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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

December 6, 2019

**DEC 11 2019**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Maryanne Cronin  
Planner  
City of Long Beach  
Development Services Department  
411 W. Ocean Blvd., 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Davenport Park Expansion Project  
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)  
SCH# 2019119026  
GTS# 07-LA-2019-02922  
Vic. LA – 19/ PM 5.489  
Vic. LA – 91/ R13.617

Dear Ms. Cronin:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The proposed project would expand the existing 5.5-acre Davenport Park by approximately 6 acres, for total park size of approximately 11.5 acres. The City is proposing to expand Davenport Park in an effort to meet the City's General Plan Open Space (2002) goal of providing 8 acres of recreational open space for every 1,000 residents. The planned park expansion would include a sports field located on the central and western portion of the site, four sets of three-level bleachers on each side of the sports field, six fitness equipment pads scattered around the site (future phase), a 5,000-square-foot (sf) skate park (future phase), a shaded gathering area, and 31 diagonal parking spaces along the northern boundary of the site on the northern boundary of the site on East 55th Way. A portion of the existing parking lot would be re-designed as a school bus drop-off location.

The nearest State facilities to the proposed project are State Route 19 (SR-19), approximately 1.3 miles away, and State Route 91 (SR-91), approximately 1.3 miles away. After reviewing the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), Caltrans has the following comments:

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) mandates that Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) be used as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts of all future development projects under CEQA, starting July 1, 2020. For information on determining transportation impacts in terms of VMT on the State Highway System, see the Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA by the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, dated December 2018: [http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743 Technical Advisory.pdf](http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743_Technical_Advisory.pdf)

Due to the nature of this project will provide, Caltrans recommends creating the safest streetscape possible for pedestrians and people on bikes. Caltrans encourages the Lead Agency to continue the reduction of vehicle speeds in order to benefit pedestrian and bicyclist safety, as there is a direct link between impact speeds and the likelihood of fatality. The most effective methods to reduce pedestrian and bicyclist exposure to vehicles is through physical design and geometrics. Such methods include the construction of physically separated facilities such as Class IV bike lanes, sidewalks, pedestrian refuge islands, landscaping, street furniture, and reductions in crossing distances through roadway narrowing. Visual indicators such as, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicyclist warning signage, flashing beacons, crosswalks, and striping should be used to indicate to motorists that they can expect to see and yield to pedestrians and people on bikes.

Any development should keep livability in mind by providing shade trees, native landscaping, bioswales, street furniture, bicycle parking, bus shelters and trash cans. Bus bulb-outs can reduce conflict between bicycles and buses on busy roads. Bus only lanes are encouraged to reduce travel times and make public transit more appealing to discretionary users.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles of State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Mr. Carlo Ramirez, at [carlo.ramirez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:carlo.ramirez@dot.ca.gov) and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2019-02922.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON  
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

Cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse