

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 12

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[www.dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district12](http://www.dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district12)*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.***Governor's Office of Planning & Research****Aug 31 2022****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

August 30, 2022

Mr. Christopher Macon  
City Manager  
City of Laguna Woods  
24264 El Toro Road  
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

File: IGR/CEQA  
SCH#: 2022080022  
12-ORA-2022-02039  
SR 133, PM R4.534-R6.548  
I-5, PM 17.821-19.386  
SR 73, PM 14.819-16.282

Dear Mr. Macon,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Notice of Preparation for the Laguna Woods General Plan and Zoning Code Update. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.

The project proposes a variety of actions which would accommodate the City's 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) housing needs allocation. In addition, the project would update the City's General Plan Circulation Element and Noise Element to ensure internal consistency with the City's General Plan Housing Element. Regional access to the project area is provided by State Route 133 (SR 133), Interstate 5 (I-5), and State Route 73 (SR 73). Caltrans is a responsible agency for this project and upon review, we have the following comments:

**Transportation Planning**

1. Caltrans recognizes our responsibility to assist communities of color and underserved 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 including a discussion on equity in General Plan Element updates.

2. Caltrans supports projects which provide a diversity of housing choices and destinations accessible by Active Transportation (i.e. bicycle and pedestrian) and transit users. Consider providing a discussion about the City's multimodal mobility strategies relating to transit bus and rail services as well as active transportation for local and regional connectivity. Improving multimodal

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

connections to housing will encourage future residents, visitors, and workers in the city to utilize all modes of transportation.

3. Increased density can have traffic impacts. Consider opportunities to encourage multimodal transportation and mode shifts through the planning and implementation of high-quality Complete Streets that are safe and accessible for people of all ages and abilities. Encouraging the use of transit in the proposed plan may lead to reduction in congestion
4. Consider discussion about wayfinding signage to transit stops within the project vicinity and local roadways.
5. Any pedestrian facility enhancements from future housing development projects that are within Caltrans' Right of Way will need to comply with Caltrans Design Information Bulletin (DIB) 82-06. The aforementioned DIB can be found here: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/dib82-06-ally.pdf>
6. According to Government Code 65302, "upon the next revision of the Housing Element on or after January 1, 2020, the Safety Element shall be reviewed and updated as necessary to identify residential developments in any hazard areas identified in the Safety Element that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes."

Safety elements are also now required to include more information about wildfire risks in the community and how to improve wildfire safety. As well as identifying new information related to flood hazards and climate adaptation and resiliency strategies applicable to the city.

For further information regarding required background information and policy program guidance for Safety Element updates, please see <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov>.

7. Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. 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.

8. Please consider including a discussion on incorporating designated areas/parking for freight delivery, package, and transportation network company's pickup and drop-off.

9. Please consider including a discussion on potential impacts to the circulation element from freight traveling into, from and/or through the City, as a result of the General Plan updates.

### **Traffic Impact Study**

10. New developments resulting from the City's Housing Element update should provide a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) based Traffic Impact Study (TIS). Please use the Governor's Office of Planning and Research Guidance to identify VMT related impacts.
11. The TIS may also need to identify the future project's near-term and long-term safety or operational issues, on or adjacent to any existing or proposed State facilities.

### **Encroachment Permit**

12. 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. Please coordinate with Caltrans to meet requirements for any work within or near State ROW. 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/>

Please continue to keep us informed of this project and any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions or need to contact us, please do not hesitate to contact Joseph Jamoralin at (657) 328-6276 or [Joseph.Jamoralin@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Joseph.Jamoralin@dot.ca.gov)

Sincerely,



SCOTT SHELLEY  
Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning  
District 12