

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 7 – Office of Regional Planning  
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
PHONE (213) 897-0475  
FAX (213) 897-1337  
TTY 711  
www.dot.ca.gov



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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Apr 05 2021**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

April 5, 2021

Joel Duarte  
Hacienda La Puente Unified School District  
15959 East Gale Avenue  
Industry, CA 91716

RE: Wedgeworth K-8 School and Residential  
Development – Recirculated Draft  
Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)  
GTS # 07-LA-2019-03501  
SCH # 2019071040  
Vic. LA-60/PM: 17.673

Dear Joel Duarte:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The Hacienda La Puente Unified School District is proposing to redevelop a 20-acre project site in phases to construct a new expanded K-8 school serving 1,200 students on 10 acres in Phase 1 and up to 160 residential units in Phase 2. The 20-acre site consists of the existing Wedgeworth Elementary School with a maximum student enrollment capacity of 600 K-5 students, four baseball fields with nighttime lighting for two of the fields, and a vacant lot. The Hacienda La Puente Unified School District (District) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The nearest State facility to the proposed project is State Route 60 (SR-60), which is located adjacent to the project. As discussed in the recirculated DEIR, since the original DEIR was released, Senate Bill (SB) 743 has taken effect. SB 743 mandates that Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) be used as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts of all future development projects under CEQA starting July 1, 2020. Thus, Caltrans has reviewed the recirculated DEIR from a VMT rather than a Level of Service perspective.

Regarding the VMT analysis for the residential development portion of the proposed project, Caltrans supports the implementation of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures to reduce the VMT impact of this project portion to the greatest extent possible. The school district may wish to consider requiring a mitigation monitoring program from the developer, which could be used to evaluate whether the specific TDM measures chosen decreased VMT. If they have not, the TDM measures could then be adjusted accordingly.

Regarding the VMT analysis for the school expansion portion of the project, it states "Since the school boundary of Wedgeworth School after expansion is unknown, it is assumed that these 600 students who should go to Cedarlane Academy before the school expansion will be enrolled in Wedgeworth K-8 School after the school expansion." Please clarify why it was assumed that all 600 new students will come from Cedarlane Academy because the boundary of new school is unknown. The VMT analysis also states, "the project would not have an influence on VMT associated with students attending from outside District boundaries." Please provide a reason for this.

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The following information is included for your consideration.

For information on determining transportation impacts in terms of VMT on the State Highway System, see the Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA by the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, dated December 2018: [http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743\\_Technical\\_Advisory.pdf](http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743_Technical_Advisory.pdf). You can also refer to Caltrans' updated *Vehicle Miles Traveled-Focused Transportation Impact Study Guide* (TISG), dated May 2020 and released on Caltrans' website in July 2020: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/sb-743/2020-05-20-approved-vmt-focused-tisg-a11y.pdf>. This TISG replaces Caltrans' 2002 Guide for the Preparation of Traffic Impact Studies and is largely based on the OPR 2018 Technical Advisory.

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. Caltrans looks forward to reviewing the construction worksite staging and traffic control plan. We also appreciate the following statement: "The proposed project will be required to comply with the County-approved plan measures, or Caltrans-approved plan measures if any state facilities are affected."

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact project coordinator Emily Gibson, at [Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov) and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2019-03501.

Sincerely,

*Anthony Higgins for*

MIYA EDMONSON  
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief  
cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse