

THE ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER



53

SECOND ADDENDUM

To

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

ON

**DUMBARTON
DISTRIBUTION CENTER**

Menlo Park, California

April 29, 1982

E-81-62

DATE RECEIVED
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East Palo Alto Municipal Council

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INTRODUCTION

This addendum includes responses to written and verbal comments on the FINAL EIR that were presented at the Planning Commission meeting on April 5, 1982. The comments are written in italics followed by the response. Copies of written comments follow.

Constance H. Hammett, Member of Board of Trustees, Ravenswood City School District

See letter dated April 5, 1982.

The statement quoted in the letter from Page 103 of the EIR states "Since no school-aged children are directly generated by the project, no impact on public school services is anticipated." This statement clearly refers to children directly generated by the project, of which there are none, that would attend local schools. Traffic, noise, and air quality impacts of the project are discussed in the report; in fact the Costano School site was used as a sensitive receptor location in the air quality analysis.

Noisy construction operations are recommended for the hours of 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. to minimize the impact on the adjacent residential homes along Kavanaugh Drive, which are the closest and will be the most impacted. Of course the school hours of 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. are also sensitive; however, the school buildings are set back a further distance from the site and each doubling of the distance from the source reduces the noise level by 6 dBA. There will be increased noise from construction. Mitigation measures are suggested for the temporary construction period.

A binding agreement between the Community Development Agency and the School District is a matter between those two agencies and is not within the scope of this project or report. The District's request should be directed directly to the agency.

John O'Hara, Parks and Recreation Committee

What is the impact of the project on industrial leagues and noon-time use of recreation facilities?

The City of Menlo Park recreation program includes men's and coed softball leagues, basketball leagues, and noon-time recreational swimming. Each of these activities produces a net revenue to the City. A weighted priority is given to Menlo Park residents when leagues are established.

The impact on local facilities at noon time is expected to be light as there are no facilities proximate to the project site, and warehouse and light manufacturing businesses generally schedule only a half hour for lunch. The project could add to the demand for softball and basketball teams. City residents would receive weighted priority for available spaces.

Does the project generate recreational in-lieu fees?

No. These fees, which are used for capital improvements, are only required by City ordinance for residential projects.

Charles Lucas, 974 Candlewood Drive, Cupertino

Does the new Dumbarton Bridge open earlier than 1984 as stated in the report?

According to Jim Spinello, CALTRANS Project Engineer, the bridge is complete and it will open in September or October, 1983, using the existing approaches. The new approaches, including the extension of University Avenue, are scheduled for completion and opening in the Summer of 1984.

Julia E. Hammett and Christopher Pierce

See letter dated April 10, 1982.

A response prepared by Holman and Associates, dated April 20, 1982, follows the letter. A response from the State Office of Historic Preservation, dated April 27, 1982, also follows.

Robert Jacobs, Planning Commissioner

Page 67. Is the new treatment facility that was scheduled for Fall, 1981, complete?

Yes, the San Mateo County South Bayside System Authority treatment plant became operational in mid-November, 1981.

Page 70. The solid waste transfer station is located in San Carlos.

This comment is acknowledged.

The following changes are made to correspond to the technical definition of wetlands.

The second paragraph on Page 13 is revised as follows:

The northerly boundary of the project site was established by determining the wetlands limit. The wetlands determination report is discussed in more detail in the Land Use section and a copy is included in the Appendix. There are no plans for the area north of the wetlands limit.

The first paragraph on Page 25 is revised as follows:

There are wetlands north of the project site where bay waters are located. The northerly project boundary was established by determining the wetlands limit. The Corps of Engineers initially determined that there are wetlands on the 70± acre parcel that includes the current project site. They approximated the limits of the wetlands, but did not precisely locate them. Harvey & Stanley Associates, Inc. was then retained in December, 1980, to precisely locate the limits in the field. A copy of their Wetlands Determination report is included in the Appendix.

Jack Morris, Planning Commissioner

See written comments dated January 18, 1982, that are included in the Addendum of the March 12, 1982, Final EIR.

(Page 12) These statements are "objectives" of the project, i.e., they are to be aimed at or striven for, and no implication is made that they have already been achieved.

(Page 12) "Most eligible employee base available within the surrounding area" is defined on Page A1 in the Addendum.

(Page 13) The reference to O'Brien Drive has been revised.

(Page 14) The words "where possible" are deleted and the wording is changed to walls with some selected textured finishes.

(Page 15) This is a comment on the Conceptual Master Plan and not on the EIR. Hamilton Court is a public street that ends short of the westerly property line, and the owners of the adjacent development have indicated that they do not want a through street connection.

(Page 16) The project is 52.6 acres. The footnote is presented to explain the reduction from a previous proposal that included 70 acres.

The building coverage has been revised to 19.9 acres to correspond to the building square footage.

(Page 20 - 22) The Las Pulgas Community Development Plan is discussed beginning on Page A2 of the Addendum.

(Page 21) As stated in the overall discussion of the plan on Page 20, "The majority of the responsible agencies designated in the plan are local, regional, State, and Federal government agencies and legislative bodies." This applies to all of the solid waste measures.

(Page 25) The date has been added.

(Page 26) The comment is acknowledged; no response is required.

(Page 27) The suggested mitigation measure could be a result of implementing other measures; it has been added to the list.

(General Comment) The report does not intend to imply that the project would not be liable for the mitigation measures; however, it is also not intended to imply that the project would be responsible for all of the mitigation measures. The report suggests mitigation measures to be considered by the decision making body during the approval process after the EIR is certified. In some cases, several mitigation measures are suggested and the incorporation of all of them may not be necessary to adequately mitigate the impact. When approving a project, the decision making body must determine that mitigation measures are included in the project, or added as enforceable conditions of approval to satisfactorily mitigate the potential impacts.

(Page 27) This comment is acknowledged; no response is required.

(Page 28) The ratio of 2.1 persons per household is the average ratio for the City of Menlo Park. The impact on the population of East Palo Alto is difficult to predict, and no surveys of similar local industries are available. If 10 to 20 per cent of the employees were new residents, the 18,000 East Palo Alto population would increase by 0.7 to 1.4 per cent. According to the ABAG staff, there is no method of projecting the number of persons that would come from outside the Bay Area.

(Page 29) The date of the study has been added.

(Page 31) The impacts on the adjacent area are discussed on Page A8 of the Addendum.

(Page 32) The "Zero Bay Mud thickness" line is explained on Page 32.

(Page 34) There has been no subsidence since the recent drought due to decline in well usage and recharging of the groundwater table.

(Page 37) A discussion of earthquake damage to Hetch-Hetchy is included on Page A10 of the Addendum.

(Page 40) A detailed engineering study would be required to precisely map the area. Due to the minimal impact expected, such a study, if warranted, can be prepared prior to building permit approval.

(Page 44) This is the volume on O'Brien Drive at the intersection with Willow Road as indicated in the Traffic section on Page 82.

(Page 61) The Sensitive Receptors Map is included on Page A13 of the Addendum.

(Page 63) Flex time and staggered work hours are added as mitigation measures. Unless workers were within walking distance, jobs for local residents would not necessarily reduce traffic levels. The impact does not appear to be significant enough to warrant reducing the size of the project to reduce traffic levels.

(Page 67) The West Bay Sanitary District reserve capacity figures are updated.

(Page 68) The Menlo Park Capacity Allocation by Land Use figures are updated.

(Page 69) These mitigation measures are added.

(Page 71) The equivalent figure of 717 households is added.

(Pages 77 and 79) This comment is acknowledged; however, no significant impacts on fire or police protection were noted that require mitigation, and this method has not been previously implemented in the City.

(Page 83) The impacts on Willow Road are discussed in the Traffic section beginning on Page 81 with the O'Brien Drive connection, and without the connection beginning on Page 117.

(Page 89) Mid-day traffic is not identified as a potential significant effect; therefore, this measure does not seem appropriate.

(Traffic General) The detailed calculations have been provided to the City. The directional orientations have been corrected.

(Pages 90-95) The Las Pulgas Community Development District is discussed beginning on Page A17 of the Addendum. No significant fiscal impacts are identified; the special assessment districts do not seem to be warranted.

(Page 99) These measures are discussed on Page A21 of the Addendum.

(Page 100) The mitigation measures are added.

(Page 104 - Line 9) The impact percentage on the available wastewater capacity has been updated.

(Page 104 - Lines 17-18) A supplementary soils report that is included in the Addendum addresses the soil stability concerns.

Fish and Game comments and Dennis Scherzer's comments are responded to in the Addendum to the Final EIR.

(Pages 105-106) The Mitigation section has been updated. The detailed foundation investigation and geotechnical investigations have been completed and are included in the Addendum. The detailed study of potential flooding is not expected to yield significant impacts and if required is appropriate prior to building permit approval.

(Page 117) Emergency access is discussed on Page A15 of the Addendum, and the alternate alignment of O'Brien Drive is discussed on Page A22.

(Page 119) Emergency access to Hamilton Court is discussed on Page A15 of the Addendum.

(Page 122) This section is for "ALTERNATIVES THAT SUBSTANTIALLY IMPEDE PROJECT OBJECTIVES, BUT ELIMINATE OR REDUCE SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS." None of the suggestions seems to fit this classification. If Hetch-Hetchy right of way cannot be used for parking, the site plan would have to be redesigned; however, an agreement is currently being worked out.

If the Hetch-Hetchy right of way is used for parking, but Hetch-Hetchy requires access to their pipe, temporary alternate parking and access would be required. It seems unlikely they would require access to a large section at one time; therefore, the disruption should not be significant.

As stated on Page 13, the PUD area is for light manufacturing or other uses consistent with the existing M-2 zoning.

If there were no development allowed below the 4 foot mean high water line, the size of the project would be reduced; however, it is uncertain why this is suggested.

If the rail spur could not be built the area with rail access would have to be redesigned and the versatility of the project is reduced by the elimination of this transportation mode. Traffic levels would increase.

See response (Page 15) for discussion of Hamilton Court.

No significant effects were noted with the proposed access to the project. The suggested route would require crossing a wetland area, a new railroad crossing, and CALTRANS review. The use of the new University Avenue connection is more appropriate for the project.

It is unclear what options are being referred to in the last statement.

(Wetland Pp. 8 & 9) The referenced figures were never prepared.

(Wetland P. 15) The letters are included.

(Cooper & Clark) This report was not prepared specifically for the EIR; however, data from the report was used and a subsequent EIR evaluation was prepared by Earth Systems Consultants. The other consultants' reports were prepared specifically for the EIR.

(Financial) The financing of school districts is discussed on Pages A19 and A20 of the Addendum.

The following are responses to verbal comments.

Page A7. Are the marsh islands drawn to scale?

Yes, the sizes of the marsh islands are proportionate to the size of the project site.

Page A12. The watershed boundary as shown on the Drainage Basin Map is not accurate at the intersection of Middlefield Road and Willow Road.

The addition to the Water Quality section on Page A11 of the Addendum is revised as follows:

The project site is 52.6 acres, while the local drainage basin, as generally outlined on the following map, is approximately 700 acres. The project site is less than 8 per cent of the basin.

Dennis Scherzer

See letter dated November 23, 1981, in the Addendum of the March 12, 1982, Final EIR.

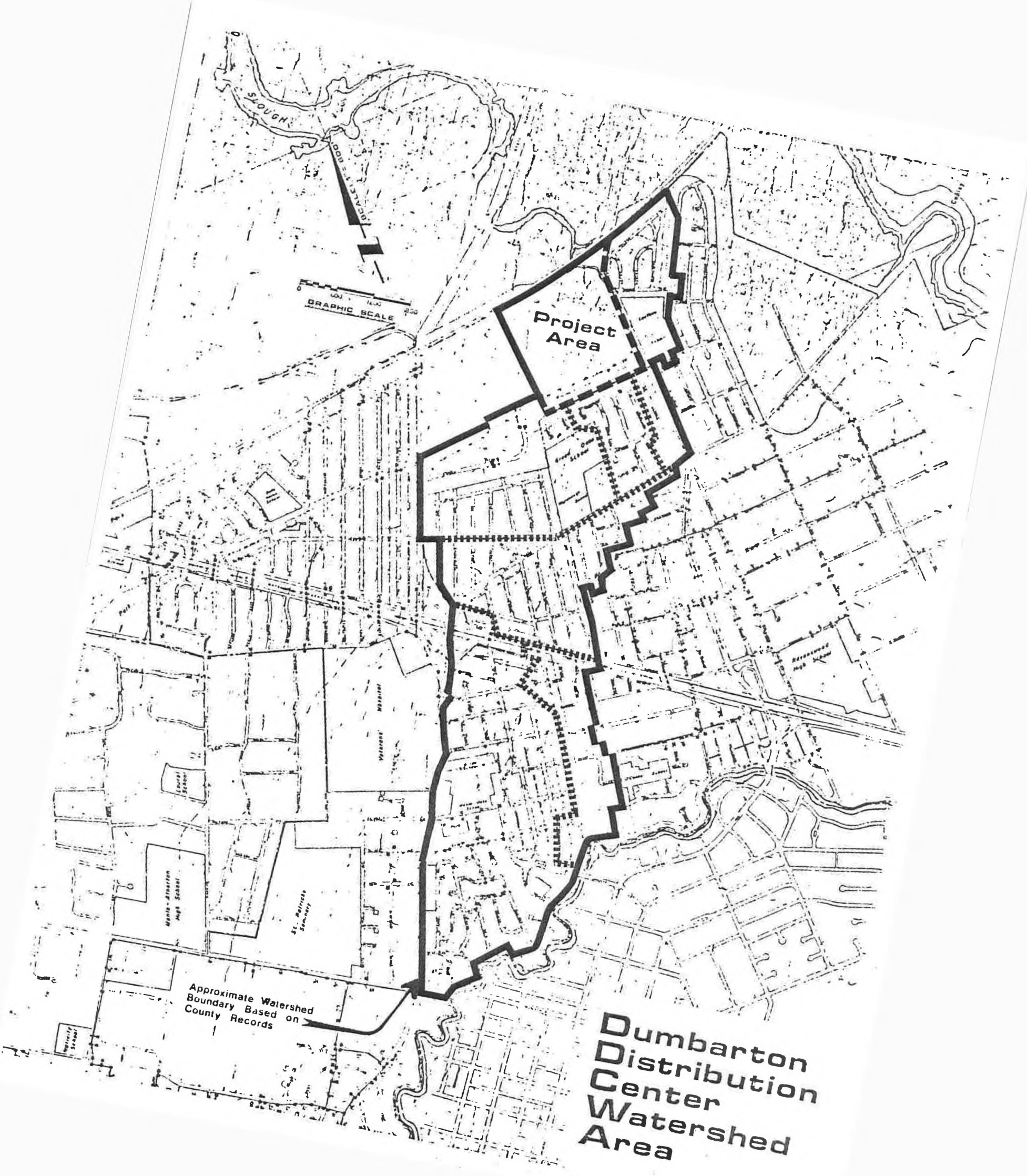
Mr. Scherzer's contention that Dr. Harvey purposely omitted mentioning what he contends are wetland islands is an opinion, and as such warrants no response.

The Army Corps of Engineers made its own independent wetland jurisdictional determination based on their own independent investigation. Dr. Harvey was asked to confirm this determination (see letters from the Army Corps of Engineers to Congressman McCloskey and Ms. Weidmann, dated March 17, 1981).

At the request of the Planning Commission from the City of Menlo Park, Dr. Harvey investigated those areas which Mr. Scherzer contends are wetlands. His report, Evaluation of "Islands of Marsh" at the Dumbarton Distribution Center, is included in the Addendum of the Final EIR. His conclusions seem to corroborate the Army Corps of Engineers' decision relative to these islands. This issue is also discussed in the Biotics section of the Addendum to the Final EIR.

Mr. Scherzer's concerns with the geology of the site and its adequacy as a building site are addressed in the main body of the report under the sections in Soils and Geology. It is also discussed in the Soils Investigation Report prepared by Cooper & Clark, which is included in the Addendum of the Final EIR.

Moreover, all construction within this area will be subject to review by the City's Geologist, and all work will have to conform with his recommendations.



Project Area

GRAPHIC SCALE
0 100 200 300

Approximate Watershed Boundary Based on County Records

**Dumbarton
Distribution
Center
Watershed
Area**

Mentel-Division High School

St. Patrick's Seminary

Veterans Memorial

Archerwood High School

SLOUGH

PROJECT AREA

Mr. Scherzer's concerns with the Archaeology of the subject site are addressed in the main body of the Report under the section on Archaeology, Page 49. The Report of Archaeology Findings at the Dumbarton Distribution Center, and the supplemental letter included in the Addendum of the Final EIR, were both prepared by Miley Paul Holman, Holman and Associates.

As a further mitigation measure, the project sponsor has agreed to retain a qualified archaeologist to monitor the excavation operations during the construction of the project if deemed necessary.

The Committee for Green Foothills

See letter dated April 10, 1982

The area of the project site is 52.6 acres, and the potential impacts generated by the proposed project have been addressed in the EIR. The disposition of those lands north of the project site is not within the scope of this project. However, the potential impacts on these lands resulting from the proposed project, as well as potential mitigation measures, are addressed in the Biotics section of the Addendum of the Final EIR.

Section 15037(c) of the State CEQA Guidelines states that "The term 'project' refers to the activity which is being approved and which may be subject to several discretionary approvals by governmental agencies." No discretionary approvals are requested for the 17.4 acres that were determined to be wetlands at this time.

Section 15069 requires that a single EIR be prepared for the ultimate project for those projects that are to be built in phases. Since the scope of the proposed project under consideration is 52.6 acres at build out, the EIR has been written to address the potential impacts generated by this specific project.

The jobs/housing issue is discussed in the main body of the EIR on Pages 97-99 and also on Page A21 of the Addendum to the EIR. The suggested mitigation measures have been addressed in these sections.

State of California Department of Fish and Game

See letter dated November 17, 1981, in the Addendum of the March 12, 1982, Final EIR.

The wetlands issue is discussed on Page 25 of the Draft EIR, the Wetlands Determination Study prepared by Harvey & Stanley Associates, Inc., which is included in the Appendix of the EIR, and in Section E. Biotics of the Addendum. Those islands occurring within the project site were not discussed because the Army Corps of Engineers' Wetlands Jurisdictional Determination excluded these areas. The criteria used by the Army Corps of Engineers in making this determination is outlined in the letter addressed to Congressman Paul N. McCloskey, dated March 17, 1981, and in the letter addressed to Ms. Nan Weidmann of the Committee for Green Foothills, dated March 17, 1981. Both are included in the Appendix of the EIR. The jurisdictional limits of the Army Corps of Engineers is described in the Corps' letter dated December 19, 1980. The proposed project does not encroach into that area deemed to be wetlands by the Corps. No mitigation measures are suggested because the proposed project would not generate any significant impacts in these areas (see Evaluation of Islands of Marsh, prepared by Dr. H. Thomas Harvey, Ph.D., included in the Addendum of the EIR).

State CEQA Guidelines require mitigation for significant adverse impacts to reduce them to acceptable levels. Based on the information contained in the EIR, it was concluded that the proposed project would not have any significant adverse impacts on the wetlands.

Disturbance of the marsh area by the crossing of the railroad spur would be minimal due to the predominantly transitional nature of the area and the small amount of area involved.

Water quality is discussed on Page 41 of the EIR and mitigation measures are discussed on Page 20, under Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the San Francisco Bay Area Environmental Management Plan.

It is not known, at this time, if there would be uses within the proposed project that may require the use of hazardous substances for their operations. For that reason, the issue was not discussed. The City of Menlo Park requires a Use Permit for uses requiring the use of hazardous chemicals, and precautionary measures may be required as a condition of approval. Other local and State agencies also have had control over such uses.

Site evaluation was conducted at various times of the year. The Army Corps of Engineers' personnel conducted onsite investigations in early October, 1980 (see letter from the Corps to Congressman McCloskey, dated March 17, 1981). Subsequent investigations were conducted by Dr. H. T. Harvey (see Wetlands Determination Report in the Appendix and the Evaluation of Islands of Marsh in the Addendum).

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED

Mary Leydon, Director of Community Resources, City of Menlo Park

Al Morales, Senior Planner, Community Development Department, City of Menlo Park

Jim Spinello, Project Engineer, CALTRANS

H. T. Harvey, Ph. D., Ecologist; Harvey and Stanley Associates, Inc.

George E. Homolka, P.E., Wilsey & Ham

San Mateo County South Bayside System Authority

Tom Origer, Senior Staff Archaeologist, Cultural Resources Facility, Sonoma State University

Hans Kreutzberg, Staff Historian, State Office of Historic Preservation

Nick del Cioppo, State Office of Historic Preservation

Ray Brady, Chief of Information and Analysis Systems, ABAG



Ravenswood City School District

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April 5, 1982

Dept. of Community Development
City of Menlo Park

Planning Commission
City of Menlo Park
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Commissioners:

We, the Trustees of the Ravenswood City School District, appreciate this opportunity to comment on the probable impact the proposed Dumbarton Distribution Project will have on the Ravenswood Schools. Due to some failure in communication, we became aware of this project only through recent news articles in the Peninsula Times Tribune.

Quoting from the final EIR of the Dumbarton Distribution Project, III Insignificant Environmental Effects, B. Schools, page 103:

"The site is in the Ravenswood City School District (K-8) and the Sequoia Union High School District (9-12). Schools serving the project area include: Costano Elementary.....Ravenswood Middle School..... Since no school-aged children are directly generated by the project, no impact on public school services is anticipated."

On the contrary, we feel that these two schools will be greatly affected by pollution and noise during development of the project and to a considerable degree after the project is in operation. Costano School is directly across University Avenue from the Dumbarton Distribution Center Site, Ravenswood Middle School is approximately two blocks southwest of the site.

Increased traffic on University Avenue, O'Brien Drive and Kavanaugh Drive will cause safety hazards for children walking or biking to and from Middle School and Costano School.

Dust and noise during development as well as noise from increased railroad use, truck traffic, and industrial pollution after development are serious concerns.

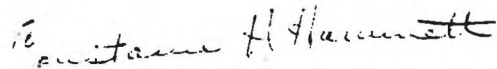
We note on page 47 of the EIR, referring to the residential population on Kavanaugh Drive, "Noisy operations should be scheduled for the daytime hours of 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. so as to avoid the more sensitive evening and nighttime hours. We protest that children are being taught their lessons during the sensitive hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Another concern is the possible financial impact due to the fact that this project is part of the Las Pulgas Community Development District which will be using tax increment bond financing for public improvements. We would be far more comfortable from a school finance point of view if the Community Development Agency would enter into a binding agreement with our District which would guarantee a non-financial impact to our District in future years.

The actions of the State Legislature in the recent past do not instill confidence in local school districts insofar as support to education is concerned. We have seen State support to education reduced whenever the State found itself unable to fund its own operational needs.

We would therefore have more confidence in and be much more comfortable with an agreement with the agency. It is our understanding that the Agency did adopt a resolution some time ago which would permit the Agency to come to our financial aid should our District be negatively impacted financially by the Agency's program in the future. We are now asking the Agency's consideration for an agreement which would do the same thing.

Sincerely,



Constance H. Hammett
Member of Board of Trustees
Ravenswood City School District

April 10, 1982

Planning Commission
City of Menlo Park
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Commissioners:

This statement addresses the archaeological portion of the EIR for the proposed Dumbarton Distribution Center Project in the city of Menlo Park. The archaeological report prepared by Holman and Associates in conjunction with the Environmental Center is entirely inadequate and the mitigations as proposed are unacceptable. The report is full of contradicting statements, however, it is clear from the information presented that cultural remains including various types of shell, bone, fire-altered rock, burnt clay and chipped stone were observed to a depth of 60 cm. in the only unit from which excavated soil was screened. Surprisingly, not a shred of evidence is offered to substantiate their claims that these materials were either "highly disturbed midden or a redeposition of midden from elsewhere" (EIR, p.50; archaeological report in appendix of EIR, p.3). Their conclusion that "no further consideration be given to cultural materials unless substantial excavation will take place ... below a depth of approximately 6 feet" (archaeol. report in EIR appendix, p.4) is curious and alarming. The problems seen in the report are itemized below.

Holman and Associates' apparent confusion over the presence or absence of an archaeological site within the project area compelled us to visit the project area to check the condition and extent of the cultural remains. Our cursory examination confirmed Dr. Cartier's findings in 1978 of the presence of cultural material along both sides of University Avenue for the full length of the project area. The richest midden deposit visible on the surface of the ground is present in the northeastern corner of the project area and extends across University Avenue into the yard of Costano School. A portion of this midden area was identified by Holman and Associates and a single test unit and numerous backhoe trenches were excavated in this area.

Given the indisputable presence of an archaeological site within the project area, it is essential that the significance of this site be addressed. One way in which the significance of the site may be determined is by assessing its potential for yielding information concerning specific research questions. These questions include but are not limited to the following: 1) When was the site occupied; 2) Who occupied the site; 3) What activities were carried out at the site; 4) What is the structure or organization of activity areas within the site; 5) What is the relationship of this site to other known sites in the area, in particular Ca-Sma-77 (University Village) and Ca-SMa-160 (Hiller Mound). If the midden is highly disturbed or redeposited, evidence must be presented which documents the processes and nature of the disturbance or the location from which the material was redeposited. It must also be demonstrated that the midden is disturbed to such a degree that none of

the research questions stated above can be adequately addressed.

A site may also be considered significant if it is unique in some way. The fact that there are so few bayshore sites which have not been destroyed by development and that this type of non-mound and, therefore, less conspicuous site was generally ignored by early archaeologists in the Bay Area makes this site very significant. We speculate that this site was occupied later than the mound portion of University Village. This is based on the absence of Cerithidia shell at University Village and the common presence of this shell type in the site in question and at Hiller Mound. It should be noted that Cerithidia was one of the most common identifiable shell types observed on the ground surface by us during 1982 and by Dr. Cartier in 1978, yet Holman and Associates only noted this shell type in one backhoe trench during their investigations. Perhaps their use of such a large screen mesh size (1/4") and/or dry screening instead of water screening procedures during excavation of the 1 X 1 m. test unit may account for their lack of recovery of Cerithidia. It is also possible, given the nearness of this site to University Village, that this new site might be a later occupation area of the University Village inhabitants, however, further research is necessary to clear up this and all other questions stated.

It should be noted that while University Village is referred to several times in the text of Holman et al.'s report, the archaeological report on University Village by Dr. Bert Gerow of Stanford University is never referred to. This is a noticeable oversight because Dr. Gerow's report represents by far the most extensive archaeological research conducted in the immediate area of the proposed project. Another oversight is Holman et al.'s failure to record the site and obtain a state site number for it. This is undoubtedly because they were apparently unclear on the existence of the site. One further note is that by negating this site which is clearly present, one must question what telltale signs of other sites in the project area might have been missed. For example they mention only in passing a mortar found in the southwestern corner of the project area (archaeol. report in EIR appendix, p.1), and they allude to another area of burnt clay somewhere along University Avenue which is dismissed as historic disturbance because Lester Dooley had a brick factory somewhere in the Ravenswood area (not specified in report). It should be possible to distinguish between remains from a brick factory and a prehistoric site. Certainly any question at all should have merited further investigations before discarding the remains as "indicative of the general level of disturbance of the area along University Avenue" (archaeol. report in EIR appendix, p.4).

We are concerned that no valid appraisal of the nature and extent of the observed site has been made. The EIR indicates that two sewer trenches and a new sewer lift station are to be constructed in the area of the site, but the EIR does not address this impact on the site or identify any alternatives to this destruction. If other site areas are to be filled over, surface preparation and compaction usually precede it and the impact of this activity on fragile archaeological remains is not addressed. The mitigations as they now stand serve no purpose but to

secure the destruction of the archaeological site. We strongly recommend that the concerns of archaeologists and Native Americans be addressed before the archaeological portions of this EIR are considered adequate. Native Americans can and should be contacted through the state Native American Heritage Commission which provides the names of people working in local areas who are concerned with archaeological issues.

Respectfully,

Julia E. Hammett

Julia E. Hammett
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Christopher Pierce

Christopher Pierce
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Los Gatos, CA 95030

cc: East Palo Alto Municipal Council
Dr. Bert Gerow, Dept. of Anthropology, Stanford University
Dr. William Hildebrandt, Archaeol. Research Center, S.J.S.U.
Mr. Richard P. Mindigo, Environmental Center
Native American Heritage Commission
Ohlone Tribal Council
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Regional Office & Clearinghouse, Calif. State College, Sonoma
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Richard Mindigo
The Environmental Center
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April 20, 1982

Dear Richard,

I just received the letter written by Christopher Pierce and Julia E. Hammet dated April 10, 1982, concerning the archaeological work my firm did at the site of the proposed Dumbarton Distribution Center. Most of the letter consists of their opinions about the presence and importance of an archaeological site on the property, which they identified as such by reviewing my report and by inspecting the surface of the area in question.

They presume in their report that there is a site there, and then proceed to point out the deficiencies of my report in identifying it. Since a great deal of their complaint deals with the methodology we used and our lack of documentation, I will first try to present to you how we conditioned our own findings, based on the field work we suggested and carried out. Actual comments on errors on our part I will comment on last.

First off, we did and do not place the significance the authors do on the presence of Cerithidia shell, oyster shell and clam shell and bay mussel shell which is found at locations within the project area, and specifically in noticeable quantities at the location we tested by excavation and back hoe trenching. We did not believe that the only method that the shell could have been found in what was a marsh until recently was by aboriginal use; these shells occur naturally around the bay margin, or could have been of historical origin. Both the Hiller mound and University Village possessed greater quantities in their middens than were noted by us.

Rather, we chose to excavate first by hand a unit in the area first identified by Cartier to see if the area contained other more indisputable indications of aboriginal usage, such as intact cultural features (fire pits, house floors, areas of discrete economic activities such as tool preparation, food preparation, disposal of faunal material) and of course artifactual material.

As our level records indicate, we did not find any such indicators. Rather we find in the first 40 centimeters a mixture of what could be midden material mixed with what appeared to us before we knew about the brick factory nearby, to be historic brick. The midden indicators were found in this layer, with material which could have been mixed in over the years that the field was plowed, a process which affected at least the first 40 centimeters. I must agree with the authors that the area probably is

an original midden deposit, especially if they found material on the other side of the road.

Since this hand excavated unit was inconclusive, we chose to make sure of our findings with the use of a backhoe, which would allow us a much wider look at the subsurface nature of the area, identifying midden margins if they existed in the area. Our original report to your office contains the logs of those trenches. In a conversation with Mr. Pierce, he forcefully indicated that the use of quarter inch screen and backhoes were "not acceptable" means of determining the presence of midden, or for evaluating it when discovered. I disagree with his opinion; over the years we have experimented with a number of methods, and find that quarter inch screen is adequate to use in a site along the bay Margins. The backhoe also seemed to be an adequate method of finding midden; Mr. Cartier used it in the Hiller mound, and recovered material with it.

I admit that I did not cite Bert Gerow and his report on the University Village in my report. I am familiar with it.

On page 2, paragraph three, the authors point out that since we failed to record the presence of a site, we were to be suspected for our entire work at the area, including the possibility that the stone mortar found in another part of the property meant that there was the possibility that further archaeological midden areas may exist. We did not register the site, because we did not believe that there was enough evidence at the time to call the area an intact archaeological site. This was a judgement made by us at the time we finished field work. We in fact took the finding of the mortar seriously, and the fact that the Hiller mound was located so nearby. This was the rationale behind the excavation of trenches 1 through 15 along the western edge of the property, the border which is nearest the Hiller mound, and which covered the area where the mortar was reported to have been found. As the trench log indicates, there was no indication of cultural material in trenches 1 through 15.

Sincerely,



Miley Paul Holman
Holman & Associates

UNIT LEVEL RECORD

Site DDC

Unit 1

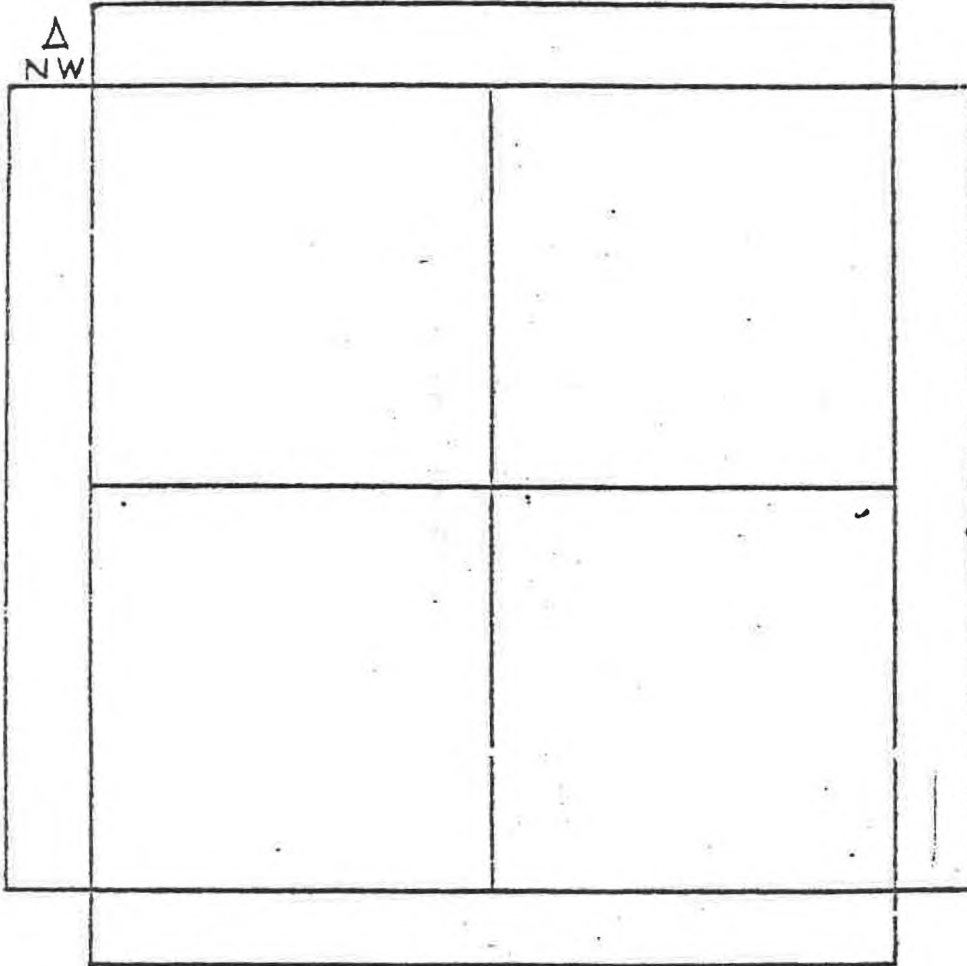
Depth 0 to 20 cm

Methodology Shovel, 1/4" dry screen

Soil Color (Munsell system) 10 YR 3/1 - wet

Soil Texture dry to damp SILTY CLAY with rounded and angular gravel.

Macroconstituents grass, mustard, dock, gravel.



Artifact Key

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

(list additional artifacts on reverse side)

Feature Key

Scale: 1 cm = 10

Description of Features NONE

Stratigraphy flow-zone + soil

Inhumations or Cremations (give burial #) NONE

EXCAVATORS R. Cowan & R. Wilton

DATE 6-30-81

COMMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS (ON REVERSE)

Tom KAUNANUUGH
1726 Spring St.
Mt View, CA 968-9234

CLARENCE KAUNANUUGH
220 PARK LANE,
ATHERTON, CA
324-3726

CALIC EIR COMMENTS: Alan Jones "Echerzer"
- this year -

LEVEL COMMENTS: Numerous pieces of shell, mostly oyster but some clam and mussel ^{and horn shell.} are present in level. Also some small pieces of FCR of unburnt bone were recovered. Large amounts of what seems like burnt clay was also recovered, but this material could be decomposed brick. No chert flakes or artifacts were recovered.

UNIT LOCATION (bearing from Mag north) to NW corner.

- N 30° E to PGE Tower along University Avenue
- N 39° W to Telephone pole between PGE Tower above and eye midway along Northern boundary
- N 60° W to PGE Tower above

UNIT LEVEL RECORD

Site DDC

Unit 1

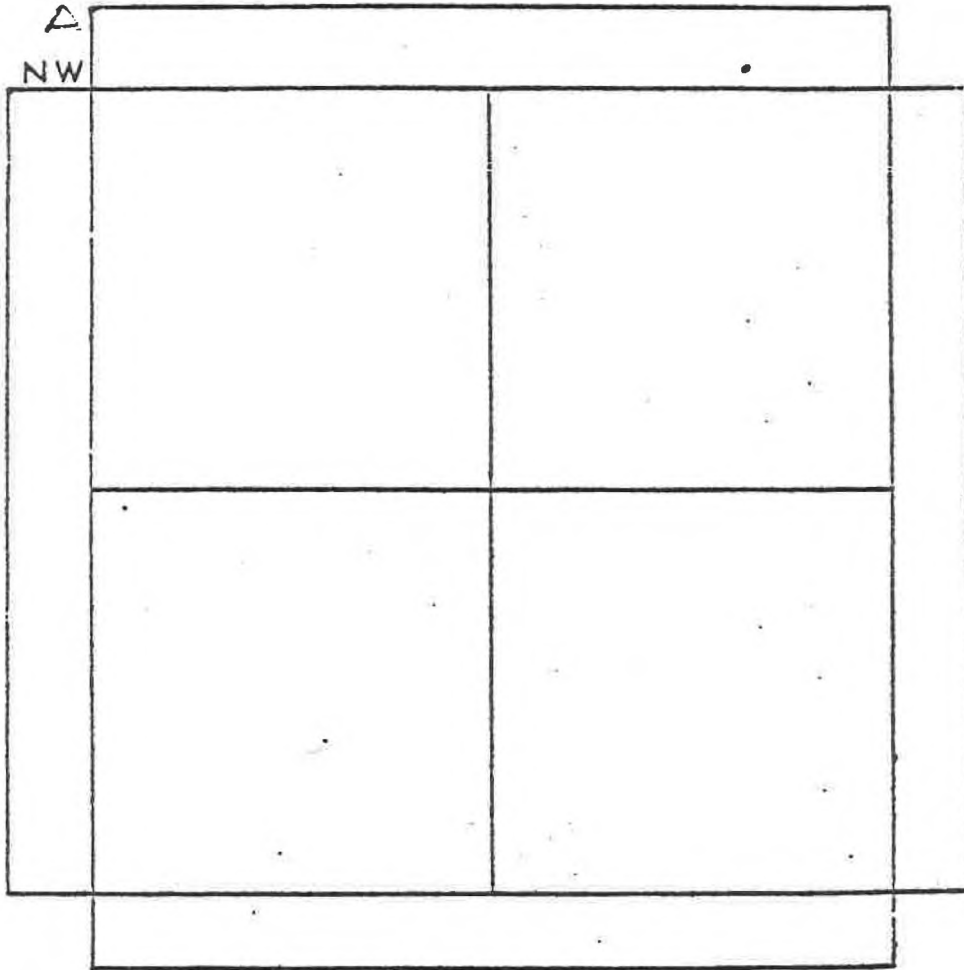
Depth 20 to 40 cm

Methodology Shovel 1/4" dry screen

Soil Color (Munsell system) 10YR 3/1 - Wet

Soil Texture Wet sticky silty clay with rounded gravel

Macroconstituents Gravel, baked clay?



Artifact Key

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

(list additional artifacts on reverse side)

Feature Key

Scale: 1 cm = 10

Description of Features NONE

Stratigraphy None Apparent

Inhumations or Cremations (give burial #) None

EXCAVATORS R. W. Berg & R. Cowan

DATE 6-30-81

COMMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS (ON REVERSE)

COMMENTS: The same constituents and quantities recovered this level as previous level, except less bone ^{and FCD}. One chert waste flake was recovered in situ at the bottom of the 40cm level floor. No historic junk was recovered.

UNIT LEVEL RECORD

Site DDC

Unit 1

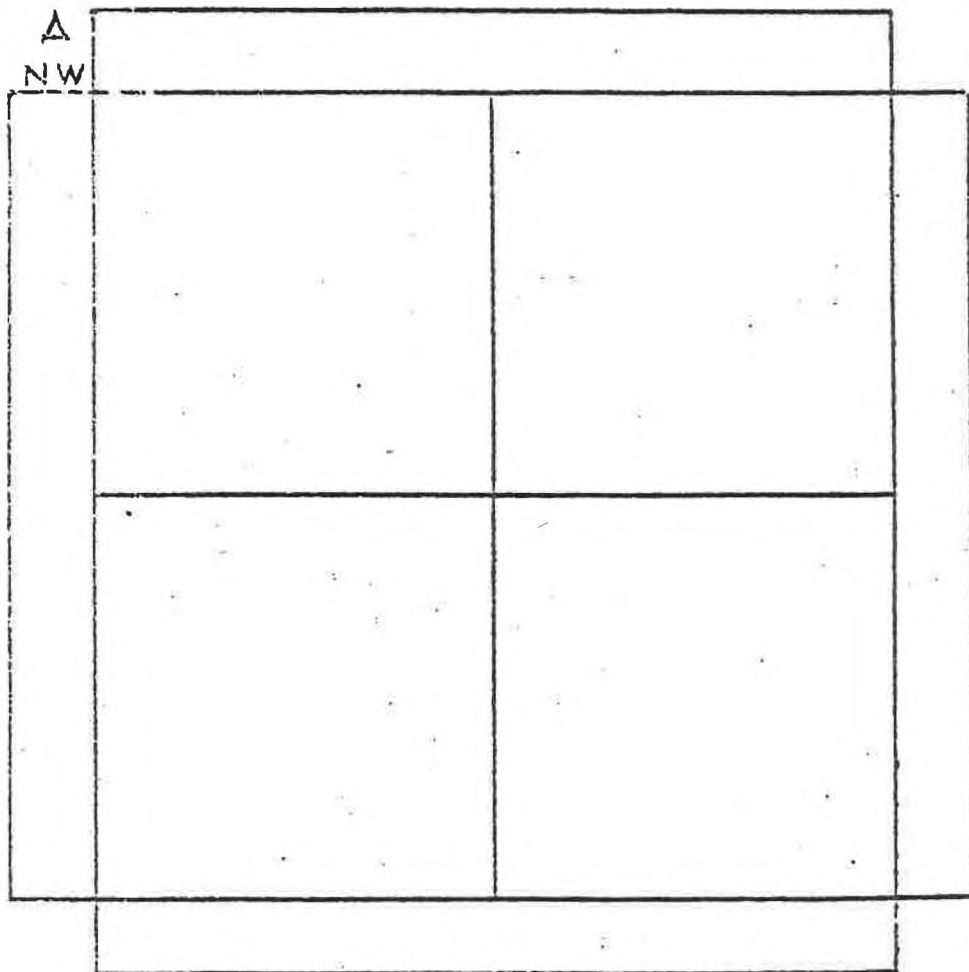
Depth 40 to 60 cm

Methodology shovel 1/4" screen

Soil Color (Munsell system) 10 YR 2/2 - Wet

Soil Texture Saturated SILT CLAY WITH SOME ROUNDED GRAVEL VERY STICKY

Macroconstituents _____



Artifact Key

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

(list additional artifacts on reverse side)

Feature Key

Scale: 1 cm = 10

Description of Features NONE

Stratigraphy SOIL HAS BECOME MORE YELLOW IN COLOR AND THERE IS MORE CLAY
inhumations or Cremations (give burial #)

EXCAVATORS R COWEN & R. WILBOG

DATE 6-30-81

COMMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS (ON REVERSE)

COMMENTS: Recovery has dropped off significantly at bottom of level (60cm BD floor). Very little shell is even being recovered. Soil is so saturated it can no longer be effectively dry-screened - have decided to abandon digging unit and auger (See Auger log below).

AUGER LOG:

- 80 cm BD — ~~is~~ 5/3/2 (wet) - dark olive gray; saturated sticky clay to sandy clay. Matrix is sterile.
- 90 cm BD - same, except matrix is sandier with some rounded gravel.
- 96 cm BD - Have encountered standing water. No cultural material noted. Augering terminated.

COMMITTEE FOR GREEN FOOTHILLS

Peninsula Conservation Center
2253 Park Blvd., Palo Alto, California 94306

Phone: 327-5906 or 328-5313



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Linda Grandmaison

April 10, 1982

Mr. Al Morales
Senior Planner
City of Menlo Park
Civic Center
Menlo Park, California 94025

Dear Mr. Morales,

We have reviewed the "Rinal EIR" dated March 12, 1982, for the Dumbarton Distribution Center. Although we received notice of the Planning Commission meeting which was to consider this Final EIR, we were unable to attend. We understand the Commission has continued consideration of the EIR, and we would appreciate having our comments included in guiding revision to the document.

We are extremely concerned that the Final EIR has not responded to our concerns expressed in our December 2, 1981 letter.

Particularly, the "project" must include all of the subject property. The total area of the property is 70 acres, yet the EIR states that only 52.6 acres is the "project". Under CEQA, the total area must be addressed in the EIR. In the case of this project, the area "not part of the project" is extremely sensitive wetlands. Until the EIR addresses this area - what the applicant will do with the area - what the impacts will be upon it - how the area will be protected from adverse impacts - the EIR is incomplete and inadequate.

I am enclosing a recent Negative Declaration prepared by San Mateo County Planning Division for a project in the vicinity of the Dumbarton Distribution Center. This Negative Declaration, as you will notice, does address the extensive wetlands on the site.

Additionally, we do not believe that the jobs/housing imbalance problems have yet been adequately addressed. We believe that there should be assurance that either unemployed persons living in the Menlo Park - East Palo Alto area will be employed here, or that additional housing for low and moderate income persons will be built to meet the needs generated by the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and we look forward to seeing an improvement in the EIR.

Sincerely,

Lennie Roberts
Vice President

