

California Department of Transportation

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March 27, 2026

GTS# 03-SAC-2024-02575
SCH#2009062023

Charles Tschudin, Senior Planner
City of Sacramento
Community Development Department
300 Richards Blvd, Third Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

River District Specific Plan

Dear Charles Tschudin,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review process for the project referenced above. We reviewed this local development for impacts to the State Highway System (SHS) in keeping with our mission, vision, and goals, some of which includes addressing equity, climate change, and safety, as outlined in our statewide plans such as the California Transportation Plan, Caltrans Strategic Plan, and Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure.

The River District Specific Plan (Project) proposes to update the 2011 River District Specific Plan, serving as a forward-looking policy and regulatory document that will guide land use, development, infrastructure planning, and public investment in the River District over the next 10- to 20-year planning horizon. The Project area includes approximately 773 acres of mostly developed land, generally bounded by the Sacramento and American Rivers to the west and north, a rail line to the east, and North B Street and an additional rail line to the south, north of downtown Sacramento. Based on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) provided, we provide the following comments.

Freeway Operations

Any updates to the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or preparation of a SEIR for the River District Specific Plan may trigger necessary updates to the existing traffic study/studies. As stated in earlier comment periods, implementation of this project could have significant impacts on adjacent and nearby freeway interchanges,

mainline segments, and off-ramp queues. Please consider these potential impacts when preparing the SEIR.

Forecasting & Modeling

When preparing the SEIR, please consider the following points concerning Senate Bill (SB) 743/the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

- 1) If the residential units and businesses in the River District were to be developed in stages, how would the relevant Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) build up over time? On a related note, will there be a VMT monitoring plan?
- 2) Are there VMT damping effects? For instance, the total VMT reduction that results from both implementing a teleworking strategy and providing bike lanes is not the sum of the VMTs reduced by implementing each strategy. A rigorous VMT analysis ought to be made to ascertain the changes in VMT.

Please provide our office with copies of any further actions regarding this proposal. We would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on any changes related to this development.

If you have any questions regarding these comments or require additional information, please contact Robynn Spence, Local Development Review Coordinator, by phone at (530) 812-6874 or via email at D3.local.development@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

David J. Smith

David Smith, Branch Chief
Local Development Review and Complete Streets
Division of Planning, Local Assistance, and Sustainability
California Department of Transportation, District 3






Caltrans Comment Letter - River District Specific Plan Update_v2

Final Audit Report

2026-03-27

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