

**53°**  
 High: 54° Low: 38°  

 Thu Fri Sat Sun

Log in | Register

Join

4

Uploaded: Mon, Jan 14, 2019, 9:19 am

## Monday: Public hearing on potential environmental impacts of 92-foot-tall building in Menlo Park

Planning Commission to discuss proposed Tarlton building at 1350 Adams Court



Tarlton Properties has proposed to build a 260,000-square-foot life sciences building in eastern Menlo Park, next to Facebook's proposed Willow Village. The Menlo Park Planning Commission will hear comments Monday about potential environmental impacts of the project as part of the early "Notice of Preparation" phase of the environmental review process. (Photo courtesy DES Architects + Engineers, Inc./City of Menlo Park.)

by Kate Bradshaw / Almanac

A 260,000-square-foot, five-story research and development building proposed by Tarlton Properties at 1350 Adams Court in Menlo Park will be the topic of discussion as staff and consultants launch the environmental impact review process for the project with the Menlo Park Planning Commission on Monday, Jan. 14.

The proposed building, which would reach a maximum height of 92 feet, would be located in the city's former light-industrial area, which was rezoned for life sciences development as part of the "ConnectMenlo" general plan update approved in November 2016.

The site of the proposed new building is an undeveloped area of an 11.2-acre site that has one other building - currently occupied by Pacific Biosciences - on it. It's also near the site of the proposed Facebook Willow Village development and is "relatively close to the city of East Palo Alto," according to a [staff report](#).

Parking would be provided in a partially underground garage on a raised podium that would meet the city's zoning requirements to accommodate sea level rise.

For the project to move forward, the developer will have to go through an environmental review process for the project; receive a use permit; receive approval from the Planning Commission for the proposed architectural design; get permission to remove heritage trees in the way of the proposed development; pay the requisite fees to comply with the city's below-market-rate housing ordinance; prepare a fiscal



Daily news via email

### Don't be the last to know

Get the latest headlines sent straight to your inbox every day.

Sign Up Now!

### TOP BLOGS

#### Drivers Ed 101: Look Where You're Going

By Sherry Listgarten | 19 comments | 2,168 views

#### Gluten-free bakery headed to Los Altos

By Elena Kadvany | 0 comments | 1,730 views

#### Couples: Miscarriage

By Chandrama Anderson | 0 comments | 1,428 views

#### Food Party! 2019 - Here We Go Again

By Laura Stec | 5 comments | 1,194 views

#### Please stop wagging the dog

By Dana Hendrickson | 2 comments | 544 views

[View all local blogs](#)

impact analysis; and conduct an appraisal of the project's value, which will determine what community benefits the developer will have to provide to the public.

The project is still in the preliminary phases of the environmental review process. Through Jan. 24, members of the public can raise topics they want to be analyzed during the environmental impact review. Among the topics already flagged for further analysis are air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, noise, population and housing, transportation and traffic, and utilities. The city has [contracted](#) with consulting firm ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc. for the environmental analysis.

This won't be the first or the last time this project comes before the Planning Commission. During a study session on the project held in April, planning commissioners took issue with the developer proposing open space around the building as an amenity for the public, arguing that it might not be well-utilized. Some commissioners also said they were worried that there isn't sufficient transportation infrastructure to allow any new development in that area of the city.

The developer has since modified the proposed public-access open space, expanding an area near the intersection of Adams Court and Adams Drive and adding landscaping, pathways, furnishings and public art, including an art installation by sculptor Gordon Huether, according to a letter from architectural firm DES Architects + Engineers, Inc.

Another piece of the development is a proposed bike and pedestrian "paseo," a 20-foot-wide path, along the western side of the property between the Tarlton property and Facebook's Willow Village development.

Planning commissioners will be asked to weigh in on the proposed building's architecture and layout, and consider whether the changes to the public-access open space seem adequate and if the developer should be permitted to delay constructing the paseo to coordinate with Facebook's development.

The Planning Commission will meet Monday, Jan. 14, starting at 7 p.m. in the Menlo Park council chambers. Access the agenda [here](#) or stream the meeting online [here](#).

To weigh in on what topics should be analyzed further for the environmental impact review, people can speak during the meeting or submit written comments to the Community Development Department no later than 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24. Comments may be submitted by email to Tom Smith, senior planner, at [tasmith@menlopark.org](mailto:tasmith@menlopark.org), or by letter to Tom Smith, Community Development Department, 701 Laurel St., Menlo Park, CA 94025. More information is available [here](#).

--

- [Sign up for Almanac Express](#) to get news updates. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

We can't do it without you.  
Support local journalism.

Join

## Comments

Posted by **Don't forget**  
a resident of another community  
on Jan 14, 2019 at 12:37 pm

4 people like this

Is this building one of the 5 buildings that got left out of the General Plan math and now is waiting for the City to amend the General Plan's maximum cap to accommodate it?  
How the previous city manager and council majority missed seeing the omission of this development, the Facebook Village development and Sobrato project shows a grave omission in the City's leadership.  
Our new Council must deal with this error before we get down to Mr. Tarlton's project.  
Or is this building exempt?

[Email Town Square Moderator](#) [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Posted by **Beth**  
a resident of Menlo Park: Central Menlo Park  
on Jan 14, 2019 at 12:43 pm

7 people like this

Seems only decent and neighborly that those RESIDENTS near this should have 90% of the say.  
  
Or are we now also ignoring the obvious for whatever corporate entity wants?

Baylands Park used to be great, but now facing west one sees not the Santa Cruz Mountains, but a line of massive office buildings/hotels. What happened to Menlo Park's landscaping for new

developments? I see no evidence of it. The new hotel on ElCamino & Glenwood has planters with cacti!! Do we no longer have standards?

[Email Town Square Moderator](#) [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Posted by **Peter Carpenter**

4 people like this

a resident of Atherton: Lindenwood  
on Jan 14, 2019 at 3:20 pm  
*Peter Carpenter is a registered user.*

I am confident that the new Council will put a halt to this development craziness.

[Email Town Square Moderator](#) [Report Objectionable Content](#)

Posted by **OB Bobby Johnson**

2 people like this

a resident of Menlo Park: Belle Haven  
on Jan 14, 2019 at 4:28 pm

Maybe they should build these office building in WEST MENLO PARK

[Email Town Square Moderator](#) [Report Objectionable Content](#)

**Don't miss out on the discussion!**  
**Sign up to be notified of new comments on this topic.**

Email:

SUBMIT

### Post a comment

Posting an item on Town Square is simple and requires no registration. Just complete this form and hit "submit" and your topic will appear online. Please be respectful and truthful in your postings so Town Square will continue to be a thoughtful gathering place for sharing community information and opinion. All postings are subject to our [TERMS OF USE](#), and may be deleted if deemed inappropriate by our staff.

We prefer that you use your real name, but you may use any "member" name you wish.

**Name:**  \*

**Select your neighborhood or school community:** \* Not sure?



**Comment:** \*

**Verification code:**   \*

Enter the verification code exactly as shown, using capital and lowercase letters, in the multi-colored box.

\*Required Fields

SUBMIT