

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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7/31/2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Jul 09 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

July 6, 2020

Vincent Gonzalez
Director of Planning & Community Preservation Department
City of Sierra Madre
232 West Sierra Madre Boulevard
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

RE: Sunnyside Terrace – Notice of Preparation
(NOP)
SCH# 2020060534
GTS# 07-LA-2020-03299
Vic. LA-210 PM R30.002

Dear Vincent Gonzalez,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The proposed project will develop approximately the lower 20 acres of the property with 42 detached single-family dwellings and a 3 to 3.5 acre dedicated neighborhood park.

The nearest State facility to the proposed project is State Route 210. After reviewing the NOP, Caltrans has the following comments:

As required by SB 743, VMT is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after the July 1, 2020 statewide implementation date. The City of Sierra Madre, as the lead agency, has discretion to develop and adopt its own thresholds of significance. Caltrans encourages VMT reduction thresholds that meet or exceed those recommended by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

Currently the project is designed in a way that induces a high number of trips per household due to being exclusively large-lot, single-family residential. The Lead Agency is encouraged to integrate transportation and land use in a way that reduces VMT and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by facilitating the provision of more proximate goods and services to shorten trip lengths and achieve a high level of non-motorized travel and transit use. Caltrans recommends the prioritization of nearby transit service, increasing residential density, and mixing land uses to more effectively address the significant VMT that this project will create.

Additionally, 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.

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If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2020-03299.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON

IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse