



May 10, 2020

Mayor Klein, Vice-Mayor Smith and Sunnyvale City Council  
City of Sunnyvale

For distribution via email:  
cityclerk@sunnyvale.ca.gov

Dear Mayor Klein, Vice Mayor Smith and Sunnyvale City Council

**Re: Item 2 on Council's 5/12 Agenda: Google Caribbean**

The Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter, the Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society, the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge, Green Foothills and the California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter provide the following comments on the Google Caribbean project.

We represent Environmental Organizations that focus on land use, resilience in the face of sea level rise, the protection and enhancement of plant and wildlife habitats, and the education and enjoyment of nature by our members and the public.

We are pleased with some of the public benefits offered by Google for this project, especially the enhancement and naturalization of the West Channel, to change it from a ditch to a natural habitat feature.

We also like the public access along the West Channel to the Bay Trail, which we understand will become part of a "Green Pedestrian/Bicycle Network" in the Moffett Park Specific Plan currently under study.

As sea level rises, flood control in coastal and tidal creeks is becoming ever more challenging. The approach taken by Google, where development is distanced from the creeks to provide space for natural, soft-touch flood management should become the norm and applied all along the East and West Channels. Other Cities are providing such guidance:

Mountain View's North Bayshore Precise Plan provides "Habitat Overlay Zones" along creeks and sensitive habitats

San Jose's Riparian Corridor Study and Policy provide a setback from creeks and rivers.

We believe that the attention to environmental features makes the Google project worthy of City approval. As you proceed to develop the Moffett Park Specific Plan, please consider requiring similar Habitat Overlay Zones and that require development to step back from water features, which include drainage channels, creeks, wetlands, ponds and the San Francisco Bay.

Lastly, these are uncertain times and so it is possible that Google Caribbean and other projects in Sunnyvale will morph and be modified over time. We ask you to ensure that the environmental benefits associated with this project endure potential changes in the future.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide comment,

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