



BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

COALITION PARTNERS:

Bike SLO County  
Boys and Girls Club – South County  
Cal Poly State University  
Center for Sustainability  
Food Science & Nutrition Department  
Kinesiology Department  
CenCal Health  
City of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation  
Community Action Partnership of SLO  
Community Foundation of SLO County  
Dairy Council of California  
Diringer & Associates  
First 5 San Luis Obispo County  
Food Bank Coalition of SLO County  
French Hospital Medical Center  
HomeShareSLO  
Lucia Mar Unified School District  
One Cool Earth  
Rideshare – Safe Routes to School  
San Luis Sports Therapy  
SLO Council of Governments  
SLO County Departments:  
Board of Supervisors  
Health Commission  
Planning and Building  
Public Health  
SLO County Office of Education  
UC Cooperative Extension  
YMCA of SLO County

December 20, 2019

Shawna Scott, Senior Planner  
City of San Luis Obispo  
Community Development Department  
919 Palm Street  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

RE: Froom Ranch Specific Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Scott,

The Healthy Communities Work Group has reviewed the Froom Ranch DEIR. Overall, our group supports the “Actionable Alternative”, or “Alternative 1” of the project design; however, we recommend the following improvements or considerations to promote community health:

**Include improvements to enhance bicycle and pedestrian safety.**

The California Office of Traffic Safety ranked San Luis Obispo County as the 6<sup>th</sup> worst county in the state for bicycle safety based on collision numbers<sup>1</sup>. Bicycle safety was recently identified as a priority issue in the 2018-2023 *Community Health Improvement Plan*, including a specific objective to “reduce the number of bicycle-involved motor vehicle collision injuries by 10% by Dec. 2020”.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, only 28.8% of adults in San Luis Obispo County walk regularly (150 minutes per week or more)<sup>3</sup>. Safe, accessible bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure are critical to support and promote the health of residents. The Healthy Communities Work Group recommends that a Class IV bikeway is included along Los Osos Valley Road from Calle Joaquin to Froom Ranch Road, in accordance with the recently adopted Bicycle Transportation Plan. We also recommend the addition of a marked and signalized pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Auto Way and Los Osos Valley Road. Finally, we recommend that the City explore a secondary access point to LOVR or Calle Joaquin to improve connectivity and provide an additional emergency evacuation route.

**Improve transit facilities/services to encourage use of public transportation.**

Research has demonstrated that enabling potentially isolated populations, such as seniors and the disabled, to utilize public transportation is critical to promoting their social and mental health, allowing them to age in place and maintain a critical support network<sup>4</sup>. The Healthy Communities Work Group recommends that provisions are made to decrease bus headways to 10 or 15 minutes to better serve the transit-dependent population, and to attract non-transit-dependent users.

COALITION PARTNERS:

Bike SLO County  
Boys and Girls Club – South County  
Cal Poly State University  
Center for Sustainability  
Food Science & Nutrition Department  
Kinesiology Department  
CenCal Health  
City of San Luis Obispo Parks and Recreation  
Community Action Partnership of SLO  
Community Foundation of SLO County  
Dairy Council of California  
Diringer & Associates  
First 5 San Luis Obispo County  
Food Bank Coalition of SLO County  
French Hospital Medical Center  
HomeShareSLO  
Lucia Mar Unified School District  
One Cool Earth  
Rideshare – Safe Routes to School  
San Luis Sports Therapy  
SLO Council of Governments  
SLO County Departments:  
Board of Supervisors  
Health Commission  
Planning and Building  
Public Health  
SLO County Office of Education  
UC Cooperative Extension  
YMCA of SLO County

**Maximize commercial/retail space as a resource to residents.**

The inclusion of 100,000 sq/ft of commercial/retail space can provide numerous services and benefits to residents; however, a 70,000 sq/ft hotel does not serve residents or nearby communities. The Healthy Communities Work Group recommends that the commercial/retail space is maximized to provide services to residents, build community, and thus support health.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Teaford  
Chair, Healthy Communities Work Group

<sup>1</sup> [The CA Office of Traffic Safety Report](#) (2015)

<sup>2</sup> [Community Health Improvement Plan](#), Injuries, pg 43

<sup>3</sup> [SLOHealthCounts.org](#), *Adults Who Walk Regularly*, 2014

<sup>4</sup> The Role of the Built Environment in Healthy Aging: Community Design, Physical Activity, and Health among Older Adults. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 43-60.