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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAR 17 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

March 17, 2020

Adrian Fernandez, Principal Planner
City of Malibu
Planning Department
23825 Stuart Ranch Road
Malibu, CA 90265

RE: Malibu Jewish Center & Synagogue Project
– Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH# 2020029082
GTS# 07-LA-2020-03172
Vic. LA-1 PM 48.874

Dear Adrian Fernandez,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The project includes the redevelopment of four existing modular buildings with a two-story classroom/administration building with two subterranean levels, one for parking and a second for storage. A new synagogue with 2,013 square feet of above-ground floor area and a basement would be developed immediately east of the proposed two-story building, on a previously graded pad north of the existing parking lot. The surface parking lot would be redeveloped for internal circulation and parking. A stormwater management system and a second onsite wastewater treatment system to accommodate stormwater runoff and wastewater from the new buildings. The project would also include new landscaping and habitat restoration/fuel modification on the north-facing slope of Puerco Canyon.

The nearest State facility to the proposed project is SR-1. After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

Section 4.16.2, which states, "The project would not increase demand on local or regional parks. Please also refer to Section 4.14, Public Services. Because the project would not alter access or the use of the project site in relation to adjacent recreational uses, the project would not conflict with the area's established recreational uses. Therefore, there would be no impact to existing local and regional parks." Caltrans does not concur that there is no possibility of impacts since any change in development or net increase in square footage or parking spaces has the potential to generate additional vehicle trips, both to the project site and surrounding destinations. Whenever possible these trips should be accommodated through active transportation or transit infrastructure.

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. Appropriate transportation improvements for the proposed project, that also reduce VMT and GHG emissions, include:

1. Providing an ADA compliant walkway between project ingress/egress driveway and the signalized intersection of PCH and John Tyler Drive, which would also provide access to the nearest bus stop.
2. Installing a bi-directional Class IV Bikeway to provide access between the Synagogue and the surrounding neighborhoods near Pepperdine University.
3. Providing adequate on-site bike parking.
4. Verifying if a traffic signal is warranted at the project ingress/egress location.
5. Installing shelters and providing full ADA access to bus stops located on NB & SB PCH at John Tyler Drive.
6. Installing high-visibility continental crosswalk markings on all legs or the intersection of PCH and John Tyler Drive.
7. Verifying if a traffic signal is warranted at Puerco Canyon Road.

Additionally, throughout the full text of the document, all instances of the word "accident" should be changed to "collision" or "crash" as per FHWA.

If there will be any project work proposed on or near Caltrans Right of Way then an encroachment permit will be required. The transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will also 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-2020-03172.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON

IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse