

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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a California Way of Life*

September 9, 2024

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

RE: Tentative Tract Map No. 84283 (23-011)– Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2024080523
GTS #07-LA-2024-04602
LA 138/R 32.011

Dear Jocelyn Swain,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The Project proposes the subdivision of approximately 20 gross acres into 56 single family residential lots. Access to the subdivision would be from Avenue L-4 from 70th Street West and from the subdivision immediately to the east of the project site. All streets within the subdivision would be public. A block wall would surround the subdivision and a meandering sidewalk with landscaping would be placed along both 70th Street West and Avenue L.

After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

The Project is shown to have a less than significant impact conflicting with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system. However, Caltrans would like to highlight a few items regarding bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The Project will be adjacent to a Class II unbuffered bicycle facility located on 70th Street West, including the intersection with Avenue L-8. Upon inspection of the sidewalk design shown in the Project's VMT Memo Figure 1: Site Plan, Caltrans strongly recommends the addition of directional or perpendicular curb ramps at newly constructed corners. For more information, please reference Chapter 4 of the U.S. Access Board Guide to the ADA Accessibility Standards: <https://www.access-board.gov/ada/guides/chapter-4-ramps-and-curb-ramps/>. Additionally, upgrading the Avenue L-8 intersection with high visibility

(green) paint will help to identify conflict zones and alert drivers, particularly at night when visibility is low.

The City is highly encouraged to utilize the Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) mitigation program funds to improve their bike facility intersections, and/or install protective barriers where necessary within the bike network. The Initial Study states that the nearest transit stop is on 60th Street West and Avenue L with an approximate walking distance between a half mile to one and a half miles. During heat advisory conditions, the Project would best support transit riders and pedestrian usage through the inclusion of street trees throughout the sidewalks proposed for installation within the Project site and on 70th Street West and Avenue L. Providing pedestrian cut-through access from the internal streets to 70th Street West and Avenue L, similar to those existing on the west side of 70th Street West, would further increase the likelihood of residents opting for active transportation, as opposed to single-vehicle trips which research has shown to induce higher rates of vehicle greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that requires the use of oversized transport vehicles on State Highways will require a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends limiting 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. We look forward to the coordination of our efforts to ensure potential impacts to the highway facilities and traveling public are discussed and addressed before work begins.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Frances Duong, at frances.duong@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS #07-LA-2024-04602.

Sincerely,



Anthony Higgins
Acting LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse