

Notice of Exemption

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

From: City of Menlo Park
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: Bedwell Bayfront Park Access Improvements

Project Applicant: City of Menlo Park

Project Location – Specific: The Project is proposed in an urbanized area at 1600 Marsh Rd within city limits of the City of Menlo Park; it is adjacent to Marsh Rd and the Flood Slough to the North and West, the Bayfront Expressway to the South, and the Ravenswood Pond S5 Forebay to the East. Land use surrounding the Project is depicted in **Table 1: Surrounding Land Use** and in **Figure 2: Vicinity Map**.

Elevations at the Project range from four (4) feet below mean sea level (BMSL) to six (6) feet above mean sea level (AMSL). Slopes throughout the project boundary are less than 10%. See **Figure 1: Regional Location Map** and **Figure 2: Vicinity Map**.

The Project is within a closed landfill. Project implementation is anticipated to take place outside of the landfill cap. Soil testing and management of contaminated soils will be subject to the conditions outlined by San Mateo County Environmental Health. Seismic risk is low given no habitable structures are proposed. The Project will be constructed within parcels adjacent to and including existing paved right-of-way along portions Bayfront Expressway (see **Figure 2: Vicinity Map**), with the following project elements proposed:

- Resurface existing trail with new trail segment where existing informal parking is located at the entrance of the park. Trail will be constructed using asphalt and will vary from 8 to 10 feet wide.
- Convert nose-in informal parking stalls to parallel spaces. Parking stalls will remain unpaved and number of parking spaces will remain consistent with allowable parking spaces.
- Relocate approximately 20 spaces from the entrance to an empty area adjacent to the restroom facility on site. The new parking area will consist of decomposed gravel with minor grading proposed.
- Pave existing dirt path to provide a formal access point that is separate from vehicular traffic. Minor grading proposed and asphalt trail to be consistent with the remainder of the Bay Trail.
- Install revegetation and trees within and adjacent to project boundary, where feasible. Plants or trees to be native, drought-tolerant species.

TABLE 1: SURROUNDING LAND USE

Location	Adjacent Land Use	General Plan and Zoning
East and West of Project boundary	Parcel 055-400-520 and Parcel 055-400-570, undeveloped	Non-Urban Marshes
South, intersection of Marsh Rd and Haven	Pump Station (PF), Industrial Buildings (M2)	PF: Public Facilities M2: General Industrial
South, opposite side of Bayfront Expwy	St. Bebe's Episcopal Church; Sharon Park; Trinity School.	M3X: Commercial Business Park, Conditional Development O-B: Office - Bonus

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: Bedwell Bayfront Park is a closed landfill that operates as an open space recreation area located at 1600 Marsh Road within the City of Menlo Park (City). The environmental impact of the original conversion from a landfill to a recreation area was analyzed through an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) certified by the City of Menlo Park on July 27, 1976. Project components include improvements to the existing Bay Trail leading to and within the site and parking relocation. Staging will occur on a City owned parcel and a nearby parcel owned by Cargill, pending approval and conditions outlined in the temporary construction easements. Construction activities will include minor excavation and grading, paving trail surfaces, conversion of existing entrance parking to parallel spaces, revegetation, installing decomposed gravel parking, and returning surfaces to pre-project conditions or better.

Beneficiaries: Bedwell Bayfront Park is open to the public and serves all park visitors.

Purpose: The City of Menlo Park identified elements of the park in need of repair, replacement, or installation in the Bedwell Bayfront Park Master Plan. This project is outlined in Menlo Park's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to improve the existing trail network, ensuring public safety and park accessibility to pedestrians and cyclists. The Project will implement the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's guidelines for the Bay Trail, the City of Menlo Park's standards for any proposed signage and trees, San Mateo County Environmental Health's standards for construction near a landfill, state regulatory requirements, and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission's recommendations for design considerations. Project activities must also adhere to Caltrans standards within the encroached area along Bayfront Expressway. Project construction is anticipated to begin in Summer 2027 and conclude by Winter 2027.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Menlo Park, Public Works Department

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Menlo Park, Public Works Department

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 (c) and Class 4 (Sec. 15304) – Minor Alterations to Land (a), (b), (h)**☐ 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 (c): The Project will replace and modify a portion of an existing trail network that has reached the end of its useful life. Relocation of informal parking at the entrance will provide pedestrian and bicycle access, which is currently co-mingled with vehicular traffic along Marsh Rd. The Project is a component of an existing publicly owned recreational space and does not propose significant expansion. The Project is an approved Capital Improvement Project consisting of minor alteration and maintenance of an existing trail network for public safety and welfare; it will be implemented by the City of Menlo Park for continuous protected access to the park.

Minor Alterations to Land – Class IV Categorical Exemption, CEQA Guidelines, Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14 § 15304 (a), (b), (h):

- (a) The alternative parking location near the restrooms is a project component that is not currently part of the existing conditions within the park, as it is not currently used for access or parking. The parking area will consist of gravel parking and the number of spaces provided in this location will replace the spaces lost at the entrance of the park with a 1:1 ratio. There is no increase

in designated parking from the certified EIR. The gravel parking will follow existing topography, sloping at less than 10% toward Marsh Rd.

(b) The Project includes revegetation with native landscaping and potential addition of trees.

(h) The 10-foot trail along Bayfront Expressway is located within the existing Caltrans right-of-way. This portion of the Project will be subject to a Caltrans encroachment permit. The trail improvements along Bayfront Expressway are located within existing rights-of-way and align with the Class 4 exemption (Subsection H of Section 15304).

The City evaluated the Exceptions to Exemptions criteria outlined in Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, Section 15300.2 and determined that the project is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment.

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 for construction activities involving heavy equipment, ground disturbance, or vegetation removal that are scheduled during the nesting season (March 15 to August 31 for smaller bird species such as passerines; February 15 to September 15 for raptors), a focused survey for active bird nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 7 days prior to the beginning of Project. Nests will be protected in place according to applicable CDFW and USFW laws by the City's qualified biologist.*

Protection of Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse Best Management Practices:

- *All vegetation within potential habitat for the salt marsh harvest mouse within the project site and within a 2-foot buffer around the project footprint shall be removed by hand using only non-mechanized hand tools (i.e., trowel, hoe, rake, and shovel) prior to the initiation of work within these areas. Pickleweed stands will be removed by hand or weedwhacker. Vegetation shall be removed to bare ground or stubble no higher than 1 inch. Vegetation shall be removed under the supervision of a Service-approved biologist. Vegetation removal may begin when no mice are observed and shall start at the edge farthest from the salt marsh or the poorest habitat and work its way towards better salt marsh habitat, and from center of project outward.*
- *Other measures are to be implemented according to USFW project conditions, and the City of Menlo Park's Connect Menlo measures.*

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.*
- *Other measures are to be implemented according to USFW project conditions, and the City of Menlo Park's Connect Menlo measures.*

Hazardous Materials and Spill Prevention Best Management Practices:

- *Prior to start of work, the contractor will develop and implement a Health and Safety Plan to be reviewed and approved by San Mateo County Environmental Health.*
- *In the event of a spill, appropriate spill response procedures will be initiated as soon as the incident is discovered.*
- *Other measures are to be implemented according to USFW project conditions, and the City of Menlo Park's Connect Menlo measures.*

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 Cargill to maintain continuous access throughout construction.
- Other measures are to be implemented according to USFW project conditions, and the City of Menlo Park's Connect Menlo measures.

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.
- Other measures are to be implemented according to USFW project conditions, and the City of Menlo Park's Connect Menlo measures.

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 manufacturers' standard noise control devices or mufflers, or with equally effective replacement devices consistent with manufacturer specifications.
- Excessive idling of vehicles will be prohibited.
- Other measures are to be implemented according to USFW project conditions, and the City of Menlo Park's Connect Menlo measures.

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.
- Other measures are to be implemented according to USFW project conditions, and the City of Menlo Park's Connect Menlo measures.

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 AgencyContact Person: Michael Fu**Area Code/**Telephone/Extension: 650-330-6706**If filed by applicant:**

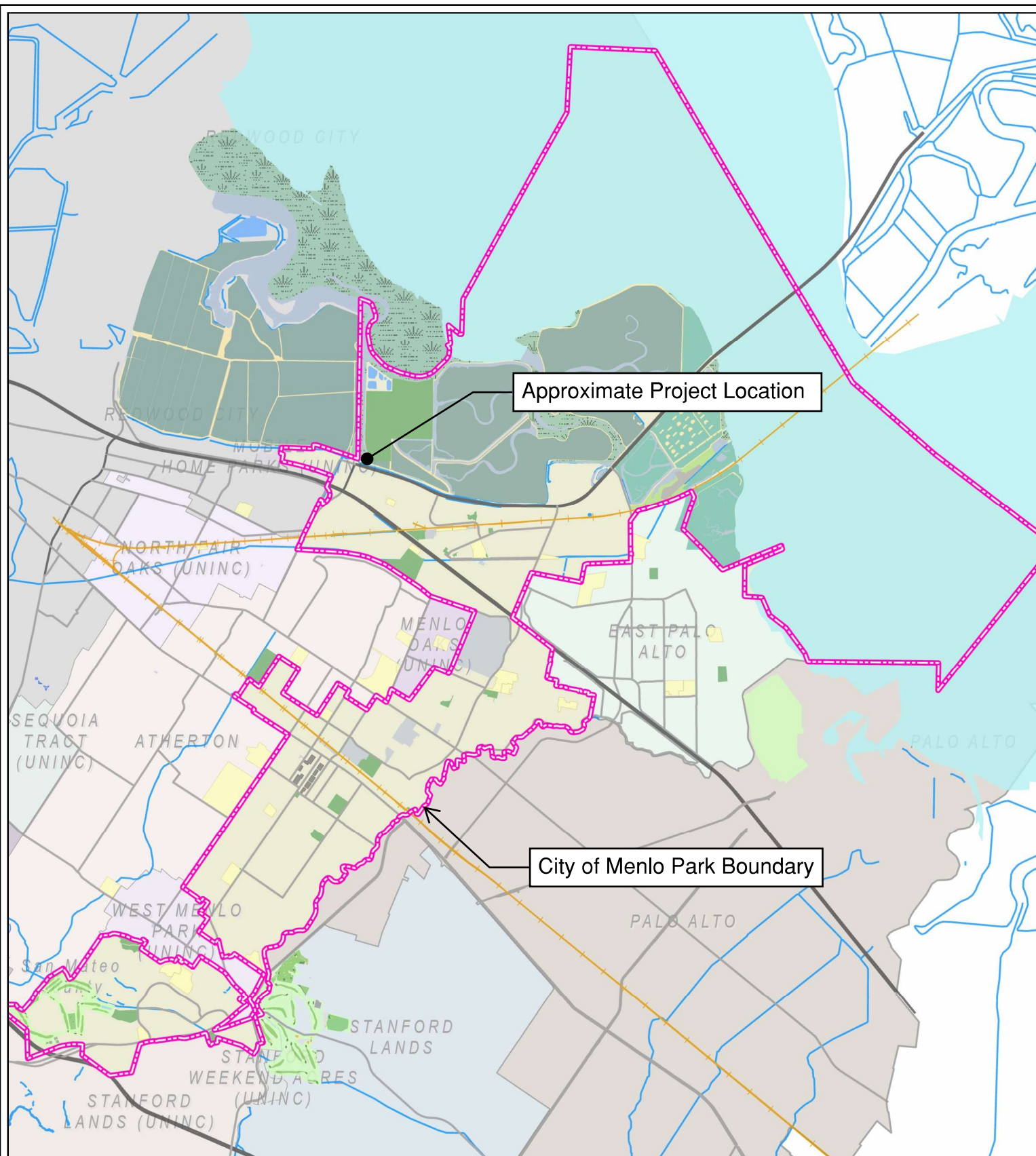
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? ☒ Yes ☐ NoSignature: Michael Fu Date: 6/30/2026Title: 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.



City of Menlo Park Location Map Figure 1: Regional Location Map



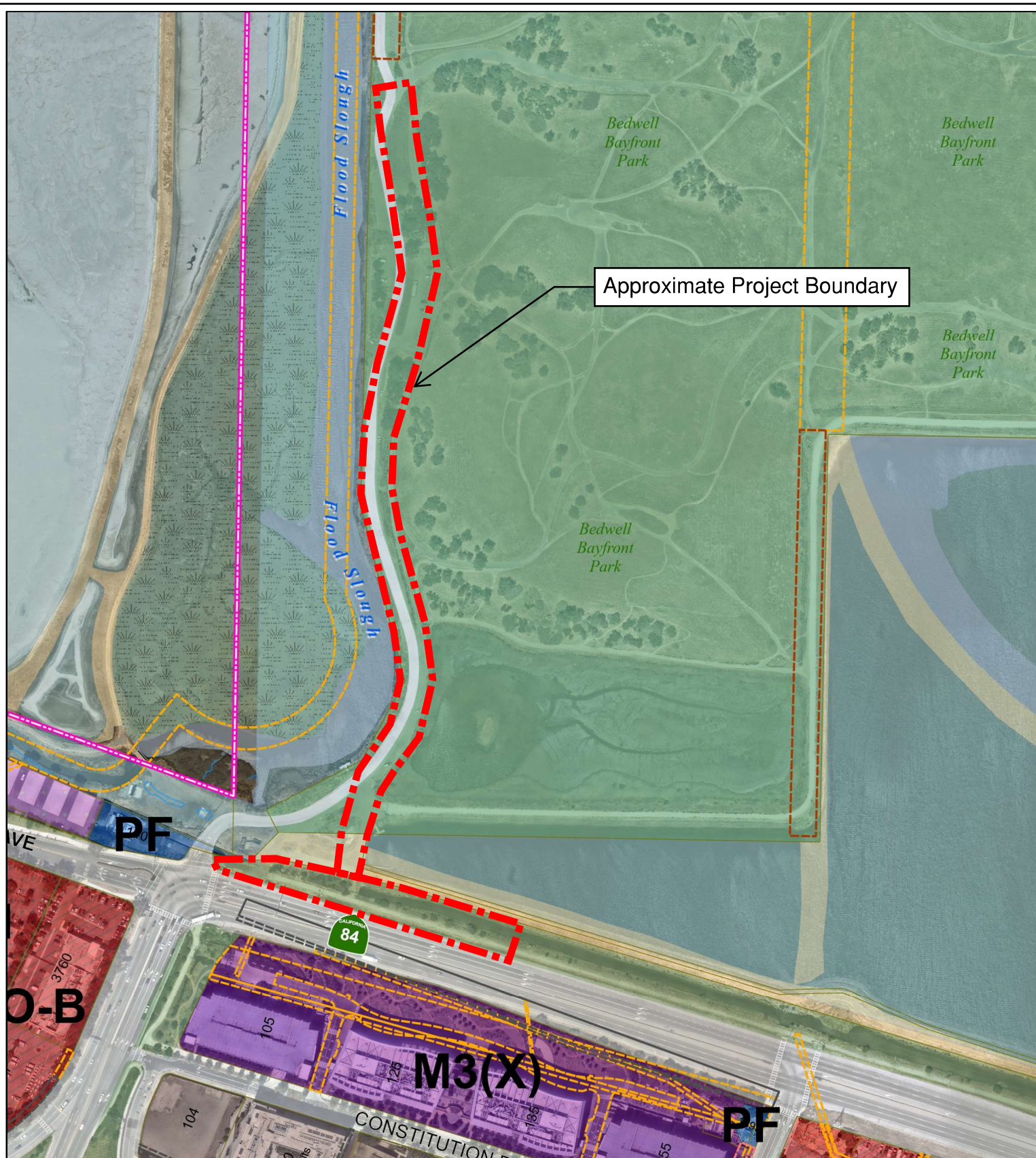
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City of Menlo Park

Location Map

Figure 2: Vicinity Map



Scale: 1:3,600

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