

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research



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May 20 2021**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

May 20, 2021

Elise McCaleb
City of Signal Hill
2175 Cherry Avenue
Signal Hill, CA 90755

RE: Signal Hill Housing Element Update –
Notice of Preparation of an Environmental
Impact Report (NOP)
SCH # 2021050296
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03590
Vic. LA-1/PM: 5.054

Dear Elise McCaleb:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced NOP. The Project includes the updating of the City of Signal Hill's Housing Element to address housing needs for the October 2021 to October 2029 Planning Period. The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation for the City identified a housing need of 517 housing units. This RHNA allocation includes 161 very low-income units, 78 low-income units, 90 moderate-income units, and 188 above moderate-income units. The Project area encompasses the entirety of the City limits, which is approximately 2.2 square miles. Four Housing Inventory Sites will be identified within the Housing Element for the development of up to 724 housing units, in line with the recommendation of the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to allot for 15 to 30 percent above a local government's allocated housing units. The City of Signal Hill is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project is located near Interstate 405, Interstate 710, State Route 19, and State Route 1, which is also known as the Pacific Coast Highway. From reviewing the NOP, Caltrans has the following comments.

Caltrans looks forward to reviewing this project's Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis in the forthcoming DEIR. For information on determining transportation impacts in terms of VMT on the State Highway System, see the *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA* by the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), dated December 2018: http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743_Technical_Advisory.pdf. The City can also refer to Caltrans' updated *Vehicle Miles Traveled-Focused Transportation Impact Study Guide* (TISG), dated May 2020 and released on Caltrans' website in July 2020: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/sb-743/2020-05-20-approved-vmt-focused-tisg-a11y.pdf>. Caltrans' new TISG is largely based on the OPR 2018 Technical Advisory.

Note that the updated TISG states, "Additional future guidance will include the basis for requesting transportation impact analysis that is not based on VMT. This guidance will include a simplified safety analysis approach that reduces risks to all road users and that focuses on multi-modal conflict analysis as well as access management issues." Since releasing the TISG, Caltrans has released interim safety

analysis guidance, dated December 2020 and found here, for the City's reference: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/sb-743/2020-12-22-updated-interim-lidgr-safety-review-guidance-a11y.pdf>. Caltrans encourages lead agencies to complete traffic safety impact analysis in the CEQA review process so that, through partnerships and collaboration, California can reach zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050.

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 options to consider integrating into this project, 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
- *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-2021-03590.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong for

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