

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

February 15, 2024

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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

Feb 15 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: Tentative Tract Map No. 62321
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
Vic. LA-14/68.533, LA-138/48.263
SCH # 2024010716
GTS # 07-LA-2024-04435

Dear Jocelyn Swain:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. The proposed project consists of the subdivision of approximately 20 gross acres into 78 single-family residential lots in the R-7,000 zone. The lots within the subdivision would range in size from 7,020 square feet to 11,809 square feet. Access to the subdivision would be from Lancaster Boulevard and 25th Street East and all roadways within the subdivision would be public. The City of Lancaster is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The closest state facilities are SR-14 and SR-138. After reviewing the project's MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

- The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that the CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:

<https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/#guidelines-updates>

- According to the Transportation Section, line C states that "street improvement [is] required as part of the conditions of approval and would ensure that traffic flows smoothly in the vicinity of the project site." Caltrans encourages the Lead Agency to include bus, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure within the street improvement requirements for this project. In addition, Caltrans encourages the Lead Agency to

include elements from the City of Lancaster Master Plan of Complete Streets to enhance the multimodal connectivity along the project site (E. Lancaster Blvd. and 25th St. E.) to provide a comfortable and sustainable environment to encourage active transportation modes and improve community health.

- 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-2024-04435.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong

FRANCES DUONG
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief (Acting)

cc: State Clearinghouse