

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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Will Nelson, Principal Planner
Contra Costa County
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Apr 08 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Re: Contra Costa County 2045 General Plan and Contra Costa County Climate Action Plan 2024 – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Will Nelson:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for this project. The Local Development Review (LDR) branch 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 February 2024 DEIR. Please note this correspondence does not indicate an official position by Caltrans on this project and is for informational purpose only.

Project Understanding

The purpose of the General Plan update is to create a long-term vision for the County's physical development, to address challenges such as climate change and housing insecurity, and to enhance quality of life for Contra Costa County residents. The project also includes an update to the County's 2015 Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP is a separate document that supports the General Plan by establishing goals and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in unincorporated Contra Costa County, consistent with State targets.

Travel Demand Analysis

The project's vehicle miles traveled (VMT) analysis and significance determination are undertaken in a manner consistent with the County's adopted VMT policy. Per the DEIR, this project is found to have significant and unavoidable VMT impact. Caltrans commends the Lead Agency for developing a Transportation Demand Management

(TDM) program for development projects with significant VMT impacts. We encourage the Lead Agency to continue exploring potential VMT options and document the TDM program with annual monitoring reports to demonstrate effectiveness.

Sea Level Rise

In the 2020 Caltrans District 4 Adaptation Priorities Report ([link](#)), Interstate (I)-680 within the project location is identified as a high-priority Caltrans asset vulnerable to sea level rise, storm surge, and climate change impacts, including increased precipitation. Caltrans would like to be included in discussions, to stay informed as Caltrans is interested in engaging in multi-agency collaboration early and often, to find multi-benefit solutions that protect vulnerable shorelines, communities, infrastructure, and the environment. Please contact Vishal Ream-Rao, Caltrans Bay Area Climate Change Planning Coordinator, with any questions at d4_climateresilience@dot.ca.gov.

Equity

We will achieve equity when everyone has access to what they need to thrive no matter their race, socioeconomic status, identity, where they live, or how they travel. Caltrans is committed to advancing equity and livability in all communities. We look forward to collaborating with Contra Costa County to prioritize projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities.

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



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

c: State Clearinghouse