

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
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August 28, 2024

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Kim Bobic, Senior Project Manager  
Judicial Council of California  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

### **Re: New Sixth Appellate District Courthouse – Draft Environmental Impact Report**

Dear Kim Bobic:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the New Sixth Appellate District Courthouse. 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 July 2024 DEIR.

Please note this correspondence does not indicate an official position by Caltrans on this project and is for informational purposes only.

#### **Project Understanding**

The proposed project will involve the demolition of the existing buildings and the construction of a new courthouse with additional parking. The site is located along State Route 82 (SR-82), also known as El Camino Real, and near S Mathilda Ave. The Project site is 2.03 acres, and the new construction will be approximately 50,000 square feet and up to three stories with approximately 77 parking spots.

#### **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 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis for land use projects, please review Caltrans' Transportation Impact Study Guide ([link](#)).

The project VMT analysis and significance determination are undertaken in a manner consistent with the Santa Clara Valley VMT Evaluation Tool. Per the DEIR, this project is found to have a less than significant VMT impact, therefore working towards meeting the State's VMT reduction goals.

### **Hydrology**

A Hydraulic report will be required as part of the Encroachment Permit package to evaluate stormwater drainage that is designed to mitigate post-development flows would be adequate. Please ensure that any increase in storm water runoff to State Drainage Systems or Facilities be treated, contained on project site, and metered to preconstruction levels. Any floodplain impacts must be documented and mitigated.

### **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, the Judicial Council of California 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' Right-of-Way (ROW) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. Any changes to the access opening to West El Camino (SR-82) will also require a permit.

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

Kim Bobic, Senior Project Manager  
August 28, 2024  
Page 3

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.

The Office of Encroachment Permit requires 100% complete design plans and supporting documents to review and circulate the permit application package. To obtain more information and download the permit application, please visit Caltrans Encroachment Permits ([link](#)). Please note that the checklist TR-0416 is used to determine the appropriate Caltrans review process for encroachment projects. Your application package may be emailed to [D4Permits@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D4Permits@dot.ca.gov).

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Marley Mathews, Associate Transportation Planner, via [LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov).

For future early coordination opportunities or project referrals, please visit Caltrans LDR website ([link](#)) or contact [LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



MARLEY MATHEWS  
Acting Branch Chief, Local Development Review  
Office of Regional and Community Planning

c: State Clearinghouse