

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 11  
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November 15, 2022

11-SD-VAR  
VAR

City of Escondido Vehicle Miles Traveled Exchange Program  
ND/SCH# 2022100577

Mr. Ivan Flores  
Associate Planner  
City of Escondido  
201 North Broadway  
Escondido, CA 92025

Dear Mr. Flores:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Negative Declaration (ND) for the City of Escondido Vehicle Miles Traveled Exchange Program located near Interstate 15 and State Route 78 (I-15/SR-78). 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 our 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 Escondido (City) 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:

### **Traffic Operations**

- All project construction from the proposed program will be accessed through local streets. There will be no access from Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W) or freeway ramps. If there is a need for access through Caltrans' R/W then an Encroachment Permit approval is required.
- If construction from the proposed program requires traffic control on Caltrans' R/W, then an Encroachment Permit approval is required.
- For the case where work is being done on the Escondido Creek Trail or other trails and bike trails within the City of Escondido, we reference you to our letter of March 21, 2022. Please see Attachment A.

### **Complete Streets and Mobility Network**

Caltrans views all transportation improvements as opportunities to improve safety, access and mobility for all travelers in California and recognizes bicycle, pedestrian and transit modes as integral elements of the transportation network. Caltrans supports improved transit accommodation through the provision of Park and Ride facilities, improved bicycle and pedestrian access and safety improvements, signal prioritization for transit, bus on shoulders, ramp improvements, or other enhancements that promotes a complete and integrated transportation network. Early coordination with Caltrans, in locations that may affect both Caltrans and the City, is encouraged.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve California's Climate Change target, Caltrans is implementing Complete Streets and Climate Change policies into State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects to meet multi-modal mobility needs. Caltrans looks forward to working with the City to evaluate potential Complete Streets projects.

Bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit access during construction is important. Mitigation to maintain bicycle, pedestrian, and public transit access during construction is in accordance with Caltrans' goals and policies.

## **Land Use and Smart Growth**

Caltrans recognizes there is a strong link between transportation and land use. Development can have a significant impact on traffic and congestion on State transportation facilities. In particular, the pattern of land use can affect both local vehicle miles traveled and the number of trips. Caltrans supports collaboration with local agencies to work towards a safe, functional, interconnected, multi-modal transportation network integrated through applicable “smart growth” type land use planning and policies.

The City should continue to coordinate with Caltrans to implement necessary improvements at intersections and interchanges where the agencies have joint jurisdiction.

## **Traffic Control Plan**

A Traffic Control Plan is to be submitted to Caltrans District 11, including the locations at I-15 and SR-78 near the planned bikeways as noted in “Figure 2-4 Existing and Planned Bikeways,” at least 30 days prior to the start of any construction. Traffic shall not be unreasonably delayed. The plan shall also outline suggested detours to use during closures, including routes and signage.

Potential impacts to the highway facilities (I-15 and SR-78) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

## **Right-of-Way**

- Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.
- Any work performed within Caltrans’ R/W, or work that crosses Caltrans’ structures and R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans’ R/W prior to construction.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158 or emailing [D11.Permits@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D11.Permits@dot.ca.gov) or by visiting the website at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

Mr. Ivan Flores, Associate Planner  
November 15, 2022  
Page 4

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Charlie Lecourtois, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 985-4766 or by e-mail sent to [Charlie.Lecourtois@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Charlie.Lecourtois@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Maurice A. Eaton*

MAURICE EATON  
Branch Chief  
Local Development Review

Attachment - Attachment A