is expected if all the Community Benefits are paid as fees to the City. The City could elect to use Community Benefits funds to further defray the cost of the infrastructure improvements. However, the East Whisman Precise Plan allows the developer to choose the Community Benefits for their project from a list that includes other categories, such as affordable housing, support for small businesses, or public art. Additionally, the Council could choose to use the Community Benefits towards other qualifying purposes. Therefore, the actual amount available for infrastructure funding could be far less than the estimate.
- Increased Revenue from Development—As the East Whisman Precise Plan Area redevelops, the City would receive additional revenue in the form of increased property taxes, sales tax, transient occupancy tax, etc. Some of the unfunded cost of the infrastructure improvements could be filled with this funding; however, some of these funds would be offset by the need for other services, such as Police, Fire, and Community Services.
- City Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding, including the unrestricted funds (Construction/Conveyance Tax and CIP Reserve), enterprise funds (Water and Wastewater), and General Fund—Transportation Reserve (funded from Measure P Business License Tax). There are many other competing Citywide needs for these funding

³ This is the \$54.7 million fee revenue on Page 7 of the Nexus Study, minus the \$1.57 million from development projects that will be exempt from the fee.

sources, and it is not known how much of this funding could be made available to cover the \$105.3 million needed over the next 20 years. CIP funding for these improvements would be determined through the five-year CIP planning process.

• **Grants**—There are also various local (e.g., VTA Measure B), State, and Federal competitive grants that could be used to help fund these infrastructure improvements, particularly for the active transportation projects. The local matches that could be provided by the EWDIF may help make the City's grant applications more competitive.

Outreach and Public Comment

On February 28, 2022, the City held an outreach meeting to share the draft methodology with key stakeholders, including property owners, development applicants, and the Building Industry Association. While the draft fee was not shared at the meeting, detailed documentation of the methodology was shared in order to elicit feedback. Most of the discussion at the meeting was responding to technical questions.

One stakeholder, Google, provided a detailed letter after the meeting (Attachment 6—Google Letter). Many of the comments were questions about the proposed methodology while others provided insight that was incorporated into the study to clarify items.

Pursuant to State law, the study was posted on April 22, 2022, over 30 days before adoption, and a notice was sent to individuals who had signed up to be notified, and to property owners and addresses in the East Whisman Precise Plan area.

During the public review period of the Nexus Study, staff met with representatives of Google and Lendlease (the development team of the Middlefield Park Master Plan) and discussed some of their questions about the Study. The discussion included:

- Calculations of costs and allocations of key improvements, such as the Ellis Street/Fairchild Drive Interchange.
- Confirmation of land-use trip calculations.
- Whether the fee could be adjusted based on VMT.

Staff did not change any of the methodology based on this discussion but did add language to the draft Nexus Study to clarify the inputs discussed.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the findings in Attachment 1, staff recommends that the City Council approve the East Whisman Precise Plan Development Impact Fee Nexus Study (Attachment 1), adopt the proposed Ordinance for the fee (Attachment 2), and adopt the fee itself (Attachment 3). The recommended Draft Ordinance includes fee exemptions for affordable housing, neighborhood commercial retail (and similar uses), and government/nonprofit uses.

FISCAL IMPACT

The East Whisman Precise Plan includes approximately \$151.5 million in new public infrastructure improvements. The recommended fee charges the maximum amount for all uses and exempts the uses that are encouraged and incentivized in the East Whisman Precise Plan. The recommended fee is expected to help pay for approximately \$46.2 million (30.5%) of that amount. The Nexus Study infrastructure projects will be funded through the five-year CIP using the EWDIF, community benefits as they are made available, existing CIP funding sources, and grants.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommends the City Council adopt the EWDIF, as described in this report.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1. Do not adopt the EWDIF.
- 2. Do not exempt affordable housing, neighborhood commercial retail (and similar uses), or government/nonprofit uses from the fee.
- 3. Reduce the fees for any of the land uses by a percentage amount.
- 4. Provide other direction.

PUBLIC NOTICING

Agenda posting and notices of this meeting, including a summary of the proposed fee and costs in accordance with State law, were sent to all East Whisman property owners and addresses, in addition to those on the East Whisman Precise Plan interested parties mailing list, and to interested parties requesting a notice of any action regarding fees. The notices were sent at least 30 days in advance of the meeting, as required by Government Code Sections 66016 and 66019. Notice of the Council hearing was also published twice as required by Government Code Section 66018. The Nexus Study was made public at least 30 days in advance of the meeting.

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Attachments: 1. Resolution Adopting Nexus Study

- 2. Ordinance Adding Chapter 47
- 3. Resolution Adopting Fee Rates
- 4. March 22, 2022 Recycled Water Council Report
- 5. Comparison of Fees Across Jurisdictions
- 6. Google Letter