

California Department of Transportation

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April 20, 2026

11-IMP- VAR
SR-98, SR-111
City of Calexico Housing Update NOP
SCH #2026030920

Mr. Michael Coyne
City of Calexico
Planning and Building
608 Heber Avenue
Calexico, CA 92231

Dear Mr. Coyne:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the City of Calexico Housing Element Update and Rezone Project located near State Routes 111, and 98 (SR-98, SR-111). 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.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Safety

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans aims for 2050 to be the first year with no deaths or serious injuries on California's roads. We seek more equitable outcomes for the diverse users of the transportation network. To reach these ambitious goals, we will collaborate meaningfully with our partners. We encourage the adoption of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will improve transportation safety. These goals are ambitious and urgent, requiring a deliberate departure from the status quo as we embed safety into all aspects of our work.

Traffic Analysis

New developments resulting from the City of Calexico Housing Element should provide a Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) based Traffic Impact Study (TIS) should be provided for this project. Please use the Governor's Office of Planning and Research Guidance to identify VMT related impacts.¹

¹ California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) 2018. "Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA." https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743_Technical_Advisory.pdf

The TIS may also need to identify the proposed project's near-term and long-term safety or operational issues, on or adjacent any existing or proposed State facilities.

Future Housing Projects that are within the Housing Element will need to confirm with 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.

Planning

As part of the City of Calexico Housing Element update 2021-2029, Caltrans requests that the City include discussions and mapping/graphics that describe the City's existing and future housing inventory per the City's Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA).

Housing-element law requires a quantification of each jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need as established in the RHNA Plan prepared by the jurisdiction's metropolitan planning organization (MPO) or council of governments.

In accordance with California Government Code Sections 65583 and 65584, housing elements shall contain an analysis of population and employment trends and documentation of projections and quantification of the locality's existing and projected housing needs for all income levels. These projected needs shall include the locality's share of the regional housing needs (i.e. RHNA) per Government Code Section 65584.

Land Use and Smart Growth

Caltrans recognizes there is a strong link between transportation and land use. Development can have a significant impact on traffic and congestion on State transportation facilities. In particular, the pattern of land use can affect both local vehicle miles traveled and the number of trips. Caltrans supports collaboration with local agencies to work towards a safe, functional, interconnected, multi-modal transportation network integrated through applicable "smart growth" type land use planning and policies.

The City should continue to coordinate with Caltrans to implement necessary improvements at intersections and interchanges where the agencies have joint jurisdiction.

Noise

The applicant must be informed that, in accordance with 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 772, Caltrans is not responsible for existing or future traffic noise impacts associated with the existing configuration of SR-98 and SR-111.

Design

Please be aware of Caltrans SR-98 environmental document for the proposed improvements to state facilities in the Calexico area.

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Please see attachment, *SR.98 Final ED*, for reference.

Hydraulics

Caltrans generally does not allow development projects to impact hydraulics within the State's Right of Way (R/W). Any modifications to existing Caltrans drainage and/or increased runoff to State facilities will not be allowed. It is recommended to connect to City drainage, not Caltrans' R/W.

Environmental

Should future projects based upon the changes enacted from the Housing Element have elements and/or mitigation measures that affect Caltrans' R/W, Caltrans would welcome the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Right-of-Way

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 Caltrans' R/W before construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide approved final environmental documents for this project, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits—specifically, CEQA determination or exemption. The supporting documents must address all environmental impacts within Caltrans' R/W and address any impacts from avoidance and/or mitigation measures.

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.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Roger Sanchez, of the LDR Branch, by phone (619) 987-1043 or by e-mail at roger.sanchez-rangel@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kimberly D. Dodson

KIMBERLY D. DODSON, GISP
Branch Chief
Local Development Review

Attachments: SR.98 Final ED.