

**From:** [Hill, Shannon](#)  
**To:** [Hillary Gitelman](#); [Karl Heisler](#); [Linda S. Peters](#)  
**Cc:** [Downtown West Project](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan (Google Project) - Notice of Availability of Draft EIR  
**Date:** Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:11:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Initial Response Letter 11-4-2020.pdf](#)

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Hello,

Here is PG&E's initial response letter, which is standard for all projects.

Thanks,

Shannon Hill, Planner

Planning, Building & Code Enforcement | Environmental Review Section  
City of San José | 200 East Santa Clara Street  
[Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov) | (408) 535 - 7872

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**From:** PGE Plan Review <PGEPlanReview@pge.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 4, 2020 9:42 AM  
**To:** Hill, Shannon <Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan (Google Project) - Notice of Availability of Draft EIR

[External Email]

Dear Shannon Hill,

Thank you for submitting the Downtown West Mixed Use Plan plans. The PG&E Plan Review Team is currently reviewing the information provided. Should we find the possibility this project may interfere with our facilities, we will respond to you with project specific comments on or prior to the provided deadline. Attached is general information regarding PG&E facilities for your reference. **If you do not hear from us, within 45 days, you can assume we have no comments at this time.**

This email and attachment does not constitute PG&E's consent to use any portion of its easement for any purpose not previously conveyed. If there are subsequent modifications made to your design, we ask that you resubmit the plans to the email address listed below.

If you have any questions regarding our response, please contact the PG&E Plan Review Team at (877) 259-8314 or [pgeplanreview@pge.com](mailto:pgeplanreview@pge.com).

Thank you,



**Pacific Gas and Electric Company**  
**Plan Review Team**  
(877) 259-8314  
Email: [pgeplanreview@pge.com](mailto:pgeplanreview@pge.com)

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**From:** Hill, Shannon <[Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 07, 2020 2:50 PM  
**To:** Hill, Shannon <[Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Downtown West Mixed-Use Plan (Google Project) - Notice of Availability of Draft EIR  
**Importance:** High

**\*\*\*\*\*CAUTION: This email was sent from an EXTERNAL source. Think before clicking links or opening attachments.\*\*\*\*\***

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) OF  
A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR) FOR THE  
DOWNTOWN WEST MIXED USE PLAN (GOOGLE PROJECT)**

**Project Description:** General Plan Amendment, Planned Development Rezoning, Planned Development Permit, Vesting Tentative Map, Development Agreement and other land use related approvals for the development of up to 5,900 residential units; up to 7,300,000 gross square feet (GSF) of office space; up to 500,000 GSF of active uses such as retail, cultural, arts, etc.; up to 300 hotel rooms; up to 800 rooms of limited-term corporate accommodations; up to two event and conference centers totaling up to 100,000 GSF; up to two central utility plants totaling approximately 130,000 GSF; logistics/warehouse(s) totaling approximately 100,000 GSF; and approximately 15 acres of open space, all on approximately 81 acres. The project also proposes infrastructure, transportation, and public realm improvements. For more information on the project, please see [www.sanjoseca.gov/googleproject](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/googleproject).

**Location:** The Project site is generally bounded by Lenzen Avenue and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks to the north; North Montgomery Street, Los Gatos Creek, the Guadalupe River, South Autumn Street, and Royal Avenue to the east; Auzerais Avenue to the south; and Diridon Station and the Caltrain rail line to the west. The project also includes the area bounded by Los Gatos Creek to the west, West San Fernando Street to the south, the Guadalupe River to the east, and West Santa Clara Street to the north.

**Council Districts:** 3 and 6

**File Nos.:** GP19-009, PDC19-039, and PD19-029

The proposed project will have potentially significant environmental effects on or related to air quality, biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, geologic hazards, paleontological resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use, noise and vibration, population and housing, recreation, transportation, and utilities and service systems. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires this notice to disclose whether any listed toxic sites are present at the project location. The project site includes properties on lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code pertaining to sites with hazardous waste.

**Document Availability:** Links to the Draft EIR and documents referenced in the Draft EIR are available for review online at the City of San José's website for the project at [www.sanjoseca.gov/googleproject](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/googleproject).

**Due to the County of Santa Clara's continuing Shelter-in-Place order to prevent the spread of COVID-19,** City Hall and San José Public Library Branches remain closed to the public. Therefore, hard copies of the document are not available for public review at these locations. However, if you wish to receive a hard copy of the Draft EIR, please contact the Environmental Project Manager, Shannon Hill, at [shannon.hill@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:shannon.hill@sanjoseca.gov). Please allow time for printing and delivery.

**Public Review Period and How to Submit Comments:** The public review period for this Public Review Draft EIR begins on **Wednesday, October 7, 2020 and ends on Monday, November 23, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.** Written comments must be received at the Planning Department by **5:00 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2020** to be addressed as part of the formal EIR review process. Please submit all comments in one of the following ways:

1. E-mail: Please send e-mails to Shannon Hill, the Environmental Project Manager, at:

[shannon.hill@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:shannon.hill@sanjoseca.gov)

2. Via U.S. Postal Service: Please send letters to the following address:

Shannon Hill, Planner III

Department of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement

200 E. Santa Clara Street, T-3

San Jose, CA. 95113

For the official record, please include your written comment letter and reference **File Nos. GP19-009, PDC19-039, and PD19-029.**

Following the close of the public review period, the Director of Planning, Building, and Code Enforcement will prepare a Final EIR that will include responses to comments received during the review period. In compliance with CEQA Guidelines, Section 15088(b), the City's responses to comments received during the public review period will be available for review online at the City of San José's website for the project at [www.sanjoseca.gov/googleproject](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/googleproject) at least ten days prior to certification of the EIR.

**Upcoming Community Meetings and Public Hearings for the Project:** The following are upcoming community meetings and public hearings for the project.

#### Community Meeting

Purpose: Discuss stakeholder comments and questions on the latest Development Application documents

Monday, October 19, 2020

6:00 PM

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://sanjoseca.zoom.us/j/92905636356>

Phone: (408) 638-0968

Meeting ID: 929 0563 6356

Historic Landmarks Commission Meeting

Purpose: Provide feedback on the analysis of historic resources in the Draft EIR

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

6:30 p.m.

Agenda and Zoom Meeting Information: TBD (Agendas and Zoom meeting information to be posted on Historic Landmarks Commission website seven days prior to the meeting:

<http://www.sanjoseca.gov/HLC>)

City Council Study Session

Purpose: Opportunity for City Council to become familiar with the Downtown West project and proposed Diridon Station Area Plan Amendment

Monday, November 16, 2020

1:00 p.m.

Agenda and Zoom Meeting Information: TBD (Agendas and Zoom meeting information to be posted here: <https://www.sanjoseca.gov/your-government/departments/city-clerk/council-agendas-information/council-agendas>)

No other meetings or public hearings are scheduled at this time. Information on future meetings, including Planning Commission and City Council hearings, will be posted to the project website at the following link: [www.sanjoseca.gov/googleproject](http://www.sanjoseca.gov/googleproject).

Shannon Hill, Planner

Planning, Building & Code Enforcement | Environmental Review Section

City of San José | 200 East Santa Clara Street

[Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov) | (408) 535 - 7872

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November 4, 2020

Shannon Hill  
City of San Jose  
200 East Santa Clara St  
San Jose, CA 95113

Ref: Gas and Electric Transmission and Distribution

Dear Shannon Hill,

Thank you for submitting the Downtown Mixed Use plans for our review. PG&E will review the submitted plans in relationship to any existing Gas and Electric facilities within the project area. If the proposed project is adjacent/or within PG&E owned property and/or easements, we will be working with you to ensure compatible uses and activities near our facilities.

Attached you will find information and requirements as it relates to Gas facilities (Attachment 1) and Electric facilities (Attachment 2). Please review these in detail, as it is critical to ensure your safety and to protect PG&E's facilities and its existing rights.

Below is additional information for your review:

1. This plan review process does not replace the application process for PG&E gas or electric service your project may require. For these requests, please continue to work with PG&E Service Planning: [https://www.pge.com/en\\_US/business/services/building-and-renovation/overview/overview.page](https://www.pge.com/en_US/business/services/building-and-renovation/overview/overview.page).
2. If the project being submitted is part of a larger project, please include the entire scope of your project, and not just a portion of it. PG&E's facilities are to be incorporated within any CEQA document. PG&E needs to verify that the CEQA document will identify any required future PG&E services.
3. An engineering deposit may be required to review plans for a project depending on the size, scope, and location of the project and as it relates to any rearrangement or new installation of PG&E facilities.

Any proposed uses within the PG&E fee strip and/or easement, may include a California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) Section 851 filing. This requires the CPUC to render approval for a conveyance of rights for specific uses on PG&E's fee strip or easement. PG&E will advise if the necessity to incorporate a CPUC Section 851 filing is required.

This letter does not constitute PG&E's consent to use any portion of its easement for any purpose not previously conveyed. PG&E will provide a project specific response as required.

Sincerely,

Plan Review Team  
Land Management



## **Attachment 1 – Gas Facilities**

There could be gas transmission pipelines in this area which would be considered critical facilities for PG&E and a high priority subsurface installation under California law. Care must be taken to ensure safety and accessibility. So, please ensure that if PG&E approves work near gas transmission pipelines it is done in adherence with the below stipulations. Additionally, the following link provides additional information regarding legal requirements under California excavation laws: <https://www.usanorth811.org/images/pdfs/CA-LAW-2018.pdf>

1. **Standby Inspection:** A PG&E Gas Transmission Standby Inspector must be present during any demolition or construction activity that comes within 10 feet of the gas pipeline. This includes all grading, trenching, substructure depth verifications (potholes), asphalt or concrete demolition/removal, removal of trees, signs, light poles, etc. This inspection can be coordinated through the Underground Service Alert (USA) service at 811. A minimum notice of 48 hours is required. Ensure the USA markings and notifications are maintained throughout the duration of your work.
2. **Access:** At any time, PG&E may need to access, excavate, and perform work on the gas pipeline. Any construction equipment, materials, or spoils may need to be removed upon notice. Any temporary construction fencing installed within PG&E's easement would also need to be capable of being removed at any time upon notice. Any plans to cut temporary slopes exceeding a 1:4 grade within 10 feet of a gas transmission pipeline need to be approved by PG&E Pipeline Services in writing PRIOR to performing the work.
3. **Wheel Loads:** To prevent damage to the buried gas pipeline, there are weight limits that must be enforced whenever any equipment gets within 10 feet of traversing the pipe.

Ensure a list of the axle weights of all equipment being used is available for PG&E's Standby Inspector. To confirm the depth of cover, the pipeline may need to be potholed by hand in a few areas.

Due to the complex variability of tracked equipment, vibratory compaction equipment, and cranes, PG&E must evaluate those items on a case-by-case basis prior to use over the gas pipeline (provide a list of any proposed equipment of this type noting model numbers and specific attachments).

No equipment may be set up over the gas pipeline while operating. Ensure crane outriggers are at least 10 feet from the centerline of the gas pipeline. Transport trucks must not be parked over the gas pipeline while being loaded or unloaded.

4. **Grading:** PG&E requires a minimum of 36 inches of cover over gas pipelines (or existing grade if less) and a maximum of 7 feet of cover at all locations. The graded surface cannot exceed a cross slope of 1:4.
5. **Excavating:** Any digging within 2 feet of a gas pipeline must be dug by hand. Note that while the minimum clearance is only 12 inches, any excavation work within 24 inches of the edge of a pipeline must be done with hand tools. So to avoid having to dig a trench entirely with hand tools, the edge of the trench must be over 24 inches away. (Doing the math for a 24 inch



wide trench being dug along a 36 inch pipeline, the centerline of the trench would need to be at least 54 inches [ $24/2 + 24 + 36/2 = 54$ ] away, or be entirely dug by hand.)

Water jetting to assist vacuum excavating must be limited to 1000 psig and directed at a 40° angle to the pipe. All pile driving must be kept a minimum of 3 feet away.

Any plans to expose and support a PG&E gas transmission pipeline across an open excavation need to be approved by PG&E Pipeline Services in writing PRIOR to performing the work.

6. Boring/Trenchless Installations: PG&E Pipeline Services must review and approve all plans to bore across or parallel to (within 10 feet) a gas transmission pipeline. There are stringent criteria to pothole the gas transmission facility at regular intervals for all parallel bore installations.

For bore paths that cross gas transmission pipelines perpendicularly, the pipeline must be potholed a minimum of 2 feet in the horizontal direction of the bore path and a minimum of 12 inches in the vertical direction from the bottom of the pipe with minimum clearances measured from the edge of the pipe in both directions. Standby personnel must watch the locator trace (and every ream pass) the path of the bore as it approaches the pipeline and visually monitor the pothole (with the exposed transmission pipe) as the bore traverses the pipeline to ensure adequate clearance with the pipeline. The pothole width must account for the inaccuracy of the locating equipment.

7. Substructures: All utility crossings of a gas pipeline should be made as close to perpendicular as feasible ( $90^\circ \pm 15^\circ$ ). All utility lines crossing the gas pipeline must have a minimum of 12 inches of separation from the gas pipeline. Parallel utilities, pole bases, water line 'kicker blocks', storm drain inlets, water meters, valves, back pressure devices or other utility substructures are not allowed in the PG&E gas pipeline easement.

If previously retired PG&E facilities are in conflict with proposed substructures, PG&E must verify they are safe prior to removal. This includes verification testing of the contents of the facilities, as well as environmental testing of the coating and internal surfaces. Timelines for PG&E completion of this verification will vary depending on the type and location of facilities in conflict.

8. Structures: No structures are to be built within the PG&E gas pipeline easement. This includes buildings, retaining walls, fences, decks, patios, carports, septic tanks, storage sheds, tanks, loading ramps, or any structure that could limit PG&E's ability to access its facilities.

9. Fencing: Permanent fencing is not allowed within PG&E easements except for perpendicular crossings which must include a 16 foot wide gate for vehicular access. Gates will be secured with PG&E corporation locks.

10. Landscaping: Landscaping must be designed to allow PG&E to access the pipeline for maintenance and not interfere with pipeline coatings or other cathodic protection systems. No trees, shrubs, brush, vines, and other vegetation may be planted within the easement area. Only those plants, ground covers, grasses, flowers, and low-growing plants that grow unsupported to a maximum of four feet (4') in height at maturity may be planted within the easement area.



11. Cathodic Protection: PG&E pipelines are protected from corrosion with an “Impressed Current” cathodic protection system. Any proposed facilities, such as metal conduit, pipes, service lines, ground rods, anodes, wires, etc. that might affect the pipeline cathodic protection system must be reviewed and approved by PG&E Corrosion Engineering.

12. Pipeline Marker Signs: PG&E needs to maintain pipeline marker signs for gas transmission pipelines in order to ensure public awareness of the presence of the pipelines. With prior written approval from PG&E Pipeline Services, an existing PG&E pipeline marker sign that is in direct conflict with proposed developments may be temporarily relocated to accommodate construction work. The pipeline marker must be moved back once construction is complete.

13. PG&E is also the provider of distribution facilities throughout many of the areas within the state of California. Therefore, any plans that impact PG&E’s facilities must be reviewed and approved by PG&E to ensure that no impact occurs which may endanger the safe operation of its facilities.





## Attachment 2 – Electric Facilities

It is PG&E's policy to permit certain uses on a case by case basis within its electric transmission fee strip(s) and/or easement(s) provided such uses and manner in which they are exercised, will not interfere with PG&E's rights or endanger its facilities. Some examples/restrictions are as follows:

1. Buildings and Other Structures: No buildings or other structures including the foot print and eave of any buildings, swimming pools, wells or similar structures will be permitted within fee strip(s) and/or easement(s) areas. PG&E's transmission easement shall be designated on subdivision/parcel maps as **"RESTRICTED USE AREA – NO BUILDING."**
2. Grading: Cuts, trenches or excavations may not be made within 25 feet of our towers. Developers must submit grading plans and site development plans (including geotechnical reports if applicable), signed and dated, for PG&E's review. PG&E engineers must review grade changes in the vicinity of our towers. No fills will be allowed which would impair ground-to-conductor clearances. Towers shall not be left on mounds without adequate road access to base of tower or structure.
3. Fences: Walls, fences, and other structures must be installed at locations that do not affect the safe operation of PG&E's facilities. Heavy equipment access to our facilities must be maintained at all times. Metal fences are to be grounded to PG&E specifications. No wall, fence or other like structure is to be installed within 10 feet of tower footings and unrestricted access must be maintained from a tower structure to the nearest street. Walls, fences and other structures proposed along or within the fee strip(s) and/or easement(s) will require PG&E review; submit plans to PG&E Centralized Review Team for review and comment.
4. Landscaping: Vegetation may be allowed; subject to review of plans. On overhead electric transmission fee strip(s) and/or easement(s), trees and shrubs are limited to those varieties that do not exceed 15 feet in height at maturity. PG&E must have access to its facilities at all times, including access by heavy equipment. No planting is to occur within the footprint of the tower legs. Greenbelts are encouraged.
5. Reservoirs, Sumps, Drainage Basins, and Ponds: Prohibited within PG&E's fee strip(s) and/or easement(s) for electric transmission lines.
6. Automobile Parking: Short term parking of movable passenger vehicles and light trucks (pickups, vans, etc.) is allowed. The lighting within these parking areas will need to be reviewed by PG&E; approval will be on a case by case basis. Heavy equipment access to PG&E facilities is to be maintained at all times. Parking is to clear PG&E structures by at least 10 feet. Protection of PG&E facilities from vehicular traffic is to be provided at developer's expense AND to PG&E specifications. Blocked-up vehicles are not allowed. Carports, canopies, or awnings are not allowed.
7. Storage of Flammable, Explosive or Corrosive Materials: There shall be no storage of fuel or combustibles and no fueling of vehicles within PG&E's easement. No trash bins or incinerators are allowed.



8. Streets and Roads: Access to facilities must be maintained at all times. Street lights may be allowed in the fee strip(s) and/or easement(s) but in all cases must be reviewed by PG&E for proper clearance. Roads and utilities should cross the transmission easement as nearly at right angles as possible. Road intersections will not be allowed within the transmission easement.

9. Pipelines: Pipelines may be allowed provided crossings are held to a minimum and to be as nearly perpendicular as possible. Pipelines within 25 feet of PG&E structures require review by PG&E. Sprinklers systems may be allowed; subject to review. Leach fields and septic tanks are not allowed. Construction plans must be submitted to PG&E for review and approval prior to the commencement of any construction.

10. Signs: Signs are not allowed except in rare cases subject to individual review by PG&E.

11. Recreation Areas: Playgrounds, parks, tennis courts, basketball courts, barbecue and light trucks (pickups, vans, etc.) may be allowed; subject to review of plans. Heavy equipment access to PG&E facilities is to be maintained at all times. Parking is to clear PG&E structures by at least 10 feet. Protection of PG&E facilities from vehicular traffic is to be provided at developer's expense AND to PG&E specifications.

12. Construction Activity: Since construction activity will take place near PG&E's overhead electric lines, please be advised it is the contractor's responsibility to be aware of, and observe the minimum clearances for both workers and equipment operating near high voltage electric lines set out in the High-Voltage Electrical Safety Orders of the California Division of Industrial Safety (<https://www.dir.ca.gov/Title8/sb5g2.html>), as well as any other safety regulations. Contractors shall comply with California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95 ([http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO95/go\\_95\\_startup\\_page.html](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO95/go_95_startup_page.html)) and all other safety rules. No construction may occur within 25 feet of PG&E's towers. All excavation activities may only commence after 811 protocols has been followed.

Contractor shall ensure the protection of PG&E's towers and poles from vehicular damage by (installing protective barriers) Plans for protection barriers must be approved by PG&E prior to construction.

13. PG&E is also the owner of distribution facilities throughout many of the areas within the state of California. Therefore, any plans that impact PG&E's facilities must be reviewed and approved by PG&E to ensure that no impact occurs that may endanger the safe and reliable operation of its facilities.