

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 7 – Office of Regional Planning  
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*Making Conservation  
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**AUG 05 2019**

August 5, 2019

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Mr. Stratis Perros  
City of Simi Valley  
Dept. of Environmental Services  
2929 Tapo Canyon Road  
Simi Valley, CA 93063

RE: The Tapo/Alamo Project  
Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)  
SCH#2018051058  
GTS#07-VEN-2018-00292  
Vic. VEN/118/ PM R27.522

Dear Mr. Perros:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review process for the above-referenced project. The proposed project would redevelop an existing commercial center to construct a 278-unit apartment complex and retain and remodel 8,100 square feet of commercial retail space. Also, the proposed project would consolidate parcels to create two lots.

The proposed site is in an urban locale with an easy access to key destinations by foot, bicycle connectivity, public transit services, and non-auto modes. The proposed site is currently a commercial center that can be accessed from Ronald Regan freeway (SR-118) via Tapo Canyon Road and Stearns Street intersections.

Per Caltrans NOP letter dated 6/27/2018, Caltrans agrees that "the proposed project will change traffic patterns in the project vicinity and its potential impacts on traffic circulation will be analyzed in the EIR." After reviewing the DEIR, Caltrans has concerns with the capability to contain queuing vehicles within the available storage at the nearest VEN-118 ramps. A spillover of vehicles has the potential to create significant speed differentials and increase conflicts such as weaving, merging, traffic backup and speed differential. Therefore, for affected off-ramps, queuing analysis based on Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) queuing methodology is required. Please include an assessment of our concerns in the TIS by providing Queuing Analysis for the following VEN-118 off-ramps:

- VEN-118 WB & EB Off-ramps to Tapo Canyon Rd.
- VEN-118 WB & EB Off-ramps to Stearns St.

To calculate the baseline condition for total queue length on off-ramps, measure the distance from the intersection to the gore point. Caltrans recommends that any queuing on an off-ramp attributable to the project beyond 85% of this total length be considered a significant impact for direct or cumulative impacts.

In addition, Caltrans requests the proposed project to provide a Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) in the EIR. If one is available, please submit it to Caltrans for review.

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Caltrans supports the implementation of complete street and pedestrian safety measures such as road diet and other traffic calming measures. Please note that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognizes the road diet treatment as a proven safety countermeasure, and the cost of the road diet can be significantly reduced if implemented in tandem with routine street resurfacing.

Caltrans encourages the Lead Agency to integrate transportation and land use in a way that reduces Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by facilitating the provision of more proximate goods and services to shorten trip lengths, and achieve a high level of non-motorized travel and transit use. We also encourage the Lead Agency to evaluate the potential of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) applications in order to better manage the transportation network, as well as transit service and bicycle or pedestrian connectivity improvements.

As a reminder, transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials, which requires the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways, will require a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

Storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. Please be mindful of your need to discharge clean run-off water and it is not permitted to discharge onto State highway facilities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact project coordinator, Frances Duong at (213) 897-0673 or electronically at [frances.duong@dot.ca.gov](mailto:frances.duong@dot.ca.gov) and refer to GTS#07-VEN-2018-00292.

Sincerely,



FRANCES DUONG  
ACTING IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse