

1. Introduction

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

This Response to Comments Document, which has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), provides responses to comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the adoption and implementation of the Menlo Park General Plan (Land Use & Circulation Elements) and M-2 Area Zoning Update, herein referred to as the “proposed project.” The Draft EIR identifies significant impacts associated with the proposed project, identifies and considers alternatives to the proposed project, and identifies mitigation measures to avoid or reduce the potentially significant environmental effects (“significant impacts”) of the proposed project. This Response to Comments Document also contains text revisions to the Draft EIR. This Response to Comments Document, together with the Draft EIR, constitutes the Final EIR for the proposed project.

1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS

According to CEQA, lead agencies are required to consult with public agencies having jurisdiction over a proposed project, and to provide the general public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft EIR. This Response to Comments Document has been prepared to respond to comments received on the Draft EIR. A Notice of Preparation of an EIR was issued by the City on June 18, 2015 for a 30-day review period. A Notice of Availability was issued on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 and the Draft EIR was made available for public review for a 45-day public review period through Friday, July 15, 2016. As a result of comments received on the Draft EIR, the City extended the Draft EIR review period for a total 60-day comment period between June 1, 2016 and August 1, 2016, which is 15 days beyond the CEQA required 45-day comment period per Section 15105 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Draft EIR was distributed to local, regional, and State agencies and the general public was advised of the availability of the Draft EIR. Copies of the Draft EIR were made available for review to interested parties at the at the City Main Library (800 Alma Street), Belle Haven Branch Library (413 Ivy Drive), Onetta Harris Community Center (100 Terminal Avenue), and the Community Development Department (701 Laurel Street) in Menlo Park, as well as on the ConnectMenlo website at www.menlopark.org/connectmenlo.

Copies of all written comments received on the Draft EIR are contained in this Response to Comments Document. These comments are reproduced in Chapter 5, Comments and Responses, of this document, and responses to comments on environmental issues are provided. Comments are presented in their original format in Appendix A, Comment Letters, of this document.

This Response to Comments Document will be presented at a Planning Commission hearing at which the Commission will advise the City Council on certification of the EIR. However, the Planning Commission will not take final action on the EIR or the proposed project. Instead, the City Council will consider the

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Planning Commission's recommendations on the Final EIR and the proposed project during a noticed public hearing, and will make the final action with regard to certification of the Final EIR. The City Council is currently scheduled to consider certification of the Final EIR at a public hearing in late 2016.