



MOUNTAIN HOUSE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

*"To Provide Responsive Service to our Growing Community
that Exceeds Expectations at a Fair Value"*

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA TITLE: General Manager Update on District Activities

MEETING DATE: March 9, 2022

PREPARED BY: Steven J. Pinkerton, General Manager

COVID -19 Updates and Protocols

Developing protocols during this time when circumstances, guidelines, new variants, and standards are rapidly evolving continues to be a complex and challenging task. We are balancing the desire to return fully to pre-COVID activities with our responsibility to protect residents and staff. This is a challenge that will test the patience and resourcefulness of the community.

Effective March 1, 2022, the requirement that unvaccinated individuals mask in indoor public settings has been lifted. All persons, regardless of vaccine status, are strongly recommended to continue indoor masking.

What to do now

Do what it takes to stay safe until COVID-19 is under control. Use these tools to reduce the risk of infection.



Vaccinations

Get vaccinated, and get your kids 5 and older vaccinated. It's our best tool to end the pandemic. Vaccination is safe, effective, and free.



Masks

Wear a mask to keep from spreading the virus to those with no defense, like the immune-compromised and children under 5.



Testing

Get tested for COVID-19 if you may have been exposed. It's free and confidential for everyone in California.

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As of March 3, 2022, San Joaquin County reported a COVID testing positivity rate of 4.5%, a decrease from 10.1% in mid-February. The statewide positivity rate was 2.5%. The case rate for the County is now dropping significantly on a daily basis. The 7-day rate (15.1 per 100,000) is down over 90 percent from the mid-January peak. 96% of individuals over the age of 5 living in the 95391 zip code are now fully vaccinated and the remaining 4% are partially vaccinated.

I receive weekly updates from the San Joaquin County Public Health Department and periodically discuss best practices and public building reopening protocols with other City Managers in the region.

We have posted links to COVID-related materials on our District website and our social media sites. Besides including District-specific information, you can also access important materials from the County's Public Health Department and the California Department of Public Health.

Visit the following link for information and updates:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/>
<https://sjready.org/events/covid19/vaccines.html>

Support for Transit Program

Staff sent a letter of support to the Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency in support of the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's grant application for the 2022 transit and intercity rail capital program and the Interstate 680 Express Bus project. (Attachment A)

Risk Management/Human Resources

Nicole Adamo, District Clerk, is reviewing and updating COVID protocols and developing a safety program. Staff meets routinely to discuss risk assessment and avoidance.

Contracts with the District's two bargaining units will expire on June 30, 2022. Contract negotiations have begun and the Board will be provided a brief update during closed session at the March Board meeting.

The District is currently working on recruitments for Temporary Lifeguard, Recreation Assistant, Senior Accountant, Utility Manager and Recreation Manager. We hope to have these key positions filled within the next several weeks. The Temporary Lifeguard and Recreation Assistant positions will remain open until filled. Staff has recently extended an offer to a Construction Manager candidate who has accepted the position with an anticipated start date of mid-March. In addition, the District recently filled the position of Accounting Technician through an internal promotional process.

Finance Department

Budget preparations for fiscal year 2022/2023 are underway. The General Manager will be reviewing department submittals and we will present a proposed budget to the Board in May. The Department has also been working with other staff and consultants on reviewing and updating utility rates and providing information needed for the feasibility study for incorporation.

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Utility Billing

Restrictions on shutting off services for non-payment of utility bills have been lifted. The District sent delinquent notices on January 25. This notice informed customers of the shut off process and the opportunity to enter into an amortization plan to pay past due accounts. Customers should be aware that if they do not comply with the payment plan, their services can be terminated without further notice. On March 15, staff will distribute 10-day notice door hangars and services will be shut off at the end of March.

We expect that the resumption of water shut offs will reduce the number of delinquent accounts. However, we will continue to place property liens as warranted to protect the District's interests.

Community Meetings

In coordination with the Board, staff is conducting a series of community meetings this year. To date, meeting topics have included presentations from developers, consultants, and staff on the park strategic plan, bike and pedestrian plans, incorporation, transportation issues, water conservation, Wicklund mailboxes, residential waste disposal, Valley Link, and the water and wastewater rate study.

Our next Community Meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 6, 2022. This Zoom event will provide information to the public regarding a water and wastewater rate study. Staff is also preparing presentations on our Master Restrictions and Park Planning for future meetings.

Public Parks and Facilities and Recreation Programming

The next community event is the Bike Rodeo, scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2022. The San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department will participate in the event. This annual event teaches bike safety and kids can register to win a new bike. If you would like to volunteer for this event or participate as a vendor, please contact Angel Lamb at alamb@sjgov.org. Watch for updates on Facebook and other social media.

The District is recruiting for Recreation Assistants and Temporary Lifeguards. Visit our website for information on how to apply for these rewarding opportunities.

Angel Lamb, Recreation/Communications Coordinator, is serving as President of District 5 of the California Parks and Recreation Society. Her term will end in February, 2023. Her service with the organization provides opportunities for networking and sharing best practices.

Web Services

Staff continues to work on surveys for the community. We are currently working on a Prop 218 "Did you Know" survey.

Topic	Visitor	Respondents
Retail/new shopping center	1,861	1,346
Non-standard vehicles parking	660	168
Parks and recreation opportunities	1,112	735
Pedestrian/bicycle Master Plan	272	67
Improving public communication	457	220

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Transportation Options	1,556	1,054
Wicklund Mailbox	614	339
Importance of Play	1,046	533

These results demonstrate the effectiveness of this survey tool and the interest of our residents in community activities.

Staff has been working on various forms that will be available online as fillable PDFs. There will also be options to pay fees for items, such as encroachment permits, online. The forms will be available in the next few weeks. Staff will publicize the new access on our website, Facebook, and other social media.

Social Media

Angel Lamb manages the District's Facebook, Nextdoor and Twitter accounts. We continue to post updates and events.

The staff has also continued to use the eblast subscription for our residents. Go to www.mountainhousecsd.org to sign up for topics of interest, such as road closures or community news and events.

Incorporation

A "Plan for Services for the Subsidiary District" has been provided to LAFCo. The consultant for LAFCo completing the Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis submitted a document request list to staff. Staff is working on compiling those documents. The District's legal counsel has met with LAFCo counsel and they have agreed to some modifications to the Resolution to incorporate. The updated resolution will be presented to the Board at the April meeting.

Safeway

Construction is on schedule for a completion date of early summer 2022. The Safeway fuel station phase of the development is also moving forward. Fees for the fuel station were paid in late December. Many of the tenant spaces have been leased or are in negotiations. Other tenants in the center will include a mix of food and services, including tutoring, martial arts, sandwiches, pizza, and a coffee drive-through.

Van Daele Apartments

The Van Daele Homes apartments are located on Arnaudo Boulevard between Providence Street and Tradition Street. The design layout includes 176 townhomes. The project will be a gated community with 3 and 4 bedroom units. Staff provided comments on the new architecture design.

Grant Line Road West Improvements (Alameda County)

Staff is finalizing the agreement with Alameda County to advance the project to final design and construction services. Staff expects to present the final version of a cooperative agreement with Alameda County to the Board in the near future. Similarly, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors needs to approve the cooperative agreement following the District's Board approval. The project will involve final design and construction of two roundabouts along Grant Line Road in Alameda County. Staff expects completion of the final design by the fall of 2022 and completion of construction by the spring of 2024. District staff has developed a funding plan in association with

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Mountain House Developers (MHD) and Mountain House Investors (MHI), who are obligated to complete the project

Specific Plan III

Staff recently provided comments on two development plan submittals within Specific Plan III, Tentative Maps 4039 and 4040. The two major subdivision applications will include the development of one 143.34-acre parcel and one 35.8-acre parcel. The 143.34-acre parcel will be subdivided into 286 or more residential lots, 9 commercial and industrials lots, and one neighborhood park. The 35.83-acre parcel will be subdivided into 100-146 residential lots and one parcel for a neighborhood park. The two parcels to be subdivided were previously approved for development as outlined in the Mountain House Specific Plan III document. Modifications to the Master Plan and Specific Plan are being requested as part of this development request. Staff has had several meeting with the applicant team and County staff as this project moves through the development review process.

Grupe Apartments

Grupe has submitted an application for a 338-unit apartment project within Specific Plan III on a 16.92 acre site located on Central Pkwy adjacent to Interstate 205. Staff will work with the County to review and process this project.

Creekside Development – Neighborhood G

Staff is working with the designers to review the civil improvement plans for the 254-unit Creekside Development. The designer is revising the civil improvement plans. The second submittal of the civil improvements to the District is anticipated for early March, 2022.

Town Center Apartments Development Project

Installation of the underground utilities started in mid-November. Staff is working with the designers through the plan review process for the landscaping for future Providence Street. The improvement plans for traffic signals at the intersection of Arnaudo Boulevard and Providence Street have been approved.

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Grant Line Road Construction

Staff is working on acceptance documents for the improvements along Grant Line Road between Mountain House Parkway and Central Parkway. Work started on the themed entry portals on the south side of the intersection at Grant Line Road and Tradition Street.

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Utility Corridor Landscaping Concept Design

The concept plans for the utility corridor landscape design have been approved. VTA is working on preparing landscape improvement plans for each of the developer's section of the utility corridor.

Town Center Landscaping

Work continues on the landscaping along Mountain House Parkway and Byron Road.

Neighborhood J

Staff, MHD and the designers are working through the plan review process for the neighborhood J improvement plans and final maps.

**International Council of Shopping Centers Conference and Trade Show**

Mountain House will be represented at the International Council of Shopping Centers conference and trade show taking place on March 8 - 9 in Monterey. This trade show will provide an opportunity to showcase Mountain House and the opportunities for retail development which will have important ramifications both in terms of enhancing the community's quality of life and future revenue in a post-incorporation scenario.

Code Compliance Activities

With the adoption of the new ordinance regarding the Master Restrictions, staff is focusing on developing a procedural manual for the Master Restriction process. Staff is preparing an educational PowerPoint presentation and will hold two virtual meetings to educate residents regarding Master Restrictions and CC&R requirements.

Crime Prevention Activities

The coordination of Neighborhood Watch meetings is in progress along with Crime Prevention Workshops.

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The following are the statistics for the code compliance enforcement effort for February 2022.

Total citations issued	5
Parking- Citations	0
Parking- Warnings	3
Administrative/property/landscaping warnings/notice (no fines)	2
Administrative/property/landscaping citation (fine)	0
Appeal – parking-related	0
Request for change or variations of Master Restrictions	10
Approval permits for property changes approved	3
Approval permits for property changes pending	7

Citation numbers are lower than the previous report due to a malfunctioning electronic citation device. The machine was shipped to the vendor for repairs.

Wicklund Mail Box Replacement

The Board authorized the General Manager to work with the Tracy Postmaster to replace the individual mail boxes in Wicklund neighborhood with cluster mail boxes. Staff prepared a plan identifying the number and location of these cluster boxes and submitted it to the post office for review and approval. Staff has tried several times to contact the post office by phone and email, but no response has been received. We are waiting for comment from post office staff after they perform a site visit.

Sidewalk and Tree Maintenance Program

The sidewalk and tree maintenance program was approved by the board in September, 2021. Staff has been working with a contractor to identify and classify various sidewalk damages for grinding, removal, or replacement. As soon as this evaluation was completed, the process of grinding as well as removal and replacement started. The sidewalk maintenance program began on January 27. This is the first segment of a program designed to maintain residential sidewalks that have lifted due to tree roots and other factors. The extent and number of repairs is subject to annual funding. Annual assessments are prioritized by determining the number of lifts, the severity of each lift and the available funding that is approved by the Board. The priority rating places the threshold for sidewalk grinding from a vertical lift of $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1". Any sidewalk with a vertical lift of 1" or greater will be added to a list for replacement. In addition to sidewalk maintenance, neighborhood tree maintenance will also be provided under the same program. The extent of pruning will fall under the same parameters as sidewalk repairs. Sidewalk replacement and tree maintenance will begin in early summer.

**Status of the State Water Board's Delta Water Unavailability**

- On May 10, 2021, Governor Newsom issued a proclamation of a State of Emergency due to drought in 41 counties, including those in the Delta watershed.
- On July 8, 2021, the Governor issued an expanded proclamation of a State of Emergency for 9 additional counties and called upon Californians to voluntarily reduce their water use by 15 percent compared to the same period in 2020.
- On June 15, 2021, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) sent Notices of Water Unavailability to all water right holders in the Delta watershed, alerting all post-1914 appropriative water right holders. The June 15 notice also warned all pre-1914 appropriative and riparian water right claimants in the Delta watershed of impending water unavailability.
- On August 3, 2021, the State Water Board approved [Resolution No. 2021-0028](#), an emergency curtailment regulation for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Watershed.
- The Resolution authorizes diversion to continue after issuance of the curtailment order for minimum human health and safety needs, subject to conditions set forth in §878.1 of Resolution 21-0028.
- The District has provided information by providing door hangers, social media updates and flyers in the monthly newsletter sent with the utility bills. The community was informed that the 20% water use reduction implemented in 2014 was still in effect and other water use reductions for landscape irrigation and construction were in effect.
- Staff is working on formalizing a number of alternatives that were considered for a second source of water in case of an emergency interruption to the raw water delivery by Byron Bethany Irrigation District (BBID).
- Staff continues to provide monthly and quarterly water use updates as required by the State Water Board.
- Staff is working with BBID to request a higher than minimum health and safety water allowance proposed by the State in an emergency drought situation.
- The State Water Board has requested additional information to be provided for the Technical Memorandum that was submitted to support the additional water allocation request. This supplemental information was provided to BBID and the State Water Board on Friday, February 4.
- Staff is also working on alternative emergency supplies of water in case of a drought emergency. Nader Shareghi, Public Works Director, met with staff from City of Tracy and will continue to have discussions on possible cooperations in future water projects.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project

February 11, 2022 to February 28, 2022 activities include:

- Completed 48" return activated sludge from membrane bio-reactor (MBR) to headworks (east to south buildings)
- Completed 24" north overflow pipe from overflow box to tie in (south building to east building)
- Completed installation of conduits in 20" digester slab (east building)
- Poured digester decks 2, 3, 4 and 5 and south grade beam
- Prepped subgrade and installed rock from headworks to splitter box (south of north building)
- Formed and poured south flow control channel walls (south of north building)
- Poured grout for mixed liquor collection
- Stripped and patched south flow channel walls (south of north building)
- Installed rebar for scum channel slab (south of north building)
- Backfilled lower flow channel south and prepared subgrade for scum channel slab (south of north building)
- Installed rebar and formed, poured, and stripped braced frame mat slab keys for south building
- Backfilled utility trench (south building)
- Installed rebar for matt slab at the MBR (south building)
- Installed rebar for step wall at MBR (south building)
- Installed duct bank to south building
- Removed dewatering system
- Prepped subgrade and installed rock for splitter box and overflow box (east building)
- Poured south scum channel wall (south of north building)

February 28 through mid-March 2022

- Install MBR weir gate operators
- Site fills around MBR and digester (south and east budlings)
- Install 6" raw water tie-in to wharf hydrant
- Demolition of 1" chemical pipe routed in 2" conduit for chemical building and tanks
- Strip shoring in north half of digester deck
- Form scum channel walls (north building)
- Pour south scum channel wall (south of north building)
- Backfill braced frame mat slab (south building)
- Underslab conduit (south building)
- Underslab plumbing (south building)
- Install MBR weir gates (south building)

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Placing concrete in permeate section of MBR (South Building).



Placing concrete in the scum channel between north and south building

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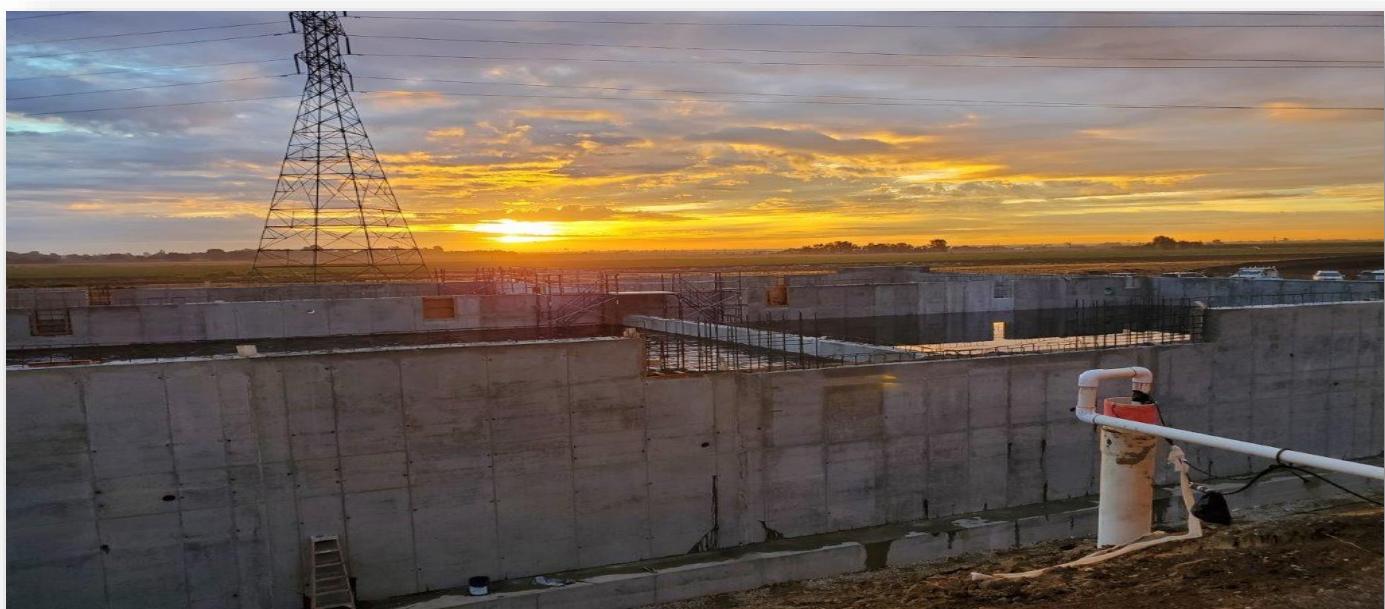


Placing concrete in the southern slab of the digester building (east building).

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Installing return activated sludge pipe sections from MBR to the headworks.



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Water Tank Number 1 Rehabilitation Project

The rehabilitation work on tank 1 started this year. The Board approved a contract for HDR to assist in preparing the scope and specifications and approved HDR to inspect the project. Staff and HDR, along with Inframark, have completed the specifications and details to bid the project. Inframark contracted with Superior Tank Company to perform the rehab work and will oversee the work. Superior has started work and is in the process of doing repairs and placing coatings as well as cathodic protection in place.

In the process of removing the coating and after closer inspection of the roof structure, it was determined that additional repairs and replacement of the steel girders and roof support are needed. A recommendation from a tank specialist and structural engineer will be needed to determine the extent and scope of the repairs and replacement. Additional funds may need to be appropriated. If possible the work will be done along with the coating replacement. If not, it will be completed after the summer when the water demand has been reduced from the peak summer water usage.



Arterials and Questa Road Repair Project

A number of arterials, collector and local streets were identified as part of the Pavement Management Program and were included in the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget. These included Mountain House Parkway, Arnaudo Boulevard, DeAnza Boulevard, Great Valley Parkway, Central Parkway and Mustang Way. The project also included all local and collector streets in Questa neighborhood.

The work included crack sealing, slurry sealing and asphalt concrete removal and replacement work on various streets identified above.

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Bids for the project were received on September 20, 2021. Two contractors submitted bids - Silicon Valley Paving, Inc. (\$678,660) and Pavement Coating Company (\$841,963). The project was awarded to Silicon Valley Paving, Inc. at a special board meeting on September 23, 2021. The project was expected to be completed before the rainy season but has been delayed due to the recent rains and low temperatures. The work will be completed by next summer.

Poplar Removal Project

The poplar tree removal and replacement project is ongoing. The first phase has been completed. Individual street reports are as follows:

- Mountain House Parkway (MHP) - all poplar trees have been removed and stumps grinded. The trees and plants have been replaced.
- Wicklund, Mustang, and Arnaudo from MHP to De Anza - poplar trees have been removed and stumps grinded. Brightview is replanting the trees and shrubs where poplar trees were removed.
- Great Valley Parkway - poplar trees were removed between sidewalks and sound walls from Arturo to Byron Road.
- Trees are being planted under the PG&E corridor where sumac trees were removed. Crepe myrtle and shrubs are planted in their place.
- All poplar trees along the east side of Great Valley Parkway between the wall and planter strip have been removed. The stump grinding is taking place now. The contractor will replace the irrigation that is damaged and replant the approved trees next.

The poplar tree removal program is in its final phase and is expected to be completed by the end of next month. A new plan is being developed to continue with removals along several remaining portals to completely eliminate all poplar trees in Mountain House with the exception of parks.

Cordes Park Security Cameras

The District-wide security camera project is expanding. Cordes Park is scheduled for installation of 2 Avigilon, 4K multi-sensor camera units with AI analytics, each camera with 4 lenses, on rugged AI servers. The cost of the Cordes Park integration come to a total of \$28,507.

Library Update

The Stockton San Joaquin County Public Library system has been offering virtual and outside programming for the last couple of months. It is now moving towards having in-person programs inside. The system is still offering virtual programs but they will be more limited as we move forward with live programs at the branches.

Library Administration is keeping watch on the rising COVID cases in San Joaquin County. Due to the Omicron variant, precautions are still being implemented for in-person library use which include:

- Face coverings will continue to be worn by staff and we are handing them out for others.
- Hand sanitizing stations are dispersed around the building.
- Distancing is still encouraged.
- Air purifiers for program rooms.

In February, Mountain House Library had a very well-attended Valentines Party, a Read for a Heart reading raffle, and our in-house giveaways of make-and-take crafts. Mountain House Library has

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been doing weekly programs on the patio and will now add almost daily programs inside and outside. Storytimes, on Thursdays every week at 11:00 a.m., will move inside. A variety of programs for all ages will be offered in the Community Room and the Makerspace. Mountain House community members are very happy about this news. In March we will begin our Cover to Cover Reading Program sponsored by In-N-Out Burger and the tutoring program offered by District YAC group, both of which are very popular.

The library is continuing to assess attendance as we more fully open to see where hours might be expanded or changed. One week a month staff takes an hour by hour count of attendance and use. These will be compiled to show a true use of each facility as we offer more programming. This data will be evaluated to see which libraries will have their hours changed in the new year.



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Two displays for
Black History Month
highlighting
Black Authors and Jazz
Music & Musicians



For more information on Library programs and services visit <http://www.ssjcpl.org>.

Residential Developments

Below is a summary of new development as of February 28, 2022. Since June 30, 2021, permits have been issued for a total of 240 units, including 15 second units. There have been 368 units granted final occupancy since June 30 2021, including 46 second units.

As of February 28, 2022									
	Auth.	Permits	Units	Remaining	Second Units		Total Units		
Neighborhood	Permits	Issued	Finished	Authorized	Issued	Finalized	Issued	Finalized	
Bethany	1,372	1,295	1,295	77	68	68	1,363	1,363	
Wicklund	1,518	979	979	539	67	67	1,046	1,046	
Altamont	1,217	890	890	327	62	62	952	952	
Questa	1,638	1,167	1,120	471	78	78	1,245	1,198	
Hansen	1,280	1,139	1,134	141	183	180	1,322	1,314	
Cordes	1,297	1,128	1,058	169	157	154	1,285	1,212	
College Park	1,763	631	525	1,132	93	90	724	615	
Subtotal	10,085	7,229	7,001	2,856	708	699	7,937	7,700	
					9.79%				
Future Neighborhoods									
I	1,427								
J	1,137								
K	1,192								
L	1,381								
Town Center	440								
Subtotal	5,577			5,577					
Total	15,662			8,433					

<u>As of June 30, 2021</u>								
	Auth.	Permits	Units	Remaining	<i>Second Units</i>		Total Units	

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<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Permits</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Finished</u>	<u>Authorized</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Finalized</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Finalized</u>
Bethany	1,372	1,295	1,295	77	68	68	1,363	1,363
Wicklund	1,518	979	979	539	67	67	1,046	1,046
Altamont	1,217	890	890	327	62	62	952	952
Questa	1,638	1,116	1,078	522	77	71	1,193	1,149
Hansen	1,280	1,139	1,099	141	176	176	1,315	1,275
Cordes	1,297	1,049	996	248	152	146	1,201	1,142
College Park	1,763	536	342	1,227	91	63	627	405
Subtotal	10,085	7,004	6,679	3,081	693	653	7,697	7,332
					9.89%			
Future Neighborhoods								
I	1,427							
J	1,137							
K	1,192							
L	1,381							
Town Center	440							
Subtotal	5,577			5,577				
Total	15,662			8,658				

ATTACHMENT:

Attachment A: Letter of support for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's grant application for 2022



Mountain House Community Services District

251 E Main Street, Mountain House, CA 95391

Tel (209) 831-2300 • Fax (209) 831-5610

www.mountainhousecsd.org

February 18, 2022

The Honorable Toks Omishakin
Secretary, California State Transportation Agency
915 Capital Mall, Suite 350B
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's Grant Application for the 2022 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program; Interstate 680 Express Bus Project

Dear Secretary Omishakin:

On behalf of the Mountain House Community Services District (MHCSD), we would like to offer this letter of support for the Contra Costa Transportation Authority's (CCTA) application to the California State Transportation Agency's (CalSTA) 2022 Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) for the Interstate 680 (I-680) Express Bus Project. This project will provide significant benefits for the residents of Mountain House and the entire region by addressing needs for safe and convenient transit options and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

This project will fund new, critical Express Bus service along the I-680 Corridor between the Martinez Amtrak station and the Dublin/Pleasanton Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station – with intermediate stops at Walnut Creek BART and the Bollinger Canyon Road Park-n-Ride lot – extending to the ACE Pleasanton station during peak periods. Providing a one-seat ride along this corridor not only provides more transit connectivity to major job centers in the region with zero-emission vehicles, but it also fills a significant gap identified in the 2018 California State Rail Plan by implementing an express bus service that connects riders to regional, state, and national passenger rail networks including BART, the Altamont Commuter Express, the Capitol Corridor and San Joaquin intercity rail lines, Amtrak's national network and the future Valley Link rail project.

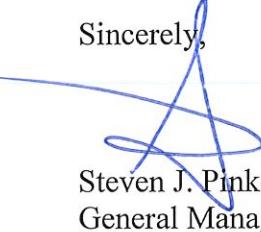
As a collaborative and coordinated effort between CCTA, the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (County Connection), the Livermore-Amador Valley Transit Authority (LAVTA), and the Tri-Valley – San Joaquin Valley Regional Rail Authority (Valley Link), this project has been carefully considered to ensure that limited resources are used to facilitate transformative capital improvements. The I-680 Express Bus Project is seeking funding to support key elements of the

service including hydrogen fuel-cell buses, fuel and maintenance infrastructure to support the fleet, roadway shoulder improvements and transit signal priority systems to enable Transit Bus on Shoulder (part-time transit lanes) along I-680, research and development of technology to improve first-and-last mile connections, and upgrading of planned bus stops to mobility hubs to increase transit access for neighborhoods along the corridor. The project will also include the construction of a new hydrogen fuel plant at the Valley Link operations and maintenance facility to provide a source of “green” hydrogen for the buses operating the I-680 Express Bus service to be produced with renewable energy.

This new express bus service also fills an unmet need for the congested I-680 corridor by enhancing transit connectivity for passengers traveling from disadvantaged and low-income communities throughout the Bay Area region and beyond. The key elements of the I-680 Express Bus Project are designed to complement each other by strengthening regional connections to reduce congestion and vehicle miles traveled, implementing technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and meeting modern transportation challenges by reducing barriers to taking transit.

The I-680 Express Bus Project aligns with CalSTA’s efforts to improve and better integrate rail and transit services in California, and MHCSD strongly supports this project for 2022 TIRCP funding. Thank you for your consideration of this request, which will help advance California’s climate change goals and highly ght the State’s commitment to transit innovation.

Sincerely,


Steven J. Pinkerton
General Manager