

# California Department of Transportation

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

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**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

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Daniel Barrios, Senior Planner  
County of Contra Costa  
30 Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553

## **Re: Contra Costa County Housing Element Update Notice of Preparation (NOP) for Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Daniel Barrios:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Contra Costa County Housing Element Update 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 July 2022 NOP.

### **Project Understanding**

The Housing Element is one of the required elements of the General Plan. As a policy document, the Housing Element does not normally result in physical changes to the environment but encourages the provision of affordable housing within the land use designations shown in the Land Use Element of the General Plan. The Housing Element identifies policy direction to meet the housing needs of the County by preserving existing homes and clarifying priorities for housing creation. The proposed Housing Element will include an overview of housing policies and programs and will identify locations that can accommodate future housing. One of the programs in the proposed Housing Element will require that the County redesignate up to approximately 1,304 acres of land to meet the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of 7,610 total housing units.

### **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) may be assessed, in part, through the TISG.

### **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 County 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 County of Contra Costa 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