

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Dec 23 2020**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**Making Conservation
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Co/Rt/Pm: SM/101/18.51

Michael Li
San Francisco Planning Department
49 South Van Ness Avenue #1400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: SFO Shoreline Protection Program – Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

Dear Michael Li:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the SFO Shoreline Protection Program. 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 December 2020 NOP.

Project Understanding

The San Francisco International Airport (SFO), proposes to implement the proposed project to address flood protection and future sea-level rise for the expected lifespan of the shoreline improvements. The proposed project would install new shoreline protection infrastructure in compliance with current Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) requirements. Also, it would construct shoreline protection improvements specific to 15 of the reaches to eliminate the probability of substantial inundation at the Airport until 2085. SFO is located within the vicinity of US-101 and State Route (SR)-380. Reach 16, located directly adjacent to US-101, will be considered in the EIR at the programmatic level.

Hydraulics

Reach 16, if constructed, could have potential impacts on US-101. The EIR shall consider the base floodplain resulting from the bay as well as landward sources adjacent to the project location.

Sea Level Rise

The effects of sea level rise may have impacts on transportation facilities located within the project area. Executive Order (EO) S-13-08 directs State agencies planning construction projects in areas vulnerable to sea level rise to begin planning for potential impact by considering a range of sea level rise scenarios for years 2050 and 2100. Higher water levels may increase erosion rates, change environmental characteristics that affect material durability, lead to increased groundwater levels, and change sediment movement along shores and at estuaries and river mouths, as well as affect soil pore pressure at dikes and levees on which transportation facilities are constructed. All of these factors should be addressed through geotechnical and hydrological studies conducted in coordination with Caltrans.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the San Francisco Planning Department 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.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto the State Right-of-Way (ROW) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office of Encroachment Permits to submit a completed encroachment permit application package, digital set of plans clearly delineating the State ROW, digital copy of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans, this comment letter, your response to the comment letter, and where applicable, the following items: new or amended Maintenance Agreement (MA), approved Design Standard Decision Document (DSDD), approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement. Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov.

To download the permit application and to obtain more information on all required documentation, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal tail stroke extending to the right.

MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse