



City of Sierra Madre

Development Services Department

232 W. Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, CA 91024

phone 626.355.7138

September 27, 2021

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 7 – Office of Regional Planning
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

September 27 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Re: Comment Letter No. 1 Sierra Madre General Plan Housing, Land Use, Safety, and Circulation Element Update Draft Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (DSEIR)
SCH # 2021040369
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03556

Dear Miya Edmonson,

Thank you for your support and environmental review comment letter dated September 16, 2021 for the above referenced DSEIR. Please refer to the response to comments below:

Response to Comment 1-1

The comment is a standard response from Caltrans describing the project as described in the Draft SEIR. No further response is necessary.

Response to Comment 1-2

The comment states that Caltrans supports the proposed Circulation Element policy L57.1 related to vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and implementation of mitigation measure TRANS-1. The comment refers the City to resources for strategies for onsite VMT reductions. No further response is necessary.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at clin@cityofsierramadre.com.

Sincerely,

Clare Lin | Senior Planner
Department of Planning & Community Preservation
City of Sierra Madre

Enclosure: Department of Transportation comment letter dated September 16, 2021

cc. Vincent Gonzalez, Director of Planning & Community Preservation
Karen Warner, KWA Associates
Curtis Zacuto, EcoTierra

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

PHONE (213) 266-3562

FAX (213) 897-1337

TTY 711

www.dot.ca.gov



Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.

September 16, 2021

Clare Lin

City of Sierra Madre

232 West Sierra Madre Boulevard

Sierra Madre, CA 91024

RE: Sierra Madre General Plan Housing, Land
Use, Safety, and Circulation Element
Update – Draft Subsequent Environmental
Impact Report (DSEIR)
SCH # 2021040369
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03673

Dear Clare Lin:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced DSEIR. The project consists of a comprehensive update to the Housing Element as well as related updates to the Land Use Element and Land Use Map of the City of Sierra Madre General Plan. It also includes updates to the City's Zoning Code, Zoning Map, Safety Element, and Circulation Element. The 2021-2029 Housing Element, which is the bulk of the project, serves as a policy guide to address the comprehensive housing needs of Sierra Madre. The primary focus of the Housing Element is to ensure decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing for residents of the City, including those with special needs. The City is required to ensure the availability of residential sites at appropriate densities and development standards. It is also required to adopt land use plans and regulatory systems that facilitate housing production in the City. By meeting these requirements the City will accommodate its fair share of the regional housing need, also known as the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) allocation. The City's total RHNA for the 2021-2029 planning period is 204 units. The City of Sierra Madre is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

1

The citywide project is located near Interstate 210. From reviewing the DSEIR, Caltrans has the following comments.

We support the proposed Circulation Element policy L57.1, which states, "Each new project must be evaluated against the "Vehicle Miles Traveled" Baselines and Thresholds of Significance adopted June 9th, 2020 by the City Council." We also support the implementation of mitigation measure TRANS-1, which is a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program, as well as Project Design Features (PDFs), to reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Reducing VMT aligns with Caltrans' mission to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.

2

As each housing site develops, Caltrans suggests referring to the following resources for potential TDM strategies to include in onsite VMT reduction programs:

- The 2010 Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), available at <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>, or

- Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference (Chapter 8) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), available at <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/index.htm>.

2 cont.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Emily Gibson, the project coordinator, at Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2021-03673.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson

MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse