

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7 – Office of Regional Planning

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

November 22, 2021

Nov 23 2021Crystal Landavazo
City of Downey
Planning Division
11111 Brookshire Ave.
Downey, CA 90241**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**RE: City of Downey
Housing Element Update 2021-2029
SCH # 2021100587
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03750

Dear Crystal Landavazo:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced Draft Initial Study (IS). The project would amend the City of Downey General Plan by replacing the current Housing Element with the proposed 2021-2029 Housing Element. The Housing Element Update will further the goal of meeting the existing and projected housing needs of all family income levels of the community through the construction and operation of 6,525 housing units and provide evidence of the City's ability to accommodate the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation of 5,732 housing units through the year 2029. Subsequent to and within three years of Housing Element adoption, the City will amend the General Plan and zoning ordinance/map to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate the RHNA allocation where rezoning or other land use actions may occur. The City of Downey is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project covers the City of Downey, which includes several state facilities, such as the State Route (SR-)19, Interstate (I-)5, and I-105. From reviewing the Draft IS, Caltrans has the following comments:

Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:
<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/>

We encourage the Lead Agency to evaluate the potential of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) applications in order to better manage the transportation network, as well as transit service and bicycle or pedestrian connectivity improvements. Caltrans supports the use of TDM measures to decrease VMT. Implementing TDM strategies aligns with Caltrans's mission is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

Crystal Landavazo
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For additional TDM options, please refer to the Federal Highway Administration's Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference (Chapter 8). This reference is available online at:

<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/fhwahop12035.pdf>

Caltrans looks forward to reviewing the CEQA documents of future housing developments that emerge from these plan and program updates, and collaborating with the City of Downey on identifying TDM strategies to limit VMT from these future projects.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Diana DeGroot, the project coordinator, at Diana.DeGroot@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2021-03750.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse