

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
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[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



December 19, 2022

SCH #: 2022060021  
GTS #: 04-SOL-2022-00259  
GTS ID: 26702  
Co/Rt/Pm: SOL/VAR/VAR

Jason Hade, Planning Manager  
City of Benicia  
250 East L Street  
Benicia, CA 94510

### **Re: City of Benicia 2023-2031 Housing Element and Safety Element Updates + Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Jason Hade:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the City of Benicia 2023-2031 Housing Element and Safety Element Updates. 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 November 2022 DEIR.

#### **Project Understanding**

The City of Benicia is proposing updates to the General Plan's Housing Element and Safety Element. The Housing Element identifies 73 potential housing opportunity sites made up of 117 acres. It contains a program that the city would redesignate and rezone parcels to meet the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA). As part of this effort the Safety Element will also be updated to reflect current science and to address climate change-related hazards. The city is accessible via I-780 and I-680.

#### **Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation**

With the enactment of Senate Bill (SB) 743, Caltrans is focused on maximizing efficient development patterns, innovative travel demand reduction strategies, and multimodal improvements. Caltrans recognizes that the DEIR has proposed Mitigation Measure TRANS-1 to reduce VMT. Caltrans recommends that the proposed VMT mitigation program be transparent and equitable that could encourage participation and take into account of all dwelling types included in the 2023-2030 Housing Element Update.

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**Lead Agency**

As the Lead Agency, the City of Benicia 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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal tail stroke extending to the right.

MARK LEONG  
District Branch Chief  
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse