

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

May 31, 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

May 31, 2019

11-SD-78
PM 18.562
Palomar Heights
NOP/SCH # 2019059013Mr. Adam Finestone
City of Escondido
201 North Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

Dear Mr. Finestone:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review for Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) (SCH# 2019059013) for the Palomar Heights project located on Valley Blvd. and E. Grand Avenue near State Route 78 (SR-78) in the city of Escondido. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Traffic Impact Study

A traffic impact study (TIS) is necessary to determine this proposed project's near-term and long-term impacts to the State facilities – existing and proposed – and to propose appropriate mitigation measures.

- The geographic area examined in the TIS should also include, at a minimum, all regionally significant arterial system segments and intersections, including State highway facilities where the project will add over 100 peak hour trips. State highway facilities that are experiencing noticeable delays should be analyzed in the scope of the traffic study for projects that add 50 to 100 peak hour trips.
- A focused analysis may be required for project trips assigned to a State highway facility that is experiencing significant delay, such as where traffic queues exceed ramp storage capacity.

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- In addition, the TIS could also consider implementing vehicles miles traveled (VMT) analysis into their modeling projections.
- Any increase in goods movement operations and its impacts to State highway facilities should be addressed in the TIS.
- The data used in the TIS should not be more than 2 years old.
- Please provide Synchro Version 10 files.
- Early coordination is recommended.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark McCumsey at (619) 688-6802 or by email at mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Melina Pereira". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MELINA PEREIRA, Acting Branch Chief
Local Development and Intergovernmental Review Branch