

# California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
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City of Milpitas  
455 E. Calaveras Boulevard  
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Aug 18 2023**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

## **Re: Pulte Homes Residential Development at 1355 California Circle – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Lillian VanHua:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Pulte Homes Residential Development at 1355 California Circle. 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 Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities. The following comments are based on our review of the July 2023 DEIR.

### **Project Understanding**

The proposed project would demolish the existing vacant office building and replace it with a residential townhome development with up to two hundred and six (206) new units on a 6.69-acre site located at 1355 California Circle.

### **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](#)).

Caltrans commends the Lead Agency regarding the reduced Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) generation for the proposed land use stated in the Transportation Analysis. The project VMT analysis and significance determination are undertaken in a manner consistent with the Office of Planning and Research's (OPR) Technical Advisory. This project supports the State's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve multimodal transportation options for land use development.

### **Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning**

Based upon the project's location adjacent to Interstate-880, Caltrans supports the proposed bicycle and pedestrian recommendations in Section 2.0, Project Description that recommend new pedestrian walkways on-site and would provide bike racks for residents. To be consistent with Policy CD 2-7 of the Community Design Element stated in the DEIR, Caltrans recommends any short or long term bike parking should provide safe and secure bicycle storage in compliance with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)- Bicycle Parking & Storage ([link](#)). Any proposed sidewalk improvements within the State Right of Way must be consistent with the Highway Design Manual (HDM).

### **Transportation Impact Fees**

Please identify project-generated travel demand and estimate the costs of transit and active transportation improvements necessitated by the proposed project; viable funding sources such as development and/or transportation impact fees should also be identified. 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.

### **Utilities**

Any utilities that are proposed, moved or modified within Caltrans' Right-of-Way (ROW) shall be discussed. If utilities are impacted by the project, provide site plans that show the location of existing and/or proposed utilities. These modifications require a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit.

### **Lead Agency**

As the Lead Agency, the City of Milpitas 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

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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' 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](mailto:D4Permits@dot.ca.gov).

To obtain information about the most current encroachment permit process and to download the permit application, please visit Caltrans Encroachment Permits ([link](#)).

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Marley Mathews, Transportation Planner via [LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov).

For future early coordination opportunities or project referrals, please contact [LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



LAUREL SEARS  
Acting District Branch Chief  
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse