

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

August 24, 2022

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Aug 25 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Maryanne Cronin, Planner
Planning Bureau
City of Long Beach Development Services
411 West Ocean Boulevard, Third Floor
Long beach, CA 90802

RE: Fire Station No. 9 Project at 4101 Long
Beach Boulevard
SCH # 2022020416
Vic. LA-405/PM 6.37
GTS # LA-2022-04003-DEIR

Dear Maryanne Cronin:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced environmental document. The proposed project includes the demolition of the existing building and parking lot on the project site and the subsequent development of an approximately 12,780 sf, two-story fire station and associated improvements. Vehicular access would be provided through the alley on the northern side of the project site and an exit-only driveway onto Long Beach Boulevard. Firefighting and emergency medical response vehicles would exit the project site via a driveway off East Randolph Place.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. 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/>

As a reminder, VMT is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after July 1, 2020, which is the statewide implementation date.

Maryanne Cronin

August 24, 2022

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Caltrans is aware of challenges that the region faces in identifying viable solutions to alleviating congestion on State and Local facilities. With limited room to expand vehicular capacity, all future developments should incorporate multi-modal and complete streets transportation elements that will actively promote alternatives to car use and better manage existing parking assets. Prioritizing and allocating space to efficient modes of travel such as bicycling and public transit can allow streets to transport more people in a fixed amount of right-of-way.

Caltrans supports the implementation of complete streets and pedestrian safety measures such as road diets and other traffic calming measures. Please note the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognizes the road diet treatment as a proven safety countermeasure, and the cost of a road diet can be significantly reduced if implemented in tandem with routine street resurfacing. Overall, the environmental report should ensure all modes are served well by planning and development activities. This includes reducing single occupancy vehicle trips, ensuring safety, reducing vehicle miles traveled, supporting accessibility, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Caltrans encourages lead agencies to prepare traffic safety impact analysis for all developments in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process so that, through partnerships and collaboration, California can reach zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050.

The proposed project would replace a fire station with another fire station within the same service area. VMT generated by the proposed project is likely to be similar to VMT generated by the fire station being replaced. Therefore, the proposed project's impact related to *Stat CEQA Guidelines* Section 15064.3, subdivision (b) would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2022-04003-MND.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse