California Department of Transportation

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January 23, 2026

City of Bell Gardens, Planning Division
Adrian Flores, Associate Planner
7100 Garfield Avenue
Bell Gardens, CA 90201

RE: City of Bell Gardens Climate Action Plan (CAP) – Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2025121122
GTS # LA-2025-04986
Vic. LA Multiple

Dear Adrian Flores:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced environmental document. The Bell Gardens CAP serves as a strategic roadmap to guide the City's efforts to reduce GHG emissions, adapt to climate change, and promote sustainability throughout the community. The CAP outlines goals, actions, and strategies that support Bell Gardens' broader goals of environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and social equity. The CAP serves as the plan for reduction of GHG emissions for the City. The CAP is intentionally a living document that can be revised as needed with clear and transparent metrics by which progress can be both assessed and measured. As part of its commitment to long-term climate action, Bell Gardens aims to align with California's statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals, including reducing emissions 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, reaching 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2045, and achieving net-zero GHG emissions no later than 2045, consistent with Executive Order B-55 and Senate Bill 100.

The CAP is meant to serve as a guiding document towards GHG reductions both in municipal operations and community wide. It is designed as a comprehensive strategy to reduce emissions in a manner consistent with state guidelines and regulations, and to identify cost-effective opportunities to existing and future residents, businesses, and development projects for a more sustainable community. The CAP focuses on five core areas: Buildings and Energy, Transportation and Mobility, Resource Conservation, Green Community, and Resilience and Adaptation. Strategies within these areas include expanding solar energy and battery storage at city facilities, improving building efficiency, transitioning to zero-emission vehicles, enhancing

active transportation networks, increasing urban tree canopy, and supporting local workforce development tied to sustainability. Many of these efforts are designed to provide multiple benefits, such as cleaner air, lower utility costs, and improved public health, especially for communities most vulnerable to climate impacts.

After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans aims to provide a safe, reliable transportation network that respects the environment. For this reason, Caltrans D7's Climate Change Branch supports the City of Bell Garden's Climate Action Plan IS/MND and agrees with its analysis and conclusions regarding environmental impacts and mitigation measures. The Plan's strategies to reduce GHG are sound and are a critical step towards climate resilience.

Caltrans would also like to specifically applaud Goals T1.1: Complete & Safe Bike Network and T1.2: Walkable Neighborhoods. The chosen actions to achieve these goals are robust, proven infrastructure investments to creating greater safety, true mode shift, and more resilient communities. Some key investments listed include:

- Upgrading protection features on existing bike facilities (T1.1.1),
- Connecting the Bell Gardens bike lanes to the forthcoming Firestone West Santa Ana Branch light rail station in South Gate and the LA River Bike Path through a bike/pedestrian bridge over I-710 and LA River (T1.1.2),
- Creating a citywide plan to add and upgrade bike lanes, install bike racks and lockers, and place wayfinding signs at key hubs. Publish a public map showing planned bike lanes, protection types (e.g., Class II, III), and installation timelines (T1.1.3),
- Repairing and expanding sidewalks and adding street tree shade cover in heat-exposed blocks (T1.2.1),
- Adding raised crosswalks, curb extensions, and pedestrian signals at high-injury intersections (T1.2.2), and
- Launching a "Safe Paths to Schools and Parks" program at four school zones and city parks with speed-reduction designs and safe crosswalks (T1.2.3)

Please be aware that Caltrans encroachment permits will be required at all locations where Project work interacts with State ROW. This includes any grading, topography, or equipment work that will change the pattern or direction of water runoff in a way that will impact State facilities or ROW.

A condition of approval for issued entitlements shall include a requirement to work with Caltrans' Office of Permits to obtain the appropriate encroachment permits. Final design requirements for any proposed changes to infrastructure within or along Caltrans Right-of-way will be determined by the Office of Permits. At the time of permit application there will be rounds of

review and corrections to ensure all design, Right-of-way, access management, water runoff, environmental, and statutory requirements are being addressed.

Caltrans District 7 Office of Permits contact information:
Mailing Address: 100 S Main Street, Ste 100 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday
Phone: 213-897-3631 | Fax: 213-897-0420 | E-mail: D7.Permits@dot.ca.gov

Finally, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will require a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2025-04986.

Sincerely,

Anthony Higgins

Anthony Higgins
Acting LDR Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse