

California Department of Transportation

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September 27, 2024

1-MEN-101-33.86
Faizan Corp. Gas Station
SCH# 2023110067

Mr. Liam Crowley
Planning and Building Services
County of Mendocino
860 North Bush Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear Mr. Crowley:

Thank you for seeking Caltrans' input on the transportation mitigation measures needed for the Mitigated Negative Declaration for a proposed Gas Station at 9621 North State Street. To mitigate for the potential safety impacts to US Route 101 as a result of the proposed project, we refer to our previous findings as stated in our letter to Matt Goines, March 3, 2003, in response to the Draft Transportation Impact Study, dated July 5, 2023. Specifically:

"We maintain the position that, should the service station go forward at the proposed location, the median of US 101 at N State St/Uva Dr will need to be closed. We also concur with the conclusion of the Study, that in conjunction with closing the median, acceleration and deceleration lanes would be required for northbound traffic entering and exiting at N State Street. Depending on the type of median barrier deployed, widening of US 101 may be required in order to conform with design standards for the median barrier and acceleration/deceleration lanes. As a possible alternative, the access opening at N State St (and possibly Uva Dr) could be permanently closed in conjunction with the installation of a median barrier, requiring traffic from N State St to access the area via the West Road Interchange to the south. This alternative would negate the need for the above noted acceleration and deceleration lanes (and possible widening) but would require final approval from both County and State authorities.

"We recommend that, should the project be approved, the above-described mitigation measures be required as conditions of approval. The improvements would need to be designed, approved, constructed, and funded as an oversight project under an encroachment permit (QMAP) process. More information about this process can be found at: <<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/news-policy>>.

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"The mitigation measures will need to be reviewed and approved following the Caltrans Quality Management Assurance Process (QMAP) methodology. This process was established for Caltrans' review of complex engineering plan sets and normally takes eighteen months to establish a cooperative agreement, fund a reimbursement account for staff review time, and assign a project manager to direct the review of the engineered plan set for consistency with State standards."

Please be aware that a closure of the US 101 median at N State Street/Uva Drive is expected to require the County and Caltrans to revise the existing Freeway Agreement or Controlled-Access Highway Agreement and formally adopt it.

The QMAP process requires a contractual agreement and an exchange of funds to reimburse Caltrans for review and oversight of the design, permitting, and construction work. Our QMAP contracts are designed for agreements with other government agencies. We request that the County enter into the QMAP agreement with Caltrans on the applicant's behalf.

Caltrans does not design encroachments for the benefit of private businesses or individuals. We can provide reference manuals or other guidance materials needed to comply with State standards.

For further reference, Caltrans' response letters to the two versions of the Draft TIS (dated 1/18/2023 and 7/5/2023) for the project are attached. Please contact me with questions or for further assistance regarding the above comments at (707) 684-6879 or by email at: <jesse.robertson@dot.ca.gov>.

Sincerely,

Jesse G. Robertson

JESSE ROBERTSON
Senior Transportation Planner
System Planning & LDR
District 1 Caltrans

Enclosed: Letter to Matt Goines, dated March 3, 2023
Letter to Liam Crowley, dated August 11, 2023

c: Heidi Quintrell, Chief, Caltrans District 1 Encroachment Permit Office