

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life*

April 1, 2025

Rachel Kwok, Environmental Planner  
City of Santa Monica  
1658 Main Street  
Santa Monica, CA 90410

RE: Memorial Park Redevelopment  
and Expansion Project– Notice of  
Preparation (NOP)  
SCH #2025021055  
GTS #07-LA-2025-04755  
LA-10/PM 2.632

Dear Rachel Kwok,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The Project consists of renovating and expanding Memorial Park to meet an increasing demand for recreational activities. The proposed Project would combine the existing 10.3-acre Memorial Park with the 2.9-acre former Fisher Lumber site (currently the City of Santa Monica's Public Landscape Division (PLD) Colorado Yards) to create a 13.2-acre expanded park. With a focus on better serving community needs, the proposed Project would develop modernized public recreation facilities, improved accessibility to park amenities, and enhanced community gathering spaces.

Key components of the proposed Project include the following, which will be developed in phases:

- Two synthetic turf combo fields (two playing fields per combo field)
- Three natural grass youth fields (one fast-pitch softball and two baseball fields)
- Four rooftop tennis/pickleball courts
- A new community hub building and the replacement of the children's playground with a new universally accessible playground
- Renovation and expansion of the skate park
- Replacement of the existing community recreation center with a new community recreation center
- New covered parking lot and passenger loading zone

After reviewing the NOP, Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans supports design elements to enhance pedestrian access and encourages the Project to consider connectivity with the surrounding bike network and the Metro Gold/E Line. As the Project's amenities are likely to attract non-motorized users, it is recommended for future analysis to include figures and detailed information on the types of bicycle parking and storage facilities that will be incorporated into the proposed site.

For any project to help the State of California achieve its goals to improve health and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG), it is recommended to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) through the implementation of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies as an alternative to supplying excess parking. Research looking at the relationship between land-use, parking, and transportation indicates that the amount of car parking supplied can undermine a project's ability to encourage public transit and active modes of transportation. Wherever possible, adding electrical car charging spaces would encourage the usage of plug-in hybrid vehicles (PHEVs) or fully electric vehicles (BEVs), which can help to reduce tailpipe emissions, minimize reliance on fuel, and direct resources towards alternatives for single-occupancy vehicles.

Caltrans looks forward to reviewing a more refined project proposal in the next phase, and please consider us a resource when considering potential pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly infrastructure.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Frances Duong, at frances.duong@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS #07-LA-2025-04755.

Sincerely,



Miya Edmonson  
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse