

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 12

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

September 20 2021**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

September 20, 2021

Mr. David Contreras
Principal Planner
City of San Juan Capistrano
32400 Paseo Adelanto
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

File: IGR/CEQA
SCH#: 2021080358
12-ORA-2021-01766
SR 74, PM 0.0
I-5, PM 9.383

Dear Mr. Contreras,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the El Camino Specific Plan for the City of San Juan Capistrano. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.

The project proposes two mixed use developments, a new performing arts center within Historic Town Center (HTC) Park, and various street and utility improvements. Regional access to the project area is provided by State Route 74 (SR 74) and Interstate 5 (I-5). Caltrans is a responsible agency for this project and upon review, we have the following comments:

Traffic Operations

1. Traffic Operations Southwest recommends a Traffic Impact Study to be prepared in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze the potential impact on the operation and safety of all nearby SHS from the proposed development.

Transportation Planning

2. Caltrans supports local developments that are consistent with State planning priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public and health safety. This can be achieved by promoting smart growth principles in projects which provide a diversity of housing choices and destinations accessible by Active Transportation (i.e. bicycle and pedestrian) and transit users.

This project's downtown location makes it an ideal candidate to serve these users and to also achieve a shared vision of how the transportation system should and can accommodate interregional and local travel and development.

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

Please consider opportunities to increase Active Transportation and transit use through Active Transportation infrastructure to/from the project site (such as Complete Streets designs) and wayfinding directional signage to transit stops within the project vicinity and local roadways to encourage non-motorized modes and transit use.

3. The project's downtown location may increase traffic congestion and the number of Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) trips in the surrounding area. As part of the development plan, please ensure that the Draft Environmental Impact Report includes a discussion related to the City's multimodal mobility strategies for transit, regional, and local connectivity to existing bus services and nearby train station for Metrolink and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner rail services.

The discussion should incorporate opportunities to support sustainable and multimodal transportation options. The improved multimodal connections to the project site can encourage future residents, visitors, and workers of the development to utilize alternative transportation options. Thus, improving overall public health by reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, congestion, and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

4. Please use the Governor's Office of Planning and Research Guidance to identify VMT related impacts. For more information, please see the following link below: http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743_Technical_Advisory.pdf
5. Please consider the inclusion of long-term bicycle storage facilities for residents (which may include secure ground floor indoor bicycle storage) and accessible short-term bicycle parking for retail customers. Additionally, with the growing popularity of electric bikes and cargo/utility bikes (which tend to be bigger and heavier), Caltrans recommends that storage areas be designed to accommodate a range of bicycle styles, sizes, and weights.
6. Within the mixed-use development's parking structure and surface lots serving commercial destinations, please consider installing electric vehicle charging stations to promote use of Electric Vehicle (EV) and Hybrid vehicles. These charging stations can assist residents in switching to EV/Hybrid vehicles and increase the appeal of these vehicles to those visiting regional attractors (such as the Performing Arts Center) which can provide environmental benefits beyond the project area.

Encroachment Permit

7. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Shelley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being more prominent than the last name "Shelley".

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