California Department of Transportation

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October 08, 2025

Dan Mueller
City of Downey
Public Works Department
11111 Brookshire Avenue
Downey, CA 9024

RE: Furman Park Stormwater Capture and Infiltration Project (CIP 22-14)– MND
SCH# 2025090717
GTS# 07-LA-2025-04908

Dear Alexandria Fortaleza,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. The City of Downey is proposing to construct a regional stormwater runoff capture facility within Furman Park to provide multiple benefits including improved flood control, water quality, and water supply (through infiltration to groundwater). The stormwater facility would involve a stormwater diversion structure, which would divert water from an existing LACFCD 96" RCP storm drain located along Florence Avenue and convey stormwater to an underground capture, treatment, and infiltration facility situated beneath the existing baseball fields. The Project would also provide in-kind replacement of the existing baseball field facilities due to the placement of the basin, which would provide the city an opportunity to rehabilitate these recreation facilities as part of the Los Angeles County Safe, Clean Water Program (SCWP). The Project would also include site enhancements, such as native landscaping and a new habitat garden trail, as a new passive recreation opportunity in the park. The proposed Project would be constructed in two phases lasting a total of approximately 18 months, beginning as early as January 2026. The Project is partially funded by the Los Angeles County SCWP, which aims to plan, build, and maintain multi-benefit watershed-based projects that improve water quality and increase water supply and/or enhance communities. The SCWP is

developed in collaboration with public health, environmental groups, cities, businesses, labor, and community-based organizations. The Project site has the potential to provide significant benefits for the city, including treatment of a sizable drainage area of 475 acres, which can offer runoff storage and water quality benefits. The Project would also address the additional need for stormwater management identified to achieve compliance with Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Program, as the city is a member of the Lower Los Angeles River Watershed Management Group (LLARWMG).

The nearest State facilities are I-710 and I-5. After reviewing the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans encourages the Lead Agency to incorporate multi-modal infrastructure along and project boundaries to meet community placemaking and safe urban design objectives. This infrastructure, encompassing ADA-compliant design, adequate sidewalks, high-visibility crosswalks, Class IV bike lanes, and bike parking, is crucial for establishing a fully accessible Complete Street that supports pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders.

Caltrans recommends limiting large truck travel and construction traffic to off-peak commute hours. A permit for any heavy construction equipment and or materials that require the use of oversized transport vehicles on State highways. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing potential impacts for Caltrans review.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Nestor Lemus, the project coordinator, at Nestor.Lemus@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2025-04908.

Sincerely,

Miya Edmonson

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse