

California Department of Transportation

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May 17, 2023



11-SD-78
PM 11.202
Gran Vista Specific Plan
DEIR/SCH #2022040440

Mr. Norm Pederson
Associate Planner
City of San Marcos
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Gran Vista Specific Plan located near 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.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Traffic Analysis

Based on the project's Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis, the project's VMT exceeds the regional threshold.

Please consider implementing other transportation improvements that would help mitigate the VMT impacts from the project as discussed in the DEIR.

With only a 0.10% VMT reduction being proposed from 17.10% to 17.08% per resident, here are additional quantifiable VMT reduction mitigation measures that should be considered to help meet the target VMT Threshold of 16.07%.

- Please consider providing pedestrian network improvements beyond the project site.
- Extend the sidewalk along Mission Road west of project site to north Pacific Street.
- Please consider bicycle clearance detection at signalized intersections near the project area.
- Please consider upgrading signalized intersections to smart intersections with leading pedestrian intervals.
- Provide a bicycle signal for the Inland Rail Trail at north Las Posas Road.
- Consider signage within the project area to promote Transit Access (2-minute walk to Bus, 8-minute walk to the Sprinter).
- Consider E-Scooter/E-Bike Stations.

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 San Marcos, 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.

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 Shannon Aston, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 992-0628 or by e-mail sent to shannon.aston@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Rogelio Sanchez for

MAURICE A. EATON
Branch Chief
Local Development Review