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## State Water Resources Control Board

July 30, 2024

Corinna Sandmeier  
City of Menlo Park  
701 Laurel Street  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

MENLO PARK (CITY), ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE  
PARKLINE PROJECT (PROJECT); STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2022120058

Dear Corinna Sandmeier:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the EIR for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board, DDW) is responsible for issuing water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. This Project is within the jurisdiction of the State Water Board, DDW's Santa Clara District. DDW Santa Clara District issues domestic water supply permit amendments to the public water systems serviced with a new or modified source of domestic water supply or new domestic water system components pursuant to Waterworks Standards (California Code of Regulations, title 22, chapter 16 et. seq.). A public water system requires a new water supply permit amendment when changes are made to a domestic water supply source, storage, or treatment and for the operation of new water system components- as specified in the Waterworks Standards. The City may need to apply for a water supply permit amendment for this Project.

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has the following comments on the City's EIR:

- The City may add a new well and tank to their existing drinking water system. Under section "2.7 Proposed Project Approvals and Analyses", subsection "Reviews/Approvals by Responsible and Other Agencies" (PDF page 116), please include "State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water" and "A water supply permit amendment would be required to add an emergency well and 3-million-gallon emergency water reservoir to the City's current drinking water system."
- The EIR references the California Department of Health Services in relation to establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) (PDF page 439). Authority to regulate public water systems and establish MCLs changed from the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) when CDHS was reorganized in 2007 and then the program

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E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

transferred from CDPH to the State Water Resources Control Board on July 1, 2014. Please update the document to reflect the State Water Resources Control Board as the agency that regulates MCLs in California.

- The document states chloroform and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances are above the California Drinking Water Notification Levels at some monitoring locations within the Project site (PDF page 440). Please discuss the anticipated water quality of the new well and if wellhead treatment may be required. If wellhead treatment is likely, please discuss the treatment options that may be installed, their operation and maintenance, and potential environmental impacts, as needed.
- If the Project and Bay Delta Plan Amendment is implemented there will be significant water supply shortfalls in dry years (PDF page 563). If the Project and Bay Delta Plan Amendment is not implemented shortfalls are still expected in dry years (PDF Page 563). Please explain how the dry year and multiple dry year shortfalls in Table 3.16-5 and Table 3.16-6 will be met, based on the best available information, including but not limited to:
  - How much water, on average, will the Water Shortage Contingency Plan conserve over the dry year?
  - How much water will the emergency well be able to provide in dry years?
    - The EIR determined 30 days of pumping would not have a significant effect on the groundwater basin (PDF page 648). Please state how long the well would need to be pumped to have a significant impact on groundwater levels. Please also indicate how long an average drought period would be expected to occur, based on how long historic drought periods have lasted. Can the well provide enough water to cover the deficit over a/multiple dry year(s)?
  - How much water and what other sources will be used, as needed, to meet the deficit over the dry year(s)?
- The EIR states “However, no waters of the state or riparian habitats regulated by the RWQCB are present on the Project site; therefore, waste discharge requirements from the RWQCB are not required (PDF page 394).” Please remove this erroneous statement. Waste discharge requirements do not depend upon waters of the state or riparian habitats being on the Project site. Waste discharge permits are required as part of the Project and further discussed in the document (PDF page 452, PDF page 482, and PDF page 644).
- The EIR states “State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water – The State will need to review and approve the proposed well location prior to considering and granting approval to drill the proposed well (PDF page 584).” The EIR also identifies “Water Supply Permit per Article 7 of the California State Drinking Water Act for drilling of a well to be used for potable water supply in the event water from SFPUC is reduced, interrupted, or unavailable.” The State Water Board approves the well location and the operation of the well as part of a public water system but does not grant the approval to drill. Drilling permits are issued by counties. Please update these statements to reflect this.

- A water supply well, irrigation well, and artesian well are located on the site (PDF page 466). Please discuss how these wells will be used or decommissioned to protect water quality.

When the CEQA review process is completed, please forward the following items with the permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Santa Clara District Office at [DWPDIST17@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:DWPDIST17@waterboards.ca.gov):

- Copy of the EIR and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- Copy of all comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- Copy of the Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the EIR and MMRP; and
- Copy of the date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the San Mateo County Clerk's Office and the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse.

Please contact Lori Schmitz of the State Water Board at (916) 449-5285 or [Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov), for questions regarding this comment letter.

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz  
Environmental Scientist  
Division of Financial Assistance  
Special Project Review Unit  
1001 I Street, 16<sup>th</sup> floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse

Van Tsang  
District Engineer  
Santa Clara District

David Katz  
Water Resources Control Engineer  
Santa Clara District