

California Department of Transportation

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October 13, 2026

11-SD-163

PM 6.503

San Diego Mesa College Comprehensive Master Plan
PEIR/SCH#2025120225

Mr. Lance Lareau
Associate Vice Chancellor
San Diego Community College District
1450 Frazee Road, Suite 500
San Diego, CA 92108

Dear Mr. Lareau:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the San Diego Mesa College Comprehensive Master Plan located near State Route 163 (SR-163). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We are striving for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety on the transportation network. These pursuits are both ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Traffic Impact Study

Per the Vehicle Miles Traveled Analysis dated April 15, 2026, the Project Trip Generation Table 3-1 indicates that approximately 3,955 project trips will be generated by the project. Per the Caltrans "Local Development Review Safety Review Practitioner's Guidance" Appendix E - Safety Review Screening Guidelines, a project is not screened out from performing a safety review if additional vehicle trips generated by the project are added to the State Highway System (SHS). Please confirm whether the project's additional trips will be assigned to the SHS and provide the Safety Review if applicable.

For the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report please reference the Caltrans "Local Development Review (LDR) Safety Review Practitioner's Guidance" <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/safety-programs/documents/202402-ldr-safety-review-practitioners-guidance-a11y.pdf> to determine if the project meets both of the screening criteria.

If both screening criteria are not met, then a safety review will be needed.

Please continue to keep Caltrans included in any reviews of future proposed alternative campus locations.

Environmental

Caltrans appreciates the opportunity to comment on this Draft PEIR for the San Diego Mesa College Comprehensive Master Plan. Should future projects based upon the changes enacted from the PEIR have elements and/or mitigation measures that change or effect Caltrans Right-of-Way (R/W), Caltrans would be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and would use your environmental assessment in your environmental documentation for Caltrans subsequent environmental compliance. Please contact us when you discover that Caltrans R/W is affected as we would appreciate meeting with you to discuss the analysis from your PEIR that Caltrans will use for our subsequent environmental compliance.

Right-of-Way

Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.

Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction.

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Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by visiting the website at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>. Projects with the following:

- require a Caltrans Encroachment Permit
- have completed the Caltrans Local Development Review (LDR) process
- have an approved environmental document

need to have documents submitted for Quality Management Assessment Process (QMAP) process via email to D11.QMAP.Permits@dot.ca.gov. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Charlie Lecourtois, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 985-4766 or by e-mail sent to charlie.lecourtois@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kimberly D. Dodson

KIMBERLY D. DODSON, GISP
Branch Chief
Local Development Review