

California Department of Transportation

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



Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Apr 22 2022

April 26, 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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Co/Rt/Pm: SCL/VAR/VAR

Michael Meehan, Principal Planner
County of Santa Clara
70 West Hedding, 7th Floor, East Wing
San Jose, CA 95110

Re: Rural Zoning Ordinance Amendments Notice of Preparation (NOP) for Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Michael Meehan:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Rural Zoning Ordinance Amendments 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 March 2022 NOP.

Project Understanding

The County of Santa Clara is proposing amendments to the Zoning Ordinance which would apply to rural zoning districts within the unincorporated County. The objectives of the amendments are to: replace existing provisions of the Zoning Ordinance addressing local serving uses with objective development standards, to provide a more streamlined approach for development of rural compatible uses; preserve rural areas by limiting the development of non-compatible uses; and to further the County General Plan policy goals for continued agricultural viability.

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](#)).

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the County of Santa Clara 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 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. Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov.

Please note that Caltrans is in the process of implementing an online, automated, and milestone-based Caltrans Encroachment Permit System (CEPS) to replace the current permit application submittal process with a fully electronic system, including online payments. The new system is expected to be available during 2022. To obtain information about the most current encroachment permit process and to download the permit application, please visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

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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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse