

Addendum to the Permanente Creek Flood Protection Project Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (SCH NO. 2007052074)

Project Number 26244001

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Santa Clara Valley Water District
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1. Background

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District), lead agency for the project, proposes to implement improvement that would provide 1% flood protection for residents, businesses, and infrastructure along the Permanente Creek corridor in the cities of Mountain View, Los Altos, and Cupertino. The project currently includes construction of a 15-acre flood detention basin at Rancho San Antonio County Park, a 5-acre flood detention basin at McKelvey Park, a new structure to improve diversion at the Permanente Creek Diversion Channel, floodwalls and levees along Permanente Creek from U.S. Highway 101 to just north of Amphitheatre Parkway, and replacement of selected concrete portions of Permanente and Hale Creeks with wider and deeper concrete channels. A location map of the proposed project is presented in Figure 1. The proposed Permanente Creek Flood Protection Project elements were included in a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR), certified June 2010 (SCVWD 2010). Subsequent to certification of the June 2010 EIR and approval of the project, it was determined during design development that modifications to the project would be necessary. A Subsequent EIR was prepared to analyze the environmental effects of the modified project. The Final Subsequent EIR was certified in November 2012, and hereby incorporated by reference and referred to as the "2012 EIR" (SCVWD 2012b).

This Addendum is intended to address certain changes to the proposed activities associated with the future Permanente Creek Flood Protection Project, and amend the Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for the Project. This Addendum has been prepared to document proposed minor changes to the project design, to provide updated information about construction, and to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of those changes and new information. All proposed activities occur within the area defined by the original project (Figure 1). Details about the environmental setting can be found in the 2012 EIR cited above.

2. CEQA Considerations

When there are changes or additions to a project, and the lead agency is taking a discretionary action, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA [Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq.* & 14 CCR §15000 *et seq.*]) provides various levels of documentation to indicate that the lead agency has adequately considered the changes to the project in making its decisions. The appropriate level of review is based on whether changes to the project, or to project circumstances, or resulting from new information not known at the time of approval of the original project, create new significant effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects.

CEQA Guidelines §15164(a) provides for the use of an Addendum to document the basis for a lead agency's decision not to require a Subsequent EIR for a project that is already covered in a previously certified EIR. The lead agency's decision to use an Addendum must be supported by substantial evidence that the conditions that would trigger the preparation of a Subsequent EIR, as provided in CEQA Guidelines §15162, are not present.

As described in detail in the following sections, the proposed project changes meet the criteria for an Addendum. There will be no significant changes to the project circumstances. The changes will create no new significant impacts, nor will the changes substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts.

An Addendum need not be circulated for public review, but CEQA requires that the decision-making body consider the Addendum, together with the certified 2012 EIR, prior to making a decision on the project.

3. Description of Proposed Action

The District proposes to modify design of the McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility. Consistent with city and community input, the large baseball field would be constructed with a southeast orientation as opposed to the northeast orientation of the adopted project. The revised field orientation would generally match the existing field position. Associated amenities that surround the field, including concession/scorers booth, restrooms, storage facility, meeting room, batting cage, viewer seating, and lighting, would be adjusted accordingly. Figure 2 depicts the proposed changes to the field design evaluated in the 2012 EIR.

The 2012 EIR identified the need for flood protection and temporary construction easements on a small portion of the privately owned property located at 935 Mountain View Avenue in the City of Mountain View (assessor's parcel number 18903041). Subsequent to project approval the property's owner, Mr. Shouse, decided to sell the property. Figure 3 depicts an approximate representation of the Shouse property boundaries in relation to Permanente Creek and McKelvey Park. The District proposes to acquire a real property interest in the Shouse property and demolish the two existing homes on the property. An excavator, loader, water truck, and dump truck would be used to demolish the structures and remove debris from the site. Demolition activities would occur over a one week period.

Once cleared, the detention facility would be enlarged 0.2 acre to utilize the additional space provided by the Shouse property. The property would be excavated to a depth of about 15 feet with walls constructed of the same materials used to construct the sunken field. Dimensions of the proposed 200-linear-foot side channel proposed for the site would remain unchanged, but an access ramp would be constructed down the side channel to the bottom of the detention facility. Low flow pumps would be installed on the Shouse property rather than the northwestern corner of McKelvey Park. Construction equipment and techniques used to excavate the Shouse property and construct the access ramp would be identical to those included in the 2012 EIR. The overall detention facility construction schedule would remain unchanged.

In addition to further development of the McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility site, the District has also proceeded with development of Permanente and Hale Creek channel improvement elements. Partially satisfying 2012 EIR Mitigation Measure BIO15.1 (Transplant or Compensate for Loss of Protected Landscape Trees, Consistent with Applicable Tree Protection Regulations), tree surveys were completed for the sites. Based on information from the tree surveys, 47 trees would be removed during McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility construction (Barrie D. Coate and Associates 2012). Consistent with applicable tree protection regulations, 20 of the trees, rather than 10 as indicated in the 2012 EIR, would be considered protected. As many as 241 trees could be adversely affected by proposed channel improvements (SCVWD 2013). Consistent with applicable tree protection regulations, 53 of the trees, rather than 30 as indicated in the 2012 EIR, would be considered protected. All impacted protected trees would require mitigation consistent with Mitigation Measure BIO15.1 (Transplant or Compensate for Loss of Protected Landscape Trees, Consistent with Applicable Tree Protection Regulations).

Figure 1 Project Location

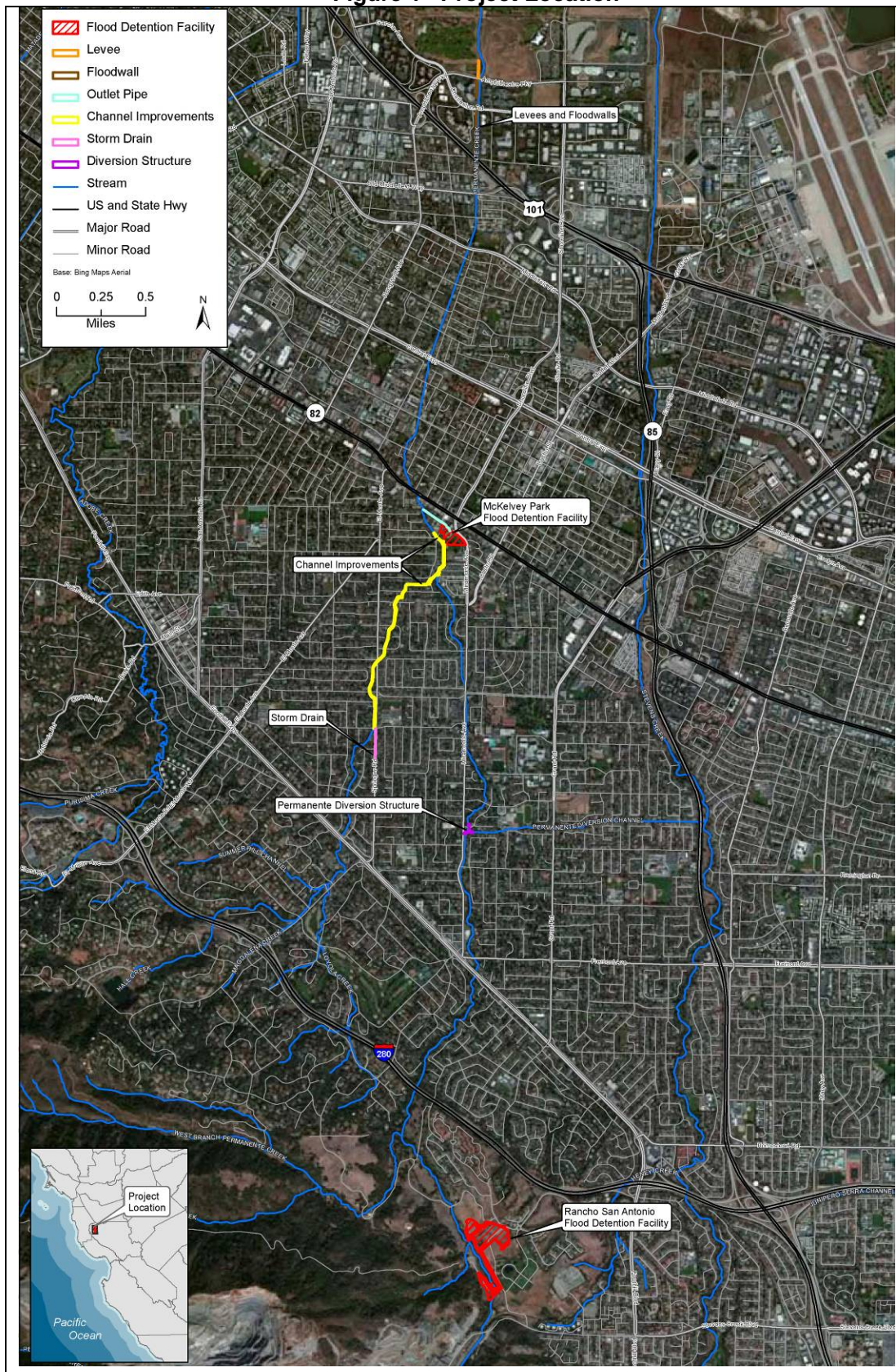


Figure 2 McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility Design Modifications

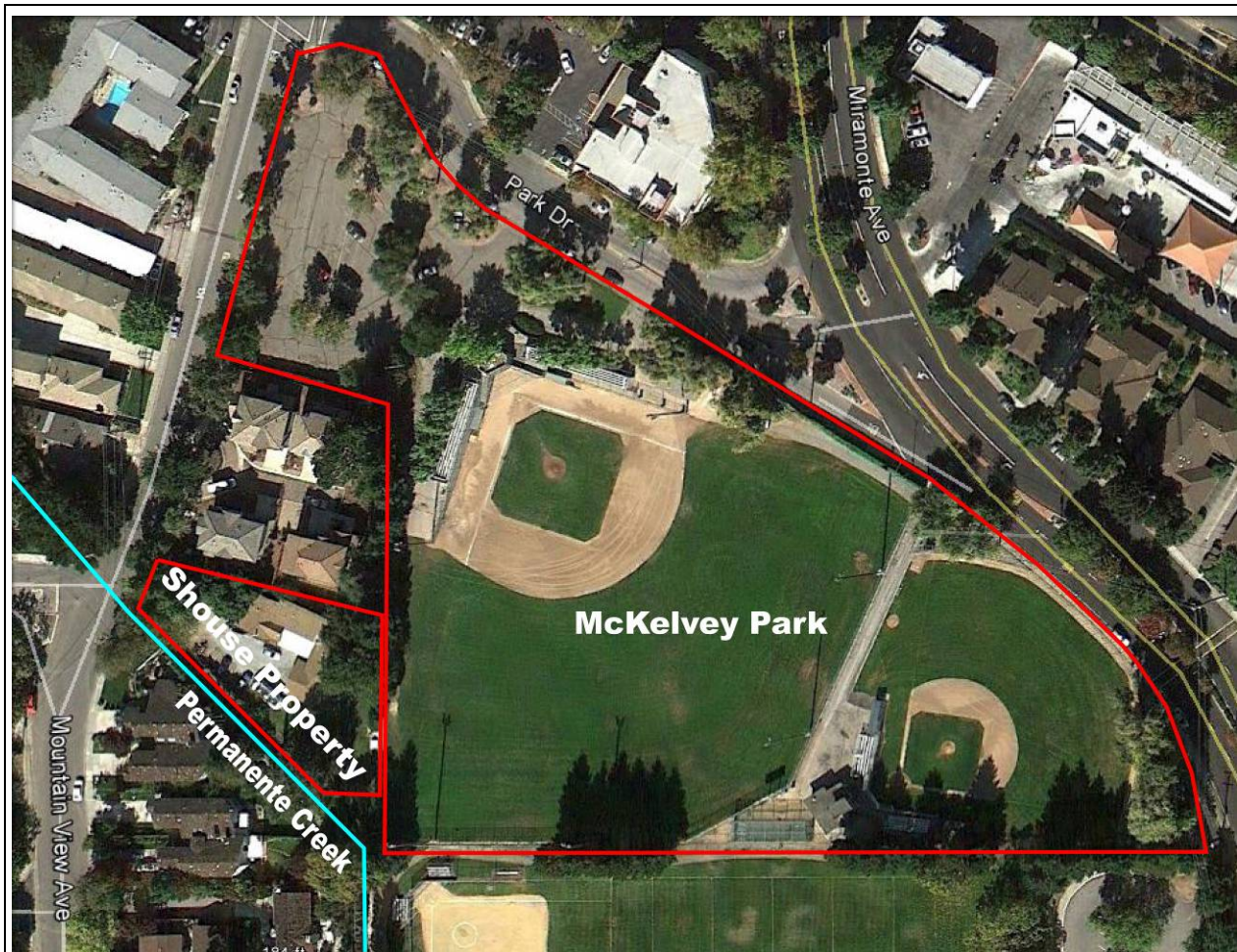


November 20, 2012 McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility Conceptual Design



May 14, 2013 McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility Conceptual Design

Figure 3 Property Location



Approximate representation of Shouse property boundaries in relation to Permanente Creek and McKelvey Park.

Photo Source: Google Earth 2013 (imagery date 10/31/11)

4. Environmental Analysis

The following analysis summarizes changes in the project or to the surrounding environment that are relevant to the assessment of environmental impacts and discusses the impact of the currently-proposed facility relative to the impacts identified in the 2012 EIR. Only those resource areas that have the potential to be impacted by the project changes are discussed below. The proposed changes to the project are not anticipated to affect agriculture, hazardous materials and public health, mineral resources, or recreation. These sections remained unchanged from the 2012 EIR.

Potential impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural and paleontological resources, geology and soils, water quality, traffic and transportation, noise, utilities and services systems, and visual quality have been identified. Based on these analyses, implementation of the

proposed flood protection modifications will not create new significant environmental impacts or increase the severity of significant impacts beyond that identified in the 2012 EIR.

AIR QUALITY

As discussed in the 2012 EIR, project-level criteria pollutants thresholds are used to address both project-level and cumulative impacts. The project's construction emissions were estimated to exceed the daily emissions threshold for NO_x. With implementation of mitigation measures, NO_x emissions would still exceed the threshold. Therefore, the project's contribution during construction on cumulative air quality impact is considered considerable, resulting in a significant and unavoidable cumulative impact for NO_x.

The proposed modifications would not materially affect the assumptions used to evaluate environmental effects to air quality. Proposed modifications would include the demolition and removal of two homes on the Shouse property over a one week period. Equipment used to demolish and remove the structures would be similar that used for construction of the McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility. The addition of demolition activities would not create new significant impacts or increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts because the addition of one week of construction activity would only incrementally affect the 8-month construction schedule for the adopted project.

Proposed modifications would include excavation of an additional 0.2 acre of property, but total estimated earth moving quantities (100,000 cubic yards for the McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility element) would not change. The lateral footprint would be increased by 0.2 acre, but the average depth of the detention basin would be reduced by a commensurate 1.5 feet. Changes to excavation plans would not create new significant impacts or increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts because the total amount of earth moved to construct the detention basin would remain unchanged.

Construction of the modified project would be undertaken using substantially the same numbers and types of construction equipment and the same number of construction workers as the adopted project. Accordingly, the average daily emissions of the modified project would be similar to the adopted project. As with the adopted project, implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ2.1 (Implement Tailpipe Emission Reduction for Project), AQ2.2 (Implement Bay Area Air Quality Management District [BAAQMD] Basic Construction Mitigation Measures to Reduce Construction-Related Dust), NV1.1 (Provide Advance Notification of Construction Schedule and 24-Hour Hotline to Residents), and NV1.3 (Designate Noise and Air Quality Disturbance Coordinator to Address Resident Concerns) would reduce emissions of reactive organic gases, carbon monoxide, and particulate matter below significance thresholds, but NO_x emissions would remain significant and unavoidable.

Dust would be generated during demolition activities. Nearby land use, especially those residences located to the south could be adversely affected by dust generated during construction activities. The BAAQMD CEQA Air Quality Guidelines (BAAQMD 2012) consider dust impacts to be less-than-significant if BMPs are employed to reduce these emissions. Implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ2.2 (Implement BAAQMD Basic Construction Mitigation Measures to Reduce Construction-Related Dust) would reduce construction-related fugitive dust impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Therefore, construction of the modified project would not result in any new significant impacts to regional air quality beyond those identified in the 2012 EIR or a substantial increase in the severity of a significant impact, and no new mitigation measures would be required.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Tree surveys indicated that impacts to protected trees resulting from construction of McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility and channel improvement elements would be incrementally increased compared with the adopted project. As with the adopted project this significant impact would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO15.1 (Transplant or Compensate for Loss of Protected Landscape Trees, Consistent with Applicable Tree Protection Regulations).

Proposed modifications would result in construction activities on an additional parcel. Construction activities in the expanded work area could also inadvertently damage mature trees on the northern perimeter of the Shouse property, which are not designated for removal. Substantial injuries or damage to protected trees would be considered a significant impact. As with the adopted project this significant impact would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO15.2 (Protect Remaining Trees from Construction Impacts).

Additionally, construction activities on the Shouse property could also potentially disturb nesting migratory birds, if present during construction. Consistent with applicable best management practices, the District would protect nesting birds and their nests from abandonment, loss, damage or destruction. Nesting bird surveys would be performed by a qualified individual prior to any activity that could result in disturbance to nesting birds. No birds, nests with eggs, or nests with hatchlings would be disturbed. As with the adopted project, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO5.1 (Establish Buffer Zones for Nesting Raptors and Migratory Birds), would reduce impacts to nesting birds to a less-than-significant level.

Therefore, the project would not result in any new significant impacts to biological resources beyond those identified in the 2012 EIR or substantially increase the severity of a significant impact, and no new mitigation would be required.

CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Proposed modifications would result in excavation of an additional parcel. As presented in the 2012 EIR, the project corridor has a moderate to high potential for containing buried archaeological resources, some which could qualify as significant resources. Work conducted in native soils could encounter previously undiscovered deposits and ground-disturbing activities in native soils could affect Native American remains. With the District's standard BMPs in place, impacts related to disturbance to undocumented and historic archaeological resources, including human remains, are expected to be less-than-significant.

Proposed changes to the McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility would remove two homes, which were constructed in 1920 and 1950, from the Shouse property. Because the homes were built more than 60 years ago, there is a potential that the homes could have historic significance. According to the historical resources evaluation prepared for the project, the property is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources, either individually or as part of an existing or potential historic district, because it lacks sufficient historical significance and architectural integrity (SCVWD 2012a). Thus, the homes are not considered historic for purposes of CEQA.

Proposed changes would expand the lateral footprint of earthwork for the McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility into largely undisturbed substrate under the Shouse property. Consistent with the 2012 EIR, earthwork at the site would have some potential to result in disturbance or damage to significant paleontological resources. Depending on the extent of disturbance or damage, this could rise to the level of a significant impact. As with the adopted project this significant impact would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through implementation of Mitigation Measure PALEO1.1 (Provide Preconstruction Worker Awareness Training), PALEO1.3 (Retain a Qualified Professional Paleontologist to Monitor During Ground-Disturbing Activities), PALEO1.4 (Stop Work if Vertebrate Remains Are Encountered During Project Activities; Conduct Treatment and Curation as Appropriate), and PALEO1.5 (Assess Potential for Project Excavation to Disturb Pleistocene Strata). Thus, the project would not result in any new significant impacts to cultural and paleontological resources beyond those identified in the 2012 EIR or substantially increase the severity of a significant impact, and no new mitigation would be required.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Proposed modifications to expand the McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility into the adjacent Shouse property would cause portions of the modified basin to be within areas of identified liquefaction hazard (Figure 3-3 of 2012 EIR). However, design and construction of the proposed McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility would include an assessment of liquefaction potential at the site and recommendations to reduce liquefaction-related damage, if appropriate. Construction would also comply with requirements of the current California Building Code. With these standards and guidance in place, impacts related to liquefaction are expected to be less-than-significant. Thus, the modified project would not result in any new significant impacts to soils beyond those identified in the 2012 EIR or a substantial increase in the severity of a significant impact, and no new mitigation measures would be required.

WATER QUALITY

Warm runoff from impervious urban surfaces substantially affects the temperature of waters in the lower portions of the Permanente and Hale Creek watersheds. Although water temperature is influenced by many factors, trees in the vicinity of the concrete channels may provide shade that reduces thermal impacts from direct exposure of water to the sun. Tree surveys indicated that impacts to protected trees resulting from construction of channel improvement elements would be incrementally increased compared with the adopted project. As with the adopted project this significant impact would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO15.1 (Transplant or Compensate for Loss of Protected Landscape Trees, Consistent with Applicable Tree Protection Regulations). In an effort to maintain temperature of stream water through the concrete channels, shade trees would be planted along the concrete channels. Since long-term shading over the concrete channels would not be decreased, the modified project is not expected to affect water temperatures in a manner that would significantly degrade water quality. Thus, the modified project would not result in any new significant impacts to water quality beyond those identified in the 2012 EIR or a substantial increase in the severity of a significant impact, and no new mitigation measures would be required.

LAND USE PLANNING

The 2012 EIR determined that the adopted project would not conflict with adopted land use plans and policies. As described in the 2012 EIR, a permanent easement on the Shouse property, as well as a temporary construction easement, would be required; however, no

structures would be removed, and no impacts would occur for the established community. The modified project would include acquisition of the Shouse property, removal of two structures, and construction of an off-stream flood detention basin. The Shouse property is located in a one and two family (R2) residential zoned district (Mountain View 2012). While the proposed changes would remove residential land uses from the Shouse property, public utility and safety facilities are allowed in R2 zoning designations with the city's approval of a Conditional Use Permit. Because the project is intended to support Mountain View land use planning and is being designed for consistency with existing and planned land uses, the project would not conflict with existing land use planning or divide existing communities. The District would obtain applicable demolition and construction permits for the modified McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility. With approval of all required permits, the project would be consistent with the applicable city land use and zoning designations. Thus, the modified project would not result in any new significant impacts to land use planning or a substantial increase in the severity of a significant impact, and no new mitigation measures would be required.

NOISE

The proposed modifications would not materially affect the assumptions used to evaluate environmental effects from construction noise. Proposed modifications would include the demolition and removal of two homes on the Shouse property, expanded excavation of the detention basin, and construction of a new access ramp. Equipment used to demolish and remove the structures, excavate the basin, and construct a new access ramp would be similar to that used for construction of the McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility. Accordingly, noise from operation of construction equipment would be similar to the construction noise levels presented in the 2012 EIR. Consistent with the 2012 EIR, construction noise would have the potential to exceed applicable noise standards and could result in short-term disturbance where equipment operates in close proximity to residences. Depending on the extent of disturbance, this could rise to the level of a significant impact. As with the adopted project this significant impact would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through implementation of Mitigation Measures NV1.1 (Provide Advance Notification of Construction Schedule and 24-Hour Hotline to Residents), NV1.2 (Implement Work Site Noise Control Measures), NV1.3 (Designate Noise and Air Quality Disturbance Coordinator to Address Resident Concerns), and NV1.4 (Install Temporary Noise Barriers).

Proposed modifications would also reorient McKelvey Park's large baseball field. Associated amenities that surround the field, including concession/scorers booth, restrooms, storage facility, meeting room, batting cage, and viewer seating, would be adjusted accordingly. With no change in the uses of the facility, no substantial change in the noise levels produced by users of the facility is anticipated. Sound study results show that noise levels from the typical use of the proposed facility would range from 2 dBA (A-weighted decibels) quieter to 2 dBA louder than existing conditions (Wilson, Ihring & Associates 2013). In general, human sound perception is such that a change in sound level of 3 dB is just noticeable. Due to the nearly imperceptible change in noise levels, impacts associated with operational use are considered less-than-significant.

Therefore, the modified project would not result in any new significant noise impacts beyond those identified in the 2012 EIR or a substantial increase in the severity of a significant impact, and no new mitigation measures would be required.

POPULATION AND HOUSING

A project is typically considered to have a significant impact on population or housing if it displaces a substantial number of people or a substantial number of existing housing units. The proposed changes would remove two homes from the Shouse property. In comparison to Mountain View's estimated 2011 population of 75,235 (U.S. Census Bureau 2013), elimination of two housing units would not be considered a substantial reduction in the number of people or housing units. Implementation of the modified project would not necessitate construction of replacement housing elsewhere; therefore, these impacts are considered less-than-significant. The modified project would not result in any new significant population and housing impacts or a substantial increase in the severity of a significant impact, and no new mitigation measures would be required.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

The 2012 EIR identified temporary traffic impacts that could result from construction at the McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility project site. The proposed modifications would not materially affect the assumptions used to evaluate environmental effects from construction-generated traffic. Construction of the modified project would be undertaken using substantially the same numbers and types of construction equipment and the same number of construction workers as the adopted project. The peak construction phase would remain over approximately 6 months during site excavation. Proposed modifications are assumed to result in a total of 100,000 cubic yards of soil to be hauled offsite. Soil haulage is not anticipated to increase beyond the adopted project estimates because the additional space provided by the Shouse property would allow construction of a shallower detention facility overall. Thus, inclusion of the Shouse property into the detention basin design would not create new significant impacts or increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts because the projections for maximum number of trips per day would remain the same. As with the adopted project, implementation of Mitigation Measure TT1.1 (Require a Site-Specific Traffic Control Plan) would reduce potential traffic impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Proposed modifications to the McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility would encroach on parking at the site. Proposed modification would include 39 onsite parking spaces and two Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant spaces. The proposed change would provide 14 fewer parking spaces than the existing lot and 3 fewer parking spaces than the adopted project. The city does not have a parking standard for athletic facilities such as McKelvey Park, but sufficient parking facilities to meet the needs of park users would be provided by a combination of the onsite parking lot; St Joseph Catholic School parking lot (by informal agreement with the city as overflow parking only); and on-street parking primarily on Mountain View Avenue, Park Drive, and Miramonte Avenue (pers. comm. Fuller). During periods of peak parking demand, it is anticipated that more cars would likely park on the street similar to existing conditions. Due to the minimal change in parking availability, impacts associated with operational use of the park are considered less-than-significant.

Therefore, the modified project would not result in any new significant traffic impacts beyond those identified in the 2012 EIR or a substantial increase in the severity of a significant impact, and no new mitigation measures would be required.

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Proposed modifications would include demolition and removal of two homes on the Shouse property. Demolition would result in the generation of additional construction debris. The

amount of additional demolition materials would be minimal in comparison to the waste generated by the adopted project. As with the adopted project, demolition materials would be disposed of at Newby Island Disposal Facility or Guadalupe Sanitary Landfill in San Jose. Both landfills have sufficient capacity to intake waste materials from the modified project. Due to the minimal change in waste materials, impacts associated with disposal of construction debris are considered less-than-significant. Thus, the modified project would not result in any new significant solid waste impacts beyond those identified in the 2012 EIR or a substantial increase in the severity of a significant impact, and no new mitigation measures would be required.

VISUAL QUALITY

Proposed modifications have been designed to be compatible with the natural environment and existing features. Satisfying commitments presented in the 2012 EIR, design of the McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility has been developed through community meetings in coordination with the City of Mountain View. The recommended site plan, including ball field, mini-park, and parking considerations, was discussed extensively at community meetings on February 23 and March 21, 2013, and at the city Parks and Recreation Commission meeting on April 10, 2013. Proposed modifications received broad support (pers. comm. Fuller).

Tree surveys indicated that impacts to protected trees resulting from construction of McKelvey Park Flood Detention Facility and channel improvement elements would be incrementally increased compared with the adopted project. As with the adopted project this significant impact would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO15.1 (Transplant or Compensate for Loss of Protected Landscape Trees, Consistent with Applicable Tree Protection Regulations).

Construction activities in the expanded work area could also inadvertently damage mature trees on the northern perimeter of the Shouse property, which are not designated for removal. Substantial injuries or damage to protected trees would be considered a significant impact. As with the adopted project this significant impact would be mitigated to a less-than-significant level through implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO15.2 (Protect Remaining Trees from Construction Impacts).

Reorienting the large baseball field would include relocation of the six proposed high intensity stadium lights around the perimeter of the ball field (two outfield lights and two lights down each sideline). Lights would be installed in similar locations to existing site conditions, but the new lights would stand about 10 feet shorter than the existing lights. Lighting would also be designed consistent with current practices to control fugitive light and glare while maintaining safety and compliance with applicable ball field standards. Technologically updated stadium lights at a lower elevation would improve light pollution conditions experienced by surrounding residents and businesses. With improved light pollution conditions, lighting impacts associated with operational use of the park are considered less-than-significant.

Therefore, the modified project would not result in any new significant visual quality impacts beyond those identified in the 2012 EIR or a substantial increase in the severity of a significant impact, and no new mitigation measures would be required.

5. Conclusion

Based on review of the Permanente Creek Flood Protection Project design modifications and updated information about construction, none of the situations described in CEQA Guidelines §15162 apply. Activities associated with the proposed minor changes would not create new significant environmental impacts or substantially increase the severity of significant impacts beyond that identified in the certified 2012 EIR. There are no significant changes to the project circumstances, and no new information is anticipated that will alter the previous CEQA findings. The proposed project changes meet the criteria of minor changes or additions for an Addendum under CEQA Guidelines §15164(a).

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Personal Communication

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