

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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a California Way of Life.*

Governor's Office of Planning & Research**June 02 2022**

June 1, 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Mi Kim
County of Los Angeles
Department of Regional Planning
320 West Temple Street, Room 1362
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: East San Gabriel Valley Area Plan –
Notice of Preparation of an
Environmental Impact Report (NOP)
SCH # 2022040512
GTS # 07-LA-2022-03927

Dear Mi Kim:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced NOP. The proposed East San Gabriel Valley Area Plan (ESGVAP or Project) is a community-based plan that is designed to focus on land use and policy issues that are specific to the unique characteristics and needs of the ESGV Planning Area and its communities. Some of these communities are currently subject to various overlapping plans, policies, and regulations, the proposed Project will update and consolidate these existing regulations into the Area Plan. The ESGVAP will include area-wide goals, policies, and implementation programs within nine different elements. The ESGVAP will include changes to land use designations and zoning in order increase residential density and commercial and mixed uses in areas near transit amenities. The County of Los Angeles is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The East San Gabriel Valley Planning Area includes the easternmost portions of the County. It is located south of the Angeles National Forest, north of the Orange County border east of Interstate-605 (I-605), and west of the San Bernardino County line.

According to the NOP, The ESGVAP would allow development at densities and intensities that are higher than existing conditions and could have an impact on Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). However, the densities and land use changes proposed as part of the Land Use Element would focus development around High-Quality Transit Areas (HQTA's) and major transit stops, with the goal of reducing VMT. The Mobility Element of the ESGVAP includes policies to reduce VMT by creating community-oriented mobility and increasing access to transit. Nonetheless, impacts are potentially significant, and as such, the potential for the ESGVAP to have an impact on CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 subdivision (b) will be further evaluated in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Additionally, the potential for the ESGVAP to have an impact on emergency access and the potential to increase hazards due to a road design feature or incompatible uses will also be further evaluated in the EIR. Caltrans would request the study to provide trip generation, trip distribution and trip assignment estimates to the State

facilities on/off-ramps and any arising inadequate weaving or queue spillback onto State facilities. Caltrans looks forward to reviewing these analyses.

We encourage the Lead Agency to evaluate the potential of additional Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) applications to better manage the transportation network, as well as transit service and bicycle or pedestrian connectivity improvements. For more TDM strategies, 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 also encourages the Lead Agency to promote alternative transportation. This will increase accessibility and decrease Greenhouse Gas Emissions, which supports Caltrans' mission to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. For supplementary strategies that will promote equity and environmental preservation, please refer to the 2010 Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), which is available online at: <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Ronnie Escobar, the project coordinator, at Ronnie.Escobar@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2022-03927.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse