

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 11
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September 25, 2023

11-SD-125
PM 9.776
Paradise Valley Gas Station
MND/SCH# 2023080615

Ms. Jae Roland-Chase
Land Use/Environmental Planner
County of San Diego, Planning & Development Services
5510 Overland Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Ms. Roland-Chase:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Paradise Valley Gas Station project located near State Route 125 (SR-125). 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 County of San Diego in areas where the County of San Diego 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.

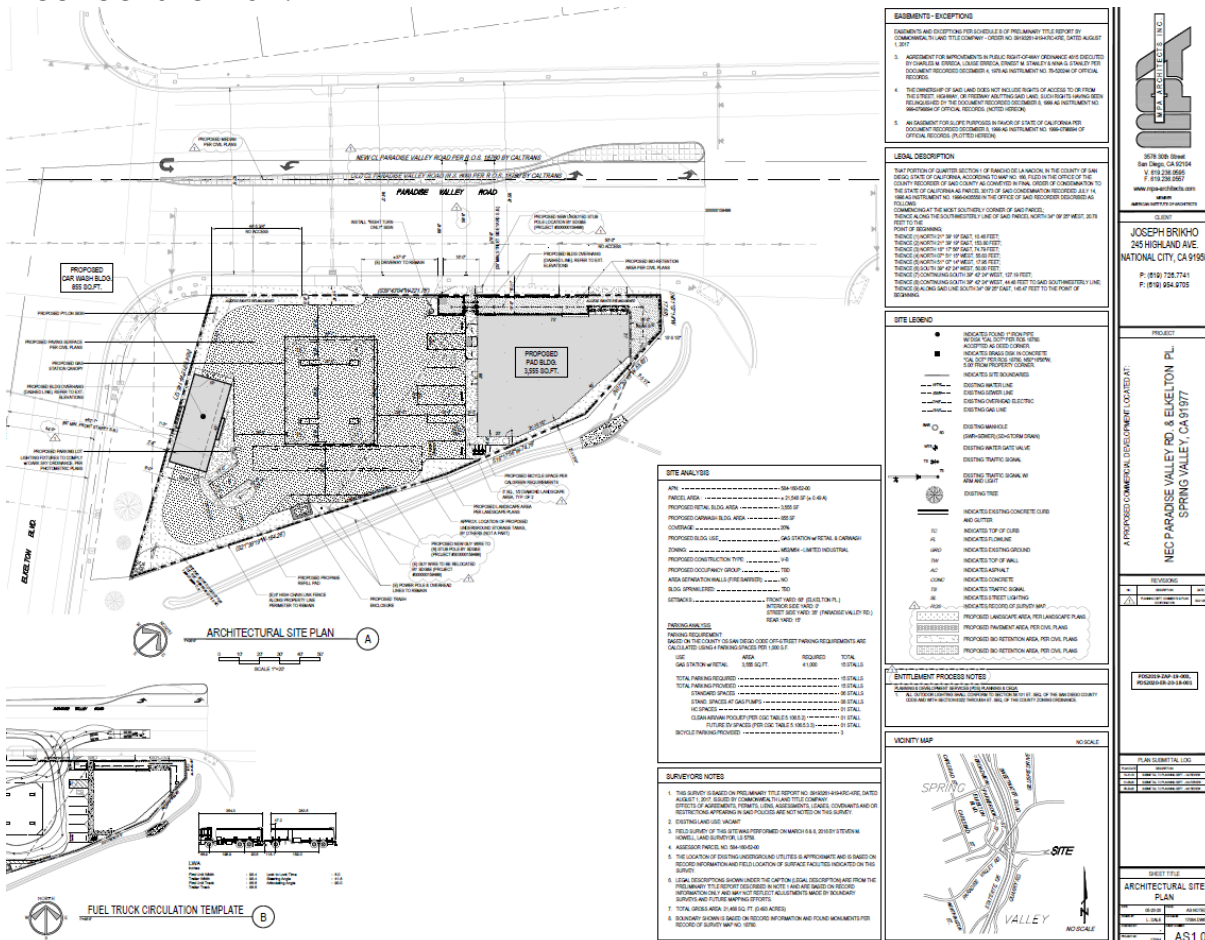
Caltrans has the following comments:

Traffic Impact Study

Attachment 1 of the Local Mobility Analysis "Project Site Plan": Please replace the Project Site Plan under Attachment 1 with the correct and latest Project Site Plan as shown on Figure 2-2 under Section 2.1.5 Site Plan and Proposed Project (exhibit).

Caltrans did not approve the site plan with a new left turn lane or U-turn at the intersection of Paradise Valley Road and SR-125 Southbound entrance ramp from Paradise Valley Road.

Incorrect Site Plan:



mobility needs. Caltrans looks forward to working with the County of San Diego 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.

Hauling/Traffic Control Plan

Caltrans has discretionary authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and may, upon application and if good cause appears, issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum limitations specified in the California Vehicle Code. The Caltrans Transportation Permits Issuance Branch is responsible for the issuance of these special transportation permits for oversize/overweight vehicles on the State Highway network. Additional information is provided online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/permits/index.html>.

A Traffic Control Plan is to be submitted to Caltrans District 11, including the interchanges at SR-125/Elkelton Place and SR-125/Paradise Valley Road, 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 (SR-125) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

Noise

The applicant must be informed that in accordance with 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 772, Caltrans is not responsible for existing or future traffic noise impacts associated with the existing configuration of SR-125.

Glare

The proximity of the project site to SR-125 raises some concerns regarding potential glare that could pose a potential risk to motorists traveling on SR-125. General information was provided to Caltrans describing the reflective characteristics of these types of facilities, which is described as minimal. The project's potential glare characteristics should be considered as part of the County of San Diego Permit approval. Caltrans would want to ensure that all lighting, including reflected sunlight and reflected night lighting, within this project should be placed and/or shielded so as not to be hazardous to vehicles traveling on SR-125.

Environmental

Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as we have some discretionary authority of a portion of the project that is in Caltrans' R/W through the form of an encroachment permit process. We look forward to the coordination of our efforts to ensure that Caltrans can adopt the alternative and/or mitigation measure for our R/W.

An encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide approved final environmental documents for this project, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits. Specifically, CEQA determination or exemption. The supporting documents must address all environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W and address any impacts from avoidance and/or mitigation measures.

We recommend that this project specifically identifies and assesses potential impacts caused by the project or impacts from mitigation efforts that occur within Caltrans' R/W that includes impacts to the natural environment, infrastructure including but not limited to highways, roadways, structures, intelligent transportation systems elements, on-ramps and off-ramps, and appurtenant features including but not limited to fencing, lighting, signage, drainage, guardrail, slopes and landscaping. Caltrans is interested in any additional mitigation measures identified for the project's draft Environmental Document.

Mitigation

Caltrans endeavors that any direct and cumulative impacts to the State Highway network be eliminated or reduced to a level of insignificance pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) standards.

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. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide an approved final environmental document including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination addressing any environmental impacts with the Caltrans' R/W, and any corresponding technical studies.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158 or emailing

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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 Sandy Vazquez, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 987-3580 or by e-mail sent to Sandra.Vazquez@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Maurice A. Eaton

MAURICE EATON
Branch Chief
Local Development Review