



Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning
817 Montgomery Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

October 1, 2019

Mountain View City Council
City Hall, 500 Castro Street
PO Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540

Re: 9.1 Google Landings Development Project

Dear City Council Members:

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning would like to comment on a [Study Session on Google Landings Development Project](#). Google is proposing approximately \$45 million in community benefits, and the Council is being asked to provide direction on what that funding should be used for.

Following are the two largest items from [ATT 5 - Google Landings Community Benefits Proposal](#), with our comments following.

Permanente Creek Enhancement and Adjacent Open Space (Project 1 in [Google Proposal](#)): \$15M

This funding is for "The Creek enhancements and new pedestrian path." In our judgement, this is not a high-priority item, especially now when we have the housing emergency. Hundreds of Mountain View families have no homes other than their vehicles. Many others are struggling with their rents or cannot afford to live close to their jobs or schools, increasing traffic and generating the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Therefore, we propose to use all this funding for programs such as those addressing supportive/transitional housing and safe parking. We note that the City is in the process of working out the details of what the safe parking program will look like going into 2020, so allocating funds from this source and others will be a key step toward achieving this goal.

Transportation Infrastructure (Project 2 in [Google Proposal](#)): \$17.5M

The stated goal for this funding is "to fund high priority transportation improvements identified in the North Bayshore Precise Plan." We agree that transportation improvements that would remove most single-occupancy vehicles (SOVs) from our streets should be a high priority goal because addressing climate change is so urgent. The best way towards this goal would be to use about 30% of this amount (\$5M) to kick-start an important and

useful free-of-charge extended and improved community shuttle that would serve the whole city and not just North Bayshore. Further extensions of shuttle system and annual O&M costs can be funded from the Measure P “head tax” that will generate up to \$6M annually.

The remaining 70% (\$12.5M) should be used to address homelessness and to enable building a denser and more affordable housing solution. This would help with reducing GHG emissions by allowing more people to walk, bike, or use public transit on a daily basis.

In summary, we hope that you will consider allocating the biggest portion of the proposed community benefits towards meaningful housing and transportation improvements for the whole city, and not only for Google and the North Bayshore area.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Abramson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael Abramson
for the Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

cc:

Matthew VanOosten, Senior Planner

Dan Rich, City Manager

Kimberly Thomas, Assistant to the City Manager

Audrey Seymour Ramberg, Assistant City Manager / Chief Operating Officer

Nicole C. Wright, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Michael Fuller, Public Works Director

Nathan Baird, Transportation Planner-Mobility

Aarti Shrivastava, Community Development Director

Steve Attinger, Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Tiffany Chew, Economic Development Division

Lisa Natusch, City Clerk

About Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning

The Mountain View Coalition for Sustainable Planning is a group of local volunteers dedicated to making Mountain View as beautiful, economically healthy, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian accessible, and affordable as possible. MVCSP member interest and expertise covers areas such as housing, transportation, the environment, the economy, and beyond!

For more information, see <http://www.mvcsp.org>.

To contact us, send email to mvcsp.info@gmail.com.