

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 266-3562
FAX (213) 897-1337
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

January 6, 2025

Dr. John Puglisi, PhD.
Rio School District
1800 Solar Dr.
Oxnard, CA 93030

RE: Rio del Valle Middle School Existing
Campus Expansion Master Plan:
Draft Supplemental EIR
GTS # 07-VEN-2022-00620
SCH # 2022060117
Vic. US 101 PM 20.973

Dear Dr. John Puglisi:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. The project proposes to implement the Rio del Valle Campus Enhancement Master Plan (proposed project) to meet the educational, recreational, and support facilities needs of District students. The Master Plan includes improvements to the existing RDV campus and the development of approximately 11.1 acres to the south of the existing campus. The proposed project includes development within the expanded campus which would occur in phases and would include options for new classrooms, library and media center, transportation and parking facilities, recreational facilities including 320-meter track, flag football field, six basketball courts, two baseball fields, softball field, physical education (P.E.) and lunch playfield, four sand volleyball courts, two soccer fields, a jogging path, an athletic restroom/storage building, and up to ten tennis courts and/or handball courts. The buildout of the RDV Campus Master Plan is anticipated to occur over approximately 5 years. The Rio School District is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The closest state facility is US 101. After reviewing the project's documents, Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans encourages the Lead Agency to consider any reduction in vehicle speeds to benefit pedestrian and bicyclist safety, as there is a direct link between

impact speeds and the likelihood of fatality or serious injury. The most effective methods to reduce pedestrian and bicyclist exposure to vehicles is through physical design and geometrics. These methods include the construction of physically separated facilities such as Class IV bikeways, wide sidewalks, curb extensions, pedestrian refuge islands, landscaping, street furniture, and reductions in crossing distances through roadway narrowing. Visual indicators such as, pedestrian and bicyclist warning signage, flashing beacons, crosswalks, signage, and striping should be used in addition to physical design improvements to indicate to motorists that they can expect to see and yield to people walking or riding bikes.

Caltrans recommends the following multimodal improvements for this project:

- Improve bicycle infrastructure along N. Rose Ave., such as protected Class IV bikeways, to improve safety and comfort for all road users.
- Be sure to include canopy trees, bioswales, bicycle parking facilities, and street furniture to provide a comfortable and sustainable environment to encourage active transportation modes and improve community health.
- In addition to bioswales, incorporate permeable paving surfaces wherever possible to manage stormwater, replenish groundwater, and prevent pollution runoff.
- Use high-visibility continental crosswalks, curb extensions, count-down signal heads, pedestrian refuge islands, and pedestrian scrambles at the intersections along N. Rose Ave.
- Leading pedestrian intervals can give pedestrians a 7-second head start in crosswalks; this provides additional crossing time and reduces the amount of time that pedestrians are exposed to high-speed vehicle traffic.

Additionally, Caltrans will require an Encroachment Permit for work conducted within the State Right-of-way. To minimize disruption, Caltrans recommends limiting large truck travel and construction traffic to off-peak commute hours. A permit for any heavy construction equipment and or materials that require the use of oversized transport vehicles on State highways. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing potential impacts for Caltrans for review.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jaden Oloresisimo, the project coordinator, at Jaden.Oloresisimo@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS # 07-VEN-2022-00620.

Sincerely,

Anthony Higgins

Anthony Higgins
Acting LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse