



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