

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 01 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

May 1, 2019

11-SD-78  
PM 15.824  
Sunrise Project Specific Plan  
NOP/SCH#2019049004

Ms. Susan Vandrew Rodriguez  
Associate Planner  
City of San Marcos Planning Division  
1 Civic Center Drive  
San Marcos, CA 92069

Dear Ms. Vandrew Rodriguez:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Notice of Preparation for a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Sunrise Project Specific Plan located near State Route 78 (SR-78). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Caltrans has the following comments:

**Traffic Impact Study**

A traffic impact study (TIS) is necessary to determine this proposed project's near-term and long-term impacts to the State facilities – existing and proposed – and to propose appropriate mitigation measures.

- Please include ramp intersections at State Route (SR-78)/E. Barham Drive and SR-78/Nordahl Road. The geographic area examined in the TIS should also include, at a minimum, all regionally significant arterial system segments and intersections, including State highway facilities where the project will add over 100 peak hour trips. State highway facilities that are experiencing noticeable delays should be analyzed in the scope of the traffic study for projects that add 50 to 100 peak hour trips.
- A focused analysis may be required for project trips assigned to a State highway facility that is experiencing significant delay, such as where traffic queues exceed ramp storage capacity.

Ms. Susan Vandrew Rodriguez

May 1, 2019

Page 2

- In addition, the TIS could also consider implementing vehicles miles traveled (VMT) analysis into their modeling projections.
- Any increase in goods movement operations and its impacts to State highway facilities should be addressed in the TIS.
- The data used in the TIS should not be more than 2 years old.
- Please provide Synchro Version 10 files.
- Early coordination is recommended.

### **Complete Streets and Mobility Network**

Caltrans views all transportation improvements as opportunities to improve safety, access and mobility for all travelers in California and recognizes bicycle, pedestrian and transit modes as integral elements of the transportation system. Caltrans supports improved transit accommodation through the provision of Park and Ride facilities, improved bicycle and pedestrian access and safety improvements, signal prioritization for transit, bus on shoulders, ramp improvements, or other enhancements that promotes a complete and integrated transportation system. Early coordination with Caltrans, in locations that may affect both Caltrans and the City of San Marcos, is encouraged.

To reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve California's Climate Change target, Caltrans is implementing Complete Streets and Climate Change policies into State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects to meet multi-modal mobility needs. Caltrans looks forward to working with the City to evaluate potential Complete Streets projects.

### **Land Use and Smart Growth**

Caltrans recognizes there is a strong link between transportation and land use. Development can have a significant impact on traffic and congestion on State transportation facilities. In particular, the pattern of land use can affect both local vehicle miles traveled and the number of trips. Caltrans supports collaboration with local agencies to work towards a safe, functional, interconnected, multi-modal transportation system integrated through applicable "smart growth" type land use planning and policies.

The City should continue to coordinate with Caltrans to implement necessary improvements at intersections and interchanges where the agencies have joint jurisdiction, as well as coordinate with Caltrans as development proceeds and funds become available to ensure that the capacity of on-/off-ramps is adequate.

Ms. Susan Vandrew Rodriguez  
May 1, 2019  
Page 3

### **Mitigation**

Caltrans endeavors that any direct and cumulative impacts to the State Highway System be eliminated or reduced to a level of insignificance pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) standards.

Mitigation measures to State facilities should be included in TIS/TIA. Mitigation identified in the traffic study, subsequent environmental documents, and mitigation monitoring reports, should be coordinated with Caltrans to identify and implement the appropriate mitigation. This includes the actual implementation and collection of any "fair share" monies, as well as the appropriate timing of the mitigation. Mitigation improvements should be compatible with Caltrans concepts.

### **Right-of-Way**

Any work performed within Caltrans' right-of-way (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. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide an approved final environmental document including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination addressing any environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W, and any corresponding technical studies.

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Dodson, of the Caltrans Development Review Branch, at (619) 688-2510 or by e-mail sent to [kimberly.dodson@dot.ca.gov](mailto:kimberly.dodson@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



MELINA PEREIRA, Acting Branch Chief  
Local Development and Intergovernmental Review Branch