

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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Marlene Subhashini, Director
Community Development Department
City of Foster City
610 Foster City Boulevard
Foster City, CA 94404

Re: City of Foster City 6th Cycle Housing Element Update, Safety Element Update, and Associated Zoning Amendments Notice of Preparation (NOP)

Dear Marlene Subhashini:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the City of Foster City 6th Cycle Housing Element Update, Safety Element Update, and Associated Zoning Amendments Project (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 January 2022 NOP.

Project Understanding

The project includes the update of the Housing Element, Safety Element, and all affected Zoning elements. In addition, the City of Foster City (City) will prepare a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the project. The DEIR will address the environmental impacts associated with the adoption and implementation of the proposed project. The Housing Element Update will include a housing sites inventory with sufficient existing and new housing sites at appropriate densities to meet the City's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) requirements and a buffer. The Safety Element Update will include a vulnerability assessment; development of an adaptation and resilience goals, policies, and objectives; and development of a set of feasible implementation measures addressing climate change adaptation and resiliency. The project encompasses the entire City and is located along segments of State Route (SR)-92 which passes through the City in a northeast-southwest direction.

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 (TISG, [link](#)). Please note that current and future land use projects proposed near and adjacent to the State Transportation Network (STN) shall be assessed, in part, through the TISG.

Transportation Impact Fees

We encourage a sufficient allocation of fair share contributions toward multimodal and regional transit improvements to fully mitigate cumulative impacts to regional transportation. We also strongly support measures to increase sustainable mode shares, thereby reducing VMT. Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to work with the City and local partners to secure the funding for needed mitigation. Traffic mitigation- or cooperative agreements are examples of such measures.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the City of Foster 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.

Equitable Access

If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by projects within the City, 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.

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.

Sincerely,



MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse