

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 15 2021

March 12, 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Ms. Jennifer Savage
City of San Clemente
910 Calle Negocio, Suite 100
San Clemente, CA 92673

File: IGR/CEQA
SCH#: 2021020256
12-ORA-2021-01584
I-5, PM 0.045-6.681

Dear Ms. Savage,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Safety and Housing Element Update Notice of Preparation document in the City of San Clemente. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

The project proposes an update to the Safety Element and Housing Element in the City's General Plan. Regional access to the project area is provided by Interstate 5 (I-5). Caltrans is a responsible agency for this project and upon review, we have the following comments:

Transportation Planning

1. We recognize and support the City of San Clemente's continued commitment to include programs relating to homelessness and low-income communities in the 2021-2029 Housing Element Cycle.

Caltrans recognizes our responsibility to assist communities of color and under-served communities by removing barriers to provide a more equitable transportation system for all.

The Department firmly embraces racial equity, inclusion, and diversity. These values are foundational to achieving our vision of a cleaner, safer, and more accessible and more connected transportation system.

Please consider including a discussion on equity in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

2. The project is to increase housing and infill development, which may increase traffic congestion and number of single occupancy vehicle

(SOV) trips. Please encourage the use of transit among future visitors, residents, and workers of the proposed rezone areas.

As Caltrans seeks to promote safe, accessible multimodal transportation, please ensure the EIR includes the discussion relating to the City's Multimodal Mobility Strategies on transit connectivity and opportunities to connect bus services to include the nearby train stations for regional connectivity.

Providing improved multimodal connections to housing will improve public health and can encourage residents, future visitors, and workers to utilize alternative transportation options, thus reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, congestion, and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

3. Please continue coordination with Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) for opportunities to enhance multimodal transit strategies.

Coordinate with OCTA relating to the most recent climate change study along the railroad tracks in San Clemente. The project study is titled "Orange County Rail Infrastructure Defense Against Climate Change Plan."

4. The City of San Clemente has two designated train stations: San Clemente Metrolink Station and San Clemente Pier served by Amtrak Pacific Surfliner.

Consider discussing opportunities to connect housing to rail and/or transit and to maximize the safety of railroad crossings for bicycles and pedestrians to accommodate access to the Metrolink stations as part of the Safety Element update.

5. Consider including a discussion on general transportation safety improvements, especially for vulnerable road users such as bicyclists and pedestrians.

Encroachment Permit

6. Any project work proposed in the vicinity of the State Right-of-Way (ROW) would require an encroachment permit and all environmental concerns must be adequately addressed. If the environmental documentation for the project does not meet Caltrans's requirements for work done within

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State ROW, additional documentation would be required before approval of the encroachment permit. Please coordinate with Caltrans to meet requirements for any work within or near State ROW. For specific details for Encroachment Permits procedure, please refer to the Caltrans's Encroachment Permits Manual at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

Please continue to keep us informed of this project and any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions or need to contact us, please do not hesitate to contact Joseph Jamoralin at (657) 328-6276 or Joseph.Jamoralin@dot.ca.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Shelley".

SCOTT SHELLEY
Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning
District 12