

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7

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a California Way of Life*



January 24, 2024

Knarik Vizcarra
City of Azusa
213 E. Foothill Blvd
Azusa, CA 91702

RE: Billboard Relocation - Mitigated
Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2023120725
Vic. LA-210/39.715
GTS # 07-LA-2023-04417

Dear Knarik Vizcarra:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. The proposed project involves the installation and operation of a new electronic display billboard within the City of Azusa. The overall work effort would first involve the removal of an existing older digital sign with inoperable digital displays and a City Logo display. This existing sign, located at 106 South Azusa Avenue on a site that is occupied by a Shell® gas station, a convenience store, and a Del Taco® fast-food restaurant, would first be removed. The Applicant is then proposing to replace this existing inoperable sign with a new digital sign at a new location approximately 640 feet to the east. The address of the new sign installation site is 250 East 1st Street. The proposed installation site is occupied by a surface parking area located next to the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8070. The new sign would be a back-to-back-shaped sign with two digital faces. The planned sign face would be a full-color LED display, 14 feet by 48 feet on each sign face side, with a height of approximately 101 feet (or 84 feet above the freeway grade). The sign faces would be located on top of an assimilated concrete pedestal. Both the existing sign and the new sign installation site are located adjacent to the I-210 Freeway. The City of Azusa is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The closest state facility is SR-210. After reviewing the project's MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

- Caltrans has the following comments regarding permits for this project.
 - The project boundary is directly adjacent to the Caltrans Right-of-way and encroachment permits (EP) will be required for any work proposed on or in the vicinity of the Caltrans Right-of-way and all safety and environmental concerns must be adequately addressed. However, please note that any work performed within the State Right-of-way will require a new Outdoor

Advertising Display (ODA) Permit from Caltrans. Any modifications to State facilities must meet all mandatory design standards and specifications. Please contact the Caltrans ODA Branch at oda@dot.ca.gov, for more information about a new ODA Permit Application.

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/oda>

- Caltrans has the following comments based on the California Business and Professions Code – Article 7. Regulations.
 - The digital billboard shall not display any red, flashing, intermittent, or moving light likely to be mistaken for a warning or danger signal.
 - Illumination shall not impair the vision of travelers on adjacent highways. Illuminations shall be considered vision impairing when its brilliance exceeds the values outlined in Section 21466.5 of the Vehicle Code; nor shall any advertising display cause beams or rays of light to be directed at the traveled ways if the light is of an intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or to impair the vision of any driver, or to interfere with any driver's operation of a motor vehicle.
 - The digital billboard illumination shall not interfere with the effectiveness of, or obscure any official traffic sign, device, or signal.
 - The digital billboard may not be placed within 1,000 feet of another digital billboard on the same side of the highway.
 - If there are any potential traffic-related effects or impacts of the digital billboard sign, the implementation of mitigation measures should be implemented to eliminate driver distraction generated by the digital LED display.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=BPC&division=3.&title=&part=&chapter=2.&article=7.

- Caltrans has the following comments applicable to the construction period:
 - 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-2023-04417.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong

FRANCES DUONG
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief (Acting)

cc: State Clearinghouse