

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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a California Way of Life*

November 6, 2023

Manuel Munoz, Community Development Director
City of La Mirada
13700 La Mirada Blvd.
La Mirada, CA 90638



RE: City of La Mirada 2021-2029
Housing Element Update General Plan
Amendment 2023-1
SCH #2023100427
GTS #07-LA-2023-04344
Vic. LA Multiple

Dear Manuel Munoz,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The City of La Mirada's updated Housing Element has been assigned a Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) of 1,926 housing units to meet city and state housing goals and objectives. The City proposes to meet its RHNA through infill development, specifically with sites located in the Imperial Highway Corridor Specific Plan, Infill Housing Program Areas, and other newly identified sites that need to be rezoned. The City will need to rezone 35 sites to accommodate its 2021-2029 RHNA obligations. Development of the housing on rezoned sites and construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) within existing single-family residential lots will bring higher density housing to the City, where residential uses currently account for approximately 60% of the City's total land area. Development patterns seek to promote land use compatibility by concentrating commercial uses at key intersections, and locating parks, schools, and other public facilities at central nodes in residential neighborhoods.

After reviewing the ND, Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans encourages the Lead Agency to consider potential policies that could best support an integrated network of commercial, office, and new housing that would reduce automobile use, improve equitable access to transit, and employ best practices for

environmental sustainability and carbon reduction. With the opportunity to connect residents to key economic corridors and places of education and play, improvements to the pedestrian and bikeway network would close gaps and ensure continuity with existing active transportation and transit infrastructure. The most effective methods to reduce pedestrian and bicyclist exposure to vehicles is through physical design and geometrics. These methods include the construction of physically separated facilities such as Class IV bike lanes, wide sidewalks, pedestrian refuge islands, landscaping, street furniture, and reductions in crossing distances through roadway narrowing.

These updates can help the City to identify strategies to provide housing that supports existing and projected needs of the community, as well as Caltrans' targets of tripling trips made by bicycle, doubling trips made by walking and public transit, and a 15% reduction in statewide Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). By facilitating residential development with sustainable transit infrastructure, this Plan can engage Californians in shifting towards transit-oriented communities, and help the State meet its policy goals to reduce the number of trips made by driving, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, and provide for multimodal transport options.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS #07-LA-2023-04344.

Sincerely,

Anthony Higgins for

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse