

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

July 30, 2019

JULY 31 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

GTS# 03-NEV-2019-00126
03-NEV-49 PM 15.262
SCH# 2019079005

Amy Wolfson
City of Nevada City
12975 Boreham Lane
Nevada City, CA 95959

Sugarloaf Mountain Trail

Dear Amy Wolfson:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the Certification of the environmental review process. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

The proposed project is an application for a Use Permit to construct a multi-use trail within the Nevada City limits on a 30.52-acre open space parcel. The goal of the trail project is to connect downtown Nevada City to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain. The new trail will also connect to an existing graveled excavated area, approximately 0.10 acre in size that will be improved to accommodate trail parking for approximately eight vehicles. The parking area will connect via an existing informal, user-created trail, which will be minimally improved (brush clearing and tread improvement for drainage and loose rock removal). The project will also incorporate minor improvements to an existing user-created trail along the eastern side of the City-owned property. The proposed trail also offers connection to Hirschman Trail and Tobiassen Park via a recently established County trail that runs west from North Bloomfield Road to the Nevada County Government Center. The trail will extend approximately one mile, commencing at the corner of SR 49 and North Bloomfield Road, and terminating at a point along an existing gravel access road that goes to the top of Sugarloaf from an entrance on upper Coyote Street. From there the trail will turn northerly, traversing two private properties (APN 05-310-09 and 05-310-10 through a series of switchbacks along the eastern side of an existing ravine. The trail will enter the City-owned Sugarloaf property at its

southwestern corner and will continue switch-backing until it meets an existing access road that will serve as the trail to the top of the property.

Traffic Highway Operations

There is an existing trail at the northwest corner of the intersection; the proposed trail will be at the northeast corner. There is no crosswalk on the north leg of the intersection, and no pedestrian phase at the traffic signal to accommodate pedestrians on the north leg. It is unreasonable to require people who want to travel from trail to trail to make three road crossings using the existing crosswalks and pedestrian phases of the traffic signal. A fourth crosswalk is needed.

SR 49 has "access control" in this area. Please contact Project Manager, Sam Vandell at sam.vandell@dot.ca.gov or chief of Right of Way Engineering David Thibeault at dave.thibeault@dot.ca.gov to discuss what will be necessary to allow the trail to cross the "access-controlled" State Right of Way line.

The following should be required as direct mitigation for the transportation impacts:

- Stripe a crosswalk on the north leg of the intersection
- Construct a curb ramp (or two curb ramps, if necessary) that will provide ADA access to the existing pedestrian push buttons in the northeast quadrant. The back of the curb ramp can provide access to the Sugarloaf Trail. See Caltrans Standard Plans A88A – Curb Ramp Details and A88B – Curb Ramp and Island Passageway Details:
 - http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/project_plans/highway_plans/stdplans_US-customary-units_18/viewable_pdf/a88a.pdf
 - http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/esc/oe/project_plans/highway_plans/stdplans_US-customary-units_18/viewable_pdf/a88b.pdf
- Install pedestrian heads ("Walk" and "Don't Walk" components of a traffic signal that tell the peds when to go and when to wait) in the northwest and northeast quadrants

Caltrans would also recommend the following mitigation:

- Construct a curb ramp in the southeast quadrant that will provide ADA access to both pedestrian push buttons. This will provide ADA compliance for the entire intersection.

Caltrans recognizes that trail funding is limited, and the added cost of the mitigation work described above may be difficult to obtain. Caltrans is working with the City of Nevada City, Nevada County Public Works, the Nevada County Transportation Commission, and the Federal Highway Administration to study the corridor from the SR 20/SR 49/Uren Street intersection to the Juvenile Hall. The intent of the study is to

provide interim and long-term concepts that will improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicular traffic. You may wish to contact Dan Landon, NCTC Executive Director, to discuss possible coordination of the Sugarloaf Trail project, in the corridor safety study.

Encroachment Permits

An encroachment permit will be required. The trail sketch drawn in the Initial Study for the Sugarloaf Trail Final Draft document does not show the Caltrans State Right of Way. The project proposal is to connect the trail to a section of SR 49 that is designated as an expressway. Caltrans Encroachments will need to review the public safety element, connection to an expressway, and proposed improvements along the State Right of Way for this project. To submit an application for an Encroachment Permit, send all environmental documentation and five sets of plans, clearly indicating the State Right of Way to:

Hikmat Bsaibess
California Department of Transportation
District 3, Office of Permits
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901

Hydraulics/Stormwater

The first 1/3 mile of the trail will run east from the northeast corner of SR 49 and North Bloomfield Road, within the SR 49.

The trail will traverse an unnamed intermittent stream that parallels the western boundary of the Sugarloaf property. The intermittent stream is approximately 30-inches wide and will be crossed via a 24-inch culvert within the SR 49 right-of-way. CALTRANS recommends that no net increase to the 100-year-storm-event-peak discharge should be realized within the State's highway right of way (ROW). Property owner must maintain or improve existing drainage patterns and or facilities affected by the proposed project to CALTRANS standard. Runoff from the proposed project that will enter the State's highway right of way (ROW) and CALTRANS drainage facilities must meet all the Regional Water Quality Control Board water quality standards. In addition, appropriate storm water quality best management practices (BMP's) should be applied on the project's site to ensure that runoff from the trail meets the Regional Water Quality Control Board Standards. Once these BMP's are installed, the owner must ensure that they are properly maintained.

Amy Wolfson, City of Nevada City
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We would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on any changes/updates related to this project.

If you have any question regarding these comments or require additional information, please contact Kena Sannar, Intergovernmental Review Coordinator for Nevada County, by phone (530) 634-7613 or via email to kena.sannar@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



KEVIN YOUNT, Branch Chief
Office of Transportation Planning
Regional Planning Branch—East