



# Office of the City Council

December 22, 2011

Mayor Kirsten Keith and City Council  
701 Laurel Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

e-mail to [city.council@menlopark.org](mailto:city.council@menlopark.org)

Re: Facebook Draft EIR Comment Period

Dear Mayor Keith and City Council Members:

I write on behalf of the residents, as well as the entity, of the City of East Palo Alto with regard to the Facebook Draft EIR. I respectfully request an extension to the official comment period in the Draft EIR to February 6, 2012.

The Draft EIR was released on Thursday, December 8, 2011, and the current schedule calls for comments to be submitted no later than 5:30 pm on January 23, 2012. This is a total of 47 days, a mere 2 days more than the statutory minimum (solely because day 45 falls on a Saturday), and far less than is typical for a project of the magnitude involved and a base document of over 700 pages, with appendices in excess of 2600 pages. A 60 day review period would be much more appropriate and in keeping with the spirit of the law, as well as common practice on significant projects.

When Facebook representatives and Menlo Park staff members made a presentation to East Palo Alto on December 13, which was very much appreciated, it was shortly after the document was released. At that time, I requested from your staff an extended comment period, which was declined. I realize staff may not have such authority, but clearly the City Council is in a position to grant this modest request.

East Palo Alto has been concerned about the impact the Facebook project will have on housing demand and supply, as noted in our letter related to the Notice of Preparation. In response to our concerns, Menlo Park commissioned Keyser Marston Associates to do a separate analysis of potential impacts to housing. That document is dated December 21, 2011 and was not available until late that day, 2 weeks after the Draft EIR. We are thus faced with only a few weeks to digest that study.

At this time of year, when so many members of the public are engaged in family matters and when government offices and businesses are closed for holiday celebrations, for a lead agency to appear to be running the clock down on a major development (when it is clearly difficult for people to give these documents the attention they deserve), comes across as less than good

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government. Menlo Park's own citizens and businesses may well view this comment period as overly restrictive since I note that the City of Menlo Park is officially closed on 21 of the days prior to January 23.

I look forward to positive response from the City of Menlo Park on an extension of the comment period for the Facebook Draft EIR.

Yours truly,



Laura Martinez  
Mayor

C: City Council