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M E M O

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To: Fiona Phung
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From: Michael Thill
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**SUBJECT: Tasman East SEIR, Santa Clara, CA –
Traffic/Construction Noise Update Memo**

The City of Santa Clara is proposing to modify the Tasman East Specific Plan (TESP) to accommodate an additional 1,500 dwelling units, approximately 20,000 square feet of retail, 20,000 square feet of co-working space, and a 10,000 square foot day care. Residential densities in the Specific Plan area would range from a minimum of 60 dwelling units per acre (du/ac) on sites less than one acre in size to a minimum of 100 du/ac for sites larger than one acre. Maximum densities have not yet been determined for individual properties, but the modifications to the Specific Plan would support a maximum of 6,000 units. Buildings in the Specific Plan area would be, at maximum, 220 feet in height. Additional parkland and infrastructure may be included to support the maximum development allowed in the Specific Plan.

This memo addresses the potential for increased offsite noise levels from additional traffic or construction activities associated with the proposed modifications and confirms noise levels within the Plan Area would not be substantially different than those previously disclosed in the Tasman East Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (TESP DEIR, July 2018). For the purposes of this analysis, the baseline noise environment measured in March 2017 (prior to any development in the area) conservatively represents the ambient noise environment in 2022. This assumption provides a conservative environmental baseline against which construction and operational noise impacts are assessed.

Traffic Noise Assessment Update

During the preparation of the noise and vibration assessment for the TESP DEIR, a total of 39 intersections were evaluated for peak hour traffic volumes. The intersection of Tasman Drive and Lick Mill Boulevard was shown to have an increase in traffic noise of 1 dBA near sensitive residential receptors to the south. All other traffic segments were shown to have noise increases lower than 1 dBA.

The analysis conducted for this update followed the prior methodology and reviewed the peak hour traffic volumes of 23 intersections. Similar results were noted for the proposed project as traffic noise levels are calculated to increase by 1 dBA or less at the nearest sensitive receptors, which falls below the 3 dBA significance threshold. Therefore, the future increase in traffic volumes due to the project would not cause a substantial permanent noise increases at the nearest noise-sensitive receptors, and the impact remains less-than-significant.

Similar to the TESP DEIR, cumulative traffic noise level increases were reevaluated by comparing the Cumulative No Project traffic volumes and the Cumulative Plus Project volumes to Existing traffic volumes at the 23 study area intersections. A traffic noise increase of 3 dBA CNEL was calculated under both cumulative scenarios (cumulative no project and cumulative plus project) along multiple roadway segments in Santa Clara. However, no segments outside of the TESP plan area resulted in both a noise level increase of 3 dBA CNEL and a cumulatively considerable contribution (1 dBA CNEL) from project traffic to the overall traffic noise increase. The cumulative traffic noise impacts due to the project remain less-than-significant.

The results of the traffic noise calculations also confirmed that noise levels at the boundaries of the Plan Area, adjacent to major traffic noise sources including Tasman Drive and Lafayette Street, would not be substantially different than those previously disclosed in the TESP DEIR. The future noise exposure of the site remains consistent with prior estimates.

Construction Noise Assessment Update

The TESP DEIR evaluated the construction of 4,500 dwelling units, up to 106,000 square feet of retail space including a 25,000 square-foot grocery store, and a 600-student school on the approximate 46 acre site bounded by Tasman Drive to the south, the Guadalupe River to the east, the Santa Clara Golf Club to the north, and Lafayette Street to the west. The update would accommodate an additional 1,500 dwelling units, approximately 20,000 square feet of retail, 20,000 square feet of co-working space, and a 10,000 square foot day care. This analysis assumes that additional development would be distributed throughout the 46 acre site. With the additional development, it is not expected that substantially more construction equipment would be required or unusual construction techniques would be used. Rather, the duration of overall construction activities may extend, but the construction phasing and buildout schedule for the plan area remains uncertain. Construction noise levels calculated in 2018 would continue to credibly represent worst-case conditions. With the implementation of TESP DEIR construction noise mitigation measures, the temporary increase in ambient noise levels would remain less-than-significant.