



Menlo Park Fire Protection District

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July 20, 2015

Deanna Chow
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Re: Comments on Notice of Preparation for General Plan Update EIR (ConnectMenlo)

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Menlo Park General Plan (Land Use & Circulation Elements) and M-2 Area Zoning Update (ConnectMenlo Plan). As the fire and emergency services provider in the City, we ask that the City consult and cooperate with the Fire District on the analysis of impacts and the development of mitigations for any significant impacts of the ConnectMenlo Plan on both a project and cumulative level. In general terms, the environmental issues relating to the Fire District include fire and emergency services, traffic, circulation, emergency access, water and hazardous materials. The proposed changes to the Land Use and Circulation Elements and M-2 Zoning will impact fire and emergency services. The Fire District is currently working with the City on developing goals, policies and programs in the Land Use and Circulation Elements to ensure the continued provision of a high level of fire and emergency services and address the impacts of new development and circulation changes on the Fire District. The Fire District looks forward to continuing to work closely with the City on the development of these important goals, policies and programs to be included in the Land Use and Circulation Element in furtherance of the Plan's "self-mitigating" goal.

Below are the Fire District's initial specific comments on issues to be analyzed in the ConnectMenlo EIR. The Fire District requests that the City consult and cooperate with the Fire District in the development of the portions of the EIR that address these issues.

- The description of the Fire District and existing fire and emergency services as part of the Environmental Setting in the EIR. This information includes, but is not limited to, types of services provided, staffing levels, equipment, stations, call volumes, number and types of incidents, and response times.
- The standard of significance for determining impacts on fire and emergency services and emergency access, such as performance standards.

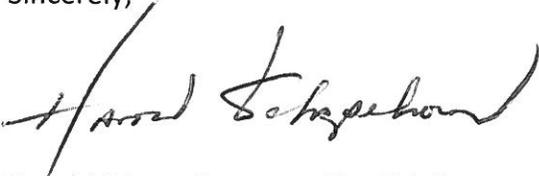
- Impacts on Fire Stations, including staffing, equipment, truck, engine and building facilities to serve the new increased development being proposed in the ConnectMenlo Plan, especially in the M-2 area, and cumulative development within the Fire District's jurisdiction.
- Impacts due to the increase in demand for fire and emergency services from new employees and residents resulting from the ConnectMenlo Plan and cumulative development within the Fire District's jurisdiction.
- Impacts due to increased building height, increased density, change in uses (especially new residential uses), design changes, and other changes in development standards under the ConnectMenlo Plan.
- Impacts on traffic and circulation in the City and surrounding area due to the ConnectMenlo Plan and cumulative development. As the City is aware, there are significant traffic and circulation issues in the City and surrounding area that adversely affect fire and emergency vehicle access and response times. Additional deterioration of traffic conditions need to be analyzed and mitigated. The joint traffic report being prepared for the ConnectMenlo Plan and the Facebook Campus Expansion Project should carefully analyze these impacts. The Fire District requests that the impacts on emergency access routes be discussed as part of the analysis of Fire District impacts. Changes in street design and potential new alternative emergency response routes also should be addressed in the analysis.
- Analysis of cumulative impacts from development within the Fire District's jurisdiction and the ConnectMenlo Plan. As the City is aware, there is new increased development planned and proposed within the Fire District's jurisdictional boundaries. In particular, the planned and proposed new development in East Palo Alto, San Mateo County's North Fair Oaks area, and the City's Downtown Specific Plan area should be included in the cumulative impacts analysis.
- For any significant project or cumulative impacts, the Fire District requests that the City consult with the Fire District to develop appropriate mitigation to reduce the impacts to less than significant.
- Additional background information is available on the Districts web-site at www.menlofire.org related to the recently completed Standards of Cover Assessment and Draft Nexus Impact Fee Report.

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The Fire District appreciates the City's consideration of these NOP comments on this important project. The Fire District, as a fellow public agency and a responsible agency under CEQA, looks forward to working with the City on the analysis of impacts on the Fire District as part of the EIR. The main contacts at the Fire District for the ConnectMenlo Plan are Fire Chief Schapelhouman and Fire Marshal Johnston.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Schapelhouman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "H".

Harold Schapelhouman, Fire Chief
Menlo Park Fire Protection District