

California Department of Transportation

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August 16, 2021

11-IMP-VAR
City of Brawley Housing Element Update – 2021/2029
ND/SCH# 2021070590

Mr. Gordon Gaste
Development Services Director
City of Brawley
Development Services Department
205 South Imperial Avenue
Brawley, CA 92227

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

August 19 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Dear Mr. Gaste:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review of Negative Declaration (ND), State Clearinghouse (SCH) 2021070590 for the City of Brawley Housing Element Update (2021-2029) located near State Routes 78, 86, & 111 (SR-78, SR-86, SR-111). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with Caltrans' mission and state planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We are striving for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety on the transportation network. These pursuits are both ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

Caltrans has the following comments:

Traffic Impact Study

- New developments resulting from the City's Housing Element update should provide a Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) based Traffic Impact Study (TIS). Please use the Governor's Office of Planning and Research Guidance to identify VMT related impacts.¹
- The TIS may also need to identify the proposed project's near-term and long-term safety or operational issues, on or adjacent any existing or proposed State facilities.
- Any improvements within Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W) from future housing development projects will be required to comply with Caltrans Highway Design Manual guidelines and standards.
- Any pedestrian facility enhancements from future housing development projects that are within Caltrans' R/W will need to comply with Caltrans Design Information Bulletin (DIB) 82-06.

Complete Streets and Mobility Network

Caltrans views all transportation improvements as opportunities to improve safety, access, and mobility for all travelers in California and recognizes bicycle, pedestrian, and transit modes as integral elements of the transportation system. Caltrans supports improved transit accommodation through the provision of Park and Ride facilities, improved bicycle and pedestrian access and safety improvements, signal prioritization for transit, bus on shoulders, ramp improvements, or other enhancements that promotes a complete and integrated transportation system. Early coordination with Caltrans, in locations that may affect both Caltrans and the City of Brawley is encouraged.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve California's Climate Change target, Caltrans is implementing Complete Streets and Climate Change policies into State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects to meet multi-modal mobility needs. Caltrans looks forward to working with the City to evaluate potential Complete Streets projects.

¹ California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) 2018. "Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA." http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743_Technical_Advisory.pdf

Land Use and Smart Growth

Caltrans recognizes there is a strong link between transportation and land use. Development can have a significant impact on traffic and congestion on State transportation facilities. In particular, the pattern of land use can affect both local vehicle miles traveled and the number of trips. Caltrans supports collaboration with local agencies to work towards a safe, functional, interconnected, multi-modal transportation network integrated through applicable “smart growth” type land use planning and policies.

The City of Brawley should continue to coordinate with Caltrans to implement necessary improvements at intersections and interchanges where the agencies have joint jurisdiction, as well as coordinate with Caltrans as future housing developments proceed and funds become available to ensure that the capacity of on-/off-ramps is adequate.

Noise

The applicant must be informed that in accordance with 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 772, Caltrans is not responsible for existing or future traffic noise impacts associated with the existing configuration of SR-78, SR-86, and SR-111.

Environmental

Should future projects based upon the changes enacted from the General Plan have elements and/or mitigation measures that affect Caltrans Right-of-Way (R/W), Caltrans would welcome the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Broadband

Caltrans recognizes that teleworking and remote learning lessen the impacts of traffic on our roadways and surrounding communities. This reduces the amount of VMT and decreases the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other pollutants. The availability of affordable and reliable, high speed broadband is a key component in supporting travel demand management and reaching the state’s transportation and climate action goals.

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Right-of-Way

Attachment A, B and C in Appendix C. Site Inventory and Analysis, identifies sites that could accommodate the above moderate income, moderate income, and low-income regional housing needs for the City of Brawley. Please coordinate with Caltrans on future development projects that are a mile or less away from Caltrans' State facilities, to mitigate adverse impacts, preserve, and enhance the State's transportation facilities and operations.

Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.

Any work performed within Caltrans R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans R/W prior to construction.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158 or by visiting the website at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Landrum at (619) 930-7012 or by email at beth.landrum@dot.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Kimberly Dodson for

MAURICE EATON
Branch Chief
Local Development and Intergovernmental Review