

**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



*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.*

October 29, 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**OCT 29 2019**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Mr. Tom Afschar  
Los Angeles County  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

RE: Whittier Aquatics Facility – Mitigated  
Negative Declaration (MND)  
SCH # 2019099103  
GTS # 07-LA-2019-02850  
Vic. LA-72/PM: 6.533  
LA-605/PM: R12.072

Dear Mr. Tom Afschar:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced MND. The proposed project consists of constructing a new aquatics facility which would include the following: a pool building with offices, classrooms, restrooms and storage; an Olympic-size 55-yard by 25-yard competitive swimming pool; and a 27-yard by 25-yard practice pool. Los Angeles County is considered the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The proposed project is located approximately 300 feet from Interstate 605 (I-605) and one mile away from State Route 72 (SR-72).

The following information is included for your consideration.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. Furthermore, Caltrans encourages the Lead Agency to integrate transportation and land use in a way that reduces Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, as well as facilitates a high level of non-motorized travel and transit use. Per our phone conversation on October 29, 2019, Caltrans supports the Travel Demand Management (TDM) measures that Los Angeles County is considering incorporating into this project. Specific TDM and Transportation System Management (TSM) strategies that the County might want to consider integrating into this project include:

- Provide safe and secure bike parking and racks at the new facility
- Create high-visibility continental crosswalks at all street intersections on Pioneer Boulevard and Washington Boulevard that are adjacent to the project
- Design Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible sidewalks and curb ramps along both sides of Pioneer Boulevard
- Offer carpool parking spaces at the facility
- Install standard school zone signs and markings as per the latest version of the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD) around the facility

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Mr. Tom Afschar  
October 29, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

- Synchronize nearby traffic signals
- Implement a Class IV bike facility along Pioneer Boulevard

Please make every attempt to reduce VMT. For additional TDM options that can reduce VMT, please refer to:

- The 2010 *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), available at <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>, or
- *Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference* (Chapter 8) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), available at <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/index.htm>

As a reminder, Senate Bill 743 (2013) mandates that VMT be used as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts of all future development projects under CEQA, starting July 1, 2020. 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).

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. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

Finally, storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Los Angeles county. Please be mindful that the project needs to be designed to discharge clean run-off water.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Gibson, the project coordinator, at [Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov), and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2019-02850.

Sincerely,



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