May 28, 2009

Scott Johnson, Associate Planner
Development Services Department
City of Sacramento
SRJohnson@cityofsacramento.org

RE: Natomas Crossing Project #P04-264 Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Natomas Crossing project DEIR. WALKSacramento would like the City of Sacramento to consider additional mitigation to reduce the impacts to pedestrian circulation in the vicinity of Quadrants C and D resulting from cumulative conditions.

The DEIR considers approximately 393,000 square feet of retail uses in Quadrant C, and approximately 600,000 square feet of hospital use and 600,000 square feet medical office use in Quadrant D. Quadrant C is on the west side of East Commerce Way between Arena Boulevard and Natomas Crossing Drive. Quadrant D is on the west side of East Commerce Way between Natomas Crossing Drive and San Juan Road.

Existing pedestrian access to the site is limited due to a lack of sidewalks on the west side of East Commerce Way and the southbound roadway is not constructed to its ultimate configuration between Arena Boulevard and Natomas Crossing Drive. East Commerce Way has not been constructed between Natomas Crossing Drive and San Juan Road.

Pedestrian facilities proposed to mitigate impacts to pedestrian circulation include pedestrian pathways, shelters and benches, way finding, lighting, a driveway access plan. In addition, mitigations could also include raised crosswalks and pedestrian signal heads.

Mitigation Measure 4.4-3 (f) for long term increases in criteria air pollutants states: Provide pedestrian/bicycle safety and traffic calming measures in excess of jurisdiction requirements that reduce motor vehicle speeds and encourage pedestrian and bicycle trips. Actions taken such as this not only reduce air pollution, but they encourage more walking trips because pedestrians feel safer and they are not exposed to as much noise from vehicles.

WALKSacramento believes the most effective action that goes beyond City of Sacramento requirements is to construct East Commerce Way between Arena Boulevard and Natomas Crossing Drive.
Boulevard and Natomas Crossing Drive as a 4-lane roadway. This would short
the crossing distances for pedestrians making it easier and safer for pedestrians to
cross; it would slow the speed of traffic, reducing the severity of pedestrian-vehicle
collisions and making the environment less noisy; and it would reduce air pollution
cau sed by accelerations to higher arterial speeds.

WALKSacramento suggests that East Commerce Way be configured as two lanes in
each direction, with parking and bicycle lanes on both sides, with a speed limit set
between 25 mph and 35 mph. Curb extensions should be used to shorten crossing
distances and slow traffic. Right-turn lanes should not preclude curb extensions
except to reduce dangerous queuing lengths. Pedestrian refuges should be
constructed in medians at each intersection.

Figure 4.2-2 Project Access Plan shows three existing/under construction traffic
signals, three proposed traffic signals, and four right-in/right-out driveways on East
Commerce Way from Arena Boulevard to the southern boundary of the project site.
This means there will be ten vehicle conflict points in less than 3/4 mile, and six of
those points will be signalized intersections. Table 4.2-3 Daily Volume Threshold for
Roadway Segments indicates that low access control arterials, i.e. those with more
than four stops per mile, should have a speed limit of 25-35 mph. East Commerce
Way adjacent to Quadrants C and D will have the equivalent of eight stops per mile.
Therefore, the roadway should be subject to traffic calming and a road diet to
produce speeds such that a speed limit of 35 mph or less can be posted.

WALKSacramento encourages people to walk and bicycle in their communities. The
benefits include improved physical fitness, less motor vehicle traffic congestion,
better air quality, and a stronger sense of cohesion and safety in local
neighborhoods.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and recommendations. If you
have questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 709-9843
or cholm@walksacramento.org.

Sincerely,

Chris Holm
Project Analyst

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