

February 21, 2005

Joe Hall
City of Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency
337 Locust St
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Tannery Arts Center

Dear Mr. Hall,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Tannery Arts Center Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). As you know, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) serves as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Santa Cruz County. This mixed-use project supports several of the SCCRTC's policies and goals and stated in the *2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)*.

Thank you for including a major regional park and ride lot in the proposed project. The *2001 RTP* goals and policies support projects that service inter-county and intra-county travel needs including park and ride lot development. We know you are working with Santa Cruz Metro on potential transit access to the Park and Ride lot at the Tannery Art Center. In addition, we would like to thank you for designing the project to include internal access improvements on Encinal Street and for identifying bicycle/pedestrian networks throughout the proposed project site.

Please accept the additional comments from SCCRTC staff on this document for your consideration:

1. The *2001 RTP* goals and policies acknowledge the importance of pedestrian and bicycle safety and access. To ensure consistency with these goals and policies, staff suggests that the under crossing of the Highway 1-San Lorenzo River Bridge component of the San Lorenzo River Bike/Pedestrian Crossing project (*2001 RTP* project SC 3) be coordinated with the proposed Tannery Arts Center Project. This route will serve as a safe connection for bicyclists and pedestrians between the proposed project site and the rest of the regional bikeway and pedestrian network. In the event that the San Lorenzo River Path extension is not completed in the same time frame as the Tannery Arts Center Project, we request that the project sponsor work with the SCCRTC's Bicycle Committee to discuss interim solutions.

2. The *2001 RTP* recognizes the importance of efficient connections among all transportation modes. Please consider including bicycle racks and lockers at both the Park and Ride lot and near the studio/office space, rental units, and theater locations. Covered bike racks would be best in visible locations close to major entrances. Space for these facilities needs to be designed in accordance with the City of Santa Cruz's Bicycle Parking Requirement as stated in the City General Plan.
3. We suggest continuing the sidewalks and bike lanes and the median island on the south side of River Street to the north side adjacent to the proposed project site. This provides a seamless connection in the pedestrian network, the bicycle network and traffic calming measures along the River Street corridor.
4. As you know, improvements to Highway 1/Highway 9 intersection will be needed in the future. We agree that the proposed project should pay the project's fair share of traffic impact fees to help fund the Highway 1/Highway 9 intersection improvements.

SCCRTC staff will continue to work with your staff and Caltrans staff on the Park and Ride lot and Highway 1/Highway 9 intersection improvements of the Tannery Arts Center Project. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide input on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for this project. We look forward to receiving a copy of the Final Environmental Impact Report when it is certified. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Grace Blakeslee of my staff at (831) 460-3219.

Sincerely,

Pat Dellin
Acting Executive Director

CC: SCCRTC, SCCRTC Bicycle Committee, SCMTD
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