



9/11/2020

VIA EMAIL

Courtney Long, Assistant Planner
City of Sacramento Community Development Department
300 Richards Boulevard, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: Raising Cane's (P20-019)

Dear Ms. Long:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Raising Cane's project. It's disappointing to see that a 21-year-old full-service restaurant building is proposed to be demolished to make way for a new fast-food restaurant building with drive-through. The embodied energy of the existing building will be prematurely discarded, and the environmental impacts associated with new construction will be repeated. This type of unsustainable development is questionable in the face of climate change, and it's especially egregious when compounded by the impacts the proposed project will have on pedestrian access, safety and comfort.

The project eliminates the interconnection of four accessible routes. The sidewalks at the perimeter of the existing building providing an accessible connection to 1) Truxel Road to the east, 2) In-N-Out Burger to the north, 3) Starbucks, India Oven and Walmart to the west, and 4) every store and restaurant plus the theaters directly to the south on the east side of the shopping center. The existing site is the center of a star network for pedestrians connecting the four areas listed above to each other.

Even if the pedestrian network was not disconnected by the proposed project, we would still be concerned with the safety of pedestrians crossing the main north-south driveway that passes by the west side of the project site. The crossing is currently substandard, as it uses drive aisles as termini for the crosswalk. The project proposes to extend the distance a pedestrian would walk parallel to traffic, and the proposed curb return has a larger radius which will allow vehicles to make the turn at a higher speed.

The project proposes to plant trees on the portion of the site where demolition and construction of the new building and drive-through lanes will occur. However, many of the trees in the five tree wells and two landscaped islands are either sick or have been poorly pruned, resulting in trees that do not provide the required 50% shading at 20 years.

The last concern we have with the project is the request for a drive-through conditional use permit. The project is within ¼-mile of a planned light rail station. Is the site exempt from the City's TOD ordinance?

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. The benefits include improved public health and physical fitness, better air quality, a stronger sense of cohesion and safety in neighborhoods, and more sustainable communities and local economies.

Sincerely,

Chris Holm
Project Manager