

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 RURAL PLANNING
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September 5, 2023

Erin Ventura
City of Sutter Creek
Planning Division
18 Main Street
Sutter Creek, CA 95685



AMA-49-PM 7.0
Sutter Creek General Plan
Circulation Element Update
Initial Study (IS)
SCH: 2023080086

Dear Ms. Ventura:

Caltrans appreciates the opportunity to review and respond to the proposed Sutter Creek General Plan Circulation Element Update Initial Study, including text amendments to the City of Sutter Creek Code of Ordinances, Chapter 18-Zoning Ordinance. In conforming the Zoning Ordinance to the recently updated General Plan, the proposed Ordinance changes some of the authorized zones. These changes include:

- The Agricultural Zone was changed to the Residential Ranchette Zone, and the Limited Multiple Family Dwelling Zone (R-3) and the Multiple Family Dwelling Zone (R-4) were consolidated.
- Public Service (P-S) Zone was added.
- The maximum development densities outlined in the General Plan were incorporated into the zoning districts.
- The commercial and industrial uses allowed in the commercial zones and industrial zones were modified for consistency with the General Plan.
- Section 18.46.050 was added to implement a review process for special events.
- Home Occupations regulations were amended to allow administrative review of applications. The Zoning Ordinance is also proposed to be amended to comply with disability access, fair housing laws, and recent changes in State Laws related to housing. The Project also includes a comprehensive update to the City's General Plan Circulation Element. This update also addresses new state laws related to "complete streets" design to better serve non-auto transportation modes and policies to reduce average vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 743.

Environmental

If any 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). 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, 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.

Traffic Operations

There are multiple locations in the plan update that states that “Where right-of-way is constrained, consider options to provide an adjacent Class I Shared-Use Path for bicyclist and pedestrian travel.” Class I Shared-Use Path and Class IV Separated Bikeway would provide a better (more comfort and less stress) bicycle facility than Class II Bikeway and should be prioritized more than Class II Bikeway.

Figure 6-1 shows the proposed Class II Bikeway (with a buffer if feasible) along state route (SR) 49 with the existing Class I shared-use trail. It would make more sense to extend the Class I trail or propose Class IV Two-Way Cycle Track as an extension of the current Class I trail than proposing Class II at this location.

If any future 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. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, and/or other resources within Caltrans ROW at the project site(s). For more information, please visit the Caltrans Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

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If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments, please contact Paul Bauldry at (209) 670-9488 (email: paul.bauldry@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

c: Chuck Beatty, Director, Amador County Planning Department