

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 29 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

March 29, 2021

11-SD-78

PM VAR

City of Vista 2019 Climate Action Plan
NEG/SCH#2021020443

Mr. John Conley
City of Vista
200 Civic Center Drive
Vista, CA 92084

Dear Mr. Conley:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Negative Declaration for the City of Vista 2019 Climate Action Plan (CAP) located near 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:

Sustainability

The City of Vista CAP contains several actions and strategies that align with Caltrans' responsibilities and priorities. Caltrans recommends collaboration between our agency and the City of Vista on the proposed transportation related topics including adaptation strategies to help improve the City's resilience to potential climate change impacts and strategies to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and off-road and on-road greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Caltrans recognizes that transportation is a leading contributor to GHG emissions in the region and is dedicated to reducing and mitigating transportation related emissions. We recommend collaborating with Caltrans on the following measures brought up by this plan in Table 2.5: increasing the use of zero emission

vehicles, installing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, identifying right-of-way areas to be used for carbon sequestration, and complete streets.

The existing climate hazards discussed in this document will have an impact of the transportation system. We recommend working with Caltrans on determining the preventative strategies the Caltrans can take to keep roadways operational and ensure their longevity against climate stressors such as increased temperatures, changes in precipitation patterns, wildfire, and flooding. Caltrans recognizes the central role that transportation planning plays in safety and ensuring that when these natural hazards do occur, citizens have a reliable evacuation route.

As the City contemplates their Climate Action Plan, there is opportunity for collaboration with Caltrans' District 11 Wildfire Resiliency Working Group. This group, led by our Sustainability and Climate Action team, is focused on ways to make the San Diego transportation system resilient to the increasing threat of wildfire and advise management in developing additional wildfire preparation planning measures for implementation. For example, identifying those areas vulnerable to wildfire and incorporating vegetation management and maintenance to clear defensible space along roadways in those areas.

Design

Since the requirement for additional EV charging stations (Measure T-3) is likely to lead to an increase in the number of electric vehicles, please consider addressing the increased transport and disposal of hazardous materials related to lithium batteries. This could be added to the Section IX. Hazards and Hazardous Material discussion.

Complete Streets and Mobility Network

Caltrans views all transportation improvements as opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers in California and recognizes bicycle, pedestrian, and transit modes as integral elements of the transportation network. Caltrans supports improved transit accommodation through the provision of Park and Ride facilities, improved bicycle and pedestrian access and safety improvements, signal prioritization for transit, bus on shoulders, ramp improvements, or other enhancements that promote a complete and

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integrated transportation system. Early coordination with Caltrans, in locations that may affect both Caltrans and the City of Vista is encouraged.

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 to evaluate incorporating Complete Streets concepts and elements capital projects.

Land Use and Smart Growth

Caltrans recognizes there is a strong link between transportation and land use. Development can have a significant impact on traffic and congestion on State transportation facilities. In particular, the pattern of land use can affect both local vehicle miles traveled and the number of trips. Caltrans supports collaboration with local agencies to work towards a safe, functional, interconnected, multi-modal transportation system integrated through applicable "smart growth" type land use planning and policies.

The City should continue to coordinate with Caltrans to implement necessary improvements at intersections and interchanges where the agencies have joint or adjoining jurisdiction.

Environmental

Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as we have some discretionary authority of a portion of the project that is in Caltrans' R/W through the form of an encroachment permit process. We look forward to the coordination of our efforts to ensure that Caltrans can adopt the alternative and/or mitigation measure for our R/W. We would appreciate meeting with you to discuss the elements of the EIR that Caltrans will use for our subsequent environmental compliance.

An encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide approved final environmental documents for this project,

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corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits. Specifically, CEQA determination or exemption. The supporting documents must address all environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W and address any impacts from avoidance and/or mitigation measures.

We recommend that this project specifically identifies and assesses potential impacts caused by the project or impacts from mitigation efforts that occur within Caltrans R/W that includes impacts to the natural environment, infrastructure (highways/roadways/on- and off-ramps) and appurtenant features (lighting/signs/guardrail/slopes). Caltrans is interested in any additional mitigation measures identified for the NEG.

Right-of-Way

Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.

Any work performed within Caltrans R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans R/W prior to construction.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158 or by visiting the website at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Dodson, of the Caltrans Development Review Branch, at (619) 985-1587 or by e-mail sent to Kimberly.Dodson@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Maurice A. Eaton

MAURICE EATON, Branch Chief
Local Development and Intergovernmental Review