

December 1, 2020

Dear members of Menlo Park City Council,

Facebook is proud to support the Menlo Park SAFER (Strategy to Advance Flood protection, Ecosystems, and Recreation) Bay Project, which is seeking funding from FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant program to build coastal flooding and sea level rise resilience for critical infrastructure and surrounding communities in Menlo Park. The project would protect segments of California State Route 84 and PG&E's Ravenswood Substation, which are anchors for power service and transportation to the area. The project will also increase recreational access to the Bay shoreline and, by leveraging nature-based design, enable habitat restoration work in sections of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. Facebook's support for the project includes funding work needed to complete the FEMA application, including a benefit-cost analysis and \$7.808 million commitment if the project wins FEMA federal funding.

California has demonstrated strong leadership in climate mitigation through the state's advancement of policies and technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while fostering innovation and economic growth. The state's recent history also reveals its exposure to climate change hazards—such as wildfires, heat waves, and sea level rise—that are projected to increase in frequency and severity in the coming decades. The Menlo Park SAFER Bay project demonstrates how climate mitigation and adaptation can go hand in hand by utilizing nature-based solutions to protect critical electric and transportation infrastructure from sea level rise, which in turn will support Menlo Park's and neighboring communities' efforts to meet their Climate Action Plans and decarbonization efforts. Amid projections for increasing electric vehicle usage and building decarbonization, it is imperative for communities to have safe and reliable electric service as a cornerstone of climate action.

The project will also help to fill a growing resiliency gap in California by protecting and engaging with local disadvantaged communities, educating the public about climate change, and creating jobs. Climate change disproportionately impacts disadvantaged communities, and the Menlo Park SAFER Bay project will protect

these communities from debilitating flooding and interruptions in critical electric service and transportation access.

Facebook is proud to be a key project funder and stakeholder and is optimistic that the application will win FEMA funding.

Sincerely,

Lauren Swezey
Sustainability and Landscape Project Lead
Facebook

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