

California Department of Transportation

CALTRANS DISTRICT 5
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARING HOUSE

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Kelly Gleason, Senior Planner
City of Atascadero
6500 Palma Ave.
Atascadero, CA 93422

COMMENTS TO THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR THE BARREL CREEK PROJECT

Dear Kelly Gleason:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review the MND for the Barrel Creek Project. The project includes a proposal for 35,000 square feet of commercial/ light industrial space, a 120-room hotel, 40 multi-family apartment units, 5,000 square feet of restaurant or brewery space, 16 short-term stay cottages, and a 20-lot single family subdivision. At this time, we offer the following comments in response to the MND:

Caltrans supports development that is consistent with State and Federal planning priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety. We accomplish this by working with local agencies to achieve a shared vision of how the transportation system can and should accommodate interregional and local travel and development. Caltrans believes that continued coordination with your agency is imperative to achieve overall network connectivity.

Project Management:

The Cooperative Agreement between the City and Caltrans for the Del Rio Road Interchange Improvements Project (05-1F330) has been terminated as of January 2023 and the project is no longer on the Caltrans Approved Project Listing (APL). With that being said, any capital improvements on the State Highway System (SHS) as a result of this proposed development would need to be delivered either through the encroachment permit office process or the quality management assessment process (QMAP), depending on the project detail.

Traffic Operations:

Significant changes are being proposed at or near a state highway intersection (MM-TRANS-04 to MM-TRANS-06). An Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) will need to be prepared to the satisfaction of Caltrans prior to issuance of an encroachment permit for the work indicated in MM-TRANS-05 within the Caltrans right-of-way. We recommend the City include a mitigation measure requiring an ICE step 1 be prepared prior to occupancy. We are also in support of the project being conditioned to pay their fair share towards improvements listed in MM-TRANS-04 to MM-TRANS-06.

Hydraulics:

The proposed development is in close proximity to US101 and associated drainage facilities; the development should not negatively impact downstream flows. Prior to the issuance of a permit, Caltrans will need to review pre- and post-drainage calculations.

Permits:

Any work within the State's right-of-way will require an encroachment permit from Caltrans and must be done to our engineering and environmental standards, and at no cost to the State. The conditions of approval and the requirements for the encroachment permit are issued at the sole discretion of the Permits Office, and nothing in this letter shall be implied as limiting those future conditioned and requirements. For more information regarding the encroachment permit process, please visit our Encroachment Permit Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

We look forward to continued coordination with the City on this project. If you have any questions, or need further clarification on items discussed above, please contact me at (805) 835-6432 or Jenna.Schudson@dot.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Jenna Schudson

Jenna Schudson
Development Review Coordinator
Caltrans District 5, LD-IGR South Branch

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse