

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
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[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



January 17, 2023

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GTS #: 04-SM-2021-00482  
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Co/Rt/Pm: SM/101/3.42

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

### Re: 123 Independence Drive Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Payal Bhagat,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 123 Independence Drive 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 November 2022 DEIR.

#### Project Understanding

The project proposes to demolish the five existing office and industrial buildings (a total of approximately 103,900 square-feet) and create five parcels which would encompass 316 rental apartments, 116 for-sale townhomes, 25,300 square-feet of public open space, 52,500 square-feet of publicly accessible open space, and approximately 53,870 square-feet of common areas and private open space. The project intends to comply with the City's Below Market-Rate ordinance. As such, 66 units would be affordable.

#### TDM Implementation- Bike Storage

Caltrans supports and commends the quality and quantity of bike storage proposed within the project. City of Menlo Park Municipal Code Section 16.45.120 states that "long-term [bicycle] parking shall be provided in locations that are convenient and functional for cyclists." Caltrans suggests the addition of a few outdoor Class I bicycle storage lockers at ground level to increase the everyday visibility of this mobility option and further support Municipal Code Section 16.45.120. Moreover, this can help to

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achieve TDM plan mode shift goals by drawing attention to the bike lockers and attracting passersby to their convenience and ease of use. To similar effect, the project might consider placing signage throughout the parking garage to alert motorists of the presence and convenience of the nearest Class I bike storage.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, or for future notifications and requests for review of new projects, please email [LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

MARK LEONG  
District Branch Chief  
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse