

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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www.dot.ca.gov



July 28, 2023 **Governor's Office of Planning & Research**

July 28 2023

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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Nimisha Agrawal, Senior Planner
City of Santa Clara
1500 Warburton Avenue
Santa Clara, CA 95050

Re: 3378-3386 El Camino Real Residential– Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)

Dear Nimisha Agrawal:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 3378-3386 El Camino Real Residential. 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 June 2023 IS/MND.

Project Understanding

The project proposes to demolish the existing commercial building and construct 22 three-story townhouses where each townhouse would have a two-car garage. Additional site features include bike parking and approximately 9,887 square feet of common open space.

The project site is located directly adjacent to State Route (SR)-82, within the Priority Development Area and Transit-Rich Area identified in Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)'s Plan Bay Area 2050.

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 VMT analysis and significance determination are undertaken in a manner consistent with the city's adopted VMT policy. Per the IS/MND, this project is found to have a less than significant VMT impact, therefore working towards meeting the State's VMT reduction goals.

Hydrology

If the project involves drainage work that flows into the State Drainage System, please provide a drainage design memo. The memo should show how the proposed drainage system flows on the plans. Drainage design memo should include pre- and post-project flows to the existing drainage system. Drainage Plan and Profile Sheets should include lengths, size, and types of new and existing pipes, inlets, outlets, and systems showing any utility conflicts. Include drainage details and profiles for connection to the existing drainage system. Assumptions and calculations used in designing the drainage system should be shown as well.

Multimodal Transportation Planning

Please review and include the reference to the *Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Plan* (2021) and the *Caltrans District 4 Bike Plan* (2018) in the IS/MND. These two plans studied existing conditions for walking and biking along and across the State Transportation Network (STN) in the nine-county Bay Area and developed a list of location-based and prioritized needs.

Please note that any Complete Streets reference should be updated to reflect Caltrans Director's Policy 37 ([link](#)) that highlights the importance of addressing the needs of non-motorists and prioritizing space-efficient forms of mobility, while also facilitating goods movement in a manner with the least environmental and social impacts. This supersedes Deputy Directive 64-R1, and further builds upon its goals of focusing on the movement of people and goods.

Construction-Related Impact

Potential impacts to Caltrans' Right-of-Way (ROW) from project-related temporary access points should be analyzed. Mitigation for significant impacts due to construction and noise should be identified. 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 STN.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the city of Santa Clara is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the 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' ROW requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit, including relocation of driveways and/or any tree removal work that requires the use of Caltrans' ROW.

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.

To obtain information about the most current encroachment permit process and to download the permit application, please visit Caltrans Encroachment Permits ([link](#)).

Nimisha Agrawal, Senior Planner
July 28, 2023
Page 4

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Marley Mathews, LDR Coordinator/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, reading "Luo Yunsheng". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

YUNSHENG LUO
Acting District Branch Chief
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse