

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Sep 22 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

September 22, 2020

Albert Anidi  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works  
900 S. Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, CA 91803

RE: Harrison Elementary School Soundwall –  
Recirculated Mitigated Negative Declaration  
(RMND)  
SCH # 2020039001  
GTS # 07-LA-2020-03372  
Vic. LA-10/PM: 19.901

Dear Albert Anidi:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced RMND. The soundwall would be constructed at the School's north property line adjacent to the sidewalk on the south side of Marengo Street. Accounting for the gaps in the barriers, the proposed soundwall would be approximately 630 feet long and consist of rigid soundwalls and somewhat less permanent and massive noise barriers. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACPW) is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

In March 2020 Caltrans reviewed the original MND for this project and sent a letter to LACPW stating that it did not expect project approval to result in a direct adverse impact to existing State transportation facilities. Since then, LACPW determined that the project had design issues, such as that it would create a blind corner for pedestrians at the point where the wall aligns in front of the pedestrian bridge.

Thus, the soundwall was redesigned from a 550-foot long, 16-foot high solid masonry wall to a 630-foot long wall comprised of rigid soundwalls and less permanent noise barriers. Also, a new mitigation measure on pedestrian safety during construction was added to the transportation section of the MND.

Due to these changes, LACPW recirculated the IS/MND. From reviewing the new MND, Caltrans still does not expect project approval to result in a direct adverse impact to State transportation facilities. In addition, we support implementing the new pedestrian safety measures as well as the Traffic Control Plan. We look forward to reviewing the Traffic Control Plan, if construction traffic is expected to cause delays on any State facilities. We also appreciate LACPW applying for a Caltrans Transportation Permit, if needed.

If you have any questions about these comments, 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-2020-03372.

Sincerely,

*Miya Edmonson*

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