



July 25, 2014

VIA EMAIL
planning@ci.galt.ca.us

City of Galt Community Development Department
ATTN: Cindy Gnos, Contract Planner
495 Industrial Drive
Galt, CA 95632

RE: Notice of Preparation to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the Eastview Specific Plan & Annexation Project

Dear Ms. Gnos:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Eastview Specific Plan & Annexation Project.

Development projects that lead to more walking and active travel are critical to our community's future. Human beings need moderate exercise, such as walking, for about 30 minutes a day in order to prevent the development of chronic disease and overweight. Only 38% of the population in the Sacramento region is active at this minimal level, often due to limitations placed by a built environment not suited to walking and other types of physically active travel. A 30-minute walk is about one and a half miles. If more people could obtain regular exercise by walking and bicycling to their regular destinations, in lieu of driving, it could yield significant health improvements to the resident population of this area. Reduced driving would also decrease vehicle emissions and the prevalence of asthma, cardiovascular disease, and other air pollution-related conditions. More trips by walking and bicycling could help reduce the current expensive burden on the health care system of providing medical care to more and more people with chronic conditions due to inactivity and poor air quality.

The Draft EIR should examine the impact the change in residential density and land uses may have on the walking potential for future residents of the Eastview Specific Plan Area. For example, the proposed elementary school site may have significantly fewer students living within walking distance because of the reduced density. This can lead to less physical activity resulting in a greater risk for poor physical health and more traffic around the school resulting in a greater risk for pedestrian collisions.

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. WALKSacramento 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.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments and recommendations. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 446-9255 or cholm@walksacramento.org.

Sincerely,

Chris Holm
Project Analyst