

RESPONSES TO PUBLIC COMMENTS
on the
INITIAL STUDY/
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
For the
335 S. WINCHESTER BOULEVARD PROJECT
File No.: SP18-049 & C18-043



October 2019

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This document outlines the City of San José’s (City) responses to public comments received during the circulation of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) prepared for the 335 S. Winchester Boulevard Project (project).

The IS/MND evaluated the project’s potential environmental effects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and was circulated for public review from August 14, 2019 to September 3, 2019. The City received two comment letters after the public review period, as summarized below.

Comments Received on the IS/MND		
Comment	Name	Date Received
Comments Received on the IS/MND After Public Review Period		
Agency Comments		
A	County of Santa Clara Roads and Airports Department	September 4, 2019
B	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority	September 4, 2019

This document provides responses to comments received on the IS/MND environmental analysis. Individual comment letters are provided in their original format and presented as “Comment Letter” with each response directly following as “Response to Comment Letter”. Comment letters are numbered sequentially and each separate topic is assigned a number. Responses reference the comment letter and number assigned to each topic (Response A-01, for example, indicates the response to the first issue raised in Comment Letter A).

The comments received on the IS/MND do not identify new issues about the project’s environmental impacts, or provide information indicating that the project would result in new environmental impacts or impacts substantially greater in severity than disclosed in the IS/MND. CEQA does not require formal responses to comments on an IS/MND, only that the lead agency consider the comments received [CEQA Guidelines §15074(b)]. Nevertheless, responses to the comments are included in this document to provide a complete environmental record.

From: Aghegnehu, Ben <ben.aghegnehu@rda.sccgov.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 8:24 AM

To: Hawkins, Kara <Kara.Hawkins@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Talbo, Ellen <Ellen.Talbo@rda.sccgov.org>

Subject: RE: CEQA Posting - Public Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

Comment Letter A

September 4, 2019

Kara Hawkins

Planner | City of San José

Planning, Building & Code Enforcement

SUBJECT: Public Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

The County of Santa Clara Roads and Airports Department (The County) appreciates the opportunity to review the Public Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and is submitting the following comments

- A-01 | • Please include in the local transportation analysis County intersections such as:
 - San Tomas/Saratoga
 - San Tomas/Stevens Creek
 - San Tomas/Moorpark
- A-02 | • Please contact County to obtain timing settings for Existing condition LOS
- A-02 | • Please make sure to follow current VTA TIA Guideline.

If you have any questions or concerns about these comments, please contact me at 408-573-2462 or ben.aghegnehu@rda.sccgov.org

Thank you,

Ben Aghegnehu

Associate Transportation Planner
County of Santa Clara | Roads & Airports
101 Skyport Rd | San Jose, CA, 95110
408-573-2462 (o)

Response to Comment Letter A

Response A-01: The request to analyze two additional Santa Clara County intersections is noted. The Transportation Analysis (TA) analyzed AM and PM peak-hour traffic conditions for ten (10) signalized intersections and four (4) freeway ramps in the vicinity of the project site. The study intersections were selected in accordance with the City's Transportation Analysis Handbook (April 2018) and in consultation with City staff. The County intersections on San Tomas Expressway were not evaluated because the proposed project is expected to add very few trips (less than 10 peak-hour vehicle trips) to these intersections. The project trips fall below the threshold used to identify study intersections in the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Transportation Impact Analysis Guidelines. No changes to the TA are required and no additional timing information will be requested.

Response A-02: The request to ensure consistency with the current VTA TIA Guidelines is noted. As discussed in the introduction to the TA, potential impacts of the project were evaluated in accordance with the standards set forth by the Cities of San Jose and Santa Clara, and VTA, including the latest VTA TIA Guidelines.

From: Pearse, Brent <Brent.Pearse@vta.org>

Sent: Wednesday, September 4, 2019 3:43 PM

To: Hawkins, Kara <Kara.Hawkins@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: VTA Comments on 335 S. Winchester Boulevard Office Project [SJ1813]

Comment Letter B

Hello Kara,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Mitigated Negative Declaration for 335 S. Winchester Boulevard Office Project. VTA has the following comments:

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Bus Stop Improvements

B-01 VTA has an existing bus stop that serves Route 60 along the project frontage on Winchester Boulevard. VTA recommends the following:

- Install a new VTA standard metal bench (See attachment).

B-02 VTA would like the opportunity to review updated site plans to ensure the placement of driveways, landscaping and any other features do not conflict with bus operations. VTA's Transit Passenger Environment Plan provides design guidelines for bus stops. This document can be downloaded at <http://www.vta.org/tpep>. VTA has a Bus Stop Placement, Closures and Relocations Policy. Prior to any construction or bus stop impact, please contact bus.stop@vta.org.

Brent Pearse (He/Him)
Transportation Planner

Phone **408-546-7985**

Mobile **408-550-4559**



Response to Comment Letter B

Response B-01: The request to add a new VTA standard metal bench as part of the project is noted. City staff does not propose to condition the relocation of the bus stop and will typically refer plans to the VTA on a case-by-case basis. City staff will coordinate with the VTA on any proposed relocation of bus stops. Because this comment does not relate to the adequacy of the CEQA document, no further response is provided.

Response B-02: The request to review project site plans is noted. The City provided project plans to VTA for review on October 16. As this comment does not raise any concerns with the adequacy of this CEQA document, no further response is provided.