

California Department of Transportation

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January 22, 2024

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

January 22 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

11-SD-78

PM 11.29

Hughes SMCC LLC
EIR/SCH#2023020497

Mr. Chris Garcia
Senior Planner
City of San Marcos
1 Civic Center Drive
San Marcos, CA 92069

Dear Mr. Garcia:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Hughes SMCC LLC project located near State Route 78 (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 San Marcos 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 Engineering and Analysis (TEA)

In reference to DEIR Appendix I-2 Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Analysis Technical Memorandum dated December 11, 2023, VMT Mitigation section pg. 8, paragraph 1:

"... mitigation measures would not reduce the VMT per employee to less than significant levels, the impact is only partially mitigated, and the Proposed Project is considered to have a significant and partially mitigated impact..."

The project's VMT impact is currently not in alignment with the State's VMT and emissions reduction goals. Therefore, the project VMT needs to be mitigated down to a level considered less than significant. The project needs to investigate additional methods to address its VMT impact. Potential measures to reduce VMT include, but are not limited to:

- Implementing other transportation improvements that would be comparable to fully mitigating the VMT impact.
- Improve or increase access to transit.
- Increase access to common goods and services, such as groceries, schools, and daycare.
- Incorporate affordable housing into the project.
- Incorporate neighborhood electric vehicle network.
- Orient the project toward transit, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.
- Improve pedestrian or bicycle networks, or transit service.
- Provide traffic calming measures and strategies.
- Provide bicycle parking.
- Limit or eliminate parking supply.
- Implement or provide access to a commute reduction program.
- Provide car-sharing, bike sharing, and ride-sharing programs.
- Provide transit passes.
- Shifting single occupancy vehicle trips to carpooling or vanpooling, for example providing ride-matching services.
- Providing telework options.

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 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 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.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shannon Aston, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 992-0628 or by e-mail sent to shannon.aston@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kimberly D. Dodson

KIMBERLY D. DODSON, G.I.S.P.
Acting Branch Chief
Local Development Review