

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

February 10, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 10 2020

Kathy Fitzgerald
Director, Project Development
UCLA Capital Programs
1060 Veteran Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90095

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: Hilgard Faculty Housing Project – Mitigated
Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH# 2020019045
GTS# 07-LA-2020-03134
Vic. LA-405 / PM 31.384

Dear Kathy Fitzgerald:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The Project involves up to 100 apartment-style units for UCLA faculty housing in one residential structure up to 78-feet high (up to 7-levels). There would be approximately 120,000 square feet of residential building and two levels of subterranean parking. Utility infrastructure would connect to existing utility lines in adjacent roadways and landscape/hardscape features would be installed.

The nearest State facility to the proposed project is Interstate 405. After reviewing the MND, Caltrans does not expect project approval to result in a direct adverse impact to the existing State transportation facilities. However, to maximize the project's proximity to the future Metro Purple Line Westwood/UCLA station, Caltrans recommends creating the safest streetscape possible for pedestrians and people on bikes. Improving the geometrics and pedestrian safety across Lindbrook Drive and Glendon Avenue would improve walkability, benefit transit users, and encourage transportation mode shift.

Caltrans supports infill projects that create access to high quality transportation alternatives for local and inter-regional trips. State-level policy goals related to sustainable transportation seek to reduce the number of trips made by driving, reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG), and encourage alternative modes of travel. Caltrans' Strategic Management Plan has set targets of tripling trips made by bicycle and doubling trips made by walking and public transit by 2020. The Strategic Plan also seeks to achieve a 15% reduction in statewide, per capita, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by 2020. Similar goals are embedded in California Transportation Plan 2040, and Southern California Association of Governments' (SCAG) Regional Transportation Plan. Statewide legislation such as AB 32 and SB 375, as well as Executive Order S-3-05 and N-19-19, echo the need to pursue more sustainable development. Projects, like the one proposed, can help California meet these goals.

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Additionally, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on 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 Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2020-03134.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief
cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse