

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
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December 14, 2023



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Co/Rt/Pm: SM/280/VAR

Liz Ruess, Planning Manager  
Town of Hillsborough  
1600 Floribunda Avenue  
Hillsborough, CA 94010

### **Re: Town of Hillsborough 6th Cycle Housing Element and Focused General Plan Update and Municipal Code Update Program – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Liz Ruess:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Town of Hillsborough (Town) 6th Cycle Housing Element and Focused General Plan Update and Municipal Code Update Program. 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 October 2023 DEIR.

#### **Project Understanding**

The proposed project will update the existing Housing Element of the General Plan. The Housing element will be the focus with additional elements such as Land Use and Open Space. The project will also include updates to relevant implementation tools such as Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance and Objective Development Standards. Hillsborough's town limit extends from I-280 on the west to the City of San Mateo on the east, the City of Burlingame to the north, and unincorporate areas of San Mateo County to the south.

### **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](#)).

The project's Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis and significance determination are undertaken in a manner consistent with the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Technical Advisory guidance. Per the DEIR, this project is found to have a significant VMT impact. Caltrans commends the Lead Agency in proposing a variety of VMT reduction strategies to help reduce VMT.

Impact TRANS-1 on page 4.14-20. Project-specific VMT strategies could be dependent on the availability of nearby transportation services. Development with limited transportation options could increase VMT. Please consider providing and advocating for public transportation offerings to help reduce car dependency and VMT.

Please consider the upcoming General Plan update as a potential opportunity to add Transportation Demand Management (TDM) requirements for future new developments in the transportation/circulation element. In addition to the proposed TDM program in the DEIR, please also consider the following strategies quantified by California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) and shown to have different efficiencies reducing regional VMT:

- Project design to encourage mode shift like walking, bicycling and transit access
- Real-time transit information systems
- Transit access supporting infrastructure (including bus shelter improvements and sidewalk/ crosswalk safety facilities)
- Implementation of a neighborhood electric vehicle (EV) network, including designated parking spaces for EVs
- Designated parking spaces for a car share program
- Wayfinding and bicycle route mapping resources
- Participation/Formation in/of a Transportation Management Association (TMA) in partnership with other developments in the area
- Aggressive trip reduction targets with Lead Agency monitoring and enforcement
- VMT Banking and/or Exchange program
- Area or cordon pricing
- Increased density
- Increased location efficiency
- Increased mixed-use development
- Increase transit service frequency and accessibility
- Bus rapid transit

### **Multimodal Transportation Planning**

Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Plan has considered SR-82 (El Camino Real) between Burlington Avenue to Broadway as Tier 1 for pedestrian facilities improvement. Please consider improvements to these streets that could align to the planned SR-82 pedestrian improvements.

For Class III facilities, please consider installing "Share the Road" signs on main streets where the traffic volume is higher. An assessment is recommended to evaluate if these streets would meet the Class III conditions in future given the potential increase in traffic volumes of these streets with the construction of proposed developments. If they do not meet the requirements, please consider planning for Class II or Class IV improvements.

Please consider adding more "YIELD TO PEDS" signs on intersections in the town and incorporating high visibility pedestrian striping for all future restriping projects.

Please also consider providing both short-term bike parking and long-term secure bike parking for residents in the new proposed developments.

### **Hydrology**

Page 4.9-16, Hydrology and Water Quality. All developments will need to meet the Provision C.3 requirements of the Municipal Regional Permit (MRP), including the proposed developments along SR-82 (El Camino Real) or I-280. Post-development surface flows to the State roadways or drainage facilities shall be metered to pre-development levels. For any potential increase of flows to State facilities, please provide Caltrans with a detailed explanation to review and approve.

### **Lead Agency**

The potential construction of new housing units may indicate the need to increase the capacity of the State Highway System. The Town Hall site is located directly adjacent to SR-82. For any developments that necessitate widening of the State Highway System, dedications for highway purposes should be required.

As the Lead Agency, the Town is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the State Transportation Network. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

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Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Melissa Hernandez, Associate 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,

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.

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

c: State Clearinghouse