

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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a California Way of Life.*

8/13/2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Aug 12 2020**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

August 12, 2020

Travis Gonsalves
City of Ventura, Department of Public Works
501 Poli Street
Ventura, CA 93001

RE: Eastside to Westside Waterline
Interconnection Project – Mitigated
negative Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2020079009
GTS # 07-VEN-2020-00411
Vic. VEN-126/PM: 2.22

Dear Travis Gonsalves:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-mentioned project's Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The City is proposing to construct the infrastructure necessary to move water from the eastside of the City to the westside, primarily when westside supplies have been reduced or are otherwise less available and during peak demand scenarios. Currently the City's water system does not have a way to move a sufficient amount of water from the eastside to the westside of the City.

Under Senate Bill 743 (2013), CEQA review of transportation impacts of a proposed development are adapting to eliminate consideration of delay-and capacity-based metrics such as level of service (LOS) and are instead focusing analysis on another metric of impact, "Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)". Effective July 1st, 2020, Caltrans is replacing LOS with VMT when evaluating traffic impacts.

For any future project, we encourage the Lead Agency to adopt or develop a verifiable performance-based Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) criteria as required by SB 743.

After reviewing the project's MND Caltrans has the following comments:

- The MND indicates that with mitigation a less than significant impact may occur to the transportation/circulation system. As indicated in the MND a Construction Traffic Management Plan will be completed, please consider sending this plan to Caltrans for approval.
- Please consider scheduling the construction working hours during off peak hours to the maximum extent possible. This may minimize congestion and provide higher levels of safety to the pedestrians and vehicular traffic on the streets and freeway.
- The MND indicates that significant earth moving activities may take place during construction. Please consider covering all vehicles hauling dirt and sediment as

unplanned spills can potentially adversely impact the performance of the state highway system.

Further information included for your consideration:

Please consider integrating 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.

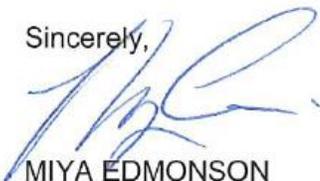
Caltrans seeks to promote safe, accessible multimodal transportation. Methods to reduce pedestrian and bicyclist exposure to vehicles improves safety by lessening the time that the user is in the likely path of a motor vehicle. Caltrans recommends the project consider the use of methods such as, but not limited to, the construction of physically separated facilities such as sidewalks, raised medians, refuge islands, and off-road paths and trails, or a reduction in crossing distances through roadway narrowing.

Additionally, pedestrian and bicyclist warning signage, flashing beacons, crosswalks, signage and striping can be used to indicate to motorists that they should expect to see and yield to pedestrians and bicyclists. Visual indication from signage can be reinforced by road design features such as lane widths, landscaping, street furniture, and other design elements.

As a reminder, 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

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact project coordinator Reece Allen, at reece.allen@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-VEN-2020-00411

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse