

California Department of Transportation

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11-SD-I-5
PM 12.9- 19.0
Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)
Port Master Plan Update SCH 2017031070

Dennis Campbell
San Diego Unified Port District
Dept. of Planning
3165 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Port Master Plan Update (PMPU) located near Interstate 5 (I-5) and State Route (SR-75). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We are striving for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety on the transportation network. These pursuits are both ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

We look forward to working with the Port of San Diego in areas where the Port and Caltrans have joint jurisdiction to improve the transportation network and connections

between various modes of travel, with the goal of improving the experience of those who use the transportation system.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Traffic Analysis

The San Diego Unified Port District as the lead agency for this project, should be in alignment with state policies and state goals on evaluating transportation impacts under CEQA. Please see the following links for reference.

December 2018 Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts:
https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743_Technical_Advisory.pdf

Governor's Office of Planning and Research:
<https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/sb-743/>

Section 4.14.1 Transportation, Circulation, and Mobility of the DEIR document identifies a significant increase in VMT due to the future development of the PMPU projects. These VMT impacts are stated to be significant and unavoidable. The Port of San Diego should seek additional methods to address these VMT impacts. These VMT impacts are not in alignment with state VMT and emissions reduction goals. Please coordinate with Caltrans to identify mitigation measures or other alternatives that can be implemented to mitigate project impacts.

Please coordinate with Caltrans and provide a focused traffic analysis when available for project specific future developments covered under the PMPU document.

Chapter 5.2- Planning District 2: Harbor Island, Roadway Improvements proposes a narrowing of North Harbor Drive to four general travel lanes. Early coordination with Caltrans and other local stakeholders is strongly recommended when discussing this proposal.

- *Section 5.2.5(C) Planned Improvements* states modifications to Pacific Highway to accommodate vehicular traffic, pathways, and bikeways. Please provide more details for this proposal.

Complete Streets and Mobility Network

Caltrans views all transportation improvements as opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers in California and recognizes bicycle, pedestrian, and transit modes as integral elements of the transportation network. Caltrans supports improved transit accommodation through the

provision of improved bicycle and pedestrian access and safety improvements, signal prioritization for transit, bus on shoulders, ramp improvements, park and ride facilities or other enhancements that promote a complete and integrated transportation network. Early coordination with Caltrans in locations that may affect both Caltrans and other responsible agencies is encouraged.

Caltrans looks forward to working with the Port of San Diego and other responsible agencies to evaluate this project and other potential complete streets and active transportation projects.

Caltrans released the "Contextual Guidance for Bike Facilities" Memorandum in March 2020 to identify the preferred bikeway facility type in areas where bikeway facility installations are planned. Please utilize this guidance memorandum as a tool for selecting the most appropriate bicycle facility type in locations where improvements are proposed in Caltrans' right-of-way. The following is a link to the "Contextual Guidance for Bike Facilities" Memorandum: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/office-of-smart-mobility-and-climate-change/planning-contextual-guidance-memo-03-11-20-a11y.pdf>.

Noise

The applicant must be informed that in accordance with 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 772, Caltrans is not responsible for existing or future traffic noise impacts associated with the existing configuration of I-5 and SR-75.

System Planning

For section 4.14.3.2, please coordinate with SANDAG, Caltrans, and local agencies to identify alignment of mobility hubs and project overlap in the South Bay to Sorrento Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP), currently in development with Caltrans. Please see the link below for reference.

<https://www.sandag.org/index.asp?classid=12&subclassid=83&projectid=608&fusection=projects.detail>

For section 4.14.3.3, coordinate with Caltrans District 11 and U.S. Navy on environmental assessment on efforts to reroute traffic via the Vesta Street Bridge.

As part of land use and greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) reduction efforts, please consider emerging fuel technologies and refueling site locations for future freight and passenger ZEV deployment.

State Route Relinquishments

In recent months, the Coronado City Council has approved a Caltrans relinquishment package for State Routes (SR-75) and SR-282. Although the relinquishment has not been fully approved by the California Transportation Commission (CTC), please consider the potential long-term impacts on local development, roadway maintenance, and funding thought-out the PMPU development process. Both SR-75 and SR-282 are in PMPU District 10 and is the important link between North and South Coronado Subdistricts.

Freight/Goods Movement

In October 2020, the Port of San Diego approved a framework Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Caltrans and SANDAG for the Harbor Drive 2.0- A Greener, Safer, Healthier Harbor Drive project. Caltrans appreciates the collaborative planning for transportation infrastructure and anticipates further coordination with the Port of San Diego for the PMPU project area.

Right-of-Way

Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide an approved final environmental document, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits, specifically, CEQA determination or exemption.

If you have any questions, please contact Roger Sanchez at (619) 987-1043 or by email at roger.sanchez-rangel@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Maurice A. Eaton

MAURICE A. EATON
Branch Chief
Local Development Review