

Dragon Mountain Project Description

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The Silicon Valley is a global magnet for the high-tech industry. However, what formed with a dominance of engineering resumes has now been diluted with start-up business sectors reaching all industries. People from all over the world have historically flocked to the Bay Area with the hope of advancing career dreams. This migration has created an environment that is diverse in culture, and competitive in business. This has caused the Valley to grow in population at a much faster pace than supporting infrastructure improvements. The workday continues to stretch longer, causing rush hour traffic to be all day long. The soaring cost of living has transitioned from what started as career commitments to now fiscal requirements. The demands on lifestyle have made escaping the confines of the valley floor to the Sierras, the wine county, or the scenic coastline harder to fit in.

The Dragon Mountain facility provides a local welcome respite from those demands in the form of a contemplative recreation venue with open space vistas and valley views. The site is a mere 15 minutes away from the heart of the Silicon Valley and yet seems a world apart.

The proposed Dragon Mountain Park backbone is structured around large natural open space areas connected with walking and hiking trails that include breath taking vista points. It is a place where people can improve their quality of life by enjoying passive recreation just minutes away from their home or work. Dragon Mountain is envisioned as a non-profit institutional use where private meditation and spiritual reflection abounds in a non-congregational environment. Throughout the experience will be a form of the typical “par-course fitness circuit” where the physical exercise stations will be replaced with kiosk type posts that will focus on cultural and spiritual education and quiet, private, reflection.

The physical facilities on the site will be a series of small structures, monuments, and statues, spread throughout the property that will be used for resting, viewing, meditation, and introspection or private diminutive devotion purposes.

There will be an assembly room, with a capacity of 50 persons, where a private small group of family and invited friends will enjoy a meditation session once a week on Sunday for approximately 2 hours. This facility will also include a butler’s kitchen where pre-cooked food will be brought in the form of a pot-luck procedure, and final “prepped” for enjoyment after the meditation session.

A small chapel will be constructed as a replacement for the barn structure that burned down several years ago. This chapel will have a capacity of 16 persons and be used as a place where people can enjoy a few minutes of private reflection and prayer. It will not be a place where organized services with congregations will take place.

In addition to the private Sunday meditation sessions, there will be several Special Events approximately 4 times per year (Vietnamese New Year, Christmas, etc.). These events will be limited in size to a maximum of 340 people in accordance with the governing criteria under the Santa Clara County Local Serving Use indicators. Any such Special Events, as defined above, will require that the applicant/owner of the property file an application to the County for an approval/permit.

A network of driveway roads, that will be improved on top of the old historic driveway access facilities, will provide adequate means of access for emergency services and specific public vehicle routing. The existing site access roadways have been shown to adequately satisfy fire truck passage by local fire departments when staging past hillside fire battle operations in the area. This access will be continually provided to local fire departments with the Dragon Mountain use.

Access to Dragon Mountain is more than adequate with sufficient parking at the entrance immediately off the Calaveras/Spring Valley County road. There will be an opportunity for people with a disability or elderly people, wanting to visit the upper portion of the park, who are not able to physically walk, will be able to use the access driveway to be dropped off at the midpoint plateau area where the educational stations and relaxation areas will be located.

Adequate restroom facilities will be provided for the benefit of the visitors. In addition, there will be a small caretaker residential unit on the property.

Dragon Mountain is planned to allow the escape from the Silicon Valley daily grind. A place where, within a quick drive, one can experience the beauty of nature in a healthy mode of hiking to unparalleled scenic vistas, and still make it back in time for an afternoon meeting. It will uniquely blend the attributes of a healthy regime with the appropriate means for a complete mind, body, and soulful experience. In today's world, a place as such would typically command a high price to visit, however, there will be no fees whatsoever charged for access and enjoyment of Dragon Mountain to the public.

Dragon Mountain is not a place of religious congregation. Other than described, there will not be programmed religious ceremonies, or functions. There will be no overnight sleeping quarters for monks or men and woman of the cloth. It is not a monastery, church, or synagogue. It is not a wedding or conference venue. Dragon Mountain is a special place for private healing and growth. It will not cast prejudice for any race, color, or creed to access the beauty of nature to feed their spirit.

Categorization of Use – Institutional Use : Nonprofit Institution / Restricted Religious

This project has been previously described inaccurately as a monastery or place of religious congregation. Dragon Mountain is not to be confused or categorized with organized church, temple, or synagogue type services. The included Project Description provides clarification on the proposed property use. In general terms, the applicant proposes to obtain a Use Permit that will utilize the property for a combination of Nonprofit Institution and “restricted” Religious Institutional Uses in compliance with the Santa Clara County governing criteria “Local-Serving” uses in the Hillside zoning.

The restricted Religious Use will be centered around private and quiet meditation, spiritual reflection, and multicultural education through a series of religious kiosks, shrines, and statues carefully aligned in a “par-course” type manner to intertwine with the benefits afforded by open space hillside enjoyment. There will also be a library where visitors can rest and learn from literature, covering vast cultural and religious narration.

The property allows visitors to experience open space connectivity and nondenominational passive spiritual reflection. The previous suggested monastery use has been deleted as this site is not intended for public religious gatherings or ceremonies except for a few private gatherings, described herein, that are related to the owner’s personal invitees.

There will be no overnight quarters for monks, or anyone other than the owner and his family. The applicant holds this land in the highest degree of spiritual setting. The charitable offering of the owner to nourish the souls of Dragon Mountain visitors through physical action and reflective thought is inimitable. There is no fee for anyone to visit and enjoy these sought-after benefits, especially in the times we live today.

Nonprofit Institutions are allowed with a use permit in the Hillside zoning applicable to the subject property. Nonprofit Institutions, as defined in the County Code, is a broad category encompassing community-serving facilities and other charitable and philanthropic endeavors. As with the Institutional use, The Religious institutional Use category also encompasses a broad host of specific practices. However, the owner wishes to limit/restrict the religious type uses to what is herein described.