

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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July 31, 2025

Craig Hensley
Community Development Director
Duarte Community Development Department
City of Duarte
1600 Huntington drive
Duarte, CA 91010

RE: Andres Duarte School Project
SCH # 2024110837
Vic. LA-210/PM 36.65, LA-605/PM25.08
GTS #07-LA-2024-04838-DEIR

Dear Craig Hensley:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced environmental document. The applicant is proposing the demolition or relocation of the existing school buildings and park structures and the construction of 169 townhome residential units within 25 multifamily residential buildings with one leasing office/recreation building, and redevelopment of the public park on the site.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. As a reminder, all future environmental document should include Vehicle Miles Traveled. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:

<https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/#guidelines-updates>

Based on the Transportation Impact Study, the proposed project is anticipated to generate a net reduction of 46 AM peak hour trips, a net increase of 5 PM peak hour trips, and a net increase of 646 daily trips. The Transportation Screening Assessment for Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) indicates that the project is located within a Transit Priority Area (TPA), defined as within one-half mile of a major transit stop or high-quality transit corridor. As such, pursuant to CEQA guidance, the project may be presumed to result in a less-than-significant VMT impact.

With respect to freeway ramp operations, the existing storage lengths at the northbound off-ramps at the I-210/I-605 and Huntington Drive intersection (Location #5) are projected to be sufficient under Opening Year (2027) With Project conditions. No storage deficiencies are anticipated, and vehicle queues are expected to be fully contained within the existing off-ramp lengths, avoiding any spillback onto the freeway mainlines.

Further, the project is expected to reduce demand at the I-210/I-605 northbound exit ramp during the AM peak hour by 20 trips and result in only one additional trip during the PM peak hour. Accordingly, the project's impact on ramp terminal queue lengths is anticipated to be negligible.

However, Appendix D (Transportation Screening Assessment) includes trip generation estimates for Project Alternative 3A (353 units) in Table 2 and Alternative 3B (638 units) in Table 3. If the project applicant elects to proceed with either of these higher-density alternatives, the associated increase in trip generation may result in different transportation impacts. Therefore, a supplemental Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis and updated queuing analysis should be conducted to evaluate potential impacts to the state transportation network under those alternative scenarios.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that require the use of oversized transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Any large-size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods for the construction phase and operation phase. Construction truck loads should be covered with a tarpaulin cover.

Storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Los Angeles County. Please be mindful that projects should be designed to discharge clean run-off water.

Andrew Grubb, Principal Civil Engineer

April 15, 2025

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin, the project coordinator, at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS #07-LA-2024-04838-DEIR.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse