

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



January 10, 2023

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GTS #: 04-SM-2022-00488
GTS ID: 28380
Co/Rt/Pm: SM/101/7.923

Lisa Costa Sanders, Principal Planner
City of San Carlos
600 Elm Street
San Carlos, CA 91101

Re: 888 Bransten Road Project – Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)

Dear Lisa Costa Sanders:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 888 Bransten Road 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 December 2022 Draft IS/MND.

Project Understanding

The proposed project would demolish the existing 56,900 square feet (s.f.) multi-tenant light industrial development and construct a new 105,416 s.f., 3-story of office/Research & Development building intended for life science tenants. This 2.26-acre project site is directly adjacent to US-101.

Hydrology

Any increase in stormwater runoff to State drainage systems or facilities will need to be contained at the project site, treated and metered to preconstruction levels. Post project flows must meet or be less than pre-project flows.

This project site is located within a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) designated Flood Zone. And it is also subject to sea level rise influences. The proposed project should take these factors into account to meet the city and the county's Sea Level Rise standards.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the City of San Carlos 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 2023. 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, flowing style with a long horizontal tail stroke extending to the right.

MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse