

## City of Los Altos

### MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

#### 5150 El Camino Real Residential Development

The City Council of the City of Los Altos has considered the project identified below and has adopted the following Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act:

**Proposed Project:** New 196-unit Condominium and Townhouse Development

**Location:** 5150 El Camino Real, Los Altos, County of Santa Clara.

**Finding:** The proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

#### Reasons Supporting the Finding:

- An Initial Study of Environmental Effects has been prepared that identified no potentially significant impacts.
- The proposed project conforms to the City's General Plan and Zoning Ordinance.
- Because of its in-fill location, new public services and utilities are not required.
- The project will not adversely impact fish and wildlife resources or their habitats.

**Mitigation Measures Included in the Project:** The following mitigation measures are included in the project to avoid potentially significant effects.

#### ▪ Air Quality

MM AIR-2: The project shall implement the following measures, in accordance with BAAQMD best management practices:

- All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered two times per day;
- All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site shall be covered;

- All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads shall be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited;
- All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph;
- All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible;
- Vegetation in disturbed areas shall be planted as quickly as possible;
- Building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used;
- Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to five minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of California Code of Regulations [CCR]). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points;
- All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition prior to operation;
- Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the City of Los Altos regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The Air District's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

MM AIR-3: The project shall develop a plan demonstrating that the off-road equipment used on-site to construct the project would achieve a fleet-wide average 93-percent reduction in DPM exhaust emissions or greater. One feasible plan to achieve this reduction would include the following:

- All diesel-powered off-road equipment, larger than 25 horsepower, operating on the site for more than two days continuously shall, at a minimum, meet EPA particulate matter emissions standards for Tier 4 engines. Equipment that is electrically powered or uses non-diesel fuels would meet this requirement.

- Cranes and generators set used during construction should be electrically powered.
- Portable equipment (i.e. air compressors and welders) should also be electrically powered.

▪ **Biological Resources**

MM BIO-1.1: Construction activities shall be scheduled to avoid the nesting season. The nesting season for most birds in Santa Clara County extends from February 1st through August 30th). If construction activities are scheduled to take place outside of the nesting season, impacts on nesting birds protected by the MBTA and/or CDFW will be avoided.

MM BIO-1.2: If it is not possible to schedule construction activities between September 1 and January 31, then preconstruction surveys for nesting birds shall be conducted to identify active nests that may be disturbed during project implementation. Projects that commence construction between February 1st and April 30th (inclusive) shall conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting birds within 14 days of construction onset. Projects that commence construction between May 1st and August 31st (inclusive) shall conduct preconstruction surveys within 30 days of construction onset. Pre-construction surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist or ornithologist for nesting birds within the on-site trees as well as all mature trees within 250 feet of the site. If the survey does not identify any nesting birds that would be affected by construction activities, no further mitigation is required.

MM BIO-1.3: If an active nest is found in or close enough to the construction area to be disturbed by these activities, the qualified biologist or ornithologist, in consultation with CDFW, shall determine the extent of a construction-free buffer zone around the nest, typically 250 feet for raptors and 100 feet for non-raptors around the nest, to ensure that raptor or migratory bird nests shall not be disturbed during project construction. The buffer shall remain in place until the breeding season has ended or a qualified biologist or ornithologist has determined that the nest is no longer active. The ornithologist/biologist shall submit a report indicating the results of the survey and any designated buffer zones to the satisfaction of the Director of Community Development prior to the issuance of grading permits.

MM BIO-1.4: If construction activities will not be initiated until after the start of the nesting season, all potential nesting substrates (e.g., bushes, trees, grasses, and other vegetation) that are scheduled to be removed by the project may be removed prior to the start of the nesting season (i.e., prior to February 1st).

- **Cultural Resources**

MM CUL-2.1: In the event that prehistoric or historic resources are encountered during excavation and/or grading of the site, all activity within a 50-foot radius of the find shall stop, the Director of Community Development shall be notified, and an archaeologist designated by the City shall assess the find and make appropriate recommendations, if warranted. Recommendations could include avoidance, if feasible, preservation in place, or collection, recordation, and analysis of any significant cultural materials. Construction within a radius specified by the archaeologist shall not recommence until the assessment is complete. A report of findings documenting any data recovery would be submitted to the Director of Community Development. The project applicant shall ensure all construction personnel receive cultural resource awareness training that includes information on the possibility of encountering archaeological and/or historical materials during construction.

MM CUL-2.2: Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 7050.5 and Public Resources Code § 5097.94 of the State of California, in the event that human remains are discovered during excavation and/or grading of the site, all activity within a 50-foot radius of the find will be stopped. The Santa Clara County Coroner will be notified and shall make a determination as to whether the remains are of Native American origin. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) immediately. Once NAHC identifies the most likely descendants, the descendants will make recommendations regarding proper burial, which will be implemented in accordance with Section 15064.5(e) of the CEQA Guidelines. If no satisfactory agreement can be reached as to the disposition of the remains pursuant to state law, then the landowner shall re-inter the human remains and items associated with Native American burials on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.

- **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

MM HAZ-2.1: All PCB-containing ballasts shall be removed and disposed of in accordance with state and local laws.

MM HAZ-2.2: All potentially friable asbestos-containing materials shall be removed in accordance with National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) guidelines prior to building demolition or renovation that may disturb the materials.

MM HAZ-2.3: All demolition activities will be undertaken in accordance with Cal/OSHA standards, contained in Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 1529, to protect workers from exposure to asbestos. Materials containing more than one percent asbestos are also subject to BAAQMD regulations.

MM HAZ-2.4: During demolition activities, all building materials containing lead-based paint shall be removed in accordance with Cal/OSHA Lead in Construction Standard, Title 8, California Code of Regulations 1532.1, including employee training, employee air monitoring and dust control. Any debris or soil containing lead-based paint or coatings will be disposed of at landfills that meet acceptance criteria for the waste being disposed.

▪ **Noise**

MM NOI-1.1: Prior to the issuance of building permits, mechanical equipment shall be selected and designed to reduce impacts on surrounding uses to meet the City's requirements. A qualified acoustical consultant shall be retained by the project applicant to review mechanical noise as the equipment systems are selected in order to determine whether the proposed noise reduction measures sufficiently reduce noise to comply with the City's 50 dBA Leq residential noise limit at the shared property lines, and with the 45 dBA Leq noise limit at residential patios adjoining the site. Noise reduction measures that would accomplish this reduction include, but are not limited to, selection of equipment that emits low noise levels and/or installation of noise barriers such as enclosures and parapet walls to block the line of sight between the noise source and the nearest receptors.

MM NOI-2.1: Modification, placement, and operation of construction equipment are possible means for minimizing the impact of construction noise on existing sensitive receptors. Construction equipment shall be well-maintained and used judiciously to be as quiet as possible. Additionally, construction activities for the proposed project shall include the following best management practices to reduce noise from construction activities near sensitive land uses:

- Noise generating construction activities shall be limited to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and on Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., in accordance with the City's Municipal Code. Construction is prohibited on Sundays and holidays, unless permission is granted with a development permit or other planning approval.
- Use of the concrete saw within 50 feet of any shared property line shall be limited.

- Equip all internal combustion engine-driven equipment with intake and exhaust mufflers that are in good condition and appropriate for the equipment.
- Unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines in construction equipment with a horsepower rating of 50 or more shall be strictly prohibited, and limited to five minutes or less, consistent with BAAQMD best management practices.
- Locate stationary noise-generating equipment, such as air compressors or portable power generators, as far as possible from sensitive receptors (residences). If they must be located near sensitive receptors, adequate muffling (with enclosures where feasible and appropriate) shall be used to reduce noise levels at the adjacent sensitive receptors. Any enclosure openings or venting shall face away from sensitive receptors.
- Utilize “quiet” air compressors and other stationary noise sources where technology exists.
- A temporary noise control blanket barrier could be erected, if necessary, at the property line or along building facades facing construction sites. This measure would only be necessary if conflicts occurred that were irresolvable by proper scheduling. Noise control blanket barriers can be rented and quickly erected.
- Control noise from construction workers’ radios to a point where they are not audible at existing residences bordering the project site.
- The contractor shall prepare a detailed construction plan identifying the schedule for major noise-generating construction activities and shall send a notice to neighbors with the construction schedule.
- Designate a “disturbance coordinator” who would be responsible for responding to any complaints about construction noise. The disturbance coordinator will determine the cause of the noise complaint (e.g. bad muffler, etc.) and will require that reasonable measures be implemented to correct the problem. Conspicuously post the telephone number for the disturbance coordinator at the construction site and include it in the notice sent to neighbors regarding the construction schedule.

MM NOI-3.1: A construction vibration-monitoring plan shall be implemented to document conditions at the structure located within 20 feet of proposed construction prior to, during, and after vibration generating construction activities. All plan tasks shall be completed under the direction of a

State of California licensed Professional Structural Engineer and be in accordance with industry accepted standard methods. The construction vibration monitoring plan shall include the following tasks:

- Identification of sensitivity to groundborne vibration of the structure located within 20 feet of construction.
- Performance of a photo survey, elevation survey, and crack monitoring survey for the structure located within 20 feet of construction. Surveys shall be performed prior to, in regular intervals during, and after completion of vibration generating activities and shall include internal and external crack monitoring in the structure, settlement, and distress and shall document the condition of the foundation, walls and other structural elements in the interior and exterior of said structure. Interior inspections would be subject to property owners' permission.
- Conduct a post-survey on the structure where monitoring has indicated damage. Make appropriate repairs or provide compensation where damage has occurred as a result of construction activities
- Designate a person responsible for registering and investigating claims of excessive vibration. The contact information of such person shall be clearly posted on the construction site.

**Initial Study Prepared by:** City of Los Altos

I, Jon Biggs, hereby certify that this Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended, and all applicable State and City Guidelines.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jon Biggs  
Community Development Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_