

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

July 13, 2021

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Justin Sauder
City of Palmdale
38250 Sierra Highway
Palmdale, CA 93550

July 13 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: Site Plan Review 20-012 and Density Bonus
Agreement 20-001 – Mitigated Negative
Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2021070098
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03648
Vic. LA-138/PM: 46.735

Dear Justin Sauder:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced MND. The project is a proposal to construct a 57-unit permanent supportive housing development on the northeast corner of Avenue R and 30th Street East in the City of Palmdale. Excluding the manager's unit, 100 percent of the proposed units would be affordable. The City of Palmdale is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project is located approximately 2,600 feet from the intersection of State Route 138 (SR-138, also known as Palmdale Boulevard) and 30th Street East. From reviewing the MND, Caltrans concurs that the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) impact of this project should be less than significant. Therefore, 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. Thus, Caltrans supports the TDM strategies this project has incorporated, such as providing new sidewalks along the project frontage at Avenue R and 30th Street East. Additional TDM strategies that the City of Palmdale may want to consider integrating into this project in order to further reduce VMT include:

- Confirm that project driveway placements do not directly cause issues related to line of sight of pedestrians or bicyclists.
- Verify that no more parking than required by the local permitting agency is provided.
- Ensure that the bicycle parking provided is safe and secure.

In addition, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

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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-2021-03648.

Sincerely,

Emily Gibson

EMILY GIBSON
Acting IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse