

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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March 1, 2024

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Diane Wong, Environmental Coordinator
University of California, San Francisco
654 Minnesota Street
San Francisco, CA 94143

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 01 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Re: UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland New Hospital Building Project – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Diane Wong:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 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 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 January 2024 DEIR.

Project Understanding

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) is proposing to construct a new hospital building and associated improvements at the UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland campus, located adjacent to State Route (SR)-24. The project would include the construction of a new 332,523 square-foot 8-story hospital building; an approximately 270-stall, 4-story parking structure; and a rooftop helistop.

Travel Demand Analysis

The project vehicle miles traveled (VMT) analysis and significance determination are undertaken in a manner consistent with the Office of Planning and Research's (OPR) Technical Advisory. Per the DEIR, this project is found to have a less than significant VMT impact, therefore working towards meeting the State's VMT reduction goals.

Aeronautics

One of the goals of the California Department of Transportation, Caltrans Aeronautics, is to assist cities, counties, and Airport Land Use Commissions (ALUC) or their equivalent, to understand and comply with the State Aeronautics Act pursuant to the California Public Utilities Code (PUC), Section 21001 et seq.

The environmental analysis performed by the applicant and Lead Agency concluded that Project helicopter operations would not result in a substantial permanent increase in noise levels at sensitive receptors and to the surrounding community due to the construction and operation of the planned new platformed heliport that is part of the Project.

Pursuant to the PUC, Section 21662 and 21662.1, Caltrans Aeronautics is a permitting officer and shall be consulted for the authorization and approvals for the temporary helistop site and the planned heliport for the project. If you have any questions pertaining to Caltrans Aeronautics, please contact Tiffany Martinez at (916)-879-6596 or by email at tiffany.martinez@dot.ca.gov.

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, please visit Caltrans Transportation Permits ([link](#)). 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).

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.

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The checklist TR-0416 ([link](#)) is used to determine the appropriate Caltrans review process for encroachment projects. The Office of Encroachment Permit requires 100% complete design plans and supporting documents to review and circulate the permit application package. To obtain more information and download the permit application, please visit Caltrans Encroachment Permits ([link](#)). Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Lisel Ayon, Associate Transportation Planner, via LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov. For future early coordination opportunities or project referrals, please contact LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luo Yunsheng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Luo" being more prominent and the last name "Yunsheng" written in a more connected, flowing style.

YUNSHENG LUO
Branch Chief, Local Development Review
Office of Regional and Community Planning

c: State Clearinghouse