

LOSALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

copy

August 7, 2009

Christopher Calfee, Special Counsel  
ATTN: CEQA Guidelines  
California Resources Agency  
1017 L Street, #2223  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Facsimile: (916) 653-8102  
CEQA.Rulemaking@resources.ca.gov

RE: CEQA Guidelines Amendments- Initial Study Checklist

Dear Mr. Calfee:

The Town of Los Altos Hills appreciates this opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments to the CEQA guidelines, particularly the transportation section of the CEQA Initial Study Checklist.

We are concerned that both the existing transportation section of the checklist and the revised checklist proposed by the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) have no questions pertaining to pedestrian or bicycle mobility, transit operations or traffic safety. In the past, this has resulted in less than adequate attention being given to impacts to bicycle, pedestrian, and transit operations. While the April 13, 2009 letter from OPR to your office states that their proposal includes questions that recognize that "traffic impacts include impacts to pedestrian, non-vehicular and mass-transit circulation", the revisions proposed by OPR only address impacts on the capacity of these modes.

We strongly support the proposed questions submitted by the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to OPR in a letter dated 2/2/09, which suggested new and revised questions on these topics. In addition we strongly support the inclusion of a question regarding vehicle miles of travel (VMT) in the section on Air Quality, and the new preamble to Appendix G- Initial Study Checklist. Furthermore, we request that Question (f) in section on Transportation/Traffic be modified to expand and clarify what is meant by "alternative transportation".

In summary, we would like to stress our support for the following modifications/additions to the checklist:

26379 Fremont Road  
Los Altos Hills  
California 94022  
650/941-7222  
Fax 650/941-3160

✓

**XVI. Transportation/Traffic**

f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting or expanding public transit or non-motorized transportation?

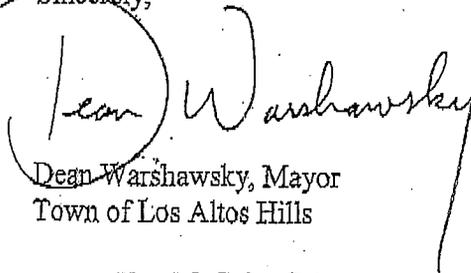
**Additional questions in Section XVI. Transportation/Traffic as proposed by Caltrans:**

(Would the project) Reduce, sever, or eliminate pedestrian or bicycle circulation or access, or preclude future planned and approved bicycle or pedestrian circulation?

(Would the project) Cause a degradation of the performance or availability of all transit including buses, light or heavy rail for people or goods movement?

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Planning Director Debbie Pedro at (650) 941-7222.

Sincerely,



Dean Warshawsky, Mayor  
Town of Los Altos Hills

cc Ken McGuire Caltrans HQ  
Jay Norvell Caltrans HQ  
Beth Thomas Caltrans D4  
Ina Gerhard Caltrans D4