

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Nov 19 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

November 19, 2020

Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi
Sulphur Springs Union School District
2700 Weyerhaeuser Way
Santa Clarita, CA 91351

RE: Pinetree Community School Project –
Negative Declaration (ND)
SCH # 2020110205
GTS # 07-LA-2020-03419
Vic. LA-14/PM: 34.832

Dear Dr. Catherine Kawaguchi:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced ND. The proposed Project would address modernization of existing classrooms at Pinetree Community School, incorporate improvements related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and upgrade utilities, site infrastructure, and the fire alarm system. The proposed Project will include construction of a new one-story, 16,175-square-foot classroom building and a new 5,500-square-foot Student Support Services building. Additional improvements include upgrades to paths of travel and bathroom accessibility and upgrades to the public address system. The Sulphur Springs Union School District is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project is located approximately 2,500 feet from sections of State Route 14 (SR-14) in Los Angeles County. From reviewing the ND, Caltrans concurs with the following: "The Project is the modernization of an existing school site and does not include any growth or capacity increase from either increased student population or operational uses. Therefore, there would be no increase in vehicle trips associated with the site after the completion of the modernization and impacts would be less than significant." Therefore, the following information is included for your consideration.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. Furthermore, Caltrans encourages Lead Agencies to implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies that reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. Thus, Caltrans supports the TDM strategies this project has incorporated, such as upgrading building accessibility. Additional TDM strategies that the Sulphur Springs Union School District may want to consider integrating into this project to further reduce VMT include:

- Ensure that project driveway placements do not directly cause issues related to line of sight of pedestrians or bicyclists.
- Verify that no more parking than required by the local permitting agency is provided.
- Provide sufficient bicycle parking for students and employees.

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Also, 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. Caltrans supports the following measure: "The majority of construction activities for the proposed Project would be confined to the site, except for infrastructure improvements, which may require some work in adjacent street rights-of-way. However, this work would be short-term and temporary, and would occur during off-peak periods." If construction traffic is expected to cause delays on any State facilities, please submit the Construction Worksite Traffic Control Plan detailing these delays for Caltrans' review.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact the project coordinators, Mayra Jimon and Emily Gibson, at Mayra.Jimon@dot.ca.gov and Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2020-03419.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief
cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse