

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 11
4050 TAYLOR STREET, MS-240
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110
(619) 709-5152 | FAX (619) 688-4299 TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



March 21, 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 21 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

11-SD-15, 78

PM VAR

Escondido Creek Trail
MND/SCH# 2022020438

Mr. Sean Nicholas
Principal Planner
City of Escondido
201 North Broadway
Escondido, CA 92025

Dear Mr. Nicholas:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Escondido Creek Trail Project located near Interstate 15 (I-15) and State Route 78 (SR-78). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our 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.

We look forward to working with the City of Escondido in areas where the City and Caltrans have joint jurisdiction to improve the transportation network and connections

between various modes of travel, with the goal of improving the experience of those who use the transportation system.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Traffic Operations

Since "Table 1" and first paragraph of page 5 state possible improvements to the trail on Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W), please submit the following:

- Any improvement within Caltrans' R/W will require an encroachment permit approval for any fencing, potable water features, fitness stations, bike racks, light fixtures, vines landscaping, and tree landscaping.
- All of Escondido Creek Trail project construction will be accessed through local street. There will be no access from Caltrans' R/W or freeway ramps. If there is a need for access through Caltrans' R/W then an Encroachment Permit approval is required.
- If construction of the trail requires traffic control on Caltrans' R/W then an Encroachment Permit approval is required.

Design

- Please confirm if there are plans to change anything within the Caltrans' R/W.
- What is planned to stop pedestrians/bicyclists from crossing SR-78? Caltrans does not allow pedestrians or bicyclists to cross freeway travel lanes.
- Consultation with Caltrans will be required to ensure pedestrian and bicyclist movements are provided for in a safe manner in accordance with Caltrans standards and guidelines.

Hydrology and Drainage Studies

- Please provide off site hydrology and hydraulics studies, proposed drainage and proposed grading plans for Caltrans to review.
 - Provide drainage plans and details. Provide existing and proposed drainage facilities.
 - Provide existing and proposed 2-foot contour grading with legible callouts.
 - Include detention basin details of inlets/outlet and proposed basin grading, include in detention basin calculations:
 - Plan schematic
 - Elevation vs storage tables
 - Elevation vs area tables
 - Elevation vs outlet flow (stage - outflow)
 - Inflow vs outflow

- Elevation vs time (stage - time)
- Volume vs time (storage - time)
- Provide a Drainage Study showing 100-year storm event calculations and 25- year storm event calculations.
- Provide on-site hydrology and hydraulic studies per the Highway Design Manual methodologies and per Caltrans policies and procedures.
 - Provide all available Caltrans drainage facility as-built and R/W Maps.
 - Provide survey data of onsite system that the development will be draining to.
- On all plans, show Caltrans' R/W and I-15/SR-78 centerline.
- Early coordination with Caltrans is recommended.
- Caltrans generally does not allow development projects to impact hydraulics within the State's Right-of-Way. Any modification to the existing Caltrans drainage and/or increase in runoff to State facilities will not be allowed.
- Provide project concurrence from the Local Floodplain Administrator.

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 network. 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 network. Early coordination with Caltrans, in locations that may affect both Caltrans and the City of Escondido 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.

Bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit access during construction is important. Mitigation to maintain bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit access during construction is in accordance with Caltrans' goals and policies.

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 should continue to coordinate with Caltrans to implement necessary improvements at intersections and interchanges where the agencies have joint jurisdiction.

Traffic Control Plan/Hauling

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has discretionary authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and may, upon application and if good cause appears, issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum limitations specified in the California Vehicle Code. The Caltrans Transportation Permits Issuance Branch is responsible for the issuance of these special transportation permits for oversize/overweight vehicles on the State Highway network. Additional information is provided online at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/permits/index.html>

A Traffic Control Plan is to be submitted to Caltrans District 11, including the I-15 and SR-78 locations near the Escondido Creek Trail at least 30 days prior to the start of any construction. Traffic shall not be unreasonably delayed. The plan shall also outline suggested detours to use during closures, including routes and signage.

Potential impacts to the highway facilities (I-15 and SR-78) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

Noise

The applicant must be informed that in accordance with 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 772, the Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is not responsible for existing or future traffic noise impacts associated with the existing configuration of I-15 and SR-78.

Maintenance

Headquarters Structures and Maintenance will need to be involved in the review of the proposed creek trail improvements under the I-15 overpass.

Caltrans has a Freeway Maintenance Agreement (FMA 11-8110) with the City of Escondido which should cover the portion of the trail within State R/W for I-15 (see Exhibit A, sheet 15 attached). That particular exhibit sheet may need to be amended, depending on the scope of the improvements. Caltrans does not have a Maintenance Agreement covering the portion of the trail which passes through State R/W for SR-78. A Maintenance Agreement (MA) would need to be created for a new project specific MA with the City of Escondido for that location.

Environmental

Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as we have some discretionary authority of a portion of the project that is in Caltrans' R/W through the form of an encroachment permit process. We look forward to the coordination of our efforts to ensure that Caltrans can adopt the alternative and/or mitigation measure for our R/W. We would appreciate meeting with you to discuss the elements of the EIR that Caltrans will use for our subsequent environmental compliance.

An encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide approved final environmental documents for this project, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits. Specifically, CEQA determination or exemption. The supporting documents must address all environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W and address any impacts from avoidance and/or mitigation measures.

We recommend that this project specifically identifies and assesses potential impacts caused by the project or impacts from mitigation efforts that occur within Caltrans' R/W that includes impacts to the natural environment, infrastructure including but not limited to highways, roadways, structures, intelligent transportation systems elements, on-ramps and off-ramps, and appurtenant features including but not limited to lighting, signage, drainage, guardrail, slopes and landscaping. Caltrans is interested in any additional mitigation measures identified for the project's draft Environmental Document.

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.

Right-of-Way

- 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 emailing D11.Permits@dot.ca.gov 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 or concerns, please contact Kimberly Dodson, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 985-1587 or by e-mail sent to Kimberly.Dodson@dot.ca.gov.

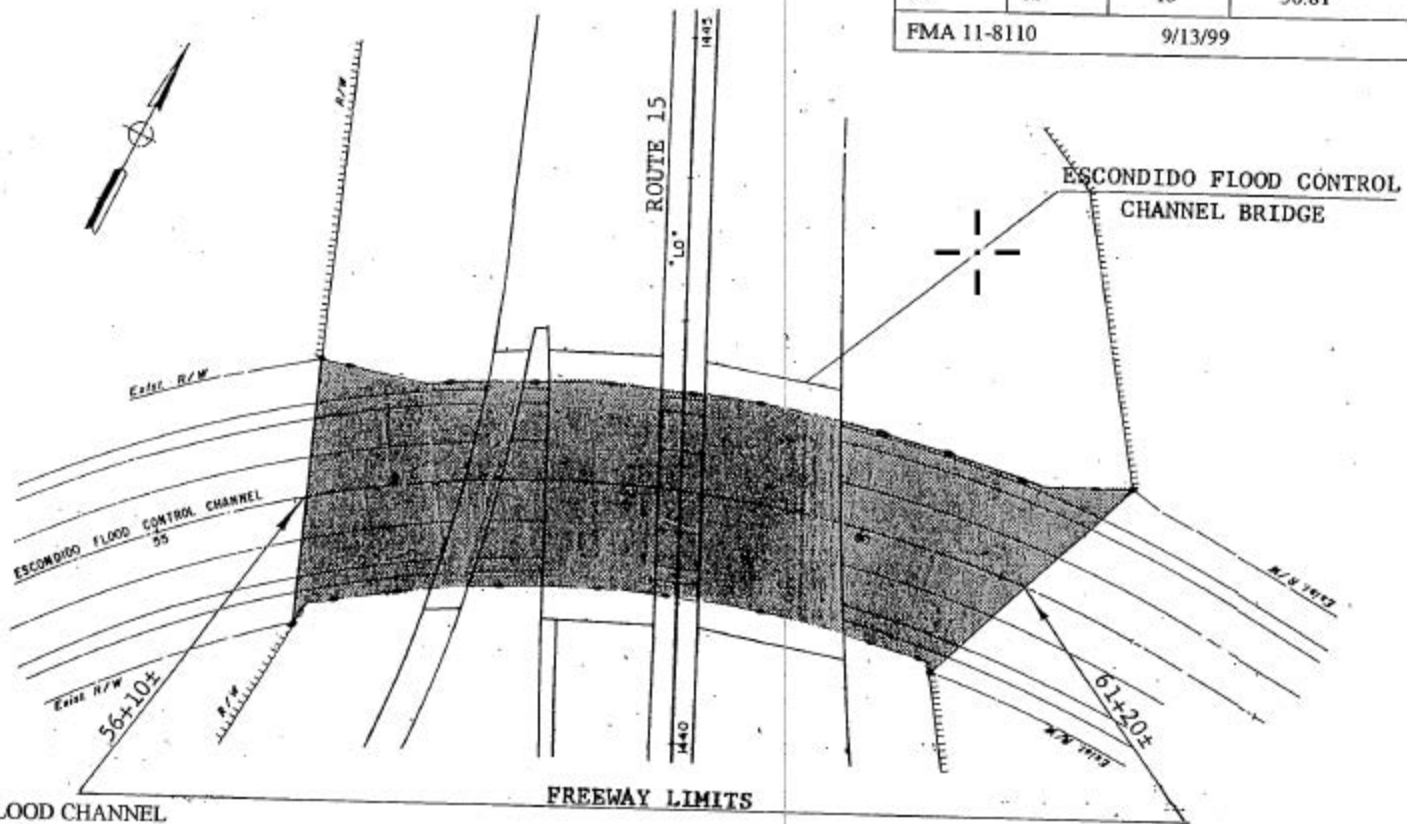
Sincerely,

Maurice A. Eaton

MAURICE EATON
Branch Chief
Local Development Review


Attachment: Exhibit A Sheet 15 of FMA between Caltrans and City of Escondido

DIST.	CO.	RTE.	POST MILE
11	SD	15	30.81
FMA 11-8110		9/13/99	



ESCONDIDO FLOOD CHANNEL
BR NO 57-810 R/L

LOC 11 SHEET 15

 AREA WITHIN FREEWAY LIMITS
TO BE MAINTAINED BY: CITY

FREEWAY MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

EXHIBIT "A"

SHEET 15 OF 26 SHEETS