

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7 – Office of Regional Planning
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 269-1124
FAX (213) 897-1337
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



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a California Way of Life.*

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

October 21, 2021

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Tim Fargo
City of Los Angeles
Department of City Planning
200 N. Spring Street, Room 260
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: The Curtis School Master Plan – Mitigated
Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2013081046
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03702
Vic. LA-405/PM: 37.024

Dear Tim Fargo:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced MND. The Project proposes modifications to an existing educational facility, including the removal of approximately 23,010 square feet of buildings and the addition of approximately 82,940 square feet of school facilities. The new school facilities include the expansion of existing structures, a new Classroom Building, a new Science Building, a new Performing Arts Building, a new Gymnasium Building, and a new Commons Building, for a net increase of 59,930 square feet. Upon buildout of the Project, between 10 and 20 classrooms would be added and the Project Site would consist of 130,053 square feet of school facilities. The Project would not increase Curtis School's 675 student enrollment cap, however, a total of approximately 50 additional faculty and staff members could be hired. The Project would also reconfigure the parking area and athletic fields to eliminate the conflict between students and cars when accessing the fields. A total of approximately 189 marked parking spaces would be provided in the newly relocated surface parking areas. The City of Los Angeles is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project is located approximately 1,300 feet from the Interstate 405 (I-405) and Skirball Center Drive interchange. From reviewing the MND, Caltrans concurs that the project will have less than significant Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) impacts.

The following information is included for your consideration. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Furthermore, Caltrans encourages Lead Agencies to implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies that reduce VMT and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Thus, Caltrans supports the TDM strategies this project has incorporated, such as providing landscaped pedestrian walkways on-site. Additional TDM strategies that the City may want to consider integrating into this project to further reduce VMT include:

- Require that 80%, rather than 50%, of the 50 new potential staff and faculty members carpool.
- Verify that no more parking than required is provided.
- Reinstitute and expand the busing program that was in operation during 2016-2017.

*"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people
and respects the environment."*

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For additional TDM options, please refer to the Federal Highway Administration's *Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference* (Chapter 8). This reference is available online at:

<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/fhwahop12035.pdf>

You can also refer to the 2010 *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), which is available online at:

<http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>

Also, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit the Construction Staging and Traffic Management Plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Alan Lin, the project coordinator, at Alan.Lin@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2021-03702.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse