

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

March 22, 2021

Mar 23 2021

Bob Greenlaw, PE
City of Avalon
Planning Department
410 Avalon Canyon Road
Avalon, CA 90704

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: Cabrillo Mole Redevelopment Phase II
Project – Mitigated Negative Declaration
(MND)
SCH # 2021030381
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03525

Dear Bob Greenlaw:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced MND. The Cabrillo Mole (Mole) is a multimodal transportation hub used by cross-channel carrier passengers traveling between the mainland and Avalon, as well as a gathering place for residents and visitors. It is the primary point of entry and serves as the gateway to the City of Avalon and Santa Catalina Island. Phase II of the proposed redevelopment process would build on Phase I improvements which were completed in late 2020. Phase I improvements included reinforcements to the concrete wharf structure and portions of the concrete slab on the Mole to ensure continued safe and reliable operations. Phase II improvements would replace and reconfigure the structures on the Mole, improve pedestrian/passenger gathering/queuing areas, and improve adjacent transportation circulation to better facilitate multimodal connectivity. Phase II improvements would include a new two-story building designed to accommodate existing commercial tenants (i.e., recreational tour services, deli, baggage services, ticketing operations, administrative offices and harbor operations) and new space for a restaurant/bar, as well as similar complementary uses. The City of Avalon is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project is located on Catalina Island and not in close proximity to any State highway transportation facilities. Thus, we do not expect project approval to result in a direct adverse impact to the State Highway System.

The following information is included for your consideration.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Furthermore, Caltrans encourages Lead Agencies to implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies that reduce VMT and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. For TDM strategies to integrate into this project to further reduce VMT, please refer to:

- The 2010 *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), available at <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>, or

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- *Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference* (Chapter 8) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), available at <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/index.htm>.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Emily Gibson, the project coordinator, at Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2021-03525.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson

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