

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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www.dot.ca.gov



February 20, 2024 **Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

February 20 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

SCH #: 2022010135
GTS #: 04-SCL-2022-01251
GTS ID: 25251
Co/Rt/Pm: SC/280/6.738

Kara Hawkins, Planner III
City of San Jose
200 East Santa Clara St., 3rd Floor
San Jose, CA 95113

Re: Westgate West Costco Warehouse Project – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Kara Hawkins:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Westgate West Costco Warehouse 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 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 December 2023 DEIR.

Project Understanding

The proposed project will demolish the existing commercial buildings for the construction of an approximately 166,058-square-foot wholesale retail center Costco with associated parking.

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.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the City 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.

Appendix I Transportation Analysis has identified adverse effect from the proposed project on Saratoga Ave/I-280 Southbound Ramps. Please provide more information on how this impact will be mitigated. Caltrans also encourage a sufficient allocation of fair share contributions toward multi-modal improvements to fully mitigate cumulative impacts to regional transportation. The applicant should consider fair share contributions to the following bicycle/pedestrian improvements to reduce congestion impacts to the STN.

- The Caltrans District 4 Bike plan identifies Saratoga Ave and I-280 interchange as a top-tier priority. Consider improvements such as upgrading buffered Class II to Class IV separated bikeways.
- The Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Plan identifies Saratoga Ave and I-280 interchange as a tier 2 priority. Consider improvements such as installing Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) at uncontrolled on-/off-ramps and installing curb extensions to reduce the turning radius at on ramps.

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.


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 STN.

Kara Hawkins, Planner III
February 20, 2024
Page 3

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Marley Mathews, 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". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Luo" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Yunsheng".

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

c: State Clearinghouse