

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 12

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California Way of Life.

May 25, 2022

Mr. Nate Farnsworth
City of Yorba Linda
4845 Casa Loma Avenue
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

File: IGR/CEQA
SCH#: 2022040574
LDR LOG #2022-01957

Dear Mr. Farnsworth,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of Notice of Preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report and Scoping Meeting for the City of Yorba Linda Adopted 2021–2029 Housing Element Implementation Programs. California's Housing Element law requires that each city and county develop local housing programs to meet its "fair share" of existing and future housing needs for all income groups.

On March 4, 2021, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Council adopted the final Regional Housing Needs Allocations (RHNA), resulting in providing 2,415 housing units for the City of Yorba Linda. The Project encompasses the entire City of Yorba Linda, which is in northeast portion of Orange County, California.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that services all people and respects the environment. Caltrans is a responsible agency on this project and has the following comments:

Traffic Operations

1. New developments resulting from the City's Housing Element Implementation Program should provide a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) based Traffic Impact Study (TIS). VMT metric is now the standard California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) transportation metric that replaces the level of service (LOS) metric, the prior widely applied metric used for CEQA transportation analysis.

"Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment"

2. The EIR must include a traffic study to address potential impacts to the State Highway System. The focus of the Traffic Study must no longer be on traffic at intersections and roadways immediately around project sites. Instead, the focus should be on how the project would influence the overall amount of automobile use and to identify potential non-capacity increasing mitigation measures. Caltrans' Strategic Management Plan goal is to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips, provide a safe transportation system, reduce per capita VMT, increase accessibility to projects be aligned with destinations via cycling, walking, carpooling, and transit, and reduce GHG emissions.

Transportation Planning

3. Caltrans recognizes our responsibility to assist communities of color and under-served communities by removing barriers to provide a more equitable transportation system for all. The Department firmly embraces racial equity, inclusion, and diversity. These values are foundational to achieving our vision of a cleaner, safer, and more accessible and more connected transportation system. Please consider a discussion on equity.

System Planning

4. Please provide discussion of multimodal transportation mobility options of the current transit services and regional rail services and look for opportunities and connectivity to safe and convenient access. Please encourage the use of transit among future residents, visitors, and workers as part of the project development.
5. For the preparation of the EIR, consider discussing the potential impacts to bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Caltrans supports the design of Complete Streets that include high-quality pedestrian, bicycle, and transit facilities that are safe and comfortable for users of all ages and abilities. Consider potential opportunities to encourage the development of Complete Streets facilities and/or connections to these facilities, as transportation is closely linked to housing. Complete Streets improvements promote regional connectivity, improve air quality, reduce congestion,

Mr. Nate Farnsworth
May 25, 2022
Page 3

promote improved first-/last-mile connections, and increase safety for all modes of transportation.

Please continue to coordinate with Caltrans for any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Julie Lugaro, at Julie.lugaro@dot.ca.gov. or Maryam Molavi at Maryam.Molavi@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Shelley".

Scott Shelley
Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning