

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
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*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.*

March 27, 2020

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Amalia M. Merino, Project Planner  
City of Pinole, Community Development Dept  
2131 Pear Street  
Pinole, CA 95037

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**MAR 27 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

**Pinole Square- MND**

Dear Amalia Merino:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Pinole Square 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 March 2020 Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the project.

**Project Understanding**

The project site consists of approximately 1,189 acres located at 1201-1577 Tara Hills Drive in the City of Pinole. Currently, the site is developed with the Appian 80 Shopping Center, which includes a Safeway grocery store, a vacant CVS pharmacy, and various other smaller businesses. This shopping center is located near Interstate (I)-80 and Appian Way, adjacent to I-80.

**Landscape**

The section of I-80 adjacent to the project site is classified as a landscaped freeway segment. Classified landscaped freeways are segments of highway where ornamental landscaping occurs per the requirements, including but not limited to, continuous stretches of a minimum of 1000', and a mix of ornamental plant types such as groundcovers and trees. Classified landscaped freeways limit outdoor advertising. They are predominantly maintained within Caltrans' Right-of-Way (ROW) and require maintenance and replacement when

damaged by projects. Please refer to the following document guidance:

<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/class-ls-fwy-and-outdoor-advertising-displays-a11y.pdf>

### **Utilities**

Any utilities that are proposed, moved or modified within Caltrans' ROW shall be discussed. If utilities are impacted by the project, provide site plans that show the location of existing and/or proposed utilities. These modifications require a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit.

### **Lead Agency**

As the Lead Agency, the city of Pinole is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the State Transportation Network (STN). The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

### **Encroachment Permit**

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto the ROW requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. 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, six (6) sets of plans clearly delineating the State ROW, six (6) copies 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.

To download the permit application and to obtain more information on all required documentation, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

Amalia Merino, Project Planner

March 27, 2020

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Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Laurel Sears at 510-286-5614 or laurel.sears@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mark Leong  
District Branch Chief  
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

cc: State Clearinghouse