

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 4  
 P.O. BOX 23660  
 OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660  
 PHONE (510) 286-5528  
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 29 2019

Making Conservation  
 a California Way of Life!

April 29, 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

SCH: 2019039167  
 04-MRN-2019-00130  
 GTS ID 15131  
 Post Mile: MRN – 101

Barry Miller, Project Manager  
 City of San Rafael  
 1400 Fifth Ave. P.O. Box 15160  
 San Rafael, CA 94915

**General Plan 2040 and Downtown Precise Plan – Notice of Preparation (NOP)**

Dear Barry Miller:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. In tandem with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), Caltrans mission signals a modernization of our approach to evaluating and mitigating impacts to the State Transportation Network (STN). Caltrans' *Strategic Management Plan 2015-2020* aims to reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) by tripling bicycle and doubling both pedestrian and transit travel by 2020. Our comments are based on the NOP.

***Project Understanding***

The City is preparing a *Downtown Precise Plan (Precise Plan)* concurrently with the *General Plan 2040*. The Precise Plan is being funded by a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. The intent of the Precise Plan is to facilitate housing production, placemaking, economic vitality, innovative transportation solutions, and community engagement with an emphasis on sustainable, transit-oriented development. Both the proposed *General Plan 2040* and the *Downtown Precise Plan* will direct future growth within the study area and address the city's vulnerability to environmental challenges such as sea level rise, wild land fires, and other hazards identified in the *City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan* and updated *Climate Action Plan*. Both plans are intended to respond to local and regional housing needs, foster economic growth and local job creation, enhance civic identity and placemaking, and protect sensitive natural resources.

***Lead Agency***

As the Lead Agency, the City of San Rafael is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the STN. The project's financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures, prior to the submittal of an encroachment permit. Potential mitigation measures that include the requirements of other agencies—such as Caltrans—are fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other legally-binding instruments under the control of the Lead Agency.

Barry Miller, Project Manager  
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***Encroachment Permit***

Please be advised that any work or traffic control that encroaches onto the State ROW requires an encroachment permit that is issued by Caltrans. To obtain an encroachment permit, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and six (6) sets of plans clearly indicating the State ROW, and six (6) copies of signed and stamped traffic control plans must be submitted to: Office of Encroachment Permits, California DOT, District 4, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA 94623-0660. To download the permit application and obtain more information, visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Michael McHenry at (510) 286-5562 or Michael.mchenry@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



PATRICIA MAURICE  
District Branch Chief  
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c. State Clearinghouse