

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 12

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

DEC 19 2019**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

December 19, 2019

Gayle Ackerman
25550 Commercentre Drive, Suite 100
Lake Forest, CA 92630

File: IGR/CEQA
SCH#: 2019090102
12-ORA-2019-01263
SR 241
I-5

Dear Ms. Ackerman,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the General Plan Update for the City of Lake Forest. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

The General Plan update is expected to be completed in 2020 and will guide the City's development and conservation for the next 20 years to 2040. The City of Lake Forest is in proximity to the State Highway System (SHS). Caltrans is a responsible/commenting agency on this project and upon review, we have the following comments:

Traffic Operations

1. Caltrans Traffic Operations does not feel the traffic volumes and Levels of Service for the intersections of El Toro Road and the Northbound I-5 Off-Ramp, Avenida De La Carlota and Southbound I-5 off-ramp, and El Toro Road and Avenida De La Carlota shown in the report represent in the current traffic conditions that exist today.
2. In addition, there should be a foot note which includes the intersections anticipated to increase upon completion of the Five Lagunas Residential development.

Environmental

3. Caltrans Environmental Branch agrees that Alternative 2 is the environmentally superior alternative as it is the most effective in terms of superior alternative as it is the most effective in terms of overall reduction of impacts compared to the proposed General Plan and all other alternatives. The analysis presented is adequate.

4. Alternative 3 would revise the General Plan Land Use Map to place more emphasis on identifying specific areas for high density residential land uses. This alternative deemphasizes commercial development and business expansion.
5. As mentioned in Alternative 3, the alternative was developed to potentially reduce the severity of less than significant impacts related to Aesthetics, Noise, Public Services and Utilities. The alternative should consider the potential impact to Transportation and Traffic.

Stormwater Compliance

6. In the Draft EIR document, Section 3.9 Hydrology and Water Quality, on page 3.9-14, the correct permit number is San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted Order No. R9-2009-0002, NPDES No. CA S018740
7. The General Plan should state when a Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) must be prepared and approved by the City Engineer in the event of milestones such as grading plan approval.

Freight

8. Please consider incorporating designated areas/parking for freight delivery, package, and transportation network company's pickup and drop-off, as stated in our previous comment letter submitted on October 3rd during the Notice of Preparation review period. Our letter can be found in Appendix A of the Draft Environmental Impact Report document.

Encroachment Permits

9. Please be advised that any project work proposed in the vicinity of the State Highway System (SHS) will require an Encroachment Permit and all environmental concerns must be adequately addressed. If the environmental documentation for the project does not meet Caltrans' requirements, additional documentation would be required before the approval of the Encroachment Permit. For specific details for Encroachment Permits procedure, please refer to the Caltrans' Encroachment Permits Manual. The latest edition of the Manual is available on the web site:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

Please continue to keep us informed of this project and any future developments which could potentially impact the SHS. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Joseph Jamoralin, at (657) 328-6276 or Joseph.Jamoralin@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



SCOTT SHELLEY
Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning
District 12