



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY
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East Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Palo Alto, San Mateo County Flood Control District, and the Santa Clara Valley Water District

January 30, 2012

Ms. Rachel Grossman
Associate Planner
City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Re: Facebook Campus Project Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Grossman:

On behalf of the City of Menlo Park and other local agencies, the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) is engaged with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in a regional project that takes into account the potential impact of flooding from San Francisco Bay on areas of the City, including the Facebook Campus Project area. In this role, the SFCJPA has a responsibility to communicate the issues around – and implement solutions to – flooding and future Sea Level Rise.

Both the East and West Campuses of the Facebook Campus Project currently lie in the FEMA 100-year floodplain known as the “Special Flood Hazard Areas Inundated by a 100-year Flood.” The new Bay coastal maps produced by the Corps for the SFCJPA-sponsored project include scenarios for Sea Level Rise, and this increased flood risk is anticipated to become the basis for future FEMA floodplain maps.

For the East Campus, Impact HY-4 concludes that the project will have a “less-than-significant potential to expose people to flooding” from Sea Level Rise. Impact C-HY-2 concludes that the project’s contribution to flooding is not considerable. Therefore, it concludes that no mitigation measures are required.

For the West Campus, impact HY-2 concludes that the project “will place structures in a Special Flood Hazard Area” and that this is considered a “potentially significant impact.” The mitigation measure proposed, HY-2.1, is to obtain a “Conditional Letter of Map Revision – Fill” from FEMA, by having the Project Sponsor “prepare supporting data, including hydraulic and hydrologic analyses, delineation of floodplain boundaries, and all other information required by FEMA” to review and elevate the request for a CLOMR-F. This information exists or is in the process of being created by the Corps of Engineers or SFCJPA, and it seems unlikely that the mitigation measure proposed – preparing supporting data for a CLOMR application – would remove the West Campus from the FEMA floodplain and the threat of flooding.

For the West Campus, Impact HY-4 states that the project could expose “people to flooding from climate change-induced sea level rise, resulting in potentially significant impact.” The mitigation measures proposed, HY-4.2 and HY-4.3, may allow this impact to become less than significant, depending on the design of the measures and the flood elevation used in the design criteria.

As recently as November 2011, the Menlo Park City Council expressed its support for a regional approach to addressing concerns over flooding from San Francisco Bay in areas of the City and in the City of East Palo Alto between Highway 101 and the Bay. The SFCJPA is working with the federal government and others to implement this approach, and thus I would encourage those responsible for planning the Facebook Campus Project to coordinate with the SFCJPA regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

Len Materman
Executive Director