

June 14, 2019

Mr. Tom Smith, Senior Planner  
City of Menlo Park  
Community Development Department, Planning Division  
701 Laurel Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Subject: Commonwealth: Building 3 EIR

Dear Mr. Smith:

Per the request in your *Notice of Preparation of the Initial Study and Environmental Impact Report for the Commonwealth: Building 3 Project*, Exponent respectfully submits the following comments for consideration by the City of Menlo Park (City).

Exponent believes that the proposed development will negatively impact neighboring businesses already affected by the substantial development throughout the Bohannon Business Park. We strongly encourage the City to consider public safety, transportation, and traffic concerns as top priorities during the City's review of this proposed development project.

Doubling office space at 162-164 Jefferson Drive and adding a public park, to the Bohannon Business Park that is already stressed by transportation and traffic challenges, will create additional serious traffic and public safety issues. Currently there are several "crossing guards" needed to help control traffic and help with public safety, including bicycles and pedestrians. These serious challenges are magnified given that there is no public transit supporting the area, the area does not adequately accommodate student parking for TIDE Academy, and, the current traffic system is not designed to accommodate the waves of traffic resulting from TIDE Academy's schedule and volume. Thus, it is very important that the traffic impact analysis consider at least the following major challenges associated with the cumulative traffic impact in the immediate area from the:

- occupants planned for the 250,000 square feet of office space at Building 3

- proposed community college's use of the TIDE Academy's site (evenings, weekends)
- completion of all phases of the voter approved Menlo Park Gateway project
- additional load from the proposed eight-story apartment building with 105 dwelling units at 111 Independence Drive.

Exponent believes that public parks are beneficial to the residential and business community when the City provides oversight to ensure public safety at the park and at neighboring businesses. Thus, if the City decides to proceed with the development of the site Exponent requests that the City implement operating procedures and oversight that will insure that businesses in the area are not adversely impacted and no increased liability is brought upon those businesses.

In closing, for almost 30 years Exponent has been safely operating in Menlo Park at 149 Commonwealth Drive and 160 Jefferson Drive. We have made substantial investments to accommodate our engineering and scientific testing at these locations. Any changes forced upon our operations due to this proposed development being located next door would have a detrimental impact on our business.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me via telephone at (650) 688-7154 or via email at [schlenker@exponent.com](mailto:schlenker@exponent.com).

Regards,



Richard Schlenker  
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer