

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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October 26, 2026

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GTS #: 04-SCL-2025-01581
GTS ID: 38282
Co/Rt/Pm: SCL/85/R12.55

Kavitha Kumar, Contract Planner
City of Saratoga
13777 Fruitvale Avenue
Saratoga, CA 95070

Re: 18500 and 18520 Marshall Lane Townhome Project – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Kavitha Kumar:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 18500 and 18520 Marshall Lane Townhome Project. 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 September 2026 DEIR.

Please note this correspondence does not indicate an official position or approval by Caltrans on this project.

Project Understanding

The proposed project would construct 132 attached 3-story townhomes and related infrastructure, including internal streets, driveways, pedestrian walkways, landscaping, open spaces and recreation areas, stormwater drainage, lighting, and utility improvements. There will be a total of 298 vehicle spaces provided and 24 bicycle parking spaces. Offsite improvements are planned, including construction of curbs, gutters, sidewalks, pavement, curb ramps, fire hydrants, sanitary sewer mains, water mains, and storm drain mains. The project is within proximity to State Route (SR) 85.

Travel Demand Analysis

With the enactment of Senate Bill (SB) 743, Caltrans is focused on maximizing efficient development patterns, innovative travel demand reduction strategies, and multimodal improvements. For more information on how Caltrans assesses Vehicle

Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis for land use projects, please review Caltrans' Transportation Impact Study Guide ([link](#)).

The project VMT analysis and significance determination are undertaken in a manner consistent with the Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation's (LCI) Technical Advisory. Per the DEIR, this project is found to have significant VMT impact. Please consider exploring the following options to help further reduce the VMT impact if the implementation of applicable TDM measures is insufficient to mitigate the project VMT impact to a less-than-significant level: VMT based Transportation Impact Fee program, VMT Mitigation Exchange, and VMT Mitigation Bank. Please note that Caltrans has funded several local/regional agencies to study the feasibility of a variety of VMT mitigation programs through the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant program ([link](#)). Caltrans welcomes the potential opportunities to work with the City.

The analysis provided in the Transportation Supporting Information (Appendix I) does not include an off-ramp queue analysis for the SR 85/Saratoga Ave ramp intersection (study intersections #11 and #12). Please consider including a queue analysis. If the determination is not to conduct a queue analysis, please provide quantitative evidence or justification to support why it is not necessary.

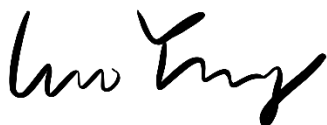
Construction-Related Impacts

Project work that requires movement of oversized or excessive load vehicles on State roadways requires a transportation permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, please visit Caltrans Transportation Permits ([link](#)).

Prior to construction, coordination may be required with Caltrans to develop a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to reduce construction traffic impacts to the State Transportation Network (STN).

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Curtis Dong, 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,



Kavitha Kumar, Contract Planner
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YUNSHENG LUO
Branch Chief, Local Development Review
Office of Regional and Community Planning

c: State Clearinghouse