## **Responses to Comments**

## Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration North 4<sup>th</sup> Street Hotel File No.: SP16-034



### Prepared for the City of San José Planning, Building & Code Enforcement

200 East Santa Clara Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor San José, CA 95113-1905



Prepared by David J. Powers & Associates, Inc.

1871 The Alameda, Suite 200 San José, CA 95126

# NORTH 4<sup>th</sup> STREET HOTEL (File No: SP16-034) RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

The North 4<sup>th</sup> Street Hotel Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The IS/MND was circulated for 27 days from May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The City received the following eight comment letters during the public comment period:

A.	David Truslow	May 29, 2018
B.	Larry Ames	May 29, 2018
C.	Antonina Ettare	June 1, 2018
D.	Kathleen Perkins	June 3, 2018
E.	LiUNA	June 5, 2018
F.	Theresa Rettinghouse	June 5, 2018
G.	Thomas Caudill	June 5, 2018
H.	Amah Mutsun	June 20, 2018

This memo responds to public comments on the IS/MND as they relate to the potential environmental impacts of the project under CEQA. Numbered responses correspond to comments in each comment letter. Copies of all comment letters are attached.

#### **COMMENT LETTER A: David Truslow – May 29, 2018**

<u>Comment A-1:</u> The MND fails to provide for sufficient parking. In addition to a deficit of 5 spaces (54 spaces for 59 rooms), it lacks parking for employees, vendors, and visitors. These projects have a history of subsequent conversion to residential housing resulting in overflow parking into neighborhoods due to increased demand.

Additionally, the nearby County Civic Center redevelopment project proposes to add thousands of new employees without providing sufficient parking. The combined impact on the Hyde Park and Japantown neighborhoods will be severe as we lack residential parking (except for a narrow stretch of 2nd St).

I'm requesting approval of the N. 4th St hotel be made subject to 3rd St permitted residential parking and an increase beyond 54 spaces to accommodate expected demand. This would seem to be at least 59 spaces for guests + a minimum of 6 more for employees and visitors. More will be needed if the hotel will have any meeting rooms or restaurant.

Also note that the popular and nearby Smoking Pig restaurant parking is insufficient to meet customer demand further exacerbating the area's insufficient parking.

**Response A-1:** The provision of parking is not subject to CEQA analysis, unless insufficient parking would result in secondary impacts such as creating a hazard or impeding emergency vehicle access. If vehicles associated with the proposed hotel do park offsite, existing pedestrian facilities in the project area provide safe access to and from nearby offsite parking and the project site and emergency access would not be affected.

#### **COMMENT LETTER B: Larry Ames – May 29, 2018**

**Comment B-1:** Quick first impressions: it doesn't look like it'd be any great loss to replace the existing motel.

**Response B-1:** The comment is noted. The comment does not raise issues regarding the CEQA analysis. No further response is necessary.

<u>Comment B-2:</u> Will there be mitigations (landscaping, setbacks) so the new project doesn't tower over and look down upon the neighbors in back?

**Response B-2:** As described on page eight of the Initial Study, the proposed hotel building would be set back at least 25 feet from the rear property line. The first and second levels of the building would be set back 25 feet from the rear property line, and levels three and four would each be stepped back an additional 15 feet. The 25-foot building setback area at the rear of the building would be landscaped with trees and shrubs.

<u>Comment B-3:</u> Any improvements planned for 4th St.? It was once a major highway (it was officially "Bypass 101" back in the 1940s), but maybe it might be a candidate for a "road-diet" treatment now? (I have bike-commuted on 4th St a number of times and have always felt that it could use some TLC.)

**Response B-3:** As discussed on page 12 of the Initial Study, the proposed project includes new curb, gutter, sidewalks, and street trees along the project site's North 4<sup>th</sup> Street frontage.

<u>Comment B-4:</u> The main reason I'm writing is to suggest that you use "BCC" rather the "CC" on the distribution list. While it's interesting to see who all is on your mailing list, some may wish to preserve their privacy.

**Response B-4:** The comment is noted. The comment does not raise issues regarding the CEQA analysis. No further response is necessary.

#### **COMMENT LETTER C:** Antonina Ettare – June 1, 2018

<u>Comment C-1:</u> I would like more information on what is being done to mitigate additional vehicle traffic due to this new development. This hotel will most likely bring visitors to and from the airport. These visitors may use rental cars, taxis, ride-sharing, or public transportation. There may be numerous trips back and forth daily. The potential of increased vehicle traffic is very real.

**Response C-1:** A traffic analysis was prepared for the proposed project and included as Appendix G of the Initial Study. The traffic analysis evaluated operations at the following three local intersections with and without traffic generated by the proposed hotel project:

- Interstate 880 and First Street,
- Commercial Street and North Fourth Street, and
- North Fourth Street and East Younger Avenue.

As discussed on page 73 of the Initial Study, the results of the traffic analysis show that intersections in the project area would continue to operate at acceptable levels with the addition of project-generated traffic; therefore, the project would not result in a traffic impact and traffic mitigation is not required.

<u>Comment C-2:</u> The residents of Hyde Park want a more walkable environment. Cars speed through our neighborhood between First & 4th via Younger & Burton. One evening a car drove through the center of one of our traffic circles at 2nd & Younger. This car obviously entered from N. 1st Street speeding onto Younger evident from the damaged tree laying in the street.

We hope more visitors use the light rail to get to this hotel but this may not always be feasible. In order to encourage more visitors to use public transportation we need a more walkable area.

The residents ask for more traffic calming within our neighborhood before this project is completed.

#### Suggestions:

- Speed bumps on Burton. There is no parking allowed on this street, therefore, speed bumps would be easily implemented. This would reduce speeding & cut-through traffic.
- Street lights. There is inadequate lighting in our neighborhood to allow for safe night time walks.
- Speed bumps on Younger. One between 1st & 2nd and another between 4th and 3rd. These would prevent speeding and discourage cut-through traffic.

**Response C-2:** As noted in the comment, speeding is an existing condition experienced in the surrounding neighborhood. This existing condition does not result from the project and would not be substantially affected by the proposed hotel. The project is not responsible for existing traffic conditions. The project would only need to include measures for mitigating impacts resulting from the project. Violating speed limits is not a CEQA impact and would be addressed through law enforcement.

#### **COMMENT LETTER D: Kathleen Perkins – June 3, 2018**

<u>Comment D-1:</u> We live at 64 Burton. We walk the neighborhood daily and agree completely with suggestions below.

**Response D-1:** The comment letter includes and refers to the comment letter from Antonia Ettare dated June 1, 2018. Responses to the comments raised in the letter from Antonia Ettare (Comment Letter C) are provided on the preceding page.

<u>Comment D-2:</u> Burton is a very small street with less than ten homes facing Burton – however it is the very last street before the I-880 ramps. This being Silicon Valley, people speed through Burton at morning and evening rush hour; circumventing the calming circles. Only speed bumps will mitigate – or police ticketing.

Two of Councilman Peralez's community liaisons visited but both came mid-day which is not the problem time. Looking at a map shows how Hyde Park and Burton are funnels to I-880. In the vein of "if you see something, say something" I offer that this is a problem spot. I hope San Jose will take this seriously as we are trying in many ways, to make Hyde Park better specifically a mural for the Burnett Middle School, a pocket park and cleaning the roundabouts.

Please join us one morning or late afternoon. Thank you for any help you may provide.

**Response D-2:** As noted in the comment, speeding is an existing condition experienced in the surrounding neighborhood. This existing condition does not result from the project and would not be substantially affected by the proposed hotel. The project would only need to include measures for mitigating impacts resulting from the project. Violating speed limits is not a CEQA impact and would be addressed through law enforcement.

#### **COMMENT LETTER E: Theresa Rettinghouse – June 5, 2018**

Comment E-1: Attached please find the comments from the Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 270 and its members living in Santa Clara County and/or the City of San Jose ("LiUNA"), regarding the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration ("IS/MND") prepared for the Project known as North 4th Street Hotel (File No. SP16-034) for Applicant Patel Nanu D and Lakhiben N Trustee et al., including all actions related or referring to the proposed development of a four-story, 59-room hotel building constructed above one level of below-grade parking containing 54 parking spaces ("Project").

Please include these comments in the administrative record for this matter.

**Response E-1:** The comment is noted. The comment does not raise issues regarding the CEQA analysis. The attached comments referenced in the comment letter are included and responded to under Comment Letter F.

#### **COMMENT LETTER F: LiUNA – June 5, 2018**

Comment F-1: I am writing on behalf of the Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 270 and its members living in Santa Clara County and/or the City of San Jose ("LiUNA"), regarding the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration ("IS/MND") prepared for the Project known as North 4th Street Hotel (File No. SP16-034) for Applicant Patel Nanu D and Lakhiben N Trustee et al., including all actions related or referring to the proposed development of a four-story, 59-room hotel building constructed above one level of below-grade parking containing 54 parking spaces ("Project"). The Project site is located on the east side of North 4th Street, approximately 320 feet north of East Younger Avenue in the City of San José, Santa Clara County, California. APN: 235-09-021.

After reviewing the IS/MND, we conclude the IS/MND fails as an informational document, and that there is a fair argument that the Project may have adverse environmental impacts. Therefore, we request that the City of San José ("City") prepare an environmental impact report ("EIR") for the Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq.

We reserve the right to supplement these comments during public hearings concerning the Project. *Galante Vineyards v. Monterey Peninsula Water Management Dist.*, 60 Cal. App. 4th 1109, 1121 (1997).

Response E-1: The IS/MND for the North 4th Street Hotel project was prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations §15000 et seq.) and the regulations and policies of the City of San José. As stated in Section 15070 of the CEQA Guidelines, "A public agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration for a project subject to CEQA when: (a) The initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment." The proposed project, with implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND, would not result in a significant effect on the environment; therefore, an EIR does not need to be prepared for the proposed project.

#### **COMMENT LETTER G: Thomas Caudill – June 20, 2018**

<u>Comment G-1:</u> I am the Co-trustee of the Trust which owns the property located at 1025 N. 4th construction project located at 1036 N. 4th Street, San Jose, CA (the "Hotel Project"). It is my understanding that the Patels are the record owners of the Hotel Project and that they have applied for a permit to develop the subject site.

The Patels have allowed me to review the project plans and to discuss the Hotel Project. Based upon my review of the plans and my discussion with Anil Patel, I support the Hotel Project for the following non-inclusive reasons:

- 1. Building a hotel at the site appears to be an efficient use of the property.
- 2. Development of the site would vastly improve the surrounding areas aesthetically and economically.
- 3. Re-use of the land would not only improve the area, but it would allow development to take place in close proximity to businesses, the airport and public transport.
- 4. The Patels have been at the location for more than 45 years. They are a family run operation. The Patels continued presence would allow a boutique-style family run hotel to continue to serve the community.
- 5. The Hotel Project would appear to provide a larger tax stream for the City's general fund than the existing hotel.

I have no objection to the proposed Hotel improvement. Nor am I aware of any opposition to the Hotel Project.

**Response G-1:** The comment letter is in support for the proposed project. The comment letter does not raise issues regarding the CEQA analysis. No further response is necessary.

#### COMMENT LETTER H: Amah Mutsun- June 20, 2018

**Comment H-1:** This project is outside our traditional tribal territory, we have no comment.

**Response H-1:** The comment is noted. The comment does not raise issues regarding the CEQA analysis. No further response is necessary.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based upon review of the comments received during the public circulation period for the N 1<sup>st</sup> Street Hotel IS/MND, there is no evidence to indicate that implementation of the proposed project, including proposed mitigation measures, would result in a significant environmental impact under CEQA. Furthermore, the comments received did not raise any new issues or provide information indicating the project would result in additional impacts or impacts of greater severity than described in the IS/MND. Therefore, the IS/MND is the appropriate level of environmental review for the proposed project.



From: nitroxer@gmail.com on behalf of Dave Truslow <dtruslow@sonic.net>

Sent: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 12:05 PMTo: Mahamood, Reema; Peralez, RaulSubject: N. 4th St Hotel: Insufficient Parking

The MND fails to provide for sufficient parking. In addition to a deficit of 5 spaces (54 spaces for 59 rooms), it lacks parking for employees, vendors, and visitors. These projects have a history of subsequent conversion to residential housing resulting in overflow parking into neighborhoods due to increased demand.

Additionally, the nearby County Civic Center redevelopment project proposes to add thousands of new employees without providing sufficient parking. The combined impact on the Hyde Park and Japantown neighborhoods will be severe as we lack residential parking (except for a narrow stretch of 2nd St).

I'm requesting approval of the N. 4th St hotel be made subject to 3rd St permitted residential parking and an increase beyond 54 spaces to accommodate expected demand. This would seem to be at least 59 spaces for guests + a minimum of 6 more for employees and visitors. More will be needed if the hotel will have any any meeting rooms or restaurant.

Also note that the popular and nearby Smoking Pig restaurant parking is insufficient to meet customer demand further exacerbating the area's insufficient parking.

David Truslow 931 N. 3rd St, San Jose, CA 95112

From: Lames <lames@aol.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 29, 2018 10:56 AM

**To:** Mahamood, Reema

**Subject:** Re: San José Planning, Public Review Draft MND: North 4th Street Hotel

Hi, Reema,

Quick first impressions: it doesn't look like it'd be any great loss to replace the existing motel.

Will there be mitigations (landscaping, setbacks) so the new project doesn't tower over and look down upon the neighbors in back?

Any improvements planned for 4th St.? It was once a major highway (it was officially "Bypass 101" back in the 1940s), but maybe it might be a candidate for a "road-diet" treatment now? (I have bike-commuted on 4th St a number of times and have always felt that it could use some TLC.)

The main reason I'm writing is to suggest that you use "BCC" rather the "CC" on the distribution list. While it's interesting to see who all is on your mailing list, some may wish to preserve their privacy.

Thnx!

~Larry

-

From: Antonina Ettare <runnershi@hotmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, June 1, 2018 7:49 PM

**To:** Mahamood, Reema

Cc: Dave Truslow; Ludmila Parada; Angelina Valencia (angievalg@hotmail.com); perkins.kath@gmail.com

**Subject:** SP16-034 North 4th Street Hotel

Hello Ms. Mahamood,

I would like more information on what is being done to mitigate additional vehicle traffic due to this new development. This hotel will most likely bring visitors to and from the airport. These visitors may use rental cars, taxis, ride-sharing, or public transportation. There may be numerous trips back and forth daily. The potential of increased vehicle traffic is very real.

The residents of Hyde Park want a more walkable environment. Cars speed through our neighborhood between First & 4<sup>th</sup> via Younger & Burton. One evening a car drove through the center of one of our traffic circles at 2<sup>nd</sup> & Younger. This car obviously entered from N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street speeding onto Younger evident from the damaged tree laying in the street.

We hope more visitors use the light rail to get to this hotel but this may not always be feasible. In order to encourage more visitors to use public transportation we need a more walkable area.

The residents ask for more traffic calming within our neighborhood before this project is completed.

#### Suggestions;

- Speed bumps on Burton. There is no parking allowed on this street, therefore, speed bumps would be easily implemented. This would reduce speeding & cut-through traffic.
- Street lights. There is inadequate lighting in our neighborhood to allow for safe night time walks.
- Speed bumps on Younger. One between 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> and another between 4<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. These would prevent speeding and discourage cut-through traffic.

Please keep me informed about this development.

Thank you, Antonina Ettare 927 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

From: Kathleen Perkins <perkins.kath@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Sunday, June 3, 2018 9:28 AM

**To:** 'Antonina Ettare'; Mahamood, Reema **Subject:** RE: SP16-034 North 4th Street Hotel

Dear Ms. Mahamood,

We live at 64 Burton. We walk the neighborhood daily and agree completely with suggestions below. Burton is a very small street with less than ten homes facing Burton – however it is the very last street before the I-880 ramps.

This being Silicon Valley, people speed through Burton at morning and evening rush hour; circumventing the calming circles. Only speed bumps will mitigate – or police ticketing.

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Please join us one morning or late afternoon. Thank you for any help you may provide.

Best,

**Kathleen Perkins** 

From: Antonina Ettare [mailto:runnershi@hotmail.com]

**Sent:** Friday, June 1, 2018 7:49 PM **To:** reema.mahamood@sanjoseca.gov

Cc: Dave Truslow <a href="mailto:ctiling-rada">ctiling-rada</a> <a href="mailto:ludmilaparada@yahoo.com">ctiling-rada</a> <a href="m

(angievalg@hotmail.com) <angievalg@hotmail.com>; perkins.kath@gmail.com

Subject: SP16-034 North 4th Street Hotel

Hello Ms. Mahamood,

I would like more information on what is being done to mitigate additional vehicle traffic due to this new development. This hotel will most likely bring visitors to and from the airport. These visitors may use rental cars, taxis, ride-sharing, or public transportation. There may be numerous trips back and forth daily. The potential of increased vehicle traffic is very real.

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Please keep me informed about this development.

Thank you, Antonina Ettare 927 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

From: Theresa Rettinghouse <theresa@lozeaudrury.com>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 5, 2018 1:33 PM

To: Mahamood, Reema

**Cc:** Richard Drury; Doug Chermak

**Subject:** MND Comment on North 4th Street Hotel, Project File No. SP16-034

**Attachments:** 2018.06.05 MND Comment\_North 4th St. Hotel.pdf

#### Dear Ms. Mahamood:

Attached please find the comments from the Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 270 and its members living in Santa Clara County and/or the City of San Jose ("LiUNA"), regarding the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration ("IS/MND") prepared for the Project known as North 4th Street Hotel (File No. SP16-034) for Applicant Patel Nanu D and Lakhiben N Trustee et al., including all actions related or referring to the proposed development of a four-story, 59-room hotel building constructed above one level of below-grade parking containing 54 parking spaces ("Project").

Please include these comments in the administrative record for this matter.

Thank you, Theresa

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Theresa Rettinghouse Paralegal Lozeau | Drury LLP 410 12th Street, Suite 250 Oakland, California 94607 (510) 836-4200 (510) 836-4205 (fax) Theresa@lozeaudrury.com

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T 510.836.4200 F 510.836.4205 410 12th Street, Suite 250 Oakland, Ca 94607 www.lozeaudrury.com doug@lozeaudrury.com

Via Email and U.S. Mail

June 5, 2018

Rema Mahamood, Planner III Dept. of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement 200 E. Santa Clara St., 3rd Floor San José, CA 95113-1905 (408) 535-6872 reema.mahamood@sanjoseca.gov

Re: Comment on North 4<sup>th</sup> Street Hotel, Project File No. SP16-034 Initial Study | Mitigated Negative Declaration

Dear Ms. Mahamood:

I am writing on behalf of the Laborers International Union of North America, Local Union 270 and its members living in Santa Clara County and/or the City of San Jose ("LiUNA"), regarding the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration ("IS/MND") prepared for the Project known as North 4<sup>th</sup> Street Hotel (File No. SP16-034) for Applicant Patel Nanu D and Lakhiben N Trustee et al., including all actions related or referring to the proposed development of a four-story, 59-room hotel building constructed above one level of below-grade parking containing 54 parking spaces ("Project"). The Project site is located on the east side of North 4th Street, approximately 320 feet north of East Younger Avenue in the City of San José, Santa Clara County, California. APN: 235-09-021.

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June 5, 2018 LiUNA Comments on North 4<sup>th</sup> Street Hotel File No. SP16-034 Page 2 of 2

We reserve the right to supplement these comments during public hearings concerning the Project. *Galante Vineyards v. Monterey Peninsula Water Management Dist.*, 60 Cal. App. 4th 1109, 1121 (1997).

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Chermak

Dog J. Chl

From: Van Der Zweep, Cassandra
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 3:53 PM

**To:** Mahamood, Reema

**Subject:** Fw: Project: 1036 N. 4th Street, San Jose, CA/Hotel

FYI

Cassandra van der Zweep Planner II| Planning Division | PBCE City of San José | 200 East Santa Clara Street

Email: cassandra.vanderzweep@sanjoseca.gov | Phone: (408)-535-7659

From: Thomas Caudill < law.caudill@sbcglobal.net>

Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 3:46 PM

To: Van Der Zweep, Cassandra; Peralez, Raul; esakai@studios2arch.com

Subject: Project: 1036 N. 4th Street, San Jose, CA/Hotel

Ms. Van Der Zweep, Mr. Peralez and Mr. Sakai:

I am the Co-trustee of the Trust which owns the property located at 1025 N. 4th Street, San Jose. The 1025 N. 4th Street property is located across the street from the proposed hotel construction project located at 1036 N. 4th Street, San Jose, CA (the "Hotel Project"). It is my understanding that the Patels are the record owners of the Hotel Project and that they have applied for a permit to develop the subject site.

The Patels have allowed me to review the project plans and to discuss the Hotel Project. Based upon my review of the plans and my discussion with Anil Patel, I support the Hotel Project for the following non-inclusive reasons:

- 1. Building a hotel at the site appears to be an efficient use of the property.
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- 3. Re-use of the land would not only improve the area, but it would allow development to take place in close proximity to businesses, the airport and public transport.
- 4. The Patels have been at the location for more than 45 years. They are a family run operation. The Patels continued presence would allow a boutique-style family run hotel to continue to serve the community.
- 5. The Hotel Project would appear to provide a larger tax stream for the City's general fund than the existing hotel.

I have no objection to the proposed Hotel improvement. Nor am I aware of any opposition to the Hotel Project.

Should you wish to discuss my positions to the proposed Hotel Project, or should you have any questions, please call me.

Very truly yours,

Thomas Caudill

THE LAW OFFICE OF THOMAS CAUDILL 1025 North Fourth Street San Jose, CA 95112-4942 (408) 298-4844 (408) 298-5148 Fax law.caudill@sbcglobal.net

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From: Val Lopez <vlopez@amahmutsun.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 10:48 AM

**To:** Mahamood, Reema

**Subject:** Re: San José Planning, Public Review Draft MND: North 4th Street Hotel

Ms. Mahamood,

This project is outside our traditional tribal territory, we have no comment.

Valentin Lopez, Chair Amah Mutsun Tribal Band 916-743-5833