

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

December 5, 2022

Carey Upton, Chief Operation Officer
Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District
2828 Fourth Street
Santa Monica, CA 90405



RE: Will Rogers Learning Community Campus
Expansion and Improvement Project
SCH #2022110246
Vic. LA-10/PM R3.08, LA-01/PM 33.3
GTS # LA-2022-04121-MND

Dear Carey Upton:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced environmental document. The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (District) is proposing to expand and make improvements to the Will Rogers Learning Community based on the 2020 Campus Master Plan (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would occur over four phases and would result in removal/demolition of 16 permanent and temporary buildings, construction of three new buildings, renovation and reuse of eight existing buildings and outdoor spaces, and reconfiguration of outdoor and parking/transportation areas over an approximate span of 10 to 15 years. Phase 1 includes removal of six existing portable classrooms and 1 restroom building, construction of a new one-story early education classroom building and associated play yards, and construction of a new play field. Subsequent phases would be constructed as funding becomes available and would include removal of five additional existing modular classrooms, removal of four one story classroom buildings, expansion and reconfiguration of an existing parking lot, repurposing existing classrooms into STEM classrooms and outdoor spaces into outdoor classrooms, and construction of a new student drop-off/pick-up area, multipurpose room/food services facility, learning garden, parking lot, and two-story classroom building.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:

<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/>

As a reminder, VMT is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after July 1, 2020, which is the statewide implementation date.

Construction worker VMT is redistributed throughout the transportation network depending on the worksite, and therefore is not newly generated. The Proposed Project is a redevelopment project that would not increase student enrollment or capacity, the number of daily operational trips is not expected to increase as a result of the Proposed Project's implementation. Additionally, the Proposed Project meets the screening criteria for educational facilities based on the City's VMT screening criteria and significance thresholds, as well as the screening criteria for small projects as established by the OPR Technical Advisory. Therefore, the Proposed Project is presumed to result in a less than significant VMT impact and would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(b).

After reviewing the Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration, Caltrans does not expect project approval to result in a direct adverse impact on the existing State transportation facilities.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that requires the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend that large-size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2022-04121-MND.

Sincerely,

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse

<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/>

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