

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Menlo Park Municipal Water District
Public Works Department
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

County Clerk,
County of: San Mateo- Assessor- County Clerk-Recorder’s- Election Office
555 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

Project Title: Sand Hill Water Main Replacement Project

Project Applicant: Menlo Park Municipal Water (MPMW)

Project Location – Specific: The Project is proposed in an urbanized area near the southern city limits of the City of Menlo Park; it is adjacent to the west, south and east from portions of the Sharon Heights Golf Club and Country Club. Land use surrounding the Project is depicted in **Table 1: Surrounding Land Use** and in **Figure 2: Local Vicinity Map**.

The Project is located at approximately 229 to 335 feet above mean sea level (AMSL), south of Sharon Heights, north of Sand Hill Road, west of the centerline of Monte Rosa Drive, and east of the Sand Hill Road on- and off-ramps for Junipero Serra Freeway (I-280). See **Figure 1: Regional Location Map** and **Figure 2: Local Vicinity Map**.

The entire Project is underneath modern pavement in soil with low sensitivity for buried cultural resources due to recent buried utilities installations. The Project will be constructed within existing paved right-of-way along portions of westbound (WB) and northbound (NB) Sand Hill Road and along southbound (SB) Monte Rosa Drive, and repaving of the entire street segments is proposed:

- Along approximately 3,400 linear feet of pipeline will be constructed within the WB lanes of Sand Hill Road between Monte Rosa Drive and the southwestern boundary of the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club;
- Along approximately 1,400 linear feet of SB Monte Rosa Drive, between Sand Hill Road right-of-way and the southern right-of-way boundary of Sharon Park Drive, (east of St. Bede’s Episcopal Church and Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club); and,
- Along approximately 400 linear feet of NB Sand Hill Road between the intersection of Sand Hill Road and an existing fire hydrant adjacent to the western parcel boundary of the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club near the 3000 block of Sand Hill Road.

TABLE 1: SURROUNDING LAND USE

Location	Adjacent Land Use	General Plan and Zoning
Adjacent to the North of WB Sand Hill Road	Sand Hill Commons Office; Commercial; Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club; St. Bebe’s Episcopal Church.	OSC: Open Space & Conservation. C1C: Administrative, Professional & Research, Restrictive. R1S: Single-Family Suburban.
South, Across Sand Hill Road	Rosewood Sand Hill Hotel; Stanford Lands; SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory; St. Denis Church and Cemetery Marker.	C4(X): General Commercial, Conditional. C1C: Administrative, Professional & Research, Restrictive. Unincorporated Land; I-280 right-of-way.
Adjacent to the West of Monte Rosa Drive	St. Bebe’s Episcopal Church; Sharon Park; Trinity School.	R1(School): Trinity School R1S: Single-Family Suburban. OSC: Open Space and Conservation
Adjacent to the East of Monte Rosa Drive	Commercial; Single-Family Residential.	C1C: Administrative, Professional & Research, Restrictive. R1S: Single-Family Suburban.
East of northbound Sand Hill Road	Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club.	OSC: Open Space & Conservation.
West of SB Sand Hill Road	Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club.	OSC: Open Space and Conservation. C1(X): Administrative and Professional, Restrictive, Conditional R2(X): Low Density, Conditional

Source: (City of Menlo Park GIS, 2024)

Project Location – City: Menlo Park, CA

Project Location – County: San Mateo, CA

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Project Description: The Project will replace approximately 5,200 linear feet of potable 16-inch water mains and install new fire hydrants every 300 feet along Sand Hill Road and Monte Rosa Drive. Abandonment in place of approximately 3,000 linear feet of an existing 16-inch diameter potable water main within a landscape buffer north and east of Sand Hill Road is also proposed. No upsizing is proposed. Staging will occur on various portions of existing streets during construction. Construction activities will include trenching, pipeline construction, repaving, and returning surfaces to pre-project conditions or better.

Beneficiaries: MPMW purchases all its water from San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and is fully reliant on that supply to meet the needs of businesses and approximately 19,000 residents through 4,400 water connections. MPMW provides water to two service areas. The upper zone, located in the Sharon Heights area and the lower zone, located east of El Camino Real/State Route (SR) 82. The proposed Project is located within MPMW’s upper zone and will serve residential, commercial, and recreational area within Sharon Heights (southwestern Menlo Park).

Purpose: Menlo Park Municipal Water has identified portions of their distribution system that require replacement. Initiatives within Menlo Park’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will upgrade aging water infrastructure to ensure public health protections and system reliability (Menlo Park 2019-2024 CIP). The Project will implement City of Menlo Park’s standards for potable water pipeline construction and abandonment. Project activities must also adhere to Caltrans standards. Project construction is anticipated to begin on June 1, 2026 and conclude on February 1, 2027; resulting in approximately 100 feet of pipeline installed daily.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Menlo Park, Menlo Park Municipal Water

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Ardurra Group

Exempt Status: (check one)

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1 (Sec. 15301)- Existing Facilities (b) and (f)**
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project is deemed compliant with CEQA as follows:

Existing Facilities - Class I Categorical Exemption, CEQA Guidelines, Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 15301 (b) and (f): The Project will replace and modify a portion of an existing potable water system that has reached the end of its useful life. Relocation of the water main will increase efficiency of ongoing maintenance due to accessibility within the street. Additional fire hydrants will enhance accessibility for fire response. The Project is a component of an existing publicly owned water utility and will not expand service to additional customers. The Project is an approved Capital Improvement Project consisting of minor alteration and maintenance of an existing utility for public safety and welfare; it will be implemented by MPMWD for continuous water delivery and appropriate fire response within the existing service area.

The Project will implement the following environmental commitments to comply with local, state, and federal regulations:

Environmental Commitments

Nesting Migratory Birds and Raptors Best Management Practices:

- *Nesting bird surveys are required 3 days prior to mobilization, for raptors and migratory birds. Nests will be protected in place according to applicable CDFW and USFW laws by the City’s qualified biologist.*

Cultural Resources Best Management Practices:

- *Pre-construction Worker Environmental Awareness (WEAP) Training is recommended for the contractor/crew regarding potential historic, pre-historic and human remains that could be found during excavation.*

- The City’s archaeologist may stop or divert construction excavation until a significance determination is made for cultural finds and eligibility for listing on the California Register or the National Register of Historic Places.
- Significant cultural finds require additional plans for cultural resources treatment, evaluation, and mitigation pursuant to CEQA.
- State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires no further disturbance until the County Coroner determines origin and disposition under Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 if human remains are found. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately.

Hazardous Materials and Spill Prevention Best Management Practices:

- Prior to start of work, the contractor will develop and implement a spill prevention and response plan.
- In the event of a spill, appropriate spill response procedures will be initiated as soon as the incident is discovered.

Traffic Control Plan and Emergency Access Best Management Practices:

- Work within existing streets will comply with a traffic control plan that has been approved by the City and Caltrans.
- Equipment and trucks will utilize designated routes to access the site.
- Access routes will remain open and unimpeded to vehicle traffic, including emergency access.
- Staging will take place within staging limits designated on plans (within paved and fenced area).
- The contractor must coordinate with Trinity School to maintain continuous access during the school year.

Air Quality Best Management Practices:

- Equipment and trucks will use only designated and paved routes to access the site.
- Trucks hauling soil, sand, and other loose materials will be covered.
- Track out area will be swept as needed, at a minimum of once daily, to remove loose soils.

Noise Reduction Best Management Practices:

- Project activities will remain consistent with specifications/ notes on engineering plans in accordance with City Ordinance No. 8.06, since noise levels have the potential to exceed 85 DbA (measures at 50 feet from the source) during the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Equipment will be rigged with manufacturer’s standard noise control devices or mufflers, or with equally effective replacement devices consistent with manufacturer specifications.
- Excessive idling of vehicles will be prohibited.

Water Quality Best Management Practices:

- During Project construction, limit disturbance footprint; use paved areas to park/ store equipment and materials; use spill prevention kits in place if servicing or refueling is necessary; limit operations during wet weather conditions; install road drainage control structures; follow an erosion control plan; do not dispose of vegetation or maintenance related sediment in drainage paths; take suitable measures to avoid the spread of invasive weeds; discharge of water; comply with the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit for discharge water.

Wildfire Prevention Best Management Practices:

- An approved construction phase fire plan and procedure will be implemented during construction, which includes either no smoking requirements or designated smoking areas equipped with fire extinguishers, appropriate trash receptacles, and adequate buffers from flammable vegetation and structures.
- Construction will implement good housekeeping procedures and a waste disposal plan.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Michael Fu

Area Code/

Telephone/Extension: 650-330-6706

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____

Date: _____

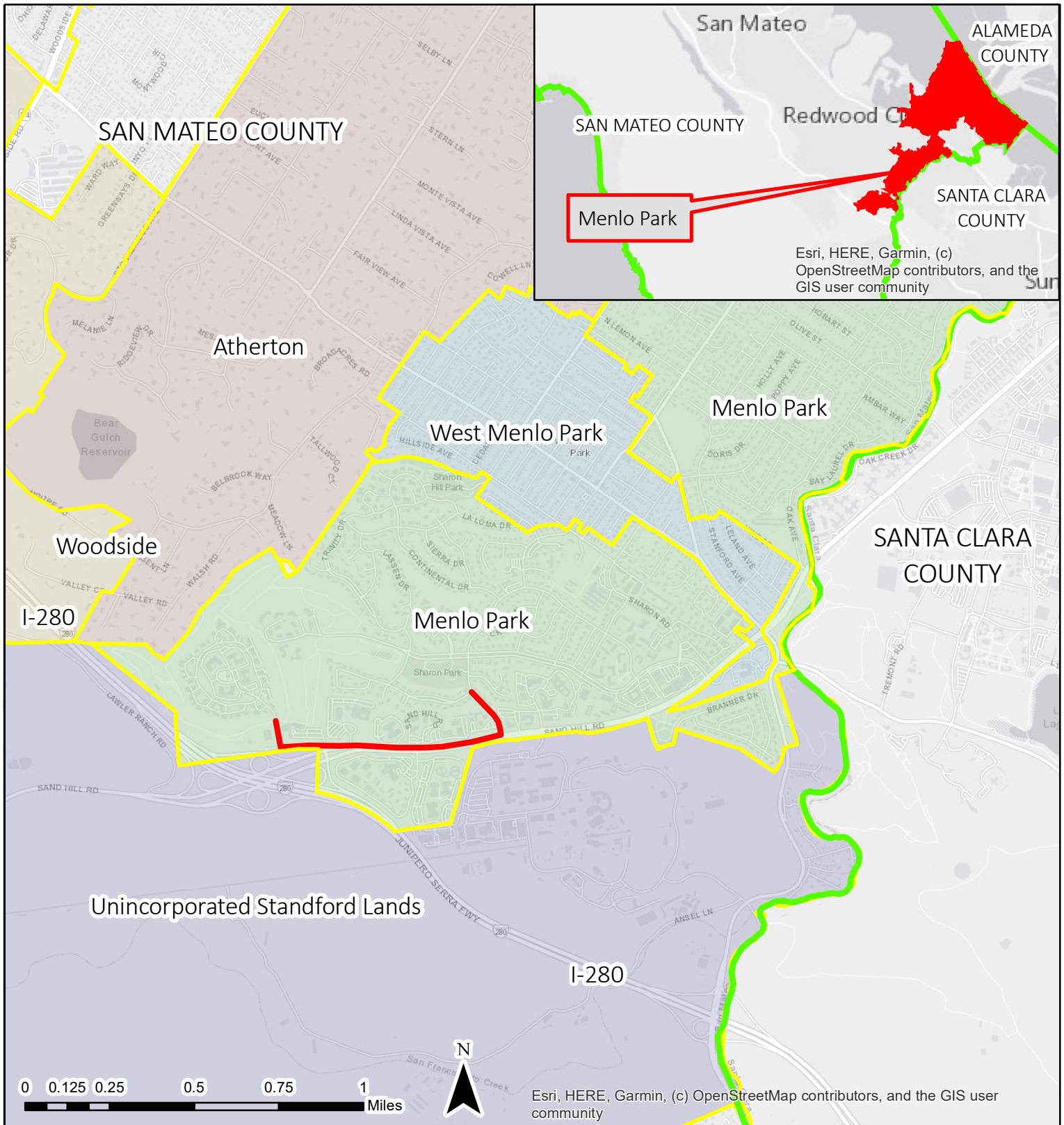
Title: Asst Public Works Director

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.



Legend

- Project Location
- County Limits
- City Limits
- Atherton
- Menlo Park
- Unincorporated Stanford Lands
- West Menlo Park
- Woodside

Menlo Park Municipal Water District
Sand Hill Water Main Replacement Project

Figure 1: Regional Location Map





Legend

- Proposed 16-inch Water Main*
- City Limits
- Menlo Park
- Unincorporated Stanford Lands

*Menlo Park Municipal Water District
 Sand Hill Water Main Replacement Project*

Figure 2: Local Vicinity Map



*Water main contains fire hydrants spaced 300-feet apart