

California Department of Transportation

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11-SD-52
VAR

City of Santee Safety and Environmental Justice Element
ND/SCH#2024101127

Ms. Christina Rios
Senior Planner
Planning and Building Department
City of Santee
10601 Magnolia Avenue
Santee, CA 92071

Dear Ms. Rios:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Negative Declaration (ND) of the City of Santee's Safety and Environmental Justice Element. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We are striving for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety on the transportation network. These pursuits are both ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

We look forward to working with the City of Santee in areas where the City and Caltrans have joint jurisdiction to improve the transportation network and connections

between various modes of travel, with the goal of improving the experience of those who use the transportation system.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Transportation Safety

When a local land-use development project has potential impacts on the State Highway System (SHS), a traffic safety team would likely investigate several key issues such as increased traffic volume and safety, intersection capacity and overall system impact. Caltrans has set a goal to reach zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries in California by 2050, which is part of the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) nationwide zero fatalities goal. The following six challenges areas were identified as high priorities in California as they represent the greatest opportunity to reduce fatalities and sever injuries:

- Lane Departures
- Impaired Driving
- Speed Management
- Pedestrians
- Bicyclist
- Intersection

Traffic Safety and Accessibility Considerations

The Environmental Document should also incorporate a schematic illustrating existing walking, biking, and auto conditions at the project site and surrounding roadways. This information, along with the *Local Development Review (LDR) Safety Review Practitioner's Guidance* <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/safety-programs/documents/202402-ldr-safety-review-practitioners-guidance-a11y.pdf> provided by Caltrans, can be used to assess potential traffic safety concerns impacting the State Transportation Network (STN). The safety evaluation should include proposed countermeasures to address potential Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) increases and any trade-offs that may result from mitigation strategies. The project design should ensure continued access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.

System Planning

The City of Santee Safety and Environmental Justice Element discusses emergency evacuation information in the Emergency Evacuation Route Analysis in Appendix B and summarizes findings in Section 4 of the main report. Please continue to work with Caltrans District 11 regarding wildfire, flood, and earthquake evacuation discussions and planning for transportation projects and transportation corridors.

Please refer to the evacuation strategies included in Caltrans planning documents, such as the Coast, Canyons, and Trails Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (<https://www.sandag.org/regional-plan/comprehensive-multimodal-corridor-plans/coast-canyons-trails-cmcp>) and the San Vicente Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (<https://www.sandag.org/regional-plan/comprehensive-multimodal-corridor-plans/san-vicente-cmcp>). Additionally, the District 11 – San Diego Ramona Emergency Response Plan, currently in draft form, was created to address issues and improve mobility for the community of Ramona if an emergency situation arises. Please stay tuned for the final document release.

Environmental

Caltrans appreciates the opportunity to comment on this *City of Santee Safety and Environmental Justice Element*. The analysis of potential future projects presented may impact on Caltrans' Right-of-Way in the future. Should future projects based upon the changes enacted from the Negative Declaration have elements and/or mitigation measures that change or effect Caltrans' Right-of-Way, Caltrans would be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and would use your environmental assessment in your environmental documentation for Caltrans subsequent environmental compliance. These projects may be applicable for the Caltrans encroachment permit process, which would naturally evolve from our continued coordination.

Right-of-Way

Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.

Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark McCumsey, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 985-4957 or by e-mail sent to mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kimberly D. Dodson

KIMBERLY D. DODSON, GISP
Branch Chief
Local Development Review