

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Ventura Alternative Education Campus

Alex Belanger, Assistant Superintendent
Facilities Management & Planning
Fresno Unified School District
4600 N Brawley Avenue
Fresno, California 93722

Dear Mr. Belanger:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has completed its review of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Ventura Alternative Education Campus and Administrative Office Project. Thank you for inviting Caltrans to participate, early, in the planning stages of this project. It is clear Caltrans' recommendations were considered in the preparation of this MND, and we welcome further collaboration as the project progresses. Our comments provided in the letter dated November 1, 2018 still apply. Concerning the proposed transportation mitigation measures, Caltrans offers the following comments:

Mitigation Measure T-1: Intersection improvements at Tenth Street / Ventura Avenue will become necessary as a result of this project. The existing high frequency of pedestrian collisions combined with the proposal to offer a pre-K facility on site, indicate high visibility crossings and traffic calming street elements may be of great benefit. A feature such as a pedestrian scramble may also be appropriate. Caltrans recommends the median on Ventura Avenue be evaluated for its functionality as a pedestrian refuge.

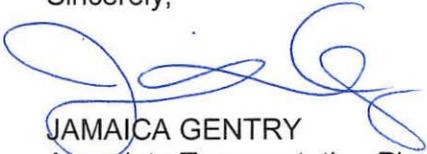
Mitigation Measure T-4: Caltrans supports the proposal to keep the existing Class II bike lane along the frontage to Ventura Avenue. As previously stated, an analysis conducted by Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG) in partnership with Caltrans, found the on-street parking in the Ventura/Kings Canyon corridor to be underutilized and an impediment to bicycle traffic. For added safety and to improve riders' perceived comfort Caltrans recommends eliminating on street parking along the frontage to Ventura Avenue. This is an actionable step toward implementing the Ventura/Kings Canyon Complete Streets Plan to upgrade that facility to a Class I bike lane.

Other Considerations: The project is commended for including elements such as bike parking and student transit passes in the proposal. Likely, many students and potentially employees will choose to bike to this school. Therefore, Caltrans recommends that in addition to providing bike parking, the project incorporate bike storage (e.g. lockers) to deter theft and protect property from the weather. Consider, also, providing for bike repair onsite with amenities such as an air pump and tire patches. Similarly, employees may want to take advantage of the school's proximity to transit. Caltrans recommends transit passes be offered to the school's employees, as well.

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We look forward to continued partnership in developing the Ventura Avenue corridor into a multi-modal transportation facility; improving health, safety and quality of life for the community. Questions about these comments can be directed to me at (559) 488-7307.

Sincerely,



JAMAICA GENTRY
Associate Transportation Planner
Transportation Planning - North