

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Jan 05 2022**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

January 3, 2022

Julia Gonzalez  
City of Pico Rivera  
615 Passons Boulevard  
Pico Rivera, CA 90660

RE: City of Pico Rivera  
Housing Element Update 2021-2029  
SCH # 2021120397  
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03800

Dear Julia Gonzalez:

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 Pico Rivera 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 and provide evidence of the City's ability to accommodate the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Allocation of 1,024 housing units through the year 2029. No changes to zoning are proposed and only 1 out of the 69 candidate sites is vacant and undeveloped. The City of Pico Rivera is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project covers the City of Pico Rivera, which is adjacent to several state facilities, such as the State Route (SR-)72, Interstate (I-)605, and I-5. 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.

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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 Pico Rivera 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](mailto:Diana.DeGroot@dot.ca.gov), and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2021-03800.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON  
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse