

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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July 1, 2024

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GTS #: 04-SCL-2024-01290
GTS ID: 32982
Co/Rt/Pm: SCL/85/R13.1

Christopher Riordan, Senior Planner
City of Saratoga
13777 Fruitvale Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070

Re: Vineyard One – Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Christopher Riordan:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Vineyard One Project. 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 May 2024 NOP.

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 includes the construction and associated operation of up to 231 residential units with new internal streets, supporting parking spaces and associated circulation, landscaping, bioretention and drainage features, and utility improvements. The residential units would consist of townhouses, residential flats, single-family detached homes, and Accessory Dwelling Units.

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](#)).

If the project meets the screening criteria established in the City's adopted VMT policy to be presumed to have a less-than-significant VMT impact and exempt from detailed VMT analysis, please provide justification to support the exempt status in alignment with the City's VMT policy. Projects that do not meet the screening criteria should include a detailed VMT analysis in the DEIR.

Mitigation Strategies

Caltrans Smart Mobility Framework Guide defines a place type based on four physical elements: built form, land use, mobility options, and people. Using the Smart Mobility Framework Mapping Application 2022 ([link](#)), the proposed project area is identified as a Suburban Community with primarily lower density residential with a high proportion of detached housing. There is some interspersed retail and services, but little mixing of housing with commercial uses. Street network often have poor connectivity with low levels of transit service, large amounts of surface parking, and inconsistent pedestrian networks. Please consider the following strategies to reduce VMT:

- Provide Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- Provide Secure Bike Parking
- Provide Pedestrian Network Improvement
- Construct or Improve Bike Facility
- Expand Bikeway Network
- Provide Traffic Calming Measures

Construction-Related Impacts

Potential impacts to the State 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 State Transportation Network (STN).

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Marley Mathews, Transportation Planner, via LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov. For future early coordination opportunities or project referrals, please contact LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Christopher Riordan, Senior Planner
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luo Yunsheng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Luo" and the last name "Yunsheng" written in a single continuous stroke.

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

c: State Clearinghouse