



Santa Clara Valley Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

March 5, 2021

Re: Google Middlefield Park Project: (for City Council meeting of March 9, 2021)

Via email to: city.council@mountainview.gov

Dear Mayor Kamei, Vice Mayor Ramirez, and Council Members,

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society and the California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter are supportive of the Google Middlefield Park Master Plan because it incorporates so many elements of sustainable development and brings nature into our built environment. Our organizations have been following the Middlefield Park project since the Master Plan was submitted to the City in fall 2020.

The Middlefield Park Master Plan proposes many features that embody the vision of the East Whisman Precise Plan for innovation and sustainability, for habitat restoration, and for ecological connectivity and resilience. The project will fill a significant gap in ecological functionality and connectivity in this part of Mountain View and will also be an important model for other development projects in the area, for the benefit of our regional ecosystem upon which we all depend. Projects that support sustainable habitat will become more important as climate change's impacts become more pronounced, and we believe it is important to support them.

While we understand that the City and Google are at the start of this process, we appreciate that Google has prioritized the following elements in their application:

- Conversion of a parking-lots dominated office park to a mixed-use neighborhood, with parks and open space. The proposed public and private (with public access) open space and parkland will be an asset to the City's green spaces and the neighborhood.
- Ensuring green space and native canopy will be featured prominently in key public spaces. The green spaces will include significant expansion of tree canopy, with thoughtful inclusion of site appropriate native tree species, including native oak savannah plantings, expanding on a regional "re-oaking" strategy.
- A focus on the restoration of the native site ecology, through aggregation of open space areas, creating habitat corridors and using native plant species with high habitat value.
- Consideration of bird-safe design and dark skies protection for all buildings and privately-operated public spaces.
- A Central Utility Plant facility that supports the entire development to be integrated into the building design at Phase One.

We have the following questions:

1. Would the parking in Phase One (and future phases) be unbundled to reduce parking demand? All parking should be paid parking as this is demonstrated to reduce parking demand and reduce rents for those who do not plan to use a car.
2. Would neighborhood roads have narrowed road lanes (10' wide and 8' at access roads) to ensure reduced speed of cars and buses and "quiet pavement" (rubberized pavement) for reduced noise pollution?
3. Could all residential buildings, parking structures and office buildings roofs without solar panels be green roofs to provide additional rewilding value?
4. Can the City and Google commit to planting California native plants that are locally native to the Peninsula? We hope that 60% of the trees and 100% of the shrubs will be locally native plant species.

We respectfully ask the Council to move forward with Google's Middlefield Park Project. We plan to follow the project as it is implemented with the hope that it delivers a mixed-use project that truly weaves nature into the urban landscape.

Sincerely yours,



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



Shani Kleinhaus, Environmental Advocate, Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society



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

Cc: James Eggers, Executive Director, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club

Gladwyn d'Souza, Co-Chair, Conservation Committee, Loma Prieta Chapter, Sierra Club