

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 12

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Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

**NOV 20 2019****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

November 20, 2019

Wendy Jung  
City of Laguna Beach  
505 Forest Avenue  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

File: IGR/CEQA  
SCH#: 201909-65  
12-ORA-2019-01254  
SR 133, PM 0.661  
SR 1, PM 9.384

Dear Ms. Jung,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Negative Declaration for the proposed Downtown Specific Plan Update project in the City of Laguna Beach. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

The proposed project proposes an update of the Downtown Specific Plan to provide policy direction and implementation measures in Downtown Laguna Beach. Regional access to the plan area is provided by SR 133 and SR 1 (PCH). Caltrans is a commenting agency for this project and upon review, we have the following comments:

**Active Transportation**

1. Caltrans understands the proposed project does not include any development. However, please consider including a discussion on existing and planned bicycle facilities. Both SR 1 and SR 133 are major bicycle corridors and should be considered when analyzing transportation impacts of future projects.
2. Bikes and e-bikes (which are becoming increasingly popular) are a healthy and sustainable form of transportation. Improving safety, comfort, and connectivity can increase biking among all ages and abilities while helping reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).
3. Bicycle infrastructure helps create a multimodal environment for the project area, thus encouraging Complete Streets. Developing Complete Streets promotes the use of Active Transportation, which increases safety

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system  
to enhance California's economy and livability"*

for all roadway users, decreases congestion, increases regional connectivity, and improves air quality.

### **Freight**

4. Please consider overnight parking and well-lit parking lots to accommodate truckers rather than empty lots or side streets. Ensure adequate truck parking is onsite for trucks or that there are nearby areas for trucks to stage and park while they are waiting for pick-ups/drop offs.
5. In order to reduce conflicts with traffic and bicycles, please consider directing deliveries to loading docks away from curbside. Please also consider redesigning outdated loading docks to accommodate new freight truck design. Utility alley space could be utilized if available, to take trucks off street curbs.

### **Transportation Planning**

6. Please consider implementing access management reduction strategies within the Laguna Beach Specific Plan. These strategies would consolidate access along conventional state facilities and reduce points of conflict between drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians.

This could potentially increase safety, through increased visibility for all modes of transportation, and increase throughput to the traveling public and transit efficiency. Consolidation of access points could lead to several options such as an increase in on street parking, and/or street furnishing for pedestrians and local businesses.

### **Encroachment Permits:**

7. Any project work proposed in the vicinity of the State Right-of-Way (ROW) would require an encroachment permit and all environmental concerns must be adequately addressed. If the environmental documentation for the project does not meet Caltrans's requirements for work done within State ROW, additional documentation would be required before approval of the encroachment permit. Please coordinate with Caltrans to meet requirements for any work within or near State ROW. For specific details for Encroachment Permits procedure, please refer to the Caltrans's Encroachment Permits Manual at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

Please continue to keep us informed of future developments within the Downtown Specific Plan Area as well as any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions or need to contact us, please do not hesitate to contact Joseph Jamoralin at (657) 328-6276 or [Joseph.Jamoralin@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Joseph.Jamoralin@dot.ca.gov)

Sincerely,



SCOTT SHELLEY  
Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning  
District 12