



September 1, 2006

Jeff Beiswenger  
Planning Department  
City of Rancho Cordova  
2729 Prospect Park Drive  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Re: Design Review for Trade Center (Project RC-05-174)

Dear Mr. Beiswenger:

WALKSacramento is pleased to offer comments on the Design Review for the Trade Center Business Park proposal to build 11 single story office buildings on 5 acres.

WALKSacramento is a member of the Partnership for Active Communities, an Active Living by Design project funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Partnership is working to support increased physical activity, such as walking and bicycling in local neighborhoods, as well as helping to create community environments that support walking and bicycling. One way that the Partnership is doing this is through the review of proposed development projects in Natomas and Rancho Cordova. The benefits of such active environments include improved physical fitness, less motor vehicle traffic congestion, better air quality, and a stronger sense of cohesion and safety in local neighborhoods.

After reviewing the projects' site plans and drawings, and inspecting the project sites and the surrounding neighborhood, we offer the following additional comments and recommendations:

1. Consider including small scale retail: A small café or deli might be a good match the surrounding office park environment. Such a business would reduce driving trips from area that employees often make for coffee, snacks, or lunch. Building 1 might be the most accessible location and where ever located, we recommend an additional link to the sidewalk along Kilgore or Trade Center, whichever is most direct.

2. Bicycle Parking details needed: Bicycle parking is shown located in the triangular piece in the parking lot. The number and types of racks was not shown. The most effective way to ensure that dedicated space for bicycle parking is used is for it to be visible, accessible, convenient, and easy to use. It needs to be out of the way of pedestrians and motor vehicles. If any of these aspects are not met, there is a good chance cyclists won't use what is provided and park wherever they think their bike will be safe. The minimum standard for a bicycle rack is to support the whole bike and enable the user to lock the frame and wheel with a cable or U-shaped lock. The bicycle advocacy group which covers Rancho Cordova, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates, recommends four rack designs which can be found on their website at [www.sacbike.org/sacbiking](http://www.sacbike.org/sacbiking).
3. Ensure safety in parking lot: Some of the drive aisles in the parking lot seem to be at odd angles. This may limit the drivers' visibility and encourage driving patterns that increase danger to people on foot, such as frequent three-point turns within the parking lot. We ask the City and developer take another look at the parking lot with this mind and determine if there will be any unnecessary risk posed to those on foot.
4. Consider additional open space: The site plan shows that there are 17 parking spots over the minimum requirement. Perhaps these spots could be used for open space as well. For example, the center triangle island could be expanded and include benches and shade, or parking between Building 3 and 4 could be transformed into additional open space. The open space with benches between Building 4 and 5 is noted and appreciated, but it is not in the most convenient spot for the other 9 buildings.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and recommendations. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Scott Clark or me at (916) 446-9255 or via email at [sclark@walksacramento.org](mailto:sclark@walksacramento.org) or [ageraghty@walksacramento.org](mailto:ageraghty@walksacramento.org).

Sincerely,

Anne Geraghty  
Executive Director

Cc: Kevin Woodbury, Mark III Engineering Contractors  
Rich Bell, Active Living by Design  
Jeane Borkenhagen, Sacramento Metro Air Quality Management District  
Traci Canfield, Sacramento Regional Transit  
Teri Duarte, Sacramento County Department of Health  
Rebecca Garrison, 50 Corridor TMA  
Walt Seifert, Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates (SABA)  
Sharon Sprowls, Odyssey  
Paul Zykofsky, Local Government Commission