



SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: 10/7/2025
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Locations: Teleconference and
City Council Chambers
751 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025

Special Session

A. Call To Order

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Present: Combs, Nash, Schmidt, Wise
Absent: Taylor
Staff: City Manager Justin Murphy, City Attorney Nira Doherty, Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi A. Herren

C. Closed Session

- C1. Conference with legal counsel – anticipated litigation
Initiation of litigation (paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of §54956.9): One potential case

Regular Session

D. Call To Order

Mayor Combs called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m.

E. Report from Closed Session

No reportable action.

F. Agenda Review

The City Council pulled items I2. and L2. for discussion.

G. Public Comment

- Pete Colby spoke in support of the solar panels installed at the library, the treescape on El Camino Real (ECR) and increasing greenspace, on concerns of raised grates on ECR near Safeway and parking considerations for new housing developments and requested that benches located at non-activated bus stops be relocated to active bus stops.

H. Presentations and Proclamations

H1. Proclamation: Domestic Violence Awareness Month (Attachment)

Mayor Combs introduced the proclamation.

CORA Community Education Manager Mariluisa Diaz accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

H2. Proclamation: Latino Heritage Month (Attachment)

Mayor Combs introduced the proclamation.

San Mateo County Latino/a/x Collaborative Co-Chair Dr. Gabriela Perez accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

H3. Proclamation: Cybersecurity Awareness Month (Attachment)

Mayor Combs introduced the proclamation.

Information Technology Manager Danny Daniels accepted the proclamation (Attachment).

H4. Presentation: San Francisquito Creek Reach 2 update (Attachment)

Executive Director of the San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority (SFCJPA) Margaret Bruce made the presentation (Attachment).

- Jerry Hearn spoke on their experience with creeks and in support of equitable communication, flood and erosion control and the preservation of natural habitats and recreation.
- Naomi Goodman requested clarification on the alternatives presented by the SFCJPA.

The City Council received clarification on impacts to Woodland Avenue and animal wildlife, next steps and alternative selection timelines and key considerations for Menlo Park.

The City Council discussed the evolving plans of the project, building trust between the SFCJPA and the city and project cost and cost sharing principles.

I. Consent Calendar

I1. Accept the City Council meeting minutes for September 9, 2025 (Attachment)

I2. Waive the second reading and adopt an ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance to add the C-1-S (Administrative, Professional, and Research District, Special) district, adopt an ordinance to amend the Zoning Map to rezone the project site to the C-1-S district and incorporate a new "X" overlay district and approve the conditional development permit (CDP), and waive the second reading and adopt the development agreement (DA) for the Parkline Master Plan Project located at 201, 301 and 333 Ravenswood Ave. and 555 and 565 Middlefield Rd. (Staff Report #25-154-CC)

- Pete Colby spoke on concerns to the designs of buildings, amenities and parking garages for the Parkline project.

- Steve Schmidt spoke on concerns related to the P, S and T buildings, in support of removal of these buildings from this approval and requiring a second application.

The City Council received clarification on maximum amount of non-residential development (1 million square feet), maximum amount of office and research and development (925,000 square feet/ 638,000 without buildings P, S and T), maximum amount of other non-residential development (75,000 square feet if the office/research is developed at 925,000 and not less), commercial/retail space falling into the non-residential total and not impacted by phasing, examples of amenities for SRI employees and public, environmental impact report (EIR) requirements, the redevelopment of buildings P, S and T to be included in future conditional development permit (CDP) amendment and associated California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review, fast-tracking eligibility for future permits and the redevelopment of buildings P, S and T requirements under the CDP.

The City Council directed adding to the ordinance that any housing-related permits be fast tracked.

ACTION: Motion and second (Schmidt/ Wise), to approve the consent calendar with the inclusion of a recital to the ordinance in item I2. to fast-track any housing permits, passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

J. Public Hearing

- J1. Consider and adopt a resolution approving a variance to reduce the subdivision ordinance front setback requirement for a new one-story, single-family residence at 8 Hermosa Pl.
(Staff Report #25-153-CC)

Associate Planner Matt Pruter made a presentation (Attachment).

Mayor Combs opened the public hearing.

Mayor Combs closed the public hearing.

The City Council received clarification on the variance to a subdivision requiring City Council approval.

ACTION: Motion and second (Combs/ Wise), to adopt a resolution to approve the request for a variance to reduce the subdivision ordinance front setback requirement to allow the construction of a new one-story, single-family residence in the R-1-S (Single Family Suburban Residential) zoning district at 8 Hermosa Pl., passed 4-0-1 (Taylor absent).

K. City Council Initiated Items

- K1. Request by City Councilmember Wise for a future agenda topic (Staff Report #25-151-CC)

City Councilmember Wise introduced the item.

- Gregory Faris spoke in support of the annexation of the Menlo Park triangle (Attachment).
- Jenny Michele spoke in support of the annexation of the Menlo Park triangle.
- Pam Jones spoke in support of the annexation of the Menlo Park triangle.

The City Council discussed granting a fee waiver to allow the triangle to annex into the City, consideration at annual goal setting and opportunity costs.

ACTION: Motion and second (Combs/ Wise), to prepare a formal staff report with a determined level of staff resources and timing for City Council consideration, passed 3-1-1 (Nash dissenting and Taylor absent).

L. Informational Items

- L1. City Council agenda topics: October – November 2025 (Staff Report #25-152-CC)
- L2. City Council fiscal year 2025-26 work plan update (Staff Report #25-150-CC)

The City Council received clarification on the project timeline.

The City Council discussed actions taken related to the Public Plaza on the 600 block of Santa Cruz Avenue.

M. City Manager Report

None.

N. City Councilmember Reports

Mayor Combs reported out on the State of the City Oct. 23.

Vice Mayor Nash reported out on Peninsula Clean Energy and Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency meetings, a vice mayor event and the upcoming Menlo Park City School District Board meeting Oct. 9 (Attachment).

City Councilmember Schmidt reported out on Sustainability San Mateo County meeting.

O. Adjournment

Mayor Combs adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Assistant to the City Manager/ City Clerk Judi Herren

These minutes were approved at the City Council meeting November 4, 2025.

Proclamation

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2025

WHEREAS, more than one in three women, one in four men, and one in two transgender individuals experience some form of physical or sexual violence and/or stalking by their intimate partner in their lifetime; and

WHEREAS, the marginalization of certain groups in society, including undocumented individuals, transgender individuals and people living with disabilities, increases their vulnerability to domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse) staff provided more than 10,000 critical services in the past year, ensuring survivors have access to safety, advocacy, and healing; and

WHEREAS, CORA provided over \$1 million in client cash assistance, including subsidized rent, security deposits and a range of emergency expenses, from car repairs to storage costs; and

WHEREAS, in San Mateo County, 121 adults and children were provided emergency shelter, including stays in safe houses and motels, and 144 adults and children were provided longer term rental assistance to escape their abusers last year; and

WHEREAS, 606 adults and children received therapy to help them with domestic violence-related trauma, and CORA fielded 2,092 requests for legal assistance; and

WHEREAS, Menlo Park, alongside San Mateo County, recognizes the critical need for county-wide services that support the diverse needs of all residents; and

WHEREAS, intimate partner violence continues to be among the most under-reported crimes and San Mateo County is committed to eliminating all forms of intimate partner abuse; and

WHEREAS, Domestic Violence Awareness Month is a time to raise awareness about and encourage all residents of Menlo Park to do their part to help rid our community of intimate partner violence; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Drew Combs, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, on behalf of the City Council and City, do hereby proclaim and recognize October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Menlo Park.

Drew Combs, Mayor
October 7, 2025

Proclamation

LATINO HERITAGE MONTH SEPT. 15 – OCT. 15, 2025

WHEREAS, Latino Heritage Month, celebrated annually from September 15 to October 15, is a time to honor and celebrate the immeasurable contributions and unique stories of the Latino/a/x community; and

WHEREAS, Californians know that our strength and prosperity lie in our state's diversity, including the more than 15 million Latino/a/x Californians with roots that can be traced across the Americas, indigenous communities of Latin America, Africa and beyond; and

WHEREAS, generations of Latino/a/x people throughout history have helped build our state and local community as we know it, standing against inequalities and injustices and shaping social, political and economic landscapes at all levels; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that Latino/a/x people have always been and will always be deeply rooted in California's history, identity and success, contributing to local vibrancy and growth every day as teachers and business owners, scientists and soldiers, farmworkers and first responders, artists and activists, colleagues, neighbors and friends; and

WHEREAS, we also recognize the persistent disparities and disproportionate challenges that Latino/a/x residents face, including anti-immigrant movements fueled by misinformation and hate, and supported by laws, policies and rulings that ignore the humanity, the civil rights and many contributions of the Latino/a/x community; and

WHEREAS, this month and every month let us honor and celebrate the rich history, culture, tradition and indelible value of the Latino/a/x community, as well as the vital importance of diverse, multicultural and equitable cities where all are welcome; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Drew Combs, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, on behalf of the City Council and City, do hereby proclaim and recognize Sept. 15 – Oct. 15, 2025 as Latino Heritage Month in Menlo Park.

Drew Combs, Mayor
October 7, 2025

Proclamation

CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 2025

WHEREAS, the City of Menlo Park recognizes that it plays a vital role in identifying, protecting its residents from and responding to cybersecurity threats that may have significant impact to our individual and collective safety and privacy; and

WHEREAS, critical infrastructure (i.e., financial services, educational institutions, energy, telecommunications, transportation, utilities, health care and emergency response systems) is increasingly reliant on the support of information systems and technology; and

WHEREAS, cybersecurity education and awareness are crucial for everyone, including large corporations, small businesses, financial institutions, schools, government agencies, non-profit organizations, the home user and anyone who connects to the internet, be it with a computer, mobile phone, or other internet-connected device; and

WHEREAS, monitoring your accounts, being conscientious of what you share online, keeping computer software up to date, creating unique passwords and changing them regularly, installing antivirus programs and firewalls and using mobile devices and other internet-connected devices safely, are ways people and organizations can protect themselves from phishing, viruses, ransomware, other types of malware, financial loss and loss of sensitive data; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the security of cyberspace is a shared responsibility in which each of us has a critical role to play, and awareness of essential cyber hygiene will improve the security of the City of Menlo Park's information, infrastructure and economy; and

WHEREAS, all are encouraged to reduce online risks by learning about cybersecurity so they can put that knowledge into practice in their homes, schools, workplaces and businesses; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Drew Combs, Mayor of the City of Menlo Park, on behalf of the City Council and City, do hereby proclaim and recognize October 2025 as Cybersecurity Awareness Month in Menlo Park.

Drew Combs, Mayor
October 7, 2025

San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority

Reach 2 Project Status

Presentation to
City of Menlo Park
City Council
October 7, 2025



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

What is The San Francisquito Creek Joint Powers Authority?

Five Members

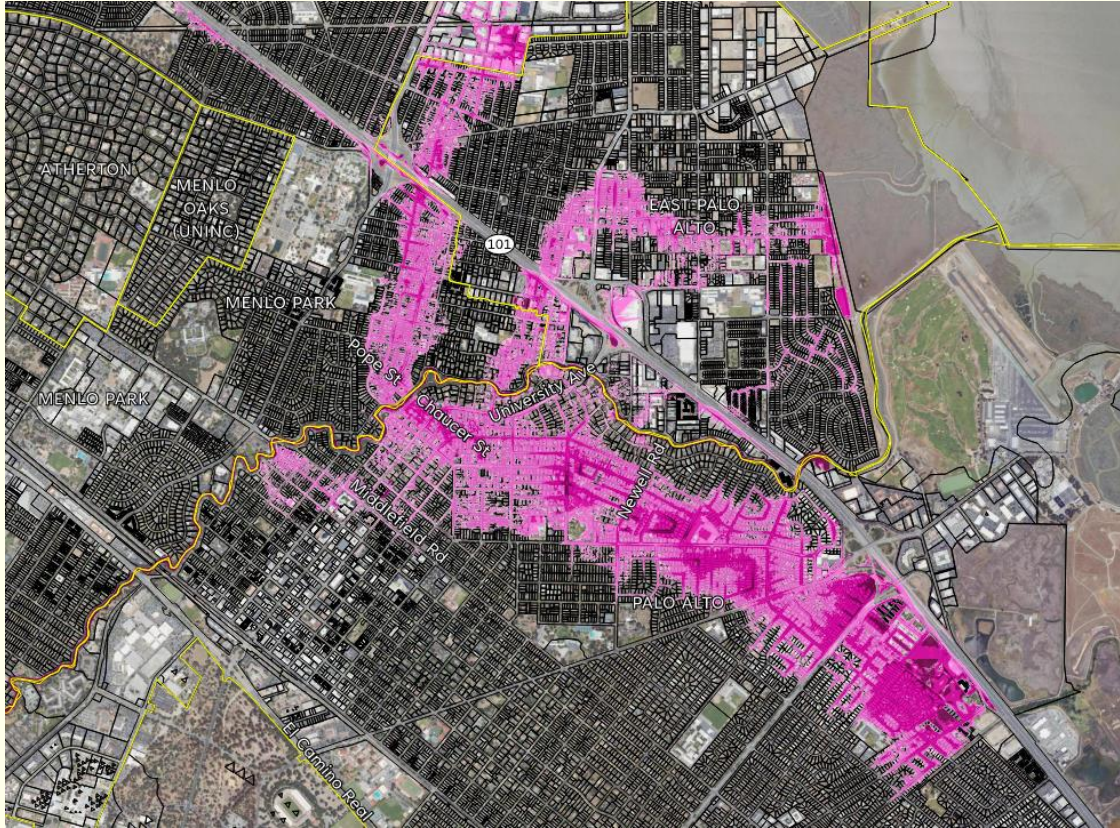
Created in 1999 to address
flooding impacting multiple
jurisdictions

Collaboratively plan, design, and
coordinate funding for flood risk
reduction projects



Completed Reach 1 Project at Friendship Bridge

Project Goals



Modeled flooding extents at a 7,200 cfs storm, similar to the 1998 “Flood of Record”. Results are preliminary and uses a draft hydraulic model pending USACE certification.

Protect To What Level?

Up to the “Flood of Record” (~7,200 cubic feet per second (cfs) or a 70-year event)

Protect How Many Properties?

- ~ 857 in Menlo Park
- ~ 1,252 in East Palo Alto
- ~ 2,943 in Palo Alto

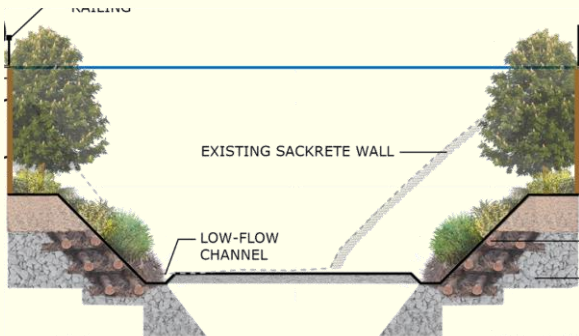
Provide What Other Benefits?

- Enhance creek habitat
- Protect trees as much as possible
- Add recreation opportunities

Summary of WRA Report Alternatives

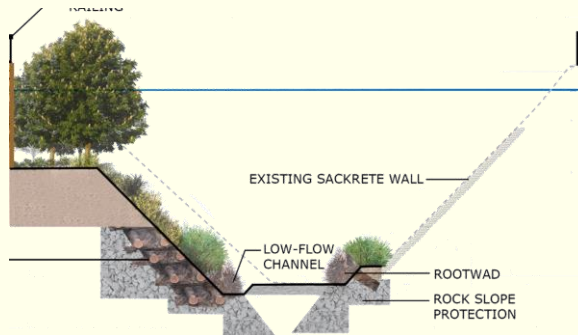
Alternative 1

- **Pope Chaucer Bridge replaced**
- **Widening (both banks) – 4600 LF**
- Fixed floodwalls (average 1-3.5 feet high)



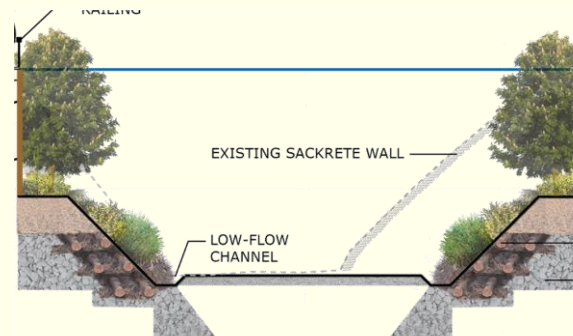
Alternative 2

- **Pope Chaucer Bridge replaced**
- **Widening (left bank only) – 2300 LF**
- Fixed floodwalls (average 2-4 feet high)



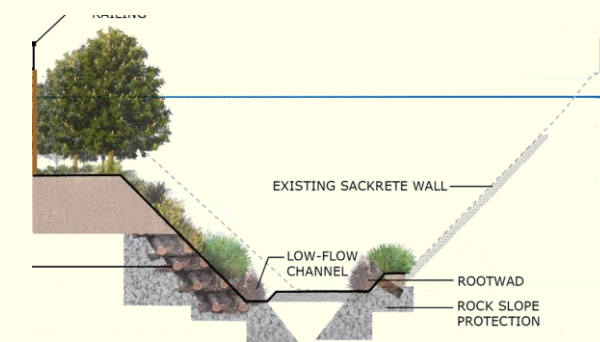
Alternative 3

- **Pope Chaucer Bridge modification with culverts**
- **Widening (both banks) – 4600 LF**
- Fixed floodwalls (average 1-3.5 feet high)



Alternative 4

- **Pope Chaucer Bridge modification with culverts**
- **Widening (left bank only) – 2300 LF**
- Fixed floodwalls (average 2-4 feet high)



Draft WRA Alternatives Evaluation Report – Project Elements

- Channel Widening – “No Regrets”
 - Remove natural and constructed pinch points in the channel.
 - Optimally widen where access and rights-of-way make construction easier
 - Add toe-of-bank log crib structures for stabilization and habitat enhancement.
- Add floodwalls from upstream of Pope-Chaucer Bridge to Highway 101
- Remove the existing Pope-Chaucer Bridge and replace with an open-span design.



Conceptual rendering of channel widening, floodwall, and walking trail near Cooley Ave and Woodland Ave



Draft Alternatives Evaluation Report – Key Findings

Key findings –

- No single evaluated action can meet project goals
- Widening in key locations is beneficial, but cannot reach project goals alone
- Replacing the Pope-Chaucer Bridge brings benefits and risks
- Middlefield Rd. Bridge is also a problem area and will be added to the project scope.



Picture of a concrete structure creating a pinch point that would be removed during channel widening



Current Project Activities

Additional Due Diligence Studies:

- Bypass tunnel(s)
- Resolve questions or concerns about project elements



Top: Stormwater conveyance tunnel proposed in Harris County, TX



Bottom: Retractable flood barrier

Anticipated Next Steps

- Planning and Design for a comprehensive project
 - Confirm draft evaluation using the USACE Existing Conditions Model/FWOP model.
 - Conclude evaluations of potential bypass
- Final Alternatives Evaluation Report
- Board selection of the suite components of the Reach 2 project
- USACE CAP205 – integrate project components
- Develop a cost share principles and framework
- Move forward with design and engineering, additional CEQA, and permitting.
- Implementation to start with elements in existing EIR.



Temporary wooden parapet at University Ave



Concrete terrace at Site 2



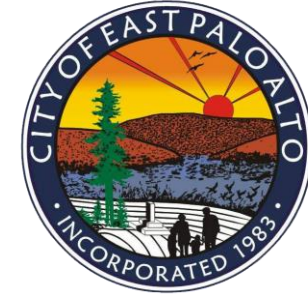
CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**



CITY OF
MENLO PARK



OneShoreline
Building Solutions for a Changing Climate



You can learn more about the SFCJPA and our projects on our website: www.sfcjpa.org

SFCJPA Project Staff Contacts:

- Margaret Bruce, Executive Director: mbruce@sfcjpa.org
- Tess Byler, Senior Project Manager: tbyler@sfcjpa.org
- Denean Ni, Project Manager: dni@sfcjpa.org



SAN FRANCISQUITO CREEK
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

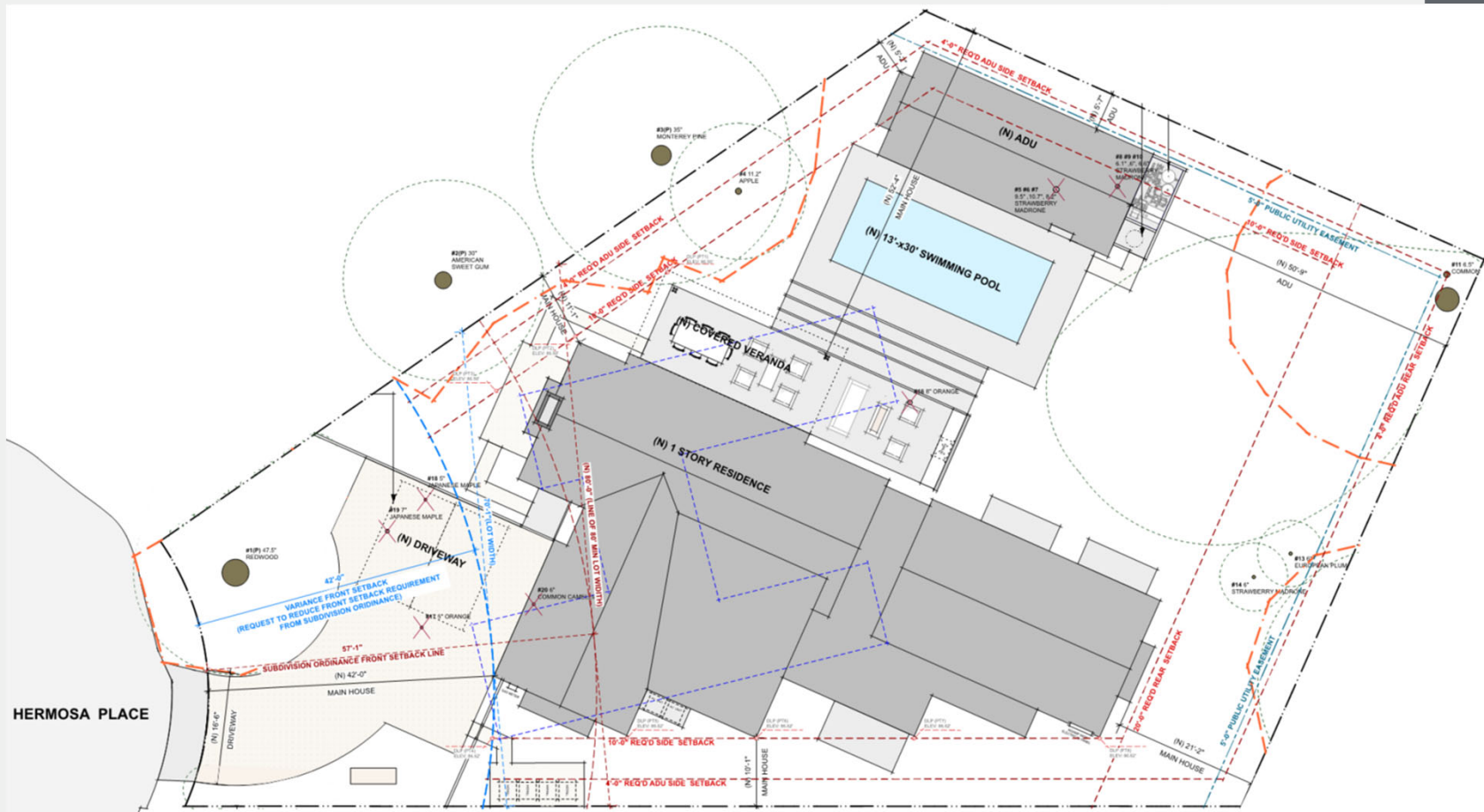


8 Hermosa Pl. Variance

Matt Pruter, Associate Planner



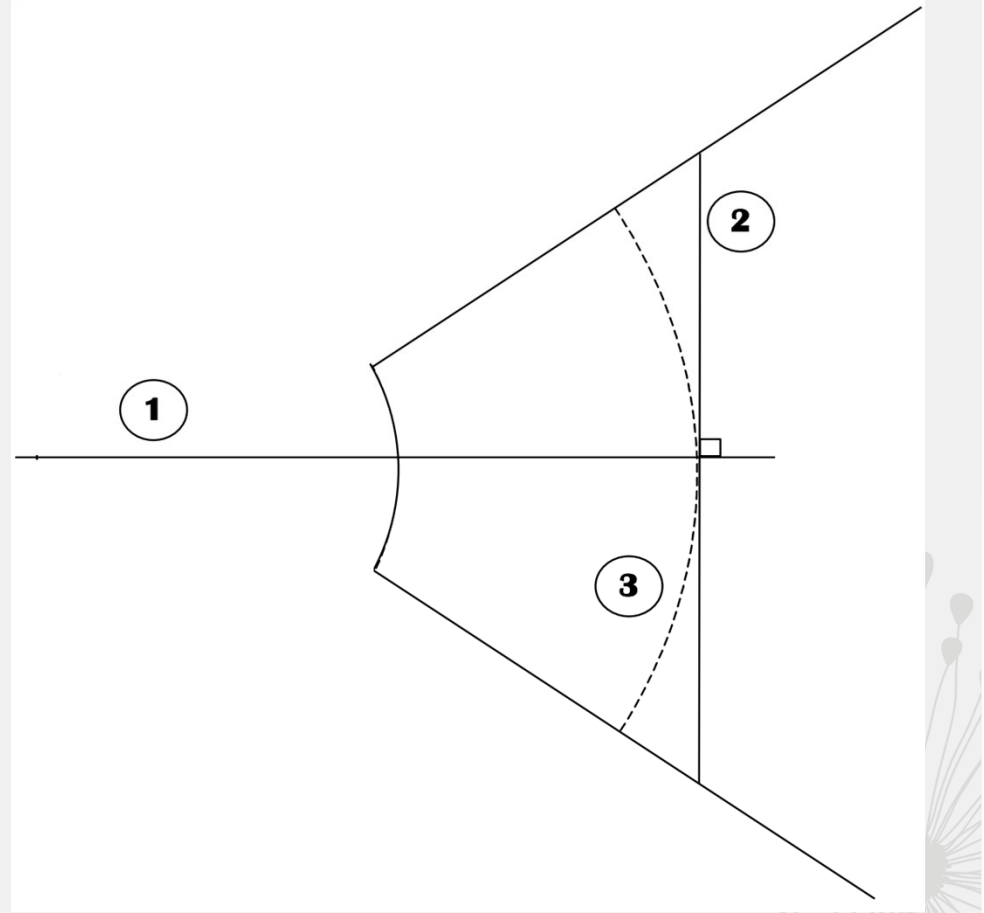
Site conditions





Subdivision ordinance front setback

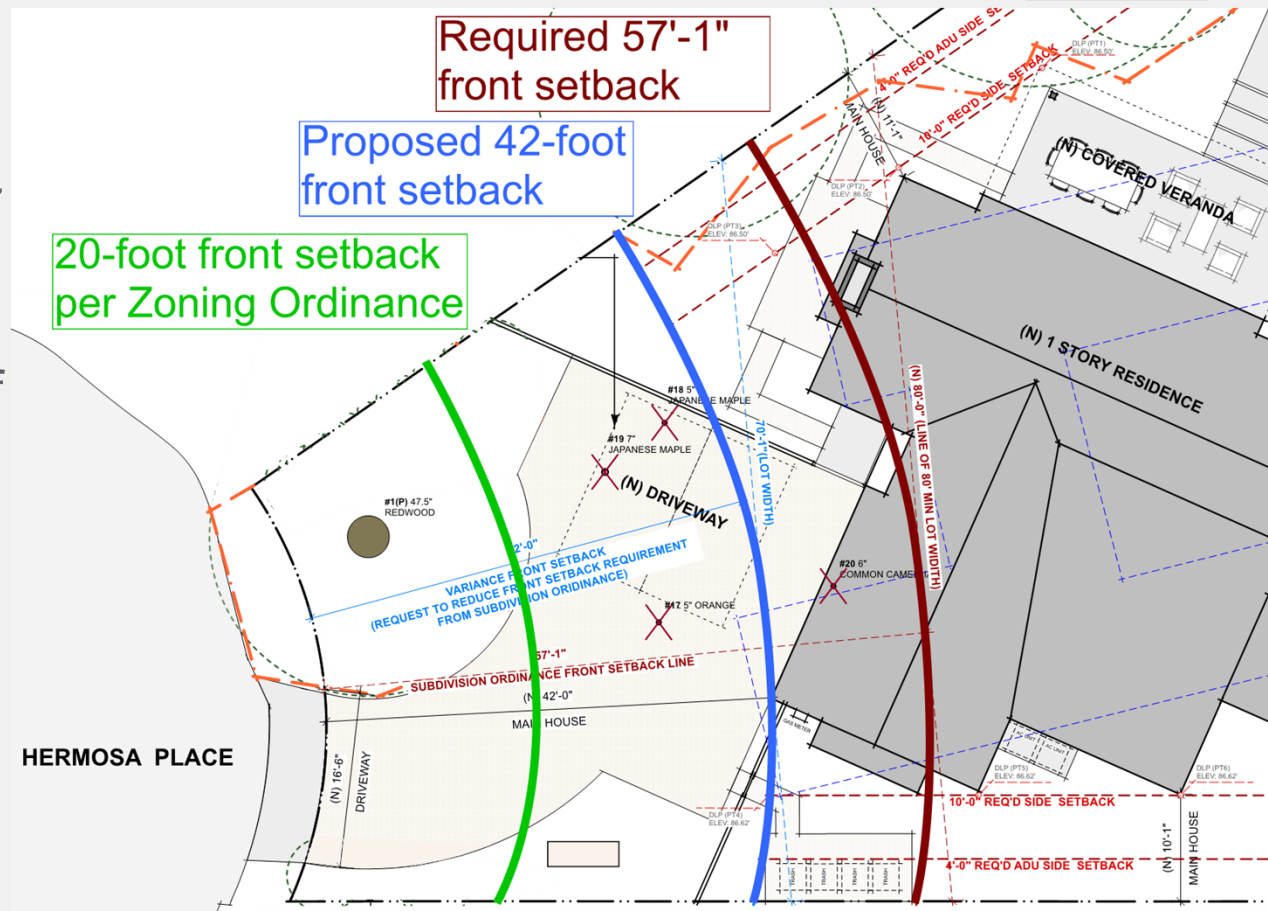
- Title 15 – Subdivision Ordinance
- Applies to existing lots with a curved frontage
 - Front setback – point where the lot meets minimum lot width





Variance request

- Proposed new residence
 - Front setback of ~57 feet per Subdivision Ordinance
 - Proposed setback of 42 feet
 - 20 feet is front setback per Zoning Ordinance
 - Limited encroachments





Subdivision ordinance variance findings

- 15.32 Variances – 15.32.020 Criteria for granting
 1. Will not constitute a special privilege
 2. Special circumstances apply to the subject property
 3. Carries out the spirit of the subdivision ordinance
- Recommend adoption of a resolution approving the variance



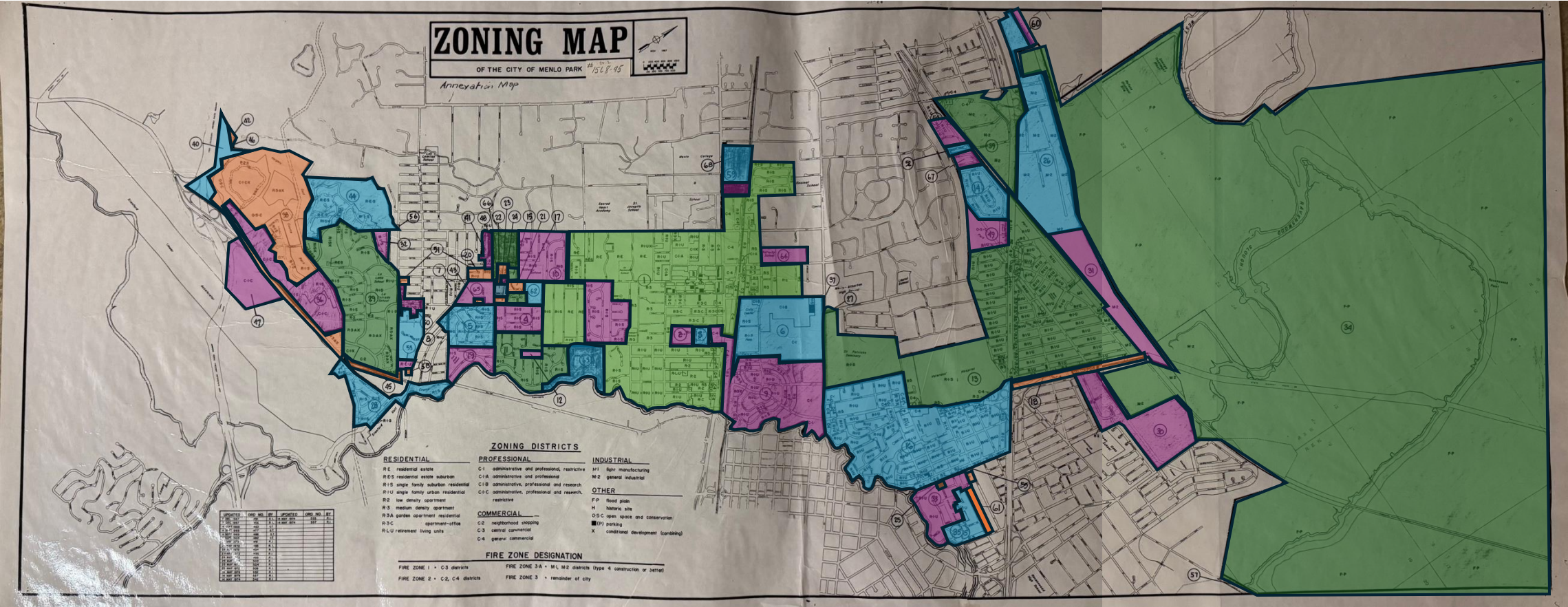


Thank you

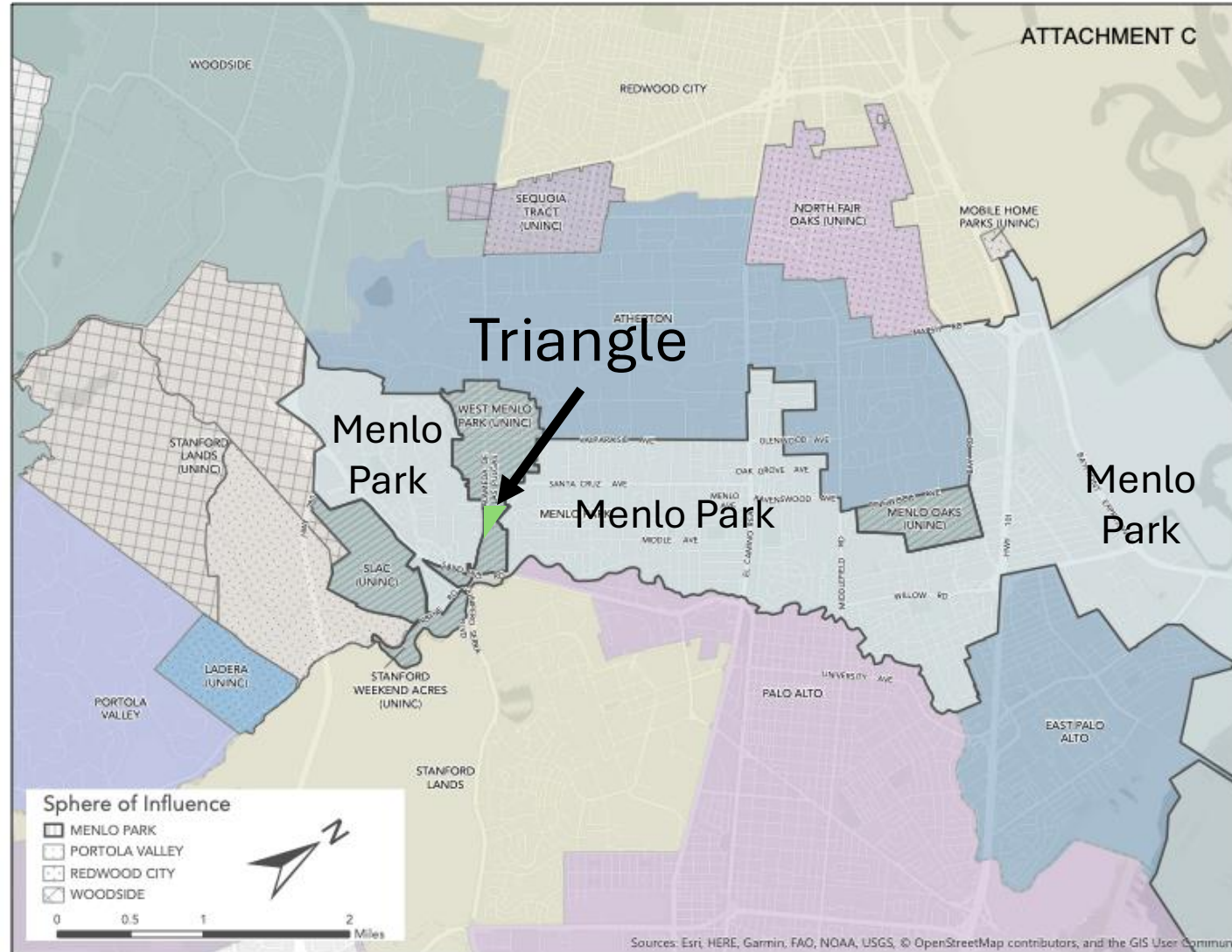
West Menlo Triangle Annexation

Greg Faris
2042 Santa Cruz Avenue, Menlo Park
October 7, 2025

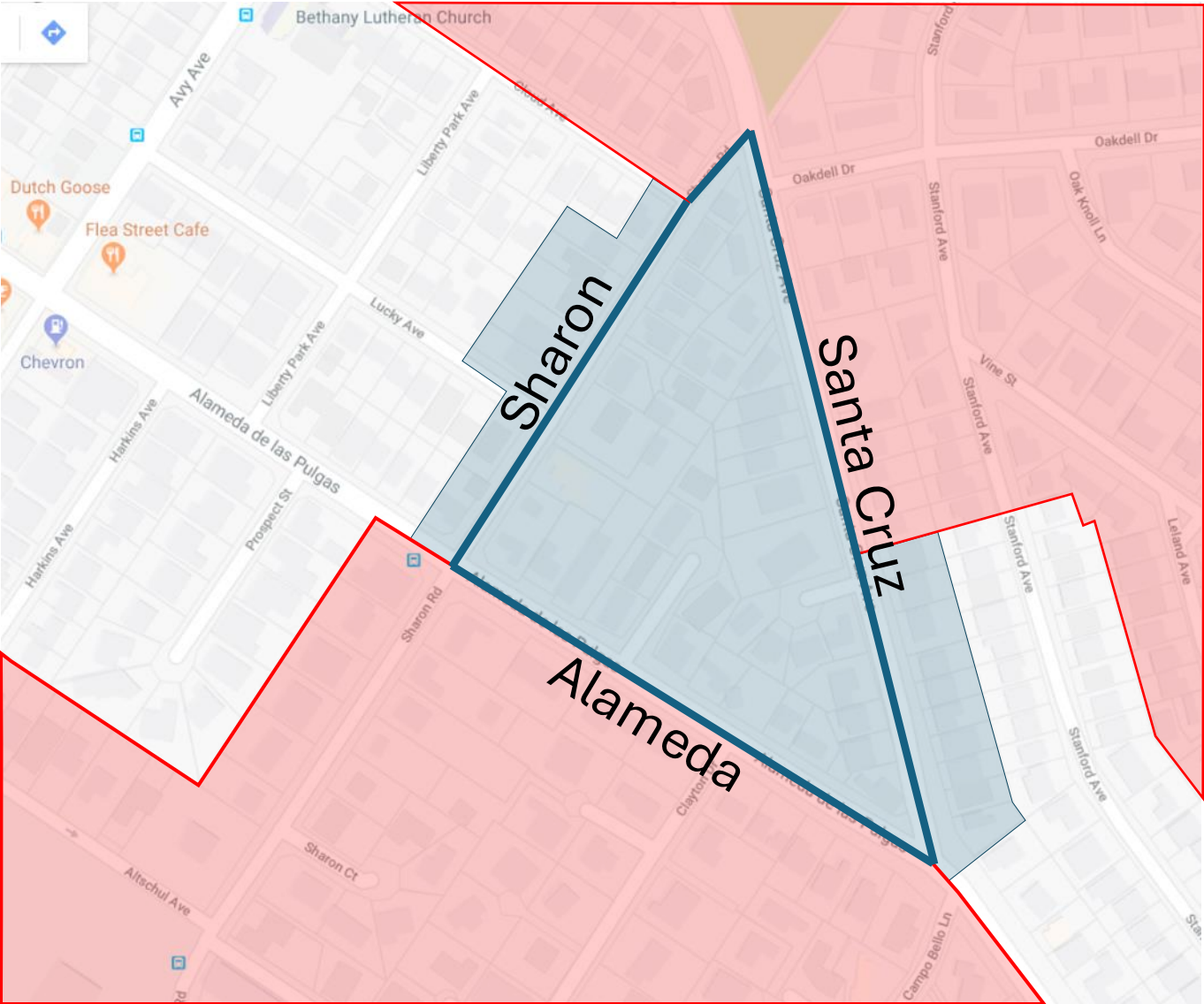
Menlo Park is a product of annexation



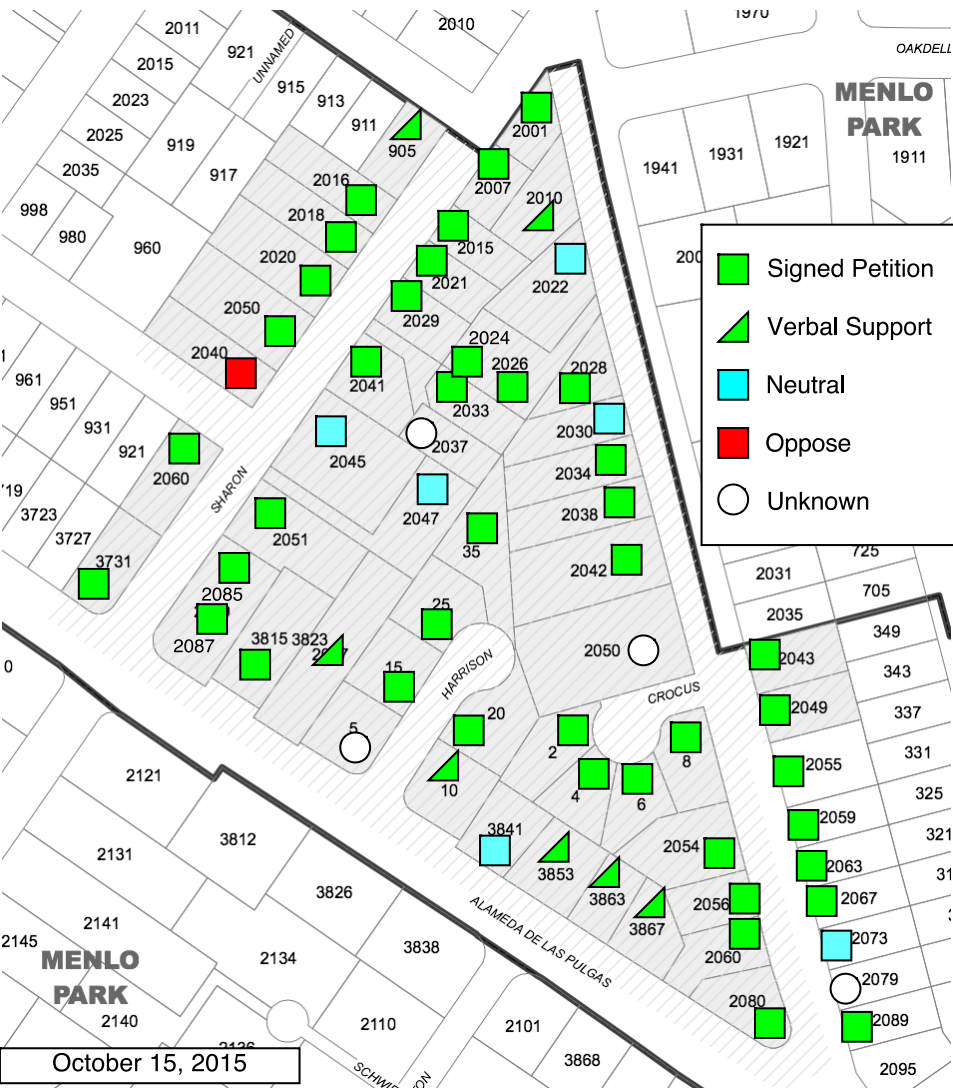
Where is the Triangle?



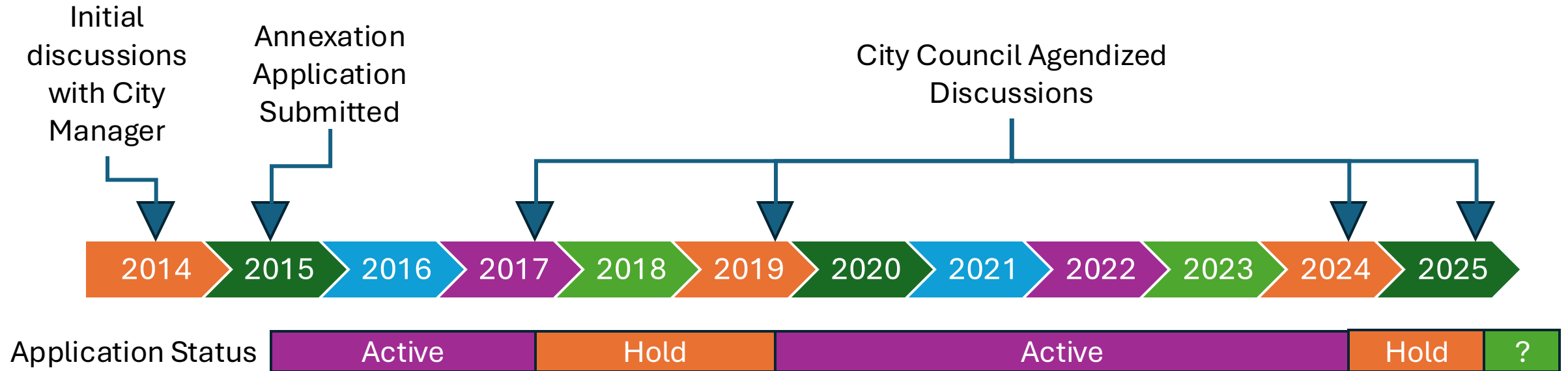
The Triangle



80% Neighbor support for annexation in the triangle



Annexation timeline



Major improvements on Alameda



June 2021



October 2025

Financial aspects

- Remaining expenses to complete annexation are modest
- These costs will be rapidly repaid through new tax revenue

Conclusions

- Annexation has made Menlo Park the strong city it is today
- Triangle is prime candidate for annexation – it is surrounded by Menlo Park
- Annexation has tremendous neighborhood support
- Infrastructure is brand new or recently resurfaced
- Tax revenue quickly recovers modest costs

PCE Rebates for Heat Pumps



Heat Pump
Heating & Cooling
\$1,500 rebate



Heat Pump Water
Heater
\$2,500 rebate



Zero Percent
Loan
\$10,000 Loan

Additional: \$1,000 for income-qualified, \$1,000 for electrical panel upgrade