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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Oct 22 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

October 21, 2020

Kimberly Henry
City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
221 N. Figueroa Street, Room 1350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Harvard-Westlake River Park Project –
Notice of Preparation (NOP)
SCH# 2020090536
GTS# 07-LA-2020-03379
Vic. LA-101 / PM 13.504

Dear Kimberly Henry:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. Harvard-Westlake School is proposing to redevelop 17.2-acres as an athletic and recreational facility for the School and for shared public use. The Project would remove an existing golf course and tennis facility in order to develop two athletic fields with bleacher seating, ancillary field buildings, an 80,249-square-foot two-story multi-purpose gymnasium, a 52-meter swimming pool with seating and a pool house, eight tennis courts with seating, one level of below-grade parking and a surface parking lot. The Project would include ancillary field buildings, a pool house, a security kiosk, exterior light poles, fencing, and retention of the existing clubhouse structure, putting green, and "golf ball" ornamental light fixtures. The Project would include a 1- million-gallon stormwater capture and reuse system. The Project would also provide approximately 5.4 acres of publicly-accessible open space and landscaped trails and would include off-site improvements. Project development would require excavation and grading to a maximum depth of approximately 21 feet below grade and a net cut/fill volume of approximately 250,000 cubic yards.

The nearest State facility to the proposed project is US 101. After reviewing the NOP, Caltrans concurs with the inclusion of the following project elements:

- Storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Los Angeles County. The included stormwater capture and reuse system is a benefit to both the project and regional water management.
- A net increase of 110 native trees is a much-needed addition to regional green infrastructure, which can combat the heat island effect, improve air quality, capture water, and provide shade.
- The inclusion of both short- and long-term bicycle parking facilities allows park users to conveniently choose to ride their bicycle to the park as a viable transportation option.

- A new ADA compliant ramp connecting Coldwater Canyon Avenue to the Zev Greenway Trail is especially beneficial as it provides additional connectivity for all users of the trail and improves the overall transportation network for people walking and riding bicycles.

Caltrans looks forward to reviewing the full project details in the forthcoming Draft Environmental Impact Report. Until then, please send any questions to the project coordinator, Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2020-03379.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON

IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse