

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 7
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March 17, 2026

Al Tsai, Maintenance and Operations Administrator
Palmdale School District
39210 10th Street East,
Palmdale, CA 93550

RE: Extended Learning Opportunities Program
Center – Mitigated Negative Declaration
(MND)
SCH # 2026020578
GTS # LA-2026-05022
Vic. LA 138 PM 47.760
LA 138 PM R48.521

Dear Al Tsai:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced environmental document. The proposed project will construct an Extended Learning Opportunities Program Center (ELOP) on 67 acres at the northeast corner of 40th Street East and Avenue Q. The ELOP will operate as a school enrichment center. The project will be constructed in four phases. Phase one will construct: a handball court, mini-pitch sports court with covering, playground with shade structures, amphitheater/outdoor group area, small group gathering area, a concrete pad for a future multipurpose building, flexible modular buildings and restrooms, a modular full service kitchen, an entry portal, bus staging drop off and entry plaza, staff parking, specialty covered bus parking, and planted buffer mounds/berms with drought tolerant plants and boulders. Phase two will construct: a track and field with flag football overlay, a baseball field/softball field, a soccer field with shaded bleachers, a cross-country route, tennis courts, a shade canopy with seating, concessions/ modular restroom, access/maintenance road, and a planted buffer mounds/berms with drought tolerant plants and boulders. Phase three will construct: a golf academy, parking stalls, a maintenance yard, and planted buffer mounds/berms with drought tolerant plants and boulders. Phase four will construct: a farm building-urban barn, a stockyard/corral, and a concessions/modular restroom.

After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans aims to provide a safe, reliable transportation network that respects the environment. The Initial Study/MND states that parents will not be allowed to pick up or drop off their child/children at the ELOP; instead, the pick up/drop off trips will be done through a bus program that will pick up the students from their respective school and then drop them back off. Students will be picked up only for emergency needs at the ELOP. Caltrans applauds this creative approach to reducing vehicle trips. For this reason, Caltrans D7's Complete Streets and Transit branches support the proposed ELOP Project bus program as it can reduce and shorten trips and provide an efficient transportation model for educational facilities.

It's not clear in the project site plans if the developer will construct a sidewalk along the project's frontage; but Caltrans strongly recommends that constructing ADA compliant sidewalks be a required condition of approval. Also, the site plan does not show if/where bicycle parking will be provided, which Caltrans also recommends be included in the project.

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.

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.

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

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-LA-2026-05022.

Sincerely,



Anthony Higgins
Acting LDR Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse