

California Department of Transportation

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May 29, 2025

1-HUM-101-52.491
SCH: 2025041403
NOP for EIR, CAL FIRE Regional HQ
APNs: 053-041-002; 053-031-002

Ms. Stephanie Coleman, Senior Environmental Planner
Department of General Services
Real Estate Services Division
707 3rd Street, 4th Floor
West Sacramento, CA 95605

Dear Ms. Coleman:

Thank you for providing Caltrans an opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the CAL FIRE regional headquarters and affiliated state safety agencies to be constructed in Rio Dell, California. The project site is 17.9 acres, adjoins Davis Street and is near the Davis Street SB onramp and offramp to Highway 101. Caltrans offers the following comments:

Davis Street & 101 ramps

On page 6 of the Notice of Preparation, it says "the EIR will evaluate access and circulation, including interface with the public roadway network, emergency vehicle access and circulation, and pedestrian and bicycle access and circulation adjacent to the site."

With the project described as including a CAL FIRE command center and a future fire station, it appears the project will foreseeably generate vehicle trips to respond to regional emergencies, and those vehicle trips will likely exit the project site directly onto Davis Street to quickly access Davis Street onramps to Highway 101. Assuming the project will be designed with emergency vehicles accessing directly onto Davis Street, Caltrans offers these early comments for the EIR:

- The EIR should provide trip generation numbers for the project at full build out and provide analysis of the vehicle type and time of vehicle trips arriving to and departing from the project site onto Davis Street.

- The project's EIR and circulation plan should consider aligning vehicle access on Davis Street with the city's Ireland Street directly north of the project site, as alignment of cross streets is a best safety practice for road design.
- Ireland Street is approximately 115' from where nearby Dixie Street connects with Davis Street. The project's EIR and circulation plan should evaluate the proximity of Dixie Street to Ireland Street and consider a recommendation to the City of Rio Dell for the city to terminate motor vehicle access connecting Davis Street and Dixie Street.



If you have any questions, please contact me at daniel.gjerde@dot.ca.gov, or (707) 497-7742.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gjerde

DAN GJERDE
Local Development Review Coordinator
Caltrans District 1