

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.*

7/30/2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Jul 31 2020**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

July 30, 2020

11-SD-78

11-SD-15

City of Escondido 2020 Climate Action Plan  
IS/MND/SCH #2020079003

Mr. Michael Strong  
Assistant Planning Director  
City of Escondido Community Development Department  
201 North Broadway  
Escondido, CA 92025

Dear Mr. Strong:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the City of Escondido 2020 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (SCH # 2020079003) for the City of Escondido as it relates to Interstate 15 (I-15) and State Route 78 (SR-78). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Overall, the CAP appears to be consistent with Caltrans Sustainability initiatives and policies.

Caltrans recommends collaboration between our agency and the City of Escondido on the proposed transportation related strategies, measures, and actions outlined in the CAP Update and associated IS/MND. Caltrans routes (interstate and highway) fall within the City of Escondido and Caltrans Local Assistance regularly aids City projects with federal funding. Transportation projects within the City pose excellent opportunities to employ strategies, measures, and actions outlined in the CAP that are also consistent with Caltrans Sustainability initiatives. Additionally, Caltrans and the City of Escondido may be

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able to collaborate on a local and regional level regarding emergency preparedness and evacuation routes (extreme weather and wildfires).

Caltrans D11 Vulnerability Assessment Summary and Technical Report (<https://transplanning.onramp.dot.ca.gov/climate-change-vulnerability-assessments-0>) are available for the City to utilize in their CAP implementation.

Caltrans recommends considering the addition of teleworking discussions regarding vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

Consider Including effects of COVID-19, with respect to the dates proposed in the measures. Are the dates still attainable?

In Section 5.3 of the Plan, many of the strategies place additional requirements and costs on development, including residential developments. Consider addressing the impacts on housing affordability, inclusive of the City's economically vulnerable populations.

### **Multi-Modal Transportation / Complete Streets**

Caltrans supports strategies and measures described in the City of Escondido CAP. Caltrans recognizes there is a strong link between building an efficient multi-modal transportation system that helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improving climate change resiliency. Caltrans supports collaboration with local agencies to work towards a safe, sustainable, interconnected, multi-modal transportation system integrated through efficient land use patterns that affect both local vehicle miles traveled and the number of trips.

Caltrans has ongoing efforts to expand its Zero Emission Vehicle fleet and install Electric Vehicle Charging stations. Early coordination for these types of efforts is encouraged when considering improvements that may encroach Caltrans Right of Way (R/W). Caltrans commends the City's strategy to reduce GHG through the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at the City's Park and Ride facilities. Caltrans encourages the City to take advantage of infrastructure funding opportunities as they become available.

Caltrans is in the process of developing its first District Active Transportation Plan. The Caltrans Active Transportation (CAT) Plan will refer to available planning documents such as local active transportation plans or safe routes to school

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plans to identify location-based needs. Also, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve California's Climate Change target, Caltrans is implementing Complete Streets and Climate Change policies into State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects to meet multi-modal mobility needs. Caltrans looks forward to working with the City of Escondido to evaluate potential of Active Transportation or Complete Streets projects. For more information regarding the District 11 CAT Plan, please contact Vanessa De La Rosa at [vanessa.delarosa@dot.ca.gov](mailto:vanessa.delarosa@dot.ca.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Mark McCumsey at (619) 688-6802 or by email at [mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov](mailto:mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**electronically signed by**

MAURICE EATON, Branch Chief  
Local Development and Intergovernmental Review Branch