

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
P.O. BOX 23660, MS-10D | OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660  
[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



September 16, 2022

SCH #: 2022080445  
GTS #: 04-ALA-2022-00673  
GTS ID: 27384  
Co/Rt/Pm: ALA/123/2.998

Sharon Gong, Senior Planner  
City of Berkeley  
1947 Center Street, 2nd Floor  
Berkeley, CA 94704

### **Re: 2136-2154 San Pablo Avenue Mixed-Use Project – Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Sharon Gong:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 2136-2154 San Pablo Avenue Mixed-Use 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 August 2022 NOP.

#### **Project Understanding**

The proposed project would demolish the existing 9,000-square-foot one-story building and construct a new six-story mixed-use building with 123 dwelling units and three live/work units. The 0.53-acre project site is located directly adjacent to State Route (SR)-123, or San Pablo Ave.

#### **Project Access**

Left-turn traffic accessing the project site should be prevented to reduce queuing on North Bound (NB) San Pablo Ave. Project access should be limited to right turns from and onto San Pablo Ave.

#### **Hydrology**

The results of Mitigation Measure HYD-1 and potential impacts to Caltrans' drainage systems should be submitted for Caltrans' review upon encroachment permit submittal.

### **Construction-Related Impacts**

Project work that requires movement of oversized or excessive load vehicles on State roadways requires a transportation permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, visit: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/transportation-permits>.

Prior to construction, coordination may be required with Caltrans to develop a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to reduce construction traffic impacts to the State Transportation Network (STN).

### **Lead Agency**

As the Lead Agency, the City of Berkeley 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.

### **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. An encroachment permit would also be required for proposed driveway connections to San Pablo Ave. 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](mailto: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>.

Sharon Gong, Senior Planner  
September 16, 2022  
Page 3

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 on the "g".

MARK LEONG  
District Branch Chief  
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse