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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 12 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

April 12, 2019

Mr. Jason Golding
City of Duarte, Planning Division
Community Development Department
1600 Huntington Dr.
Duarte, CA 91010

RE: Duarte Station Specific Plan Update
Vic. LA-210/ PM R35.259
SCH # 2015101082
GTS # LA-2016-02367AL-NOP

Dear Mr. Golding:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The proposed project includes the adoption and long-term implementation of an amendment to the Duarte Station Specific Plan. The revised specific plan would develop 1,400 residential units, 12,500 s.f. of retail/restaurant space, and 100,000 s.f. of office space. Redevelopment of the project site is estimated to be complete by the end of the year 2025.

Please clarify/confirm the correct SCH #. The current SCH # 2015101082 used is for the Town Center Specific Plan for a different project site. Duarte Station Specific Plan was under SCH # 2013041032. When developed, both specific plans would have significant traffic impact on the State facilities.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. 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 to The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information.

<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/>

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 development 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

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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 supports the implementation of complete streets and pedestrian safety measures such as road diets and other traffic calming measures. Please note the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) recognizes the road diet treatment as a proven safety countermeasure, and the cost of a road diet can be significantly reduced if implemented in tandem with routine street resurfacing.

We encourage the Lead Agency to evaluate the potential of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies and Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) applications in order to better manage the transportation network, as well as transit service and bicycle or pedestrian connectivity improvements.

One of Caltrans' concerns is the potential traffic conflict at the nearest off-ramps and the weaving areas on I-210 and I-605 in the project vicinity. When both Specific Plans and the City of Hope master plan are built, many cumulative traffic trips would assign to the freeways, traffic analysis should include queuing analysis and weaving analysis. When traffic impacts are identified, the Lead Agency may participate in the City of Irwindale traffic impact fee program to mitigate traffic impact on the State facilities.

A discussion of mitigation measures appropriate to alleviate anticipated traffic impacts. Any mitigation involving transit or Transportation Demand Management (TDM) is encouraged and should be justified to reduce VMT and greenhouse gas emissions. Such measures are critical to facilitating efficient site access.

For additional TDM options, please refer to the Federal Highway Administration's *Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference* (Chapter 8). The reference is available online at:

<http://www.ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/fhwahop12035.pdf>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 897-8391 and refer to GTS # LA-2016-02367-AL-NOP.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse