

Appendix G-2

Valley Communication Center Project Vehicle Miles Traveled

Screening Assessment

Integrated Engineering Group

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1.0 PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the Valley Communications Center Project's VMT analysis requirements and compliance with Senate Bill 743 (SB 743) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is located at the southeast corner of South Lena Road and East Rialto Avenue intersection within the City of San Bernardino jurisdiction. The proposed project will be developed on a vacant 6.49-acre lot with a self-support and self-sufficient 75,062 square feet emergency communication center that will be occupied by the Sheriff Coroner (SBCSD), Office of Emergency management (OES), County Fire (SBCFD), Consolidated Fire Agency (CONFIRE), Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA), Radio Manage Facility (ISD), and Building Services. Access to the Project site will be provided via two access points on S Lena Road and one access point on E Rialto Avenue. The project is anticipated to employ 220 individuals with work shifts based on 4 hours blocks so employees are coming and going throughout the day depending on individual work schedule and start time of the shift which varies between 3am, 7am, 11am, 3pm, 7pm, and 11pm hours.

Figure 1-1 shows the Project site plan.

1.2 SENATE BILL 743

On September 27, 2013, SB 743 was signed into State law and started a process intended to fundamentally change transportation impact analysis as part of the CEQA compliance. The California Natural Resource Agency updated the CEQA transportation analysis guidelines in 2018. In this update automobile delay and LOS metrics are no longer to be used in determining transportation impacts. Instead VMT metrics will serve as the basis in determining impacts. Furthermore, the guidelines stated that after July 1, 2020, transportation analysis under CEQA must use VMT to determine impacts for land use projects.

1.3 GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

The project is within the jurisdiction of the City of San Bernardino. The City has adopted guidance on evaluating VMT for transportation impacts under CEQA. For this project the City of San Bernardino *Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines*, August 2020, hereafter referred to as "Guidelines", will be used for this analysis.

2.0 ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

2.1 SCREENING CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

2.1.1 SBTIA Guidelines

The Guidelines detail the requirements for the project's VMT analysis consistent with CEQA including three (3) types of screening to determine if a project could be screened out from conducting a detailed project level VMT analysis.

- Transit Priority Area (TPA) Screening: Projects located within a TPA may be presumed to have a less than significant impact absent substantial evidence to the contrary.
- Low VMT Area Screening: Residential and office projects located within a low VMT-generating area may be presumed to have a less than significant impact absent substantial evidence to the contrary. In addition, other employment-related and mixed-use land use projects may qualify for the use of screening if the project can reasonably be expected to generate VMT per resident, per worker, or per service population that is similar to the existing land uses in the low VMT area.
- Project Type Screening:
 - a. Local serving retail projects less than 50,000 square feet may be presumed to have a less than significant impact absent substantial evidence to the contrary. Local serving retail generally improves the convenience of shopping close to home and has the effect of reducing vehicle travel.
 - b. In addition to local serving retail, the following uses can also be presumed to have a less than significant impact absent substantial evidence to the contrary as their uses are local serving in nature:
 - i. Local parks
 - ii. Day care centers
 - iii. Local-serving retail uses less than 50,000 square feet, including:
 - 1. Gas stations
 - 2. Banks
 - 3. Restaurants
 - 4. Shopping Center
 - iv. Student housing projects on or adjacent to college campuses
 - v. Local-serving assembly uses (places of worship, community organizations)
 - vi. Community institutions (Public libraries, fire stations, local government)
 - vii. Local serving community colleges that are consistent with the assumptions noted in the RTP/SCS
 - viii. Hotels (non-destination or resort; no banquet or special event space)
 - ix. Affordable or supportive housing
 - x. Assisted living facilities
 - xi. Senior housing (as defined by HUD)
 - xii. Projects generating less than 110 daily vehicle trips. This generally corresponds to the following "typical" development potentials:
 - 11 single family housing units
 - 16 multi-family, condominiums, or townhouse housing units
 - 10,000 sq. ft. of office
 - 15,000 sq. ft. of light industrial

- 63,000 sq. ft. of warehousing
- 79,000 sq. ft. of high cube transload and short-term storage warehouse

2.2 VMT ASSESSMENT FOR NON-SCREENED DEVELOPMENT

Per the Guidelines, projects that do not meet any of the screening criteria identified would need to perform a VMT analysis. The project would need to evaluate the appropriate VMT metrics and compare them to the identified thresholds to determine the level of significance as defined per the Guidelines.

3.0 PROJECT VMT ASSESSMENT

The project is proposing the construction of a self-support and self-sufficient 75,062 square feet emergency communication center that will be occupied by the Sheriff Coroner (SBCSD), Office of Emergency management (OES), County Fire (SBCFD), Consolidated Fire Agency (CONFIRE), Inland Counties Emergency Medical Agency (ICEMA), Radio Manage Facility (ISD), and Building Services.

3.1 SCREENING CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

TPA and Low VMT Area

The project location is neither in a TPA nor in a low VMT generating area. Therefore, **the project would not be presumed less than significant for being within a TPA or low VMT generating area.**

Project Type

For VMT purposes, the proposed emergency communication center is a community institution project type. As stated in 2.1.1 of this report, specific project types may have a presumption of less than significance if certain criteria is met. Community institutions may be presumed to have a less than significant impact for VMT as the proposed project land use falls under the community institution criteria. Therefore, **the proposed project would be screened out as a *Community Institution Project Type* and presumed to have a less than significant VMT impact.**

3.2 VMT ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

As concluded in Section 3.1 of this report, the proposed project screens out since it meets the *Community Institution Type* criteria and therefore, is presumed to have a less than significant VMT impact. It is our recommendation that the project be approved with no additional project-level VMT analysis.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact George Ghossain at:

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