

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 12

1750 EAST FOURTH STREET, SUITE 100

SANTA ANA, CA 92705

PHONE (657) 328-6000

FAX (657) 328-6522

TTY 711

www.dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district12

Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

September 17 2021**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

September 16, 2021

Mr. Christopher Macon
City Manager
City of Laguna Woods
24264 El Toro Road
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

File: IGR/CEQA
SCH#: 2021080313
12-ORA-2021-01759
SR 133, PM R4.534-R6.548
I-5, PM 17.821-19.386
SR 73, PM 14.819-16.282

Dear Mr. Macon,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the 2021-2029 General Plan Housing Element Update for the City of Laguna Woods. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.

The project proposes an update to the Housing Element in the City's General Plan. Regional access to the project area is provided by State Route 133 (SR 133), Interstate 5 (I-5), and State Route 73 (SR 73). Caltrans is a responsible agency for this project and upon review, we have the following comments:

Transportation Planning

1. Caltrans recognizes our responsibility to assist communities of color and under-served communities by removing barriers to provide a more equitable transportation system for all.

The Department firmly embraces racial equity, inclusion, and diversity. These values are foundational to achieving our vision of a cleaner, safer, and more accessible and more connected transportation system.

Please consider including a discussion on equity in General Plan Element updates.

2. Caltrans supports the city's evaluation of 17 potential opportunity sites for housing in areas that are already designated for residential, commercial, or community facilities development.

The state mandates that cities must plan for housing needs of future residents of all incomes. This analysis would assist in accommodating the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation per the California Department of Housing & Community Development (HCD).

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

3. Caltrans supports projects which provide a diversity of housing choices and destinations accessible by Active Transportation (i.e. bicycle and pedestrian) and transit users. Please consider improving multimodal connections to housing which will encourage future residents, visitors, and workers in the city to utilize all modes of transportation.
4. Any pedestrian facility enhancements from future housing development projects that are within Caltrans' Right of Way will need to comply with Caltrans Design Information Bulletin (DIB) 82-06. The aforementioned DIB can be found here: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/dib82-06-ally.pdf>
5. According to Government Code 65302, "upon the next revision of the Housing Element on or after January 1, 2020, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to identify residential developments in any hazard areas identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes."

Safety elements are also now required to include more information about wildfire risks in the community and how to improve wildfire safety. As well as identifying new information related to flood hazards and climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the city.

For further information regarding required background information and policy program guidance for Safety Element updates, please see <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>.

6. Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. 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.

Traffic Impact Study

7. New developments resulting from the City's Housing Element update should provide a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) based Traffic Impact Study (TIS). Please use the Governor's Office of Planning and Research Guidance to identify VMT related impacts
8. The TIS may also need to identify the future project's near-term and long-term safety or operational issues, on or adjacent to any existing or proposed State facilities.

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

Encroachment Permit

9. Any project work proposed in the vicinity of the State Right-of-Way (ROW) would require an encroachment permit and all environmental concerns must be adequately addressed. If the environmental documentation for the project does not meet Caltrans's requirements for work done within State ROW, additional documentation would be required before approval of the encroachment permit. Please coordinate with Caltrans to meet requirements for any work within or near State ROW. For specific details for Encroachment Permits procedure, please refer to the Caltrans's Encroachment Permits Manual at:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

Please continue to keep us informed of this project and any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions or need to contact us, please do not hesitate to contact Joseph Jamoralin at (657) 328-6276 or Joseph.Jamoralin@dot.ca.gov

Sincerely,



SCOTT SHELLEY
Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning
Caltrans, District 12