

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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May 20, 2024

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Co/Rt/Pm: ALA/84/11.5

Amber Lo, Principal Civil Engineer
Alameda County Public Works Agency
399 Elmhurst Street
Hayward, CA 94554

Re: Niles Canyon Trail Project – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Amber Lo:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Niles Canyon Trail Project. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities. The following comments are based on our review of the April 2024 DEIR.

Please note this correspondence does not indicate an official position by Caltrans on this project and is for informational purposes only.

Project Understanding

The County of Alameda proposes to construct a six-mile, Class 1, multi-use trail for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians between the unincorporated community of Sunol and the Niles District in the City of Fremont, along 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 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis for land use projects, please review Caltrans' Transportation Impact Study Guide ([link](#)).

The project 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, this project is found to have a less than significant VMT impact, therefore working towards meeting the State's VMT reduction goals.

Cultural Resources

The project area contains State-owned archaeological and built resources. Completed cultural studies should be reviewed by the Caltrans District 4 Office of Cultural Resource Studies prior to the issuance of an encroachment permit. The cultural resource technical studies should comply with CEQA, Public Resources Code 5024, and the Caltrans 5024 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Cultural resource mitigation measure CUL-1 notes the possibility of "reducing trail width". Caltrans strongly recommends that the Class I Multi-use trail design be compliant with the Highway Design Manual (Chapter 1000) in regard to determining path width among other standards. Additionally, please be aware that the most direct alternatives will enable more people to use the path for transportation in addition to recreational use.

Construction-Related Impacts

Project work that requires movement of oversized or excessive load vehicles on State roadways requires a transportation permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, please visit Caltrans Transportation Permits ([link](#)). Prior to construction, coordination may be required with Caltrans to develop a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to reduce construction traffic impacts to the State Transportation Network (STN).

Equitable Access

If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. As well, the project must maintain bicycle and pedestrian access during construction. These access considerations support Caltrans' equity mission to provide a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation network for all users.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto Caltrans' Right-of-Way (ROW) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. 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 Caltrans' 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.

Amber Lo, Principal Civil Engineer

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The checklist TR-0416 ([link](#)) is used to determine the appropriate Caltrans review process for encroachment projects. The Office of Encroachment Permit requires 100% complete design plans and supporting documents to review and circulate the permit application package. To obtain more information and download the permit application, please visit Caltrans Encroachment Permits ([link](#)). Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Lisel Ayon, Associate Transportation Planner, via LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov. For future early coordination opportunities or project referrals, please contact LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luo Yunsheng'.

YUNSHENG LUO

Branch Chief, Local Development Review
Office of Regional and Community Planning

c: State Clearinghouse