

## California Department of Transportation

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March 4, 2024

FRE-168-R7.361  
DEIR – Draft EIR  
Draft Environment Impact Report Tract Map 6343  
SCH# 2022120483  
<https://ld-igr-gts.dot.ca.gov/district/6/report/29548>

### SENT VIA EMAIL

Lily Cha-Haydostian, MPA | Senior Planner  
Planning and Development Services Department  
City of Clovis  
1033 Fifth Street  
Clovis, CA 93612



Dear Mx. Lily Cha-Haydostian:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Tract Map (TM) 6343 which proposes to develop 71.54 acres into a 590 single-family residential development. The project is located south of Behymer Avenue between Minnewawa Avenue and Sunnyside Avenue, approximately 2.7 miles north of the State Route (SR) 168 and Herndon Avenue interchange.

This project was previously reviewed as part of the Transportation Impact Analysis (TIA) and the Scope of Work for a TIA with our office submitting comment letters dated April 14, 2023, and June 22, 2022, respectively.

Caltrans provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

### Specific Comments:

1. The study lists the Near-Term (2026) without Project Peak Hour Traffic Volume for the eastbound State Route 168 off-ramp right turns to be 903 and the Cumulative (2046) without Project Peak Hour Traffic Volume for the eastbound State Route 168 off-ramp right turns to be 935 (at Intersection 14 northbound right-turns). Given the amount of growth in the area and the amount of the additional land annexed by the City of Clovis (174.46 acres of remaining annexation area surrounding the project site), this traffic volume increase appears underestimated. **The forecasted volumes should be confirmed.**

2. The TIA mitigation provided for Intersections 13, 14, 15 was stated as “using signal timing coordination and optimization” and that would “eliminate the queuing issues.” However, signal timing sheets were not provided to substantiate the results. Also, the reduction of control delay for Insertion 15 (Herndon Avenue / Clovis Avenue) from Cumulative Year (2046) with Project - PM Pk Hour to Cumulative Year (2046) with Project Mitigation - PM Pk Hour (90.4 seconds to 49.0 seconds) seems optimistic. **Signal timing sheets should be provided to corroborate these findings.**

### General Comments:

1. Caltrans highly recommends that the City consider creating a VMT Mitigation Impact Fee to help reduce potential impacts on the State Highway System.
2. It is recommended that the project contribute to all applicable Impact Fee programs, such as the City's Development Fee and the Regional Transportation Mitigation Fee (RTMF) program to ensure that the developments contribute to its fair share toward future improvement needs.
3. Caltrans recommends the project proponents consider working with the City to convert a portion of the planned residential units to affordable housing units.
4. Alternative transportation policies should be applied to the development. An assessment of multimodal facilities should be conducted to develop an integrated multimodal transportation system to serve and help alleviate traffic congestion resulting from the project and related development in the area of the City. The assessment should include the following:
  - a. Pedestrian walkways should not only be limited to the project's internal connectivity but be connected to existing walkways and transit facilities outside the project area.
  - b. The project should consider coordinating connections to local and regional bicycle pathways to encourage the use of bicycles for commuter and recreational purposes.
  - c. If transit is not available within 1/4-mile of the project area, transit should be extended to provide services to high-activity centers of the project.
5. As part of the statewide effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Caltrans recommends the project proponents consider the installation of Level 2 Electric Vehicle (EV) and DC Fast Charging EV charging stations into the housing units.

6. Active Transportation Plans and Smart Growth efforts support the state's 2050 Climate goals. Caltrans supports reducing VMT and GHG emissions in ways that increase the likelihood that people will use and benefit from a multimodal transportation network

If you have any other questions, please call or email Christopher Xiong at (559) 908-7064 or [Christopher.Xiong@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Christopher.Xiong@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



DAVID PADILLA, Branch Chief  
Transportation Planning – North