

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4

OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.***Governor's Office of Planning & Research****Mar 29 2021****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

March 29, 2021

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Co/Rt/Pm: SM/84/25.93

Payal Bhagat, Principal Planner
City of Menlo Park
701 Laurel Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025

Re: Menlo Uptown Station + Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Payal Bhagat:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for this project. We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system. The following comments are based on our review of the February 2021 DEIR.

Project Understanding

The project sponsor proposes demolition of the existing office and industrial buildings, associated improvements, and redevelopment of the project site with an approximately 327,970-gross-square-foot, seven-story multi-family apartment building with approximately 335 dwelling units and an approximately 34,819-gross-square-foot commercial office building, as well as associated open space, circulation and parking, and infrastructure improvements. The project sponsor is currently proposing 15 percent of the units be affordable to low income households. This project site is located north of U.S.-101 and south of State Route (SR)-84.

Travel Demand Analysis

With the enactment of Senate Bill (SB) 743, Caltrans is focused on maximizing efficient development patterns, innovative travel demand reduction strategies, and multimodal improvements. For more information on how Caltrans assesses Transportation Impact Studies, please review Caltrans' Transportation Impact Study Guide. Caltrans' acknowledges that the project Vehicle Miles Travelled

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(VMT) analysis and significance determination are undertaken in a manner consistent with the Office of Planning and Research's (OPR) Technical Advisory. Per the DEIR and TRA-1, this project is found to have Less than Significant impacts with mitigations and, subsequently, transportation demand measures have been identified to mitigate the impacts when possible.

Mitigation Strategies and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plans

Caltrans acknowledges the mitigation and TDM strategies incorporated into the DEIR and supports the implementation and monitoring of these strategies.

Hydrology

Please clarify and address our comment made in the January 2020 letter. Based on the FIRM06081C0306F dated 4/5/19 Zone AE 11 feet, include an explanation of how raising the ground elevation 3 to 5 feet would not impede or redirect flood flows in a manner which would result in additional flooding impacts to neighboring properties.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the City of Menlo Park is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the State Transportation Network (STN). The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Laurel Sears at laurel.sears@dot.ca.gov. Additionally, for future notifications and requests for review of new projects, please contact LDIGR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse