Appendix A:
EIR Noticing and Public Involvement
October 29, 2018

NOTICE OF PREPARATION/
NOTICE OF SCOPING SESSION
FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ON THE
PROPOSED DEL HOMBRE 284-UNIT APARTMENT PROJECT
County File Numbers GP18-0002, RZ18-3245, MS18-0010, DP18-3031

TO: ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PARTIES

The Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development has received applications from 3000 Del Hombre Holdings LLC requesting approval of a General Plan Amendment, Rezoning, Minor Subdivision, and a Development Plan for the “Del Hombre 284-Unit Apartment” project. The Department has determined that this project requires preparation of an environmental impact report.

PROJECT LOCATION/SITE DESCRIPTION

The project site is located in the unincorporated area of Walnut Creek in central Contra Costa County. The project site is approximately 2.37 acres consisting of an assembly of five parcels, which includes three vacant parcels and two parcels that each has a residential building. The project site is located on Del Hombre Lane and Roble Road. The Iron Horse Trail is directly west of the project site. The Pleasant Hill/Contra Costa Centre BART Transit Village is also west of the project site.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project is a General Plan Amendment from Multiple-Family Residential-Very High Density (MV) to Multiple-Family Residential-Very High Special Density (MS), rezoning of the project site from Single-Family Residential (R-15) and Planned Unit District (P-1) to a Planned Unit District (P-1), a minor subdivision to combine five parcels into one parcel, and a Final Development Plan to allow the construction of a 284-unit apartment building. The apartment building will be a six-story podium building, with two levels of parking – one at a subterranean level and the other at a ground floor level. Approximately 111 trees will be removed. The project will provide 24 moderate income and 12 very low income units.
The proposed project may have a significant impact on the following resources: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Transportation and Traffic, and Noise. A more detailed description of the proposed project can be obtained from the Department of Conservation and Development.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development is the Lead Agency for the preparation of the environment impact report for this project. All responsible and trustee agencies, interested agencies and other interested parties are invited to submit comments which address environmental concerns related to the implementation of the proposed project.

Responses to this Notice of Preparation must be in writing and must be received at the following address by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 28, 2018:

Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation and Development
Attention: Jennifer Cruz
30 Muir Road
Martinez, California 94553

SCOPING SESSION

A Scoping Session will be held on Monday, November 19, 2018 at 3:30 p.m., 30 Muir Road, Martinez, California. Interested agencies and parties may submit oral and written comments pertaining to environmental concerns related to the proposed project.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

The General Plan, Rezoning, Minor Subdivision, and Development Plan applications and supporting documentations are available for review at the office of the Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development during normal business hours. If you have any questions or wish to obtain a copy of any supporting documents related to this project, please contact me by e-mail at Jennifer.Cruz@dcd.cccounty.us or by phone at (925) 674-7790.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Cruz
Senior Planner

Attachments: Vicinity Map
Vesting Tentative Map
November 6, 2018

Jennifer Cruz
Contra Costa County
30 Muir Rd.
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: SCH# 2018102067 Del Hombre 284-Unit Apartment Project, Contra Costa County

Dear Ms. Cruz:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has received the Notice of Preparation (NOP), Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) or Early Consultation for the project referenced above. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code §21000 et seq.), specifically Public Resources Code §21084.1, states that a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code § 21084.1; Cal. Code Regs., tit.14, §15064.5 (b) (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5 (b)). If there is substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before a lead agency, that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) shall be prepared. (Pub. Resources Code §21080 (d); Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 5064 subd.(a)(1) (CEQA Guidelines §15064 (a)(1)). In order to determine whether a project will cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, a lead agency will need to determine whether there are historical resources within the area of potential effect (APE).

CEQA was amended significantly in 2014. Assembly Bill 52 (Gatto, Chapter 532, Statutes of 2014) (AB 52) amended CEQA to create a separate category of cultural resources, “tribal cultural resources” (Pub. Resources Code §21074) and provides that a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment. (Pub. Resources Code §21084.2). Public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code §21084.3 (a)). AB 52 applies to any project for which a notice of preparation, a notice of negative declaration, or a mitigated negative declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015. If your project involves the adoption of or amendment to a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation or proposed designation of open space, or on or after March 1, 2005, it may also be subject to Senate Bill 18 (Burton, Chapter 905, Statutes of 2004) (SB 18). Both SB 18 and AB 52 have tribal consultation requirements. If your project is also subject to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) (NEPA), the tribal consultation requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (154 U.S.C. 300101, 36 C.F.R. §800 et seq.) may also apply.

The NAHC recommends consultation with California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of your proposed project as early as possible in order to avoid inadvertent discoveries of Native American human remains and best protect tribal cultural resources. Below is a brief summary of portions of AB 52 and SB 18 as well as the NAHC’s recommendations for conducting cultural resources assessments.

Consult your legal counsel about compliance with AB 52 and SB 18 as well as compliance with any other applicable laws.
AB 52

AB 52 has added to CEQA the additional requirements listed below, along with many other requirements:

1. **Fourteen Day Period to Provide Notice of Completion of an Application/Decision to Undertake a Project:** Within fourteen (14) days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, a lead agency shall provide formal notification to a designated contact of, or tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, to be accomplished by at least one written notice that includes:
   a. A brief description of the project.
   b. The lead agency contact information.
   c. Notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1 (d)).
   d. A “California Native American tribe” is defined as a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC for the purposes of Chapter 905 of Statutes of 2004 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code §21073).

2. **Begin Consultation Within 30 Days of Receiving a Tribe’s Request for Consultation and Before Releasing a Negative Declaration, Mitigated Negative Declaration, or Environmental Impact Report:** A lead agency shall begin the consultation process within 30 days of receiving a request for consultation from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1, subds. (d) and (e)) and prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration or Environmental Impact Report. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1(b)).
   a. For purposes of AB 52, “consultation shall have the same meaning as provided in Gov. Code §65352.4 (SB 18). (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.1 (b)).

3. **Mandatory Topics of Consultation If Requested by a Tribe:** The following topics of consultation, if a tribe requests to discuss them, are mandatory topics of consultation:
   a. Alternatives to the project.
   b. Recommended mitigation measures.
   c. Significant effects. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (a)).

4. **Discretionary Topics of Consultation:** The following topics are discretionary topics of consultation:
   a. Type of environmental review necessary.
   b. Significance of the tribal cultural resources.
   c. Significance of the project’s impacts on tribal cultural resources.
   d. If necessary, project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation that the tribe may recommend to the lead agency. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (a)).

5. **Confidentiality of Information Submitted by a Tribe During the Environmental Review Process:** With some exceptions, any information, including but not limited to, the location, description, and use of tribal cultural resources submitted by a California Native American tribe during the environmental review process shall not be included in the environmental document or otherwise disclosed by the lead agency or any other public agency to the public, consistent with Government Code §6254 (r) and §6254.10. Any information submitted by a California Native American tribe during the consultation or environmental review process shall be published in a confidential appendix to the environmental document unless the tribe that provided the information consents, in writing, to the disclosure of some or all of the information to the public. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (c)(1)).

6. **Discussion of Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources in the Environmental Document:** If a project may have a significant impact on a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency’s environmental document shall discuss both of the following:
   a. Whether the proposed project has a significant impact on an identified tribal cultural resource.
   b. Whether feasible alternatives or mitigation measures, including those measures that may be agreed to pursuant to Public Resources Code §21082.3, subdivision (a), avoid or substantially lessen the impact on the identified tribal cultural resource. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (b)).
7. **Conclusion of Consultation**: Consultation with a tribe shall be considered concluded when either of the following occurs:
   a. The parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a tribal cultural resource; or
   b. A party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. (Pub. Resources Code §21080.3.2 (b)).

8. **Recommending Mitigation Measures Agreed Upon in Consultation in the Environmental Document**: Any mitigation measures agreed upon in the consultation conducted pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.2 shall be recommended for inclusion in the environmental document and in an adopted mitigation monitoring and reporting program, if determined to avoid or lessen the impact pursuant to Public Resources Code §21082.3, subdivision (b), paragraph 2, and shall be fully enforceable. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (a)).

9. **Required Consideration of Feasible Mitigation**: If mitigation measures recommended by the staff of the lead agency as a result of the consultation process are not included in the environmental document or if there are no agreed upon mitigation measures at the conclusion of consultation, or if consultation does not occur, and if substantial evidence demonstrates that a project will cause a significant effect to a tribal cultural resource, the lead agency shall consider feasible mitigation pursuant to Public Resources Code §21084.3 (b). (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (e)).

10. **Examples of Mitigation Measures That, If Feasible, May Be Considered to Avoid or Minimize Significant Adverse Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources**:
    a. Avoidance and preservation of the resources in place, including, but not limited to:
       i. Planning and construction to avoid the resources and protect the cultural and natural context.
       ii. Planning greenspace, parks, or other open space, to incorporate the resources with culturally appropriate protection and management criteria.
    b. Treating the resource with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to, the following:
       i. Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource.
       ii. Protecting the traditional use of the resource.
       iii. Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.
    c. Permanent conservation easements or other interests in real property, with culturally appropriate management criteria for the purposes of preserving or utilizing the resources or places.
    d. Protecting the resource. (Pub. Resource Code §21084.3 (b)).
    e. Please note that a federally recognized California Native American tribe or a non-federally recognized California Native American tribe that is on the contact list maintained by the NAHC to protect a California prehistoric, archaeological, cultural, spiritual, or ceremonial place may acquire and hold conservation easements if the conservation easement is voluntarily conveyed. (Civ. Code §815.3 (c)).
    f. Please note that it is the policy of the state that Native American remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated. (Pub. Resources Code §5097.991).

11. **Prerequisites for Certifying an Environmental Impact Report or Adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Negative Declaration with a Significant Impact on an Identified Tribal Cultural Resource**: An Environmental Impact Report may not be certified, nor may a mitigated negative declaration or a negative declaration be adopted unless one of the following occurs:
    a. The consultation process between the tribes and the lead agency has occurred as provided in Public Resources Code §21080.3.1 and §21080.3.2 and concluded pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.2.
    b. The tribe that requested consultation failed to provide comments to the lead agency or otherwise failed to engage in the consultation process.
    c. The lead agency provided notice of the project to the tribe in compliance with Public Resources Code §21080.3.1 (d) and the tribe failed to request consultation within 30 days. (Pub. Resources Code §21082.3 (d)).

The NAHC's PowerPoint presentation titled, "Tribal Consultation Under AB 52: Requirements and Best Practices" may be found online at: [http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation_CalEPAPDF.pdf](http://nahc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/AB52TribalConsultation_CalEPAPDF.pdf)
SB 18 applies to local governments and requires local governments to contact, provide notice to, refer plans to, and consult with tribes prior to the adoption or amendment of a general plan or a specific plan, or the designation of open space. (Gov. Code §65352.3). Local governments should consult the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research’s “Tribal Consultation Guidelines,” which can be found online at: https://www.opr.ca.gov/docs/09_14_05_Updated_Guidelines_922.pdf

Some of SB 18’s provisions include:

1. **Tribal Consultation**: If a local government considers a proposal to adopt or amend a general plan or a specific plan, or to designate open space it is required to contact the appropriate tribes identified by the NAHC by requesting a “Tribal Consultation List.” If a tribe, once contacted, requests consultation the local government must consult with the tribe on the plan proposal. **A tribe has 90 days from the date of receipt of notification to request consultation unless a shorter timeframe has been agreed to by the tribe.** (Gov. Code §65352.3 (a)(2)).

2. **No Statutory Time Limit on SB 18 Tribal Consultation**: There is no statutory time limit on SB 18 tribal consultation.

3. **Confidentiality**: Consistent with the guidelines developed and adopted by the Office of Planning and Research pursuant to Gov. Code §65040.2, the city or county shall protect the confidentiality of the information concerning the specific identity, location, character, and use of places, features and objects described in Public Resources Code §5097.9 and §5097.993 that are within the city’s or county’s jurisdiction. (Gov. Code §65352.3 (b)).

4. **Conclusion of SB 18 Tribal Consultation**: Consultation should be concluded at the point in which:
   a. The parties to the consultation come to a mutual agreement concerning the appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation; or
   b. Either the local government or the tribe, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached concerning the appropriate measures of preservation or mitigation. (Tribal Consultation Guidelines, Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (2005) at p. 18).

Agencies should be aware that neither AB 52 nor SB 18 precludes agencies from initiating tribal consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with their jurisdictions before the timeframes provided in AB 52 and SB 18. For that reason, we urge you to continue to request Native American Tribal Contact Lists and “Sacred Lands File” searches from the NAHC. The request forms can be found online at: http://nahc.ca.gov/resources/forms/

**NAHC Recommendations for Cultural Resources Assessments**

To adequately assess the existence and significance of tribal cultural resources and plan for avoidance, preservation in place, or barring both, mitigation of project-related impacts to tribal cultural resources, the NAHC recommends the following actions:

1. **Contact the appropriate regional California Historical Research Information System (CHRIS) Center** (http://ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1068) for an archaeological records search. The records search will determine:
   a. If part or all of the APE has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
   b. If any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
   c. If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
   d. If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

2. If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
   a. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum and not be made available for public disclosure.
   b. The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional CHRIS center.
3. Contact the NAHC for:
   a. A Sacred Lands File search. Remember that tribes do not always record their sacred sites in the Sacred Lands File, nor are they required to do so. A Sacred Lands File search is not a substitute for consultation with tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the project’s APE.
   b. A Native American Tribal Consultation List of appropriate tribes for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in planning for avoidance, preservation in place, or, failing both, mitigation measures.

4. Remember that the lack of surface evidence of archaeological resources (including tribal cultural resources) does not preclude their subsurface existence.
   a. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of inadvertently discovered archaeological resources per Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15064.5(f) (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(f)). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
   b. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the disposition of recovered cultural items that are not burial associated in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
   c. Lead agencies should include in their mitigation and monitoring reporting program plans provisions for the treatment and disposition of inadvertently discovered Native American human remains. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, Public Resources Code §5097.98, and Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, §15064.5, subdivisions (d) and (e) (CEQA Guidelines §15064.5, subsds. (d) and (e)) address the processes to be followed in the event of an inadvertent discovery of any Native American human remains and associated grave goods in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Sharaya.Souza@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Sharaya Souza
Staff Services Analyst

cc: State Clearinghouse
Hello Jennifer;

Please accept these amended comments as input to the development project on Del Hombre. In conversation over the last couple weeks, we realized that this development’s T&Cs should definitely include a maintenance fee contribution to the Walden I public space similar to the funding being required of the Avalon development of Block C in the Transit Village. We suggest that the funding be commensurate to the density that is ultimately agreed. At 284 units, the prorated amount compared to Avalon’s contribution would be a suggested $34,080 per year.

Lia – as discussed at the MAC, please include these comments with the agenda packet for the next MAC meeting for discussion there.
To: Jennifer Cruz, Senior Planner
Contra Costa County
Department of Conservation and Development
30 Muir Road | Martinez, CA 94553
Jennifer.Cruz@dcd.cccounty.us

Subject: Del Hombre Holdings LLC – 3010 – 3070 Del Hombre, Walnut Creek; Land Rezoning and Building Design Application – AMENDED 11/30/2018

Please see new item 8.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed project in our neighborhood. The Walden Board thoroughly understands the general plan around the Pleasant Hill Bart station, and was a key stakeholder in creating it some 17 years ago. We have the following concerns about the proposed project.

1) Density. The proposed 284 unit project exceeds the current zoning of 45 units per acre by over 600%, and should be reduced to better fit in with the properties adjacent to it, which are generally not more than 3 stories, and less than 50 units per acre.

2) Minimum acreage. The general plan calls for 5 acres to build 45 units per acre. We encourage Del Hombre LLC to acquire more land to meet that zoning requirement. Without enough land, setbacks will be impacted and there will not be enough Greenspace in the project.

3) Height. A six-story building would tower over the adjacent properties and is not in keeping with the zoning. The project should be reduced to no more than 4 stories maximum, and 60 units per acre. This would make the height of the building the same as the 4 story component of Block C in the transit village, which it will face to the
North. Also the proposed height of 76 feet exceeds fire department standards.

4) Vehicle access. We have a general concern about how automobile traffic will enter and exit the property. Major changes to Del Hombre and the adjacent intersection at Las Juntas will be needed. An entry via Roble Rd may be required, which is owned by Avalon. We have this concern regardless of the density. The current access is suitable only for low-density occupancy.

5) Affordable Housing. The project as stated proposes less than 5% affordable housing units. There should be 15 – 20% affordable units in keeping with the general plan. This is a very painful point with Walden and we believe with the city of Walnut Creek and the County.

6) Rentals. Walden continues to believe that for-sale housing is needed to help create a community around the Bart station and our neighborhoods. There is far too much rental property now in the Contra Costa Centre. Per Avalon statistics for their rentals – which number now over 1,000 in and around the Bart station, rental turnover at around 50% per year, which leaves no chance for a community to develop. Bart has reneged on its pledge to build 100 townhomes in the Transit Village at Pleasant Hill. We encourage this project to be built as condominiums and/or townhomes to, in part, replace that broken promise.

7) Building Design. We appreciate the nod in architecture to the Transit Village. However it may better blend with the neighborhood to emulate the architectural approach of the buildings directly adjacent to it on Las Juntas, Del Hombre, Honey Trail, and Santos Lane.

8) With a project this large directly adjacent to the Walden I public space, the developers should be required to contribute to the Walden I maintenance fund, similar to the $24,000 per year planned contribution by Avalon which is part of the T&Cs of the Block C development.

Jeffrey Peckham  
President  
Walden District Improvement Association
Approximately 400 new apartments will be built at 3000 Del Hombre, across the street from the 400+ apartments currently being built at BART.

To continue with the plan of removing the right turn only lane off 680 is irresponsible to the citizens who must use this area to ingress and egress.

I read in one of your letters one reason why it is being removed (too many people cut over after Jones Road), Jamal’s reason was no where else is there 4 lanes on Treat (no where on Treat are there freeway exits and entrances), and the Mayor of WC states bikers will use the new lane on Treat rather than the Canal and Ironhorse trails nearby. (No riders I talked to would consider riding on Treat, ever.)

I lived here when that lane was built for a reason. We need it now more than ever for all the new apartment dwellers, even if some are single car families.

Your 2016 traffic report is old and defunct. Wait until the new one from the Del Hombre is released. Im sure the state $$$ for those bike lanes are enticing but please settle for the tax money from Del Hombre instead.

Taking the lane away will destroy the quality of our lives with wretched, dangerous traffic conditions. It is barely manageable now without 800 additional cars (coming soon) in the quarter mile radius.

Rebecca Gehres