

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CALTRANS DISTRICT 5
50 HIGUERA STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415
PHONE (805) 549-3101
FAX (805) 549-3329
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/



*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

December 2, 2020

SB-101-83.5
18GPA-00000-00001
19NGD-00000-00013

Allen Bell, Supervising Planner
County of Santa Barbara
Long Range Planning Division
123 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

COMMENTS FOR THE ORCUTT COMMUNITY PLAN AMENDMENT PROJECT
PROPOSING A LOCAL ROAD CONNECTION BETWEEN UNION VALLEY PARKWAY
AND US HWY 101

Dear Mr. Bell:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) thanks you for early coordination and the opportunity to review documents related to the Orcutt Community Plan Amendment Project which proposes a local road connection between Union Valley Parkway and US Hwy 101 in Key Site 33. Caltrans has provided correspondences containing comments on the project which continue to apply.

General Comments:

Caltrans supports local planning efforts that are consistent with State planning priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety. We accomplish this by working with local jurisdictions to achieve a shared vision of how the transportation system should and can accommodate interregional and local travel.

Projects that support smart growth principles which include improvements to pedestrian, bicycle, and transit infrastructure (or other key Transportation Demand Strategies) are supported by Caltrans and are consistent with our mission, vision, and goals.

Mr. Allen Bell
December 2, 2020
Page 2

Specific Comments:

Caltrans continues to express concern that the proposed Union Valley Parkway project and connection to the interchange has the likelihood to be growth inducing. As future traffic analysis is performed for the development of the project, we look forward to working with you to identify the full build out conditions and potential impacts of growth. Part of the analysis should include the Santa Maria Way ramps to demonstrate the need and deficiencies necessitating the new connection.

Once a conceptual alternative is identified, any intersection improvement within the State Highway System (SHS) will require an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) to be conducted to determine what the appropriate intersection control will be.

The requirements for a new connection to an access-controlled highway can be found in the Caltrans Project Development Procedures Manual, Chapter 27 (PDPM) on the Caltrans website at:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/manual-project-development-procedures-manual-pdpm>.

A Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis should be prepared utilizing the most recent thresholds developed by SBCAG. We support projects that reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and this project should include measures to reduce VMT.

We look forward to continued coordination with the County on this project. If you have any questions, or need further clarification on items discussed above, please contact me at (805) 835-6555 or ingrid.mcroberts@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Ingrid McRoberts
Development Review Coordinator
District 5, LD-IGR South Branch

cc: SBCAG
City of Santa Maria