

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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March 21, 2024

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 22 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Brenda Magaña, Planning Manager
City of Palmdale
38250 Sierra Highway
Palmdale, CA 93550

RE: PBP Industrial Project Site Plan
Review 20-011– Mitigated Negative
Declaration (MND)
SCH #2024020836
GTS #07-LA-2024-04465
LA-138/PM 44.68

Dear Brenda Magaña,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. This project involves the construction and operation of two industrial buildings totaling approximately 118,200 square feet of building area and associated improvements including, landscaping, sidewalks, utility connections, pavement of parking areas and drive aisles on approximately six acres of land. This project is identified as an industrial project—a 1,050,000-square-foot ecommerce fulfillment center warehouse footprint that includes about 20,000 square feet of interior office/employee support space.

After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

The MND finds that the project will have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system which includes bicycle and pedestrian facilities. As proposed, the project will consist of a total of 146 parking stalls and two five-slot bicycle racks. Table 4.17-4 in the Transportation section of the initial study estimates 152 vehicle trips in the AM peak hour, and 144 vehicle trips in the PM peak hour for office-use vehicular trip generation. The proposed project is not adjacent to the Sierra Highway Bike Trail but is within its vicinity. To gradually reduce excess single-vehicle trip generation, Caltrans recommends

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programming for alternative modes of transportation, such as designated maintenance of bicycle stall amenities and additional EV parking capacity when possible. Executive Order N-79-20 requires all new Light-Duty Vehicles (LDVs) sold in California to be zero-emission by the year 2035. The proposed project would align with 2022 Title 24, Part 6 and Part 11 requirements for designated spaces accommodating Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) in the proposed parking lot.

As a reminder, Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) law and mandated that 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. Caltrans' targets of tripling trips made by bicycle, doubling trips made by walking and public transit, and a 15% reduction in statewide VMT can be achieved through collaborative improvements to the state-wide transportation network.

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. It is recommended that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Frances Duong, at frances.duong@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS #07-LA-2024-04465.

Sincerely,



Miya Edmonson
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse