

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

**Aug 18 2020****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

August 17, 2020

11-IMP-8  
11-IMP-86  
2040 City of El Centro General Plan Update  
NOP/PEIR  
SCH #2020070349

Mr. Angel Hernandez  
Associate Planner  
City of El Centro  
Community Development Department  
Planning and Zoning Division  
1275 West Main Street  
El Centro, CA 92243

Dear Mr. Hernandez:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the 2040 City of El Centro General Plan Update Notice of Preparation (NOP) Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), (SCH #2020070349). 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 Caltrans' mission and state planning priorities.

Caltrans has the following comments:

**Environmental**

Caltrans appreciates the opportunity to comment on this Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the General Plan. The analysis presented may impact on Caltrans Right-of-Way (R/W) in the future.



*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.*

Should future projects based upon the changes enacted from the Program EIR have elements and/or mitigation measures change to effect Caltrans R/W, Caltrans would welcome the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and to the continued coordination of our efforts.

### **Traffic Engineering Analysis**

1. In accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 743 and as of July 1, 2020, Caltrans requires all public agencies to evaluate impacts associated with future developments to use vehicle miles traveled (VMT) to evaluate transportation impacts on the State Highway System. Please provide a traffic impact study using the Caltrans-Vehicles Miles Traveled-Focused-Transportation Impact Study Guide - May 20, 2020.
2. During the COVID-19, the numbers of vehicle miles traveled along California's highways and local arterials have significantly decreased. For traffic counts not collected prior to March 13, 2020, it has been determined that utilizing historical traffic data as foundation from past projects and partner agencies may be used to replace existing traffic counts, subject to sound engineering justification. Traffic volumes collected within the last two years are generally acceptable. Traffic counts collected during the COVID-19 crisis should not be accepted due to atypical traffic patterns during the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. For all Caltrans owned signalized intersections affected by any proposed future developments shall be analyzed using the intersection lane vehicles (ILV) per hour method as indicated on the Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM), Topic 406, Ramp Intersection Capacity Analysis.
4. For the proposed General Plan Traffic Study, please include the following locations:
  - a. Interstate 8 (I-8) freeways segments in the westbound and eastbound directions between Forrester Road Interchange and State Route 111 (SR-111) Interchange.
  - b. Freeway Ramps Intersection locations:

- i. Eastbound I-8 Ramps and Imperial Avenue.
    - ii. Westbound I-8 Ramps and Imperial Avenue.
    - iii. Eastbound I-8 Ramps and 4<sup>th</sup> Street.
    - iv. Westbound I-8 Ramps and 4<sup>th</sup> Street.
    - v. Eastbound I-8 Ramps and Dogwood Road
    - vi. Westbound I-8 Ramps and Dogwood Road.
  - b. All intersections along State Route 86 (SR-86) between McCabe Road to Aten Road.
5. A Traffic Investigation Analysis will be required for any development that has an ingress and egress, that is adjacent to the State Highway System. This Traffic Investigation Analysis will require a summary identifying possible mitigation measures for any significant traffic safety-related impacts to Caltrans facilities.
  6. Opportunity Areas 1 & 2 are proposing to increase trip generation and pedestrian traffic along SR-86 by changing land use density, outdoor uses, walkable streetscape, increasing stores and residences, and creating more parking. All proposed improvements along SR-86 must comply to design standards as specified in the Caltrans HDM.
  7. All pedestrian facilities that are within Caltrans R/W must comply with Caltrans Design Information Bulletin (DIB) 82-06.
  8. Any proposed intersection expansion or modification will require an Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) report as required by the Caltrans Traffic Operations Policy Directive # 13-02.
  9. Caltrans District 11 is currently developing a draft Project Initiation Document (PID) to consider a relinquishment of SR-86. The PID will provide an estimate to bring SR-86 to a "Good State of Repair" and provide the basis to work with the City to relinquish the highway. Streets and Highway Code Section 386 has already been revised to accommodate the relinquishment of SR-86.

Ms. Angel Hernandez  
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### **Complete Streets/Mobility Network**

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 general plans, active transportation plans or safe routes to school 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 El Centro to evaluate potential of Active Transportation or Complete Streets improvements that may interact with Caltrans R/W as part of the City of El Centro's General Plan. 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, of the Caltrans Development Review Branch, at (619) 688-6802 or by e-mail sent to [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