

California Department of Transportation

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November 17, 2022



11-SD-52

PM 14.469

Tyler Street Subdivision
MND/SCH#2022100498

Mr. Doug Thomsen
Senior Planner
City of Santee
Department of Development Services
10601 Magnolia Avenue
Santee, CA 92701

Dear Mr. Thomsen:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) review for the Tyler Street Subdivision, located near State Route 52 (SR-52), in the city of Santee. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with Caltrans' mission and state planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. 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.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

We look forward to working with the City of Santee in areas where the City and Caltrans have joint jurisdiction to improve the transportation network and connections

between various modes of travel, with the goal of improving the experience of those who use the transportation system.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts – XVII. Transportation

Caltrans is not in agreement with the following statement (Initial Study Form pg. 33-34), "The site is in a High Quality Transit area because it is within ½ mile from a bus transit service. The Project is approximately 1,300 feet from Prospect Street with access to public bus service and would therefore have less than significant transportation impact."

The project site being near public bus service does not necessarily equate to being near a "High Quality Transit" stop or facility. The *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA* dated December 2018 published by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) Page 13 references Pub. Resources Code, Section 21064.3 " 'Major transit stop' means a site containing an existing rail transit station, a ferry terminal serviced by either a bus or a rail transit service, or the intersection of two or more major bus routes with a frequency of service interval of 15 minutes or less during the morning and afternoon peak commute periods."

The nearest transit bus stop is on Mission Gorge Road, about a mile away from the project site. San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) bus route 834 has a frequency of service interval of every 60 minutes. There are no transit services on weekends and holidays for this route. Based on the definition of "Major transit stop" by OPR the intersection of this bus route would not qualify High Quality Transit Service. Even though SANDAG prepared certain streets/roads in San Diego County for qualifying transit routes according to the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program Guidelines (AHSC) in 2015, Prospect Street is one of them. Currently, MTS has no transit service on Prospect Street in the city of Santee.

The project would typically generate 140 trips per day, which is above the 110 trips threshold in the technical guidance from the Governor's Office of Planning & Research.

Mr. Doug Thomsen, Senior Planner
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If you have any questions, please contact Mark McCumsey at (619) 985-4957 or by email at mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Maurice A. Eaton

MAURICE EATON
Branch Chief
Local Development Review