

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

Governor's Office of Planning & Research**AUG 01 2022****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

July 29, 2022

Mr. Vidal Marquez
Assistant Planner
City of Orange
300 E. Chapman Avenue
Orange, CA. 92866

File: LDR/CEQA
SCH: 2022060730
12-ORA-2022-02013
SR-55, PM 13.527

Dear Mr. Marquez,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Palmyra Cemetery Development Project. The Proposed Project involves the construction of a 3,339-gravesite cemetery and construction of a 5,138-square foot building. A 5,262 square foot, two-story building previously existed onsite prior to being destroyed in a series of fires in late 2021. The Applicant would reconstruct the building consistent with the architectural plans that the City's Design Review Committee considered in Fall 2021, prior to the fires. The architectural plans included demolition of 124 square feet (sf) of the previously existing building and minor remodeling and modifications, resulting in a building area of 5,138 sf. The reconstructed building would support activities associated with funeral burial practices. The Proposed Project also includes ancillary administrative office space accommodating funeral burial practices, a kitchen to support off-site catering, construction of a one-story, 800 sf storage shed with outdoor storage yard, trash enclosure, and utility shed, as well as the demolition and construction of a 51-space surface parking lot.

The Proposed Project is located at 290 South Yorba Street and 2205 East Palmyra Avenue in the City of Orange (City), in the northwestern portion of Orange County, California. The Project Site is located in the southern portion of the City, south of East Chapman Avenue, east of State Route 55 (SR-55), north of East La Veta Avenue, and west of South Yorba Street. Freeway access to the Project Site is provided via SR-55. State Route 55 is owned and operated by Caltrans. Therefore, Caltrans is a responsible agency on this project, and has the following comments:

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

Transportation and System Planning

1. On page 14 of the Public Draft Review, the Applicant notes the demolition of the previously existing building. In addition to materials -- excavated and otherwise -- being transported, this process would "generate 15 and 18 automobile trips per day for the workers, respectively." Consider ensuring adequate truck parking is onsite for trucks or that there are nearby areas for trucks to stage and park while they are waiting for pick ups/drop offs. Consider also off-peak times for delivery of materials to the work site.
2. Provide discussion about the City's multimodal mobility strategies relating to transit bus and rail services for local access and regional connectivity.
3. Consider discussion about wayfinding signage to transit stops within the project vicinity and local roadways.

Traffic Operations

4. Please discuss how local streets and access routes will be upgraded in order to accommodate increased vehicle volumes due to large burial gathering and ceremonies.

Encroachment Permits

5. Any project work proposed in the vicinity of the State Right-of-Way (ROW) would require an encroachment permit and all environmental concerns must be adequately addressed. If the environmental documentation for the project does not meet Caltrans's requirements for work done within State ROW, additional documentation would be required before approval of the encroachment permit. For specific details for Encroachment Permits procedure, please refer to the Caltrans's Encroachment Permits Manual at:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>
6. Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (657) 328-6553 or

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D12.Permits@dot.ca.gov. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

Caltrans' mission is to provide a safe, sustainable, equitable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. 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.

Sincerely,



Scott Shelley
Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning
Caltrans, District 12