

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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August 19, 2024

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Brandon Phipps, Community Development Director
City of Sausalito
420 Litho Street
Sausalito, CA 94965

Re: Sausalito Amended 6th Cycle Housing Element – Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Brandon Phipps:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Sausalito Amended 6th Cycle Housing Element Update. 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 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 would add housing and mixed-use zones that correspond with slightly lower minimum densities to provide more variety in housing types, meet the City's Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) requirements, and affirmatively further fair housing; make publicly owned sites available for development during the 2023-2031 planning period; and clarify implementation of housing streamlining provisions.

Multimodal Transportation Planning

Please review and include the reference to the *Caltrans District 4 Pedestrian Plan* (2021) and the *Caltrans District 4 Bike Plan* (2018) in the DEIR. These two plans studied existing conditions for walking and biking along and across the State Transportation Network (STN) in the nine-county Bay Area and developed a list of location-based and prioritized needs.

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Please note that any Complete Streets reference should be updated to reflect Caltrans Director's Policy 37 ([link](#)) that highlights the importance of addressing the needs of non-motorists and prioritizing space-efficient forms of mobility, while also facilitating goods movement in a manner with the least environmental and social impacts. This supersedes Deputy Directive 64-R1, and further builds upon its goals of focusing on the movement of people and goods.

Integrated Transportation and Land Use Planning

Transportation and housing are integrally connected. The Housing Element Update process provides a mechanism to reflect current transportation and land use policy and adopt efficient land-use strategies such as transit-oriented, infill and mixed-use developments that can potentially reduce vehicle miles traveled and address climate change.

Please review and include the reference to the current California Transportation Plan (CTP) in the DEIR. CTP 2050 envisions that the majority of new housing located near existing housing, jobs, and transit, and in close proximity to one another will reduce vehicle travel and GHG emissions, and be accessible and affordable for all Californians, including disadvantaged and low-income communities. The location, density, and affordability of future housing will dictate much of our future travel patterns, and our ability to achieve the vision outlined in CTP 2050. Caltrans encourages the City to consider and explore the potential of excess state-owned property for affordable housing development, per Executive Order N-06-19.

Caltrans looks forward to reviewing the DEIR that should demonstrate how the future housing development patterns align with the City adopted Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) policies. Caltrans supports collaboration with local agencies to work towards a safe, functional, interconnected, multi-modal transportation network integrated through efficient and equitable land use planning and policies. The City should also continue to coordinate with Caltrans to identify and implement necessary network improvements and impact mitigation.

Climate Change/Sea Level Rise (SLR)

Please keep Caltrans informed about the climate stressors impacting the project location, as well as the ongoing development and implementation of adaptation and resilience initiatives. According to San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development (BCDC)'s *Adapting to Rising Tides*, the total water level by 2100 is projected to inundate much of the shoreline. Caltrans is particularly interested in the city's plans to enhance shoreline resilience, especially given that SLR can be exacerbated by king tides and storm surges. Caltrans is eager to collaborate with stakeholders such as Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) and the County of Marin to develop effective adaptation and resilience measures for the area. For inquiries or concerns within

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District 4's geographical boundaries, please contact the Caltrans Bay Area Climate Change Planning Coordinators at hunter.oatman-stanford@dot.ca.gov and lucius.wu@dot.ca.gov.

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.

Equity and Public Engagement

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 the City to prioritize projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities.

Caltrans encourages the City to foster meaningful, equitable and ongoing public engagement in the Housing Element Update development process to ensure future transportation decisions and investments reflect community interests and values. The public engagement process should include community-sensitive and equity-focused approaches seeking out the needs of individuals from underserved, Tribal, and low-income communities, the elderly, and individuals with disabilities.

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.

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

Sincerely,



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Branch Chief, Local Development Review

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c: State Clearinghouse