

## SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is made and entered into as of February 1, 2017 ("Effective Date") by and between the Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County ("LAFCO") and the City of Morgan Hill ("City"). LAFCO and City are collectively referred to as the "Parties" and individually referred to as a "Party."

### RECITALS

A. Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq. ("CEQA") the City prepared an Environmental Impact Report for its proposed 2035 General Plan Update ("General Plan EIR").

B. Consistent with LAFCO's duties as a responsible agency, LAFCO submitted extensive comments to the City regarding the adequacy of the General Plan EIR under CEQA.

C. On or about July 27, 2016, after considering and responding to all of the comments on the General Plan EIR, City adopted the Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan pursuant to the General Plan EIR.

D. On or about August 2, 2016, City filed a Notice of Determination regarding its adoption of the Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan pursuant to the General Plan EIR. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21167, this Notice of Determination began a 30-day statute of limitations for bringing an action to set aside certification of the General Plan EIR.

E. On August 25, 2016, the Parties entered into a Tolling Agreement ("Tolling Agreement") to toll the statute of limitations for LAFCO to bring a challenge to the General Plan EIR.

F. On September 29, 2016, the Parties entered into the First Amendment to the Tolling Agreement to extend the period for which the statute of limitations is tolled until December 31, 2016.

G. On December 19, 2016, the Parties entered into the Second Amendment to the Tolling Agreement to extend the period for which the statute of limitations is tolled until February 15, 2017.

H. During this tolling period, the Parties have been engaged in discussions regarding the means by which to address LAFCO's concerns with the EIR without proceeding with litigation.

I. LAFCO and City have now agreed to compromise and settle all matters and disputes between themselves in order to achieve a full and complete resolution of all claims that have been asserted or that could be asserted by LAFCO in any future disputes, claims, or legal action in relation to the General Plan EIR.

## AGREEMENT

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in consideration of the mutual promises and/or covenants contained in this Agreement and any other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree, promise, and covenant as follows:

1. Recitals and Definitions Incorporated. Each recital and definition set forth above is incorporated herein by reference and is made part of this Agreement.
2. No Admission. All Parties understand and agree that nothing in this Agreement, or in the execution of this Agreement, shall constitute or be construed as an admission of error or wrongdoing by any Party or of any inadequacy or impropriety in connection with City's certification of the EIR.
3. City Obligations. Without admitting any liability, and in consideration of the terms of this Agreement, upon execution of the Agreement, City shall implement the following terms and actions:
  - 3.1. The City shall conduct environmental review under CEQA prior to any decision as to whether to initiate and carry-out a project (as defined in Public Resources Code section 21065 and CEQA Guidelines section 15378) concerning Urban Service Area ("USA") amendments and/or annexation of property located within the City's Urban Growth Boundary as defined in Figure CNF-1 of the Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan attached as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference.
  - 3.2. The nature of the project to be carried out by the City may be developed at the discretion of the City, but shall, in any event, result in the preparation and certification of an Environmental Impact Report considering the potential impacts of USA amendments and/or annexation of the property located within the City's Urban Growth Boundary as defined in Figure CNF-1 of the Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan ("Annexation EIR") and shall not tier from, or rely in any way (e.g., pursuant to CEQA, including but not limited to Public Resources Code sections 21094, 21083.3 and 21166 and/or CEQA Guidelines sections 15152, 15153, 15162, 15168, 15183, and 15385), on the General Plan EIR.
    - 3.2.1. The Annexation EIR's analysis of environmental impacts will be based on the level of development authorized by the voters of the City on November 8, 2016 in its Ordinance updating and extending the City's Residential Development Control System until the year 2035 by amending the General Plan and Chapter 18.78 of the Municipal Code, also known as "Measure S."
    - 3.2.2. The Annexation EIR will include:
      - 3.2.2.1. A full water supply assessment; and

3.2.2.2. An assessment of the City's Water Infrastructure Master Plan and Wastewater Infrastructure Master Plan.

- 3.3. Environmental review under CEQA of any proposal made to LAFCO for a USA amendment shall only rely on, or tier from, the Annexation EIR.
- 3.4. The City shall not consider any proposal for USA amendment until such time as the Annexation EIR has been certified. However, projects within the USA as it exists as of the Effective Date of this Agreement may rely on and tier off of the General Plan EIR.
- 3.5. This Agreement does not apply to, and is not intended to limit, the City's use of any previously certified EIR as the basis for submitting an annexation application to LAFCO.
4. LAFCO Obligations. Without admitting any liability, and in consideration of the terms of this Agreement, upon execution of the Settlement Agreement LAFCO shall implement the following terms and actions:
  - 4.1. LAFCO will not to file any lawsuit challenging the General Plan EIR.
  - 4.2. LAFCO will not to seek any fees or costs from City associated with LAFCO's participation in the administrative process for the General Plan EIR or associated with LAFCO's contemplated litigation regarding the General Plan EIR.
  - 4.3. LAFCO reserves its rights, as a responsible agency, with regard to its review and consideration of the adequacy of the Annexation EIR and any CEQA documents that City may approve, adopt, or certify in support of any future application it may submit to LAFCO.
5. Joint Obligations. The City and LAFCO will work together to ensure preparation of adequate CEQA documents for any proposed annexation application.
6. Third Party Beneficiary. Nothing in this Agreement, express or implied, is intended to confer upon any person, other than the Parties, any rights or benefits under or by reason of this Agreement.
7. Enforcement of Agreement. No action for breach of this Agreement shall be brought or maintained until: (a) the non-breaching Party provides written notice to the breaching Party which explains with particularity the nature of the claimed breach, and (b) within thirty (30) days after receipt of said notice, the breaching Party fails to cure the claimed breach or, in the case of a claimed breach which cannot be reasonably remedied within a thirty (30) day period, the breaching Party fails to commence to cure the claimed breach within such thirty (30) day period, and thereafter diligently complete the activities reasonably necessary to remedy the claimed breach.

8. Mutual Release. LAFCO and the City mutually release each other's affiliates, members, directors, officers, employees, agents, assigns, and attorneys from any and all claims, demands, liabilities, obligations, costs, expenses, fees, actions, and/or causes of action that the City and LAFCO have as of the effective date of this Agreement arising out of, or connected to, the General Plan EIR, whether known, unknown or suspected. Upon the Effective Date of this Agreement, the City and LAFCO have read and have otherwise been informed of the meaning of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, and have consulted with their respective counsel, to the extent that any was desired, and understands the provisions of Section 1542. The City and LAFCO hereby expressly waive the rights and benefits conferred upon it by the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides:

"A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR."

  
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LAFCO Initials

  
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City Initials

9. Damages. The Parties agree that (i) the performance of the obligations of this Agreement are paramount; (ii) in the event of a breach, monetary damages will provide inadequate relief; and (iii) that each may seek equitable relief to enforce such obligations. In the event of litigation to enforce this Agreement, the prevailing party shall be entitled to reimbursement for costs and reasonable attorney's fees.
10. Miscellaneous Provisions.
- 10.1. Notices. Any notice, request, or communication required to be given to either Party under this Agreement shall be given in writing and shall be personally delivered or mailed by prepaid registered or certified mail to the addresses below:

If to LAFCO:

Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer  
70 W. Hedding Street, 11th Floor, East Wing  
San Jose, CA 95110  
Telephone: (408) 993-4713  
Email: Neelima.Palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org

With copies sent to:

Mala Subramanian  
Best Best & Krieger LLP

2001 N. Main Street, Suite 390  
Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
Telephone: (925) 977-3303  
Email: msubramanian@bbklaw.com

If to City:

City Manager  
17575 Peak Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037-4128  
city.manager@morganhill.ca.gov

With copies sent to:

City Attorney  
17575 Peak Avenue  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037-4128  
city.attorney@morganhill.ca.gov

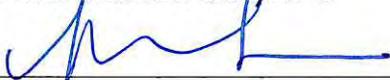
In the event that any Party's address or contact information changes, that Party shall be responsible for notifying the other Party within five (5) working days of the change.

- 10.2. Entire Agreement. The Parties acknowledge that this Agreement is signed and executed without reliance upon any actual or implied promises, warranties, or representations made by either Party or by any representative of any Party, other than those which are expressly contained within this Agreement. This Agreement, including the true and correct Recitals above, inclusive of all definitions contained therein, that are incorporated by reference herein as operative covenants and specifically relied upon by the Parties in executing this Agreement, constitutes the entire agreement and understanding among and between the Parties and supersedes any and all other agreements whether oral or written between the Parties.
- 10.3. Amendments and Modifications. This Agreement may only be amended or modified through writing executed by all the Parties.
- 10.4. Choice of Law and Choice of Forum. This Agreement shall be deemed to have been executed and delivered within the State of California; the rights and obligations of the Parties hereunder shall be governed, construed, and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of California. The venue for any dispute arising from or related to this Agreement, its performance, and its interpretation shall be the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara.
- 10.5. Authorized Signatory. Each Party represents and warrants to each other Party that its signature to this Agreement has the authority to bind the Party, and this Agreement does in fact bind the Party.

- 10.6. Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and when so executed by the Parties, shall become binding upon them and each such counterpart will be an original document.
- 10.7. Severability. If any term, provision, covenant, or condition of this Agreement is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, void, or unenforceable, the rest of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect and shall in no way be affected, impaired, or invalidated.
- 10.8. Effective Date. This Agreement is effective as of the Effective Date written in the first paragraph.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement is executed and agreed to by the following:

**LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

By: 

Date: 2/1/2017

Name: Malathy Subramanian

Title: General Counsel

**CITY OF MORGAN HILL**

By: 

Date: 1/23/2017

Name: Donald A. Larkin

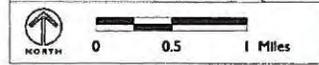
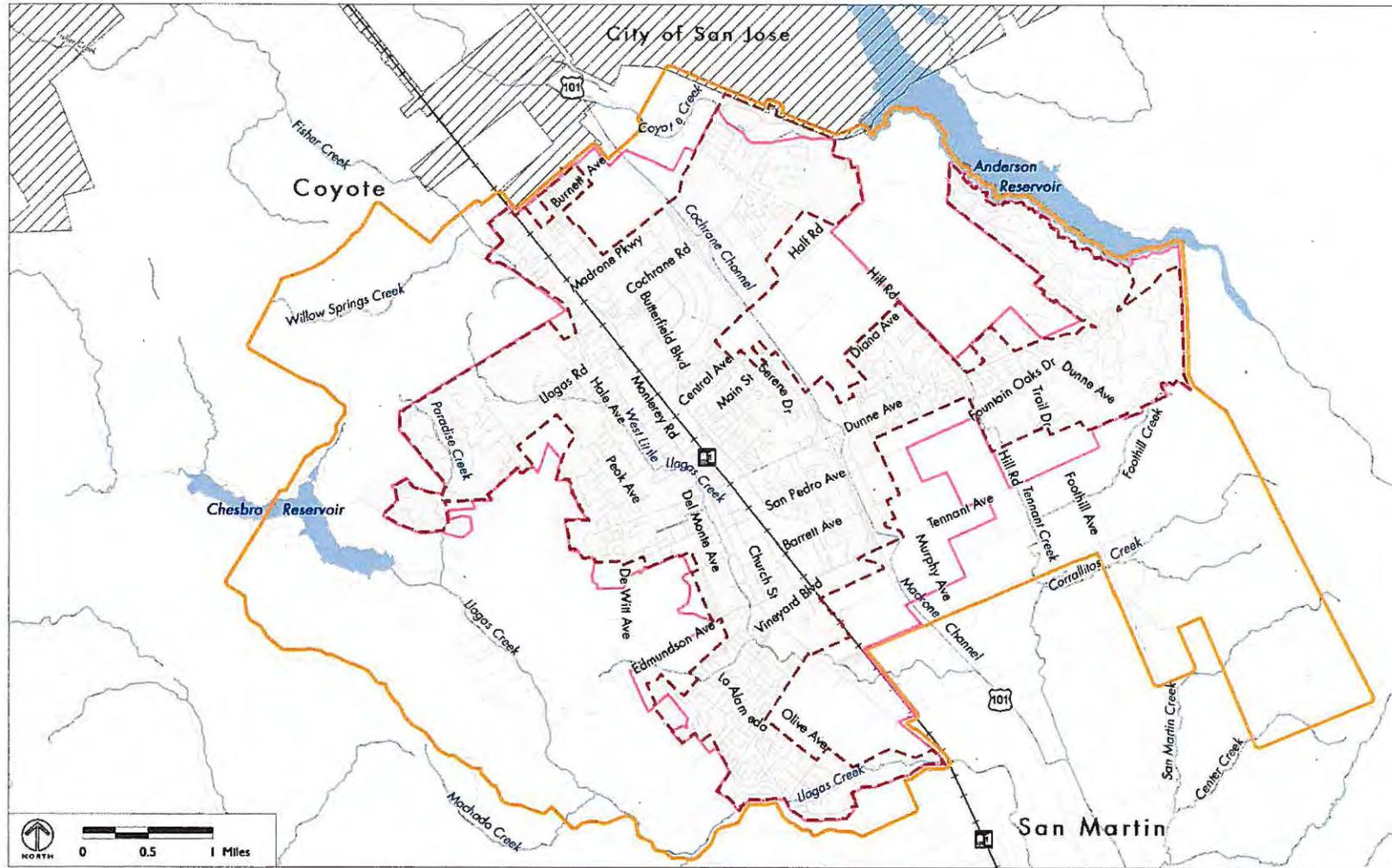
Title: City Attorney

**EXHIBIT A**

Figure CNF-1 of the Morgan Hill 2035 General Plan

[Attached behind this page]

Figure CNF-1 City Boundaries



- Sphere of Influence
- Urban Service Area
- Urban Growth Boundary
- City Boundary
- San Jose City Boundary
- T Train Station

Source: City of Morgan Hill