

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7

100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

PHONE (213) 269-1124

FAX (213) 897-1337

TTY 711

www.dot.ca.gov

*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

October 30, 2024

Colleen Doan
City of Signal Hill
2175 Cherry Hill Ave.
Signal Hill, CA 90755

RE: Courtyard at Signal Hill
SCH # 2024100062
Vic. LA-01/PM 4.51
GTS # LA-2024-04642-MND

Dear Colleen Doan:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced environmental document. The applicant proposes to demolish, remove, and dispose of all existing buildings, concrete, asphalt, and vegetation from the existing site. Once clear, the Project Site would be developed into eight new detached single-family homes and ancillary facilities.

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 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>

As a reminder, VMT is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after July 1, 2020, which is the statewide implementation date.

Caltrans is aware of challenges that the region faces in identifying viable solutions to alleviating congestion on State and Local facilities. With limited room to expand vehicular capacity, this project should incorporate multi-modal and complete streets transportation elements that will actively promote alternatives to car use and better manage existing parking assets. Prioritizing and allocating space to efficient modes of travel such as bicycling and public transit can allow streets to transport more people in a fixed amount of right-of-way.

Caltrans encourages city planning that promotes complete streets and pedestrian safety through measures like road diets, recognized for enhancing safety and being cost-effective when combined with street resurfacing. City planning should focus on reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips, improving safety, lowering vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

The project's construction activities are expected to generate a maximum of 60 additional daily vehicle trips (30 round trips) and around 1,163.2 VMT per day, due to the movement of workers and heavy-duty trucks to and from the site. These trips are temporary and will cease once construction ends, without impacting operational traffic. As stated in the OPR *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA* (December 2018), projects generating fewer than 110 daily trips typically result in less-than-significant transportation impacts; therefore, the project's impact would be minimal.

Once constructed, the project is expected to generate a maximum of 76.32 trips per day, resulting in approximately 585.71 VMT per day. Per OPR's *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA* (December 2018), projects generating fewer than 110 daily trips typically pose a less-than-significant transportation impact unless substantial evidence indicates otherwise. Since the project falls well below this threshold, it is anticipated to have minimal long-term impacts on transportation and circulation.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which require use of oversized transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large-size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods. Truck drivers should cover construction trucks with tarpaulin to avoid debris spillage onto the State Highway.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin, the project coordinator, at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2024-04642-MND.

Sincerely,



ANTHONY HIGGINS
Acting LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse