

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 12  
1750 EAST 4<sup>TH</sup> STREET, SUITE 100  
SANTA ANA, CA 92705  
PHONE (657) 328-6000  
FAX (657) 328-6522  
TTY 711

[www.dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12](http://www.dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12)



September 25, 2023

SCH #: 2023080642  
GTS #: 12-ORA-2023-02352  
Route/PM: 1 6.027

Ms. Amber Dobson  
City of Laguna Beach  
505 Forest Avenue  
Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Sep 25 2023**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

### Re: **31451 South Coast Highway Project MND**

Dear Ms. Dobson:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process of the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the 31451 South Coast Highway Project. Caltrans is committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system.

The project proposes the construction of a three-story single-family residential, including 5 bedrooms, 3 car garage, and landscaping. The project is located in the City of Laguna Beach on Coast Highway, also known as State Route 1 (SR 1). SR 1 is owned and operated by Caltrans. Therefore, Caltrans is a responsible agency and has the following comments:

#### **Transportation Planning:**

1. The project must maintain bicycle and pedestrian access during construction. These access considerations support Caltrans' equity mission to provide a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation network for all users.
2. Provide bike and pedestrian detours during construction of the project. Further enhance bike and pedestrian connections with robust signage, wayfinding, safety improvements, and human scale amenities wherever possible along the project site. Post signage alerting motorists to bicyclists.

3. Ensure that construction does not impede the operation of the OCTA bus stop on SR 1 and West Street. Enhance bus stop with bus shelter/benches to promote multimodal travel.

#### **Traffic Operations:**

4. The proposed driveway shall be design in compliance with Caltrans standard and recommend right turn in/out only movement. The detail design and traffic circulation shall be further review and comment during an encroachment permit process.
5. Prior to construction, coordination may be required with Caltrans to develop a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to reduce construction traffic impacts to the STN. Mitigation for significant impacts due to construction and noise should be identified. Project work that requires movement of oversized or excessive load vehicles on State roadways requires a transportation permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, visit: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/transportation-permits>.

#### **Design:**

6. Caltrans requires that the access roadway should be designed to accommodate the corner site distance entering SR 1 traffic. Both corners of the access roadway should be constructed with curb ramps to comply with ADA standards.
7. Caltrans requires that the access roadway to SR 1 be limited to right-in and right-out only. The access roadway is to be Stop Controlled.
8. Caltrans recommends that the project sponsors consider access management to reduce the number of entries into PCH. Additionally, design recommends that the dog legged intersection formed with Bluff Drive and West Street be realigned to form a four-legged intersection for efficient and enhanced access management into PCH.
9. Any utilities that are proposed, moved, or modified within Caltrans' Right-of-Way (ROW) shall be discussed. If utilities are impacted by the project, provide site plans that show the location of existing and/or proposed utilities. These modifications require a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit.

#### **Maintenance:**

10. Caltrans requires a landscape maintenance agreement for this project to ensure that the City will maintain the entirety of the sidewalk, driveways, and any other new features within State ROW. A [template for the LMA](#) has been attached.

### **Encroachment Permit**

11. Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto Caltrans' ROW requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office of Encroachment Permits to submit a completed encroachment permit application package, digital set of plans clearly delineating Caltrans' ROW, digital copy of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans, this comment letter, your response to the comment letter, and where applicable, the following items: new or amended Maintenance Agreement (MA), approved Design Standard Decision Document (DSDD), approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement.
  
12. Please note that Caltrans is in the process of implementing an online, automated, and milestone-based Caltrans Encroachment Permit System (CEPS) to replace the current permit application submittal process with a fully electronic system, including online payments. The new system is expected to be available during 2022. To obtain information about the most current encroachment permit process and to download the permit application, please visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.
  
13. Additional information regarding the encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (657) 328-6553 or [D12.Permits@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D12.Permits@dot.ca.gov). Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

Caltrans' mission is to provide a safe, sustainable, equitable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. Please continue to coordinate with Caltrans for any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jude Miranda at [Jude.Miranda@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Jude.Miranda@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Scott Shelley  
District Branch Chief  
Regional-LDR-Climate Change-Transit Planning

Caltrans, District 12

