

MEMORANDUM

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT

DATE: November 8, 2017
TO: Planning Commission and Interested Parties
FROM: Steve Monowitz, Community Development Director
SUBJECT: Presentation by Santa Clara County and Stanford University of Stanford's General Use Permit application and associated Draft Environmental Impact Report, for proposed development on the Stanford campus in unincorporated Santa Clara County

Development of the Stanford campus over the last several years has been guided by a General Use Permit (GUP) obtained by Stanford University from Santa Clara County in 2000. The projects authorized by the 2000 GUP are nearing completion, and the University has submitted an application to Santa Clara County for an updated GUP to implement the next phase of campus development. This application for a 2018 GUP is available for review at: <https://www.sccgov.org/sites/dpd/Programs/Stanford/Pages/CurrentProjects.aspx>.

As stated by Stanford's Project Overview, "key elements proposed for the 2018 General Use Permit include completion of the development (academic and academic support space, housing, and parking) authorized by the 2000 General Use Permit; construction of new academic and academic support uses; construction of new housing units for students, faculty and staff, with more housing subject to Planning Commission approval; creation of parking supply reserve; and construction of new child care centers and facilities to support trip-reducing uses".

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires Santa Clara County to conduct a complete and accurate assessment of the potential environmental impacts that will result from the proposed development. Where possible, potential impacts must be reduced to an insignificant level. Otherwise, findings of overriding consideration that explain how project benefits outweigh unavoidable and significant environmental impacts must be adopted.

Accordingly, Santa Clara County has published a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) that is available for public review and comment until December 4, 2017. In the interest of facilitating the public review process, Santa Clara County staff has offered to present the DEIR to interested jurisdictions. Under CEQA, Santa Clara County must address, in a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), comments received during the period that the DEIR is subject to public review.

Staff recommends that Santa Clara County's presentation be followed by public comment, to provide interested parties with the opportunity to ask questions and identify concerns that they would like addressed in the FEIR. Staff also welcomes input from the Planning Commission on the comments that will be written by the Planning and Building Department in response to the DEIR.

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