

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

November 9, 2023

Jocelyn Swain
City of Lancaster
44933 Fern Ave
Lancaster, CA 93534



RE: BYD Electric School Bus Manufacturing
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2023100285
Vic. LA-138/PM R34.063
GTS # 07-LA-2023-04339

Dear Jocelyn Swain:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. construct and operate a 630,000 square foot electric school bus manufacturing facility. The facility would include 570,000 square feet of manufacturing and 60,000 square feet of office space divided between the ground floor and a mezzanine. Prep booths and paint booths would also be included as part of the manufacturing process. A total of 138 bus parking spaces would be provided on the west side of the building while employee parking would be provided along the northern and eastern portions of the project site. A total of three drainage basins would be provided along the eastern portion of the project site between the driveway and the employee parking area. Access to the project site is anticipated to be from two driveways along Avenue H. The project proposes to The City of Lancaster is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The closest state facility is SR-138. After reviewing the project's MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

- As stated in Section 18 of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, the project will have a less than significant impact with mitigation within CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b). The proposed project will have to reduce 3,702 Vehicles Miles Traveled (VMT) to be 15% below the City's thresholds. The Lead Agency's mitigation measures states that the proposed project shall pay \$555,300 (\$150 per VMT) to mitigate its VMT impacts in accordance with the City's Vehicle Miles Traveled Impact Fee Mitigation Program. Caltrans recommends the following criteria to determine the significance of VMT impacts to promote the following:
 - Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

- Development of multimodal transportation networks.
- A diversity of land uses.
- A demonstration of these goals with the collected fees.
- Caltrans recommends the following during the construction stage:
 - Work with Caltrans Office of Permits, Multi-Modal Unit, for a designated truck route for construction trucks to transport construction equipment to and from the construction sites.
 - Construction vehicles/equipment should use alternative routes to avoid congested state facilities, especially during peak hours.
 - Cover construction trucks with tarpaulin to avoid debris spillage onto State facilities.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that requires the 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 Jaden Oloresisimo, the project coordinator, at Jaden.Oloresisimo@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2023-04339.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong for

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse