

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4

OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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Samuel Gutierrez, Associate Planner

City of Palo Alto

250 Hamilton Avenue

Palo Alto, CA 94301

Project – 4256 El Camino Real Hotel Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Samuel Gutierrez:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 4256 El Camino Real Hotel 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 following comments are based on our review of the December 2019 DEIR.

Project Understanding

The applicant proposes to demolish an existing building and construct a five-story hotel building. The hotel would include 100 guest rooms, underground parking with mechanical lifts, and an exterior courtyard. Hotel amenities would include a fitness room, business center, restaurant/café, and bar. The total gross size of the project would be approximately 51,300 square feet (sf). The building roof height would be 50 feet, with mechanical equipment and an associated mechanical screen extending no more than eight feet above the maximum ridge of the roof. The rear of the building would include an outdoor patio area with a pedestrian path, seating, a lounge area, and a gathering space with a fire pit for use by hotel guests. Parking would include 85 parking stalls plus 17 valet aisle spaces for a total of 102 vehicle spaces located in a two-level subterranean garage. Five of the parking spaces would include electric vehicle

charging stations (EVCS) and 17 of the spaces would be EVCS ready by applicable standards. The project would also provide 12 bicycle parking spaces in the form of six secure bike lockers in the courtyard and six bike rack spaces at the front entry. Access to the site would be provided via two existing driveways on State Route (SR) 82 (El Camino Real). The northern driveway would be right-in only to accommodate drop-offs and deliveries, and the southern driveway would be right-in/right-out from SR-82 (El Camino Real), connecting to the subterranean parking garage and to the northern driveway. A light-emitting diode (LED) flashing light and sign at the top of the garage ramp would alert pedestrians that a vehicle is approaching the sidewalk.

Pedestrian Concerns

We recommend that the LED pedestrian warning device at the top of the garage ramp also be audible. The design of the driveway entries should provide sufficient sight lines so drivers entering/exiting driveways can see pedestrians approaching and vice versa.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any work or traffic control that encroaches onto the State right-of-way (ROW) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. To obtain an encroachment permit, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, six (6) sets of plans clearly indicating the State ROW, and six (6) copies of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans must be submitted to: Office of Encroachment Permits, California DOT, District 4, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA 94623-0660. To download the permit application and obtain more information, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Zachary Chop at 510-622-1643 or zachary.chop@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



for
MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review