

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
P.O. BOX 23660, MS-10D | OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660  
[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



November 9, 2023

SCH #: 2023100227  
GTS #: 04-SM-2023-00545  
GTS ID: 31036  
Co/Rt/Pm: SM/101/16.914

Makena Wong, Project Manager  
San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (OneShoreline)  
1700 S. El Camino Real, Suite 502  
San Mateo, CA 94402

### **Re: Millbrae and Burlingame Shoreline Area Protection and Enhancement Project – Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Makena Wong:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Millbrae and Burlingame Shoreline Area Protection and Enhancement 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 October 2023 NOP.

#### **Project Understanding**

The Project proposes to create a tidal lagoon capable of controlling the offshore water level through the construction of an offshore barrier composed of both hardened and natural materials that include habitat features and could include a pedestrian trail. This barrier would extend approximately 2.65 miles from southernmost coastal SFO location just north of Highline Canal to the southeast corner of the shoreline of Burlingame. The barrier may be extended an additional 0.6 miles further south to high ground at the northwest edge of Coyote Point within the City of San Mateo. This project site is in vicinity of US-101 on- and off-ramps at Millbrae Ave.

## **Aeronautics**

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

The proposed project is in the Airport Influence Area B – Land Use Policy Action/Project Referral Area of the San Francisco International Airport, established by the San Mateo County ALUC pursuant to Section 21675(c). Therefore, the proposed project shall adhere to the safety and land use criteria and restrictions defined in the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan formed by the ALUC pursuant to the PUC, Section 21674 and Section 21676 and is subject to review authority by the ALUC.

The proposed project is also subject to 14 CFR Part 77 Conical Surface standards and Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) Contours noise compatibility in applicable areas.

The Lead Agency must submit its plans to the ALUC for a consistency determination according to the State Aeronautics Act's statutory procedure. An Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) is crucial in minimizing noise nuisance and safety hazards around airports while promoting the orderly development of airports, as declared by the California Legislature. A responsibility of the ALUC is to assess potential risk to aircraft and persons in airspace and people occupying areas within the vicinity of the airport.

## **Climate Change**

The proposed project will provide protection against current coastal hazards and future sea level rise as well as enhancing recreation trails and promoting healthy ecosystems proximate to the Bay Shoreline. The level of protection provided will be according to the OneShoreline's Bay Protection Standard, defined as the Base Flood Elevation (North American Vertical Datum 10) plus 6 feet. This level of protection could allow the cities of Millbrae and Burlingame as well as this section of US-101 protection from sea level rise up to the year 2100.

In the 2020 Caltrans District 4 Adaptation Priorities Report ([link](#)), U.S. 101 adjacent to 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 D4 does not yet have projects scheduled for this section of US-101 to address sea level rise but would like to coordinate with the local partners and OneShoreline as we develop strategies that address impacts to US-101. Please contact Caltrans Bay Area Climate Change Planning Coordinator, with any questions at

[d4\\_climateresilience@dot.ca.gov](mailto:d4_climateresilience@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).

**Lead Agency**

As the Lead Agency, OneShoreline 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.

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,



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

c: State Clearinghouse