



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Taylor Bateman
City of Scotts Valley/Planning Department
One Civic Center Drive
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

July 12, 2007

RE: Initial Study for the Bethany University Residence Hall

Dear Mr. Bateman:

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) staff has reviewed the Initial Study (IS) for the Bethany University Residence Hall. Staff supports the development of housing for students on campus as a tool for reducing vehicle trips to the University. Staff recommends that the University encourage the use of transportation alternatives for intra-campus and inter-campus trips to mitigate new trips generated by the proposed project.

- To encourage transportation alternatives for intra-campus trips, staff recommends that improvements including bicycle lanes and paths, provisions for secure bicycle parking, development of safe, direct and pleasant pedestrian walkways which are fully accessible, and implementation of a transportation alternative program to educate employees and students about transportation alternatives should be included in the proposed project. A designated campus shuttle linking the most frequently visited campus destinations should also be considered. This recommendation supports several of the SCCRTC goals including, but not limited to, consideration for the needs of all non-motorized travelers in construction and private development projects and the promotion of safe and alternative transportation modes. (RTP policy 1.1.13, 2.1.1, 2.7.4, 5.2.3)
- Staff recommends that Bethany University work with the SCCRTC's Commute Solutions Program to implement transportation demand management strategies that work towards the goal of reducing single-occupant vehicle trips to and from campus. Staff also encourages Bethany University to join Ecology Action's Transportation Membership Program (formerly the Santa Cruz Area Transportation Management Association) that provides additional transportation demand management strategies to employers for employees. Bethany University should also work with the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District to ensure that there is transit access to and from the campus and to arrange for free or discounted bus passes to be available for students and employees. Providing a campus shuttle service from the campus to commercial centers is another strategy for reducing routine employee and student single-occupant vehicle trips. (2005 RTP goals and policies 1.3.1, 1.3, 2.3 and 3.3)

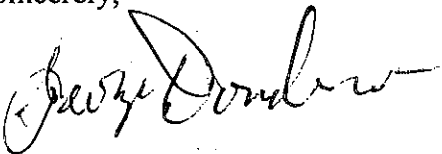
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The initial study indicates that 540 new trips will be generated if the proposed project is implemented. Staff recommends that an updated traffic analysis be completed as part of the environmental review process to assess the impact of the additional trips on the existing transportation system. The traffic analysis should include local and regionally significant intersections and roadways including Highway 17 and the Highway 17 and Granite Creek Interchange.

Finally, staff would like to inform Bethany University about the SCCRTC's Safe on 17 Program given its proximity to Highway 17. Highway 17 was identified as a high collision corridor in 1998. The Safe on 17 Program employs enforcement, public information and safety improvements to reduce collisions on Highway 17 between Los Gatos and Scotts Valley. Enclosed is the Safe on 17 Fact Sheet.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide input on the Initial Study. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me or Grace Blakeslee of my staff at (831) 460-3219.

Sincerely,



George Dondero
Executive Director

cc: Commissioners Johnson
Commissioner Stone
SCMTD
SCCRTC
Ecology Action

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