



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Planning and
Development
Department No.: 053
For Agenda Of: 09/01/2020
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 1 hour on 09/15/2020
Continued Item: N/A
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Lisa Plowman, Director, Planning and Development
Director (805) 568-2086
Contact Info: Daniel T. Klemann, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning
(805) 568-2072

SUBJECT: CEQA Transportation Impact Thresholds Update to Comply with Senate Bill
743

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors (Board):

On September 1, 2020, set a hearing for September 15, 2020, to consider the County Planning Commission's recommendation to adopt a resolution to amend the Thresholds of Significance for Transportation Impacts of the *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* to comply with Senate Bill 743 and the Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines) Section 15064.3, Determining the Significance of Transportation Impacts.

On September 15, 2020, the Boards' action should include the following:

- a) Determine that the amendment to the *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* is not a project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15060(c)(3) and 15378(b)(5); and
- b) Adopt a resolution approving the amendment to the *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual*.

Please refer the matter to staff if the Board takes other than the recommended actions for the development of appropriate materials and/or a report on the budgetary and other impacts that the Board's actions would have on the Long Range Planning Division Work Program.

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Summary Text:

Senate Bill 743 and, subsequently, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, changed transportation impact analyses under CEQA. Specifically, CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(a) states “vehicle miles traveled [VMT] is the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts.” With this change, the County may no longer use automobile delay, as measured by level of service (LOS) or similar measures of vehicular capacity or traffic congestion, as the basis for determining the significance of transportation impacts under CEQA. Therefore, the County proposes to update the Thresholds of Significance for Transportation Impacts of the *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* to shift from LOS to VMT-based metrics.

The Planning and Development Department (P&D) formed an Advisory Group consisting of staff from the County Public Works Department and the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG). The Advisory Group and P&D’s transportation consultant, Fehr & Peers, used the SBCAG Regional Transportation Demand Model to estimate VMT and develop the following: (1) VMT methodology, (2) screening criteria, (3) thresholds of significance, and (4) mitigation measures.

The amendment to the *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* provides a step-by-step guide for assessing transportation impacts under CEQA. A related report, titled *Transportation Analysis Updates in Santa Barbara County*, contains background and technical information regarding the proposed VMT methodologies, screening criteria, thresholds of significance, and mitigation measures.

Staff will provide additional information and supporting documents on the proposed amendment before the Board hearing on September 15, 2020. The supporting documents will include the County Planning Commission staff report, the proposed amendment to the *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual*, and the Notice of Exemption.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Funding for this project is budgeted in the P&D’s Long Range Planning Division Budget Program on page D-294 of the County of Santa Barbara Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 adopted budget. There are no facilities impacts.

Special Instructions:

The P&D will satisfy all noticing requirements.

The Clerk of the Board shall forward a copy of the minute order and executed copies of the resolutions to the P&D, attention Mark Friedlander.

Authored by:

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