COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, PLANNING DIVISION

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT NEGATIVE DECLARATION

A notice, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code 21,000, et seq.), that the following project: <u>Edwards General Plan Map Amendment</u>, when adopted and implemented, will not have a significant impact on the environment.

FILE NO.: PLN 2006-00128

FILED ENDORSED
IN THE OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK RECORDER OF
SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIF.

OWNERS/APPLICANT: Ronald and Sally Edwards/Jeffrey M. Barnea

MAY 2 2 2006

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NOS.: 068-162-400 and 068-162-410

WARREN SLOCUM, County Clerk
By MADELEINE BRULEY

PROJECT LOCATION: 720 Paradise Way (Emerald Lake Hills), Redwood City, CA 94061

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes a General Plan Map Amendment to change the land use designation of the 24,260 sq. ft. subject parcel from Low-Density Residential (which allows a maximum of 2.3 dwelling units per acre) to Medium-Low Density Residential (which allows a maximum of six dwelling units per acre). No land division or development is proposed at this time.

SITE DESCRIPTION: The site slopes upward an average of 14.2% from Paradise Way. Fifteen (15) mature trees, primarily pine and oak trees, are located throughout the property. There is an existing 1-story residence and attached garage on the southern half of the property.

FINDINGS AND BASIS FOR A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Planning Division has reviewed the initial study for the project and, based upon substantial evidence in the record, finds that:

- 1. The project will not adversely affect water or air quality or increase noise levels substantially.
- 2. The project will not have adverse impacts on the flora or fauna of the area.
- 3. The project will not degrade the aesthetic quality of the area.
- 4. The project will not have adverse impacts on traffic or land use.
- 5. In addition, the project will not:
 - a. Create impacts which have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment.
 - b. Create impacts which achieve short-term to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.

- c. Create impacts for a project which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
- d. Create environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

The County of San Mateo has, therefore, determined that the environmental impact of the project is insignificant.

As the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, no mitigation measures have been included.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY CONSULTATION

None.

INITIAL STUDY

The San Mateo County Planning Division has reviewed the Environmental Evaluation of this project and has found that the probable environmental impacts are less than significant. A copy of the initial study is attached.

<u>REVIEW PERIOD</u>: May 22, 2006 to June 12, 2006.

All comments regarding the correctness, completeness, or adequacy of this Negative Declaration must be received by the County Planning Division, 455 County Center, Second Floor, Redwood City, no later than 5:00 p.m., June 12, 2006.

CONTACT PERSON

Camille Leung, Project Planner 650/363-1826

Camille Leung, Project Planner

CL:fc - CMLQ0521_WFH.DOC

COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Environmental Services Agency Planning and Building Division

Initial Study Pursuant to CEQA
Project Narrative and Answers to Questions for the Negative Declaration
File Number: PLN 2006-00128
Edwards General Plan Map Amendment

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The applicant proposes a General Plan-Map-Amendment to change the land use designation of the 24,260 sq. ft. subject parcel from Low-Density Residential (which allows a maximum of 2.3 dwelling units per acre) to Medium-Low Density Residential (which allows a maximum of six dwelling units per acre). No land division or development is proposed at this time.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site slopes upward an average of 14.2% from Paradise Way. Fifteen (15) mature trees, primarily pine and oak trees, are located throughout the property. There is an existing 1-story residence and attached garage on the southern half of the property.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

5. TRANSPORTATION

b. Will (or could) this project cause noticeable increase in pedestrian traffic or a change in pedestrian patterns?

Yes, Not Significant. Currently, the project site consists of one parcel, taking access from Paradise Way. If approved, the proposed General Plan Map Amendment may result in future subdivision of the property and construction of an additional single-family residence within the existing single-family residential district. According to the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the average weekday vehicle trip rate per dwelling unit is 10.062 trips. Therefore, an additional single-family residence at the project site may result in an estimated 10 additional weekday vehicle trips along Paradise Way and on adjacent streets. An additional 10 weekday vehicle trips in the area does not represent a significant increase in traffic. No mitigation measures are necessary.

¹ Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE). 1987. Trip Generation. Washington, DC.

6. LAND USE AND GENERAL PLANS

d. Will (or could) this project result in any changes in land use, either on or off the project site?

Yes, Not Significant. The applicant proposes a General Plan Map Amendment to change the land use designation of the subject parcel from Low-Density Residential to Medium-Low Density Residential, which would allow the creation of one additional parcel (see Attachment B for a map showing General Plan land use designations within Emerald Lake Hills). At this time, the applicant does not propose land division or new development and plans to maintain the existing use and structures on the property.

However, as previously stated, the proposed General Plan Map Amendment may result in the future subdivision of the property and construction of an additional single-family residence within the existing single-family residential district. Based on review of existing residential development within the neighborhood and the presence of parcels zoned Medium-Low Density Residential immediately across the street from the subject property, staff has determined that future subdivision and development of the site, in accordance with the RH zoning regulations, would be compatible with current land uses and land use density in the neighborhood. No mitigation measures are necessary.

e. Will (or could) this project serve to encourage off-site development of presently undeveloped areas or increase development intensity of already developed areas (examples include the introduction of new or expanded public utilities, new industry, commercial facilities or recreation activities)?

Yes, Not Significant. The project would not serve to encourage off-site development of presently undeveloped areas. A discussion of the project's potential to increase development intensity of already developed areas is provided below.

The approval of the project, which would increase the allowed density of the subject parcel from Low-Density Residential to Medium-Low Density Residential, may result in an increased number of requests for General Plan Map amendments throughout the Emerald Lake Hills area. While project approval may indirectly encourage such requests from property owners in the area, the project directly impacts only two parcels with regard to potential for increased density.

In general, the County is more likely to support a request for increased density for a parcel that is contiguous to an area designated for such density. Currently designated as Low-Density Residential, the parcels that may be impacted by project approval are located to the north (APN 068-162-460) and west (APN 068-162-350) of the project

site. If the project is approved, these parcels would be made contiguous to an area designated as Medium-Low Density Residential, possibly increasing the potential for the approval of greater density at these sites. However, the County would likely deny any request for increased density at these sites (should the Planning Division receive a request), as the parcels do not meet the minimum lot size required for subdivision in the RH zoning district. Parcels to the south and southwest of the project site are already contiguous to areas designated Medium-Low Density Residential and project approval would not directly improve the potential for greater density at these sites (should the Planning Division receive a request). As project approval would not directly improve the potential for greater density on any site, the project would not increase development intensity of already developed areas. No mitigation measures are necessary.

f. Will (or could) this project adversely affect the capacity of any public facilities (streets, highways, freeways, public transit, schools, parks, police, fire, hospitals), public utilities (electrical, water and gas supply lines, sewage and storm drain discharge lines, sanitary landfills) or public works serving the site?

Yes, Not Significant. As previously stated, the project would allow future subdivision of the parcel resulting in the creation of one additional lot, in compliance with the existing RH zoning regulations. Therefore, potential impacts associated with the future subdivision and development of the project site (including impacts to public facilities, public utilities, and/or public works) are largely anticipated by build-out under the existing zoning designation and may be accommodated by the current infrastructure. No mitigation measures are necessary.

i. Will (or could) this project create significant amounts of solid waste or litter?

Yes, Not Significant. See Question 6.f above.

k. Will (or could) this project require an amendment to or exception from adopted general plans, specific plans, or community policies or goals?

Yes, Not Significant. According to the County of San Mateo's Residential Hillside (RH) zoning district regulations, a property with a minimum of 24,000 sq. ft. could be potentially subdivided if the average slope of each parcel does not exceed 17%. The property is of adequate size and slope to accommodate a 2-lot subdivision in accordance with this regulation. However, the property's Low-Density Residential land use designation, as set by the General Plan Land Use Map for Emerald Lake Hills, prohibits subdivision of the property. The Low-Density Residential designation

² The lot size for APN 068-162-460 is estimated at 15,425 sq. ft., where a minimum of 24,000 sq. ft. is required for subdivision using a best-case scenario. The lot size for APN 068-162-350 is estimated at 10,650 sq. ft., where a minimum of 24,000 sq. ft. is required for subdivision using a best-case scenario.

allows a density of 0.3 to 2.3 dwelling units per net acre, while subdivision of the parcel would result in a density of 3.6 dwelling units per acre.

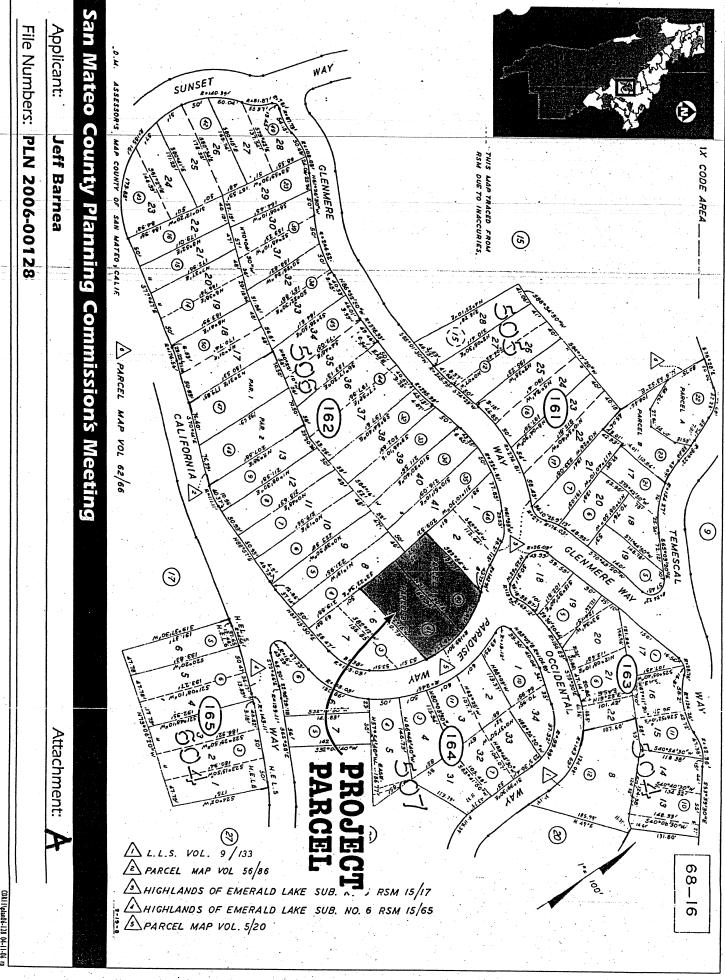
Essentially, the RH zoning district allows a higher density on the property than that allowed by the General Plan land use designation. The applicant proposes a General Plan Map Amendment to change the property's land use designation to Medium-Low Density Residential (which allows 2.4 to 6 dwelling units per acre). Staff has determined that the proposed amendment would resolve this conflict with a rather simple adjustment, where an amendment to the RH zoning regulation would be more complicated. For instance, in the RH district, minimum lot size is determined by the average percent of slope. To resolve this conflict, an amendment to the RH zoning regulations may involve increasing the minimum parcel size for parcels with 17% slope or less, which would then decrease the permitted density of many properties across the district.

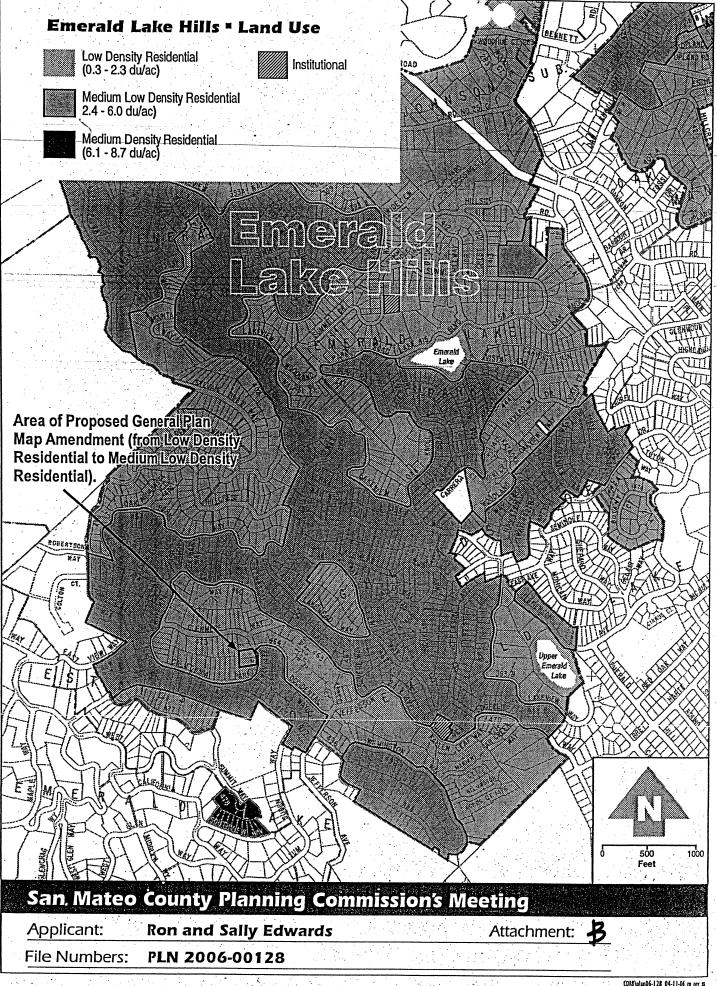
While the applicant requests an amendment to the General Plan Land Use Map for Emerald Lake Hills, the project, as proposed, complies with the other applicable General Plan Policies, as discussed below:

The County General Plan designates the subject property as an "Urban Neighborhood." Table 8.1P in the General Plan establishes land use designations, densities and locational criteria in urban neighborhoods. The locational criteria for Low-Density Residential areas are: (1) existing low-density areas; (2) hillside areas with steep slopes; (3) adjacent to sensitive habitats; (4) hazardous areas; and (5) not within areas of high perceived noise. The locational criteria for Medium-Low Density Residential areas are the same as that for Low-Density Residential areas except for the first criteria, which recommends location in existing Medium-Low Density areas. The Emerald Lake Hills area is made up of both Low-Density and Medium-Low Density areas, which are interspersed in large patches throughout the area. Therefore, no significant differences exist in the locational criteria for Low-Density Residential and Medium-Low Density Residential areas in urban neighborhoods, as it applies to Emerald Lake Hills.

The proposal is consistent with the surrounding residential land uses, per Policies 8.14 (Land Use Compatibility) and 8.29 (Infilling). The property currently receives water services from the Redwood City Municipal Water District and sewer services from the Emerald Lake Heights Sanitation Maintenance District.

If the amendment is approved and the lot is subdivided in the future, the resulting density of 3.6 dwelling units per acre would be substantially lower than the density allowed in the Medium-Low Density designation (up to six dwelling units per acre). Furthermore, approval of the amendment would facilitate a more efficient use of the site by providing additional housing in keeping with regional employment trends and





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County of San Mateo Planning and Building Division

INITIAL STUDY ORDINATION CHECKI IS

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION CHECKLIST (To Be Completed By Planning Division)

BACKGROUND

Project Title: Edwards General Plan Map Amendment

File No.: PLN 2006-00128

Project Location: 720 Paradise Way (Emerald Lake Hills), Redwood City, CA 94061

Assessor's Parcel Nos.: 068-162-400 and 068-162-410

Applicant/Owners: Jeffrey M. Barnea/Ronald and Sally Edwards

Date Environmental Information Form Submitted: March 27, 2006

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

acre). No land division or development is proposed at this time. The applicant proposes a General Plan Map Amendment to change the land use designation of the 24,260 sq. ft. subject parcel from Low-Density Residential (which allows a maximum of 2.3 dwelling units per acre) to Medium-Low Density Residential (which allows a maximum of six dwelling units per

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

Any controversial answers or answers needing clarification are explained on an attached sheet. For source, refer to pages 11 and 12.

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	Involve the construction of buildings three stories or 36 feet in height?	Obstruct scenic views from existing residential areas, public lands, public water body, or roads?	Be adjacent to a designated Scenic Highway or within a State or County Scenic Corridor?	AND HISTORIC	Result in creation of or exposure to a potential health hazard?	Result in possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Reduce the supply of low-income housing?	Require the relocation of people or businesses?		Require an amendment to or exception from adopted general plans, specific plans, or community policies or goals?	Substantially increase fossil fuel consumption (electricity, oil, natural gas, coal, etc.)?	Create significant amounts of solid waste or litter?	
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d. Directly or indirectly affect historical or archaeological resources on or near the site? e. Visually intrude into an area having natural scenic qualities? X RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES. Check what agency has permit authority or other approval for the project. AGENCY AND BOURGE MIligative Significant: Infligative Miligative Significant: Infligative Miligative Miligative AND AND Cumulative Significant: Infligative Miligative AND AND AND Cumulative Significant: Infligative AND AND AND Cumulative Significant: Infligative AND AND Cumulative Significant: Infligative AND AND Cumulative Significant: Infligative AND AND AND Cumulative Significant: Infligative AND AND AND Cumulative Significant: Infligative AND AND AND AND Cumulative Significant: Infligative AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN
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Other:

Sewer/Water District:

City

Coastal Commission

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Bay Area Air Quality Management District

CalTrans

Yes

N_O

Mitigation measures have been proposed in project application.

Other mitigation measures are needed.

The following measures are included in the project plans or proposals pursuant to Section 15070(b)(1) of the State CEQA Guidelines: N/A

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V. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a flat nor willdiffe species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, fitneaten to eliminate a plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? 2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term x possible environmental goals? 3. Does the project cause substantial adverse effects which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? x would the project cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? x horizontal environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared by the Planning Division. I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required. Camille Leung Project Planner **Title** **Title** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **				
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- SOURCE LIST
- Field Inspection
- County General Plan 1986
- General Plan Chapters 1-16
- Local Coastal Program (LCP) (Area Plan)
- Skyline Area General Plan Amendment Montara-Moss Beach-El Granada Community Plan

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- Emerald Lake Hills Community Plan
- County Ordinance Code

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Geotechnical Maps

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- **USGS Basic Data Contributions**
- #43 Landslide Susceptibility
 #44 Active Faults
- #45 High Water Table
- Geotechnical Hazards Synthesis Maps

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- USGS Quadrangle Maps, San Mateo County 1970 Series (See F. and H.)
- San Mateo County Rare and Endangered Species Maps, or Sensitive Habitats Maps

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- ଭ Flood Insurance Rate Map - National Flood Insurance Program
- Ξ County Archaeologic Resource Inventory (Prepared by S. Dietz, A.C.R.S.) Procedures for Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties – 36 CFR 800 (See R.)
- Project Plans or EIF
- Airport Land Use Committee Plans, San Mateo County Airports Plan
- ᄌ Aerial Photography or Real Estate Atlas - REDI
- Aerial Photographs, 1941, 1953, 1956, 1960, 1963, 1970
- Aerial Photographs, 1981
- 0 W 4 Coast Aerial Photos/Slides, San Francisco County Line to Año Nuevo Point, 1971
- Historic Photos, 1928-1937

- 롣 Soil Survey, San Mateo Area, U.S. Department of Agriculture, May 1961
- z Air Pollution Isopleth Maps - Bay Area Air Pollution Control District
- 0 California Natural Areas Coordinating Council Maps (See F. and H.)
- ס. Forest Resources Study (1971)
- Q Experience with Other Projects of this Size and Nature
- IJ Environmental Regulations and Standards:

Federal NEPA 24 CFR 1500-1508 Review Procedures for CDBG Programs

National Register of Historic Places Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties

Floodplain Management

Protection of Wetlands

Noise Abatement and Control Explosive and Flammable Operations **Endangered and Threatened Species**

Toxic Chemicals/Radioactive Materials

Airport Clear Zones and APZ

Noise Insulation Standards Ambient Air Quality Standards

State

24 CFR Part 58

36 CFR Part 800

Executive Order 11988 Executive Order 11990

HUD 79-33 24 CFR 51C 24 CFR Part 51B

Article 4, Section 1092

24 CFR 51D

Consultation with Departments and Agencies

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County Health Department

City Fire Department

California Department of Forestry

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Disaster Preparedness Office

Other

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