

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

P.O. BOX 942874, MS-32
SACRAMENTO, CA 94274-0001
PHONE (916) 653-1818
FAX (916) 653-4570
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/



*Serious Drought.
Help save water!*

November 20, 2014

Christopher Calfee, Senior Counsel
Governor's Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Calfee:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comment on the August 6, 2014, document titled "Updating Transportation Impacts Analysis in the CEQA Guidelines: Preliminary Discussion Draft of Updates to the CEQA Guidelines Implementing SB 743 (Steinberg, 2013)." This preliminary draft addresses the evaluation of transportation impacts under CEQA. In the context of CEQA, we are typically lead agency for transportation projects on the State Highway System and Intercity Rail Corridors, and we also act as a responsible or commenting agency through our Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) program on many land use projects.

Caltrans has recently revised our mission statement and goals to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. We partner with land use lead agencies and transportation providers to ensure that all modes are considered in the planning and development of an integrated transportation system. The CEQA Guidelines play an important role in shaping those partnerships and furthers our collective goal of enhancing California's livability.

As a partner with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) we appreciate our interagency coordination, and look forward to continuing it to successfully implement SB 743. Our regular meetings should continue to address traffic analysis, safety, VMT calculation, VMT mitigation, Appendix G language, induced demand, direct impacts, and modeling as we work together to implement the intent of SB 743.

To further assure proper implementation of SB 743, Caltrans has committed to creating two key statewide guidance documents within the next two years: the Transportation Analysis Guide (TAG) and the Transportation Impact Study (TIS) Guide. They will provide guidance for multimodal transportation analysis, for projects on the State Highway System and for land use development projects, respectively. External partners from around the state will be invited into the process to create these guides.

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We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with OPR. If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Begley, Chief, Office of Sustainable Community Planning at (916) 651-6882.

Sincerely,

Katie Benouar

KATIE BENOUAR
Chief, Division of Transportation Planning

c: Malcolm Dougherty, Director, Caltrans
Bill Figge, Acting Planning & Modal Deputy Director, Caltrans
Kate White, Deputy Secretary of Environmental Policy and Housing Coordination, CalSTA