

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 Planning
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May 17, 2023

Ms. Amy Augustine
City Planner
200 Monte Verda, Suite B
Angels Camp, CA 95222



**CAL-49-PM 7.162 Angels
Creek Trail and Transit Hub
Facility - SCH 2023050036**

Ms. Augustine,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Initial Study for the Angels Creek Trail and Transit Hub Facility project. The City of Angels proposes to construct a new Class I bicycle and pedestrian path adjacent to Angels Creek, starting at Kurt Drive and ending at Main Street/State Route (SR) 49, a Class III bicycle facility along Finnegan Lane from Main Street/SR 49 south to Angel Oaks/Greenhorn Creek Road, a new connection (Class I trail) along the Angel Oaks/Greenhorn Creek Road alignment to connect Greenhorn Creek subdivision to Finnegan Lane, and a transit hub on Vallecito Road (proposed project). The proposed project would be designed to meet current applicable City, Caltrans, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans suggests that the City of Angels Camp continue to coordinate with Caltrans in identifying and addressing potential pedestrian safety and cumulative transportation impacts from this project and other developments near this location. This will assist Caltrans in ensuring that pedestrian, traffic safety, and quality standards are maintained for the traveling public on existing and future state transportation facilities in Calaveras County.

Environmental

Since construction related activities will encroach into Caltrans Right of Way (ROW), the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties, biological resources, hazardous waste

locations, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans ROW, at the project site(s). Include the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) with the Encroachment Permit application submittal. Evidence of consultation with local Native American tribes and interested parties will need to be presented within the technical documents for approval of encroachment in the Caltrans ROW. If there are impacts to protected water resources within Caltrans ROW, Caltrans will need to see the correspondence with the permitting authorities (California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board) and be provided copies of the required permits prior to the start of any construction in Caltrans ROW. There are mature trees within and/or near Caltrans ROW that could provide suitable nesting habitat. If work will occur between February 1 and September 30 of any year, a pre-construction bird survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the start of any construction related activities in Caltrans ROW. If an active nest is observed, a protective buffer must be established around the nest per CDFW guidelines. No work is allowed within the protective buffer limits until the young have fledged and until authorized by the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office. Results of the pre-construction bird survey(s) must be provided to the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office prior to the start of construction. The IS-MND notes the breeding and nesting season as February 1 – August 31 and provides Mitigation Measures BIO-5 and BIO-6 in response. Caltrans considers the nesting season from February 1 – September 31; therefore, any work occurring in or directly adjacent to Caltrans ROW, between February 1 – September 31, will require a pre-construction bird survey during that time.

Traffic Operations

Installation of “Share the Road” signage on a Class III bicycle facility along Finnegan Lane from Main Street (SR 49) south to Angel Oaks/Greenhorn Creek Road.

Hydrology

The proposed site development is adjacent to the state route. The developer needs to ensure that the existing State drainage facilities will not be significantly impacted by the project. If historical undeveloped topography shows drainage from this site flowed into the Caltrans ROW, it may continue to do so with the conditions that peak flows may not be increased from the pre-construction quantity and the site runoff be treated to meet present storm water quality standards. If historical undeveloped topography shows drainage from this site did not flow into the State Right-of-Way, then it will not be allowed to flow into the Caltrans ROW at this time.

Caltrans would like to review the pre- and post-construction runoff calculations and drainage plans to understand flow patterns. Additional review will be done once drainage plans and calculations are submitted.

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Encroachment Permits

If any project activities encroach into Caltrans ROW, the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. For more information please visit the Caltrans Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shiferaw Jemberie (209) 986-9635 (email: Shiferaw.jemberie@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 483-7234 (email: Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregoria Ponce'

Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning

cc: State Clearinghouse
Gabriel Elliott, Planning Director, Calaveras County Planning Department