

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

September 16, 2021

Clare Lin
City of Sierra Madre
232 West Sierra Madre Boulevard
Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

September 16 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: Sierra Madre General Plan Housing, Land
Use, Safety, and Circulation Element
Update – Draft Subsequent Environmental
Impact Report (DSEIR)
SCH # 2021040369
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03673

Dear Clare Lin:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced DSEIR. The project consists of a comprehensive update to the Housing Element as well as related updates to the Land Use Element and Land Use Map of the City of Sierra Madre General Plan. It also includes updates to the City's Zoning Code, Zoning Map, Safety Element, and Circulation Element. The 2021-2029 Housing Element, which is the bulk of the project, serves as a policy guide to address the comprehensive housing needs of Sierra Madre. The primary focus of the Housing Element is to ensure decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for residents of the City, including those with special needs. The City is required to ensure the availability of residential sites at appropriate densities and development standards. It is also required to adopt land use plans and regulatory systems that facilitate housing production in the City. By meeting these requirements the City will accommodate its fair share of the regional housing need, also known as the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation. The City's total RHNA for the 2021-2029 planning period is 204 units. The City of Sierra Madre is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The citywide project is located near Interstate 210. From reviewing the DSEIR, Caltrans has the following comments.

We support the proposed Circulation Element policy L57.1, which states, "Each new project must be evaluated against the "Vehicle Miles Traveled" Baselines and Thresholds of Significance adopted June 9th, 2020 by the City Council." We also support the implementation of mitigation measure TRANS-1, which is a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program, as well as Project Design Features (PDFs), to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Reducing VMT aligns with Caltrans' mission to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.

As each housing site develops, Caltrans suggests referring to the following resources for potential TDM strategies to include in onsite VMT reduction programs:

- 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-2021-03673.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson

MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse