

# California Department of Transportation

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

March 25, 2022

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## STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Debbie Pedro, Community Development Director  
City of Saratoga  
13777 Fruitvale Avenue  
Saratoga, CA 95070

### **Re: City of Saratoga 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Housing Element Update, Safety Element Update, 2040 General Plan Update and Associated Rezonings Notice of Preparation (NOP) for Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Debbie Pedro:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for this 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 February 2022 NOP.

#### **Project Understanding**

The Project includes the City of Saratoga's 6th Cycle Housing Element Update for the planning period extending from January 31, 2023 to January 31, 2031. This update will be accompanied by updates to the City's Safety Element pursuant to SB 1035 (2018), updates to the City's General Plan, and associated rezonings required to accommodate the 6th Cycle Housing Element Update.

#### **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 ([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.

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

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Additionally, Caltrans requests that the City of Saratoga General Plan Update is consistent with California Government Code Section 65088-65089.10 Congestion Management.

As well, the City is requested to gain a determination of conformity from the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority to determine that the City of Saratoga General Plan Update is consistent with and conforms to the Regional Transportation Plan Consistency Requirements of the County's Congestion Management Plan (CMP).

### **Transportation Impact Fees**

We encourage a sufficient allocation of fair share contributions toward multi-modal 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 funding for needed mitigation. Traffic mitigation or cooperative agreements are examples of such measures.

### **Lead Agency**

As the Lead Agency, the City of Saratoga is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the 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 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.

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,



MARK LEONG  
District Branch Chief  
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse