

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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a California Way of Life*

November 6, 2023

Maren Gamboa
City of Los Angeles
Department of City Planning
200 N. Spring Street, Rm. 525
Los Angeles, CA 90012



RE: 7035 Laurel Canyon Project
(ENV-2022-7906-MND)
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2023100157
Vic. LA-170 / PM: R18.055
GTS # 07-LA-2023-04330

Dear Maren Gamboa:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced MND. The project involves the removal of an existing 36,160 square foot, one-story U.S. Postal Service sorting facility, a small commercial space and a surface parking lot for the new construction, use and maintenance of a six-story, 71-foot high, 257,751 square-foot, mixed-use building with two-levels of subterranean parking for 360 cars. The total proposed Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is 2.65 to 1. The project is comprised of a six-story building with residential and commercial uses above the subterranean parking. The residential component includes approximately 252,625 square feet of floor area and up to 243 residential dwelling units, including 17 joint live-work units, and 40 total dwelling units set aside for Extremely Low Income and Very Low-Income households. The commercial component consists of approximately 5,126 square feet of floor area at the ground level. The City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project location is less than a mile from State Route 170 (SR-170) at Sherman Way. After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments for your consideration:

- Caltrans is aware of challenges that the region faces in identifying viable solutions to alleviating congestion on State and Local facilities. With limited room to expand vehicular capacity, this development should incorporate multi-modal and complete streets transportation elements that will actively promote alternatives to car use and better manage existing parking assets. Prioritizing and allocating space to

efficient modes of travel such as bicycling and public transit can allow streets to transport more people in a fixed amount of right-of-way.

- Reducing the amount of parking whenever possible. Research looking at the relationship between land-use, parking, and transportation indicates that the amount of car parking supplied can undermine a project's ability to encourage public transit and active modes of transportation.
- Use high-visibility crosswalks, curb extensions, count-down signal heads at the roadway entering the site on Laurel Canyon Road.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State Highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the Project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Herrera, the project coordinator, at Karen.Herrera@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2023-04330.

Sincerely,

Anthony Higgins for

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse