

FIRESTONE BOULEVARD WIDENING PROJECT

Response to Comments on Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Prepared for
City of Norwalk
Community Development Department
12700 Norwalk Boulevard
Norwalk, CA 90650

November 2022



FIRESTONE BOULEVARD WIDENING PROJECT

Response to Comments on Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

Prepared for
City of Norwalk
Community Development Department
12700 Norwalk Boulevard
Norwalk, CA 90650

November 2022

Glen Kau
Public Services Director/City Engineer
562-929-5511
GKau@norwalkca.gov

626 Wilshire Boulevard
Suite 1100
Los Angeles, CA 90017



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CHAPTER 1

Introduction

This Response to Comments document was prepared to respond to comments that were received on the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND). The Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Final IS/MND) consists of the Draft IS/MND and this Response to Comments document. The Final IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as amended (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and *CEQA Guidelines* (California Administrative Code Section 15000 et seq.). Documents relating to this Final IS/MND were cited and incorporated. All documents are available for review at the City of Norwalk website at <https://www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/community-development/planning>.

1.1 CEQA Requirements

Before the City of Norwalk may approve the Project, it must certify that the Final IS/MND: a) has been completed in compliance with CEQA; b) was presented to the Norwalk City Council who reviewed and considered it prior to approving the project; and c) reflects the City's independent judgment and analysis.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15074 states that prior to approving a project, the decision-making body of the lead agency shall consider the proposed mitigated negative declaration together with any comments received during the public review process. Therefore, the decision-making body will be considering the following documents that constitute the Final IS/MND prior to making a decision on the project.

- The Draft IS/MND
- Response to Comment Document which includes:
 - Comments and recommendations received on the Draft IS/MND;
 - A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft IS/MND;
 - The response of the Lead Agency to substantive environmental points raised in the review and consultation process.

This Response to Comments document for the Firestone Boulevard Widening Project presents the following chapters:

- Chapter 1: Introduction – this chapter includes an introduction to the Response to Comments and the CEQA process and requirements.
- Chapter 2: Comment Letters – this chapter includes a list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft IS/MND.
- Chapter 3: Response to Comments – this chapter includes the written comments received on the Draft IS/MND as well as the written responses to each comment.
- Chapter 4: Errata – this chapter includes any revisions made to the Draft IS/MND in response to comments received or initiated by the Lead Agency.

1.2 CEQA Process

Public Participation Process

Notice of Intent of the Draft IS/MND

The Notice of Intent (NOI) of the Draft IS/MND was posted on June 30, 2020. The Draft IS/MND was circulated for a 20-day public review until July 20, 2020. The Draft IS/MND was circulated to agencies and interested parties requesting a copy of the Draft IS/MND. Copies of the Draft IS/MND were made available for review at the City of Norwalk website and currently located at: <https://www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/community-development/planning>.

Evaluation and Response to Comments

In accordance with Article 6 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, the City of Norwalk, as the Lead Agency, was required to evaluate substantive environmental comments received on the Draft IS/MND. This Response to Comments document provides written responses to each comment received on the Draft IS/MND.

Final IS/MND Approval

As the Lead Agency, the City of Norwalk is required to determine the adequacy of the Final IS/MND (Draft IS/MND and Response to Comments). The City can adopt the Final IS/MND if they find on the basis of the whole record before it (including the Draft IS/MND and Response to Comments) that there is no substantial evidence that the Project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Final IS/MND reflects the City's independent judgment and analysis.

Notice of Determination

Pursuant to Section 15094 of the *CEQA Guidelines*, the City of Norwalk will file a Notice of Determination (NOD) with the Los Angeles County Clerk within five working days of Project approval.

CHAPTER 2

Comment Letters

The Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) for the Firestone Boulevard Widening Project was circulated for public review for 20 days (June 30, 2020 through July 20, 2020). The City of Norwalk received five comment letters from public agencies and organizations during the public review period, as listed in the table below. Each comment letter has been assigned a numerical designation (1 through 5). Each comment within each letter has also been assigned a numerical designation so that each comment could be cross-referenced with an individual response. The comments and responses are provided in Chapter 3.

COMMENT LETTERS RECEIVED

Comment No.	Commenting Agency	Date of Comment
1	County of Los Angeles Fire Department	07/23/2020
2	County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works	07/30/2020
3	Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation	07/01/2020
4	Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation	07/01/2020
5	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	07/20/2020

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CHAPTER 3

Responses to Comments

Following are the comment letters and the written responses to each of the comments that were received during the public review period of the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND). In some instances, in response to the comment, the City of Norwalk has made additions or deletions to the text of the Draft IS/MND; additions are included as underlined text and deletions are shown as ~~stricken text~~.



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
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www.fire.lacounty.gov

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FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

Comment Letter 1

July 23, 2020

Pam Torres, Analyst
City of Norwalk
Public Services
12650 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

Dear Ms. Torres:

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, "FIRESTONE BOULEVARD WIDENING PROJECT," CONSISTS OF WIDENING FIRESTONE BOULEVARD BETWEEN HOXIE AVENUE/NORTHBOUND I-605 FREEWAY RAMPS TO THE WEST AND IMPERIAL HIGHWAY TO THE EAST, THE EXISTING FIRESTONE BOULEVARD SERVES AS A VITAL CORRIDOR TO MOVE GOODS AND PEOPLE, SUPPORTING THE CITY ECONOMY, NORWALK, FFER 2020003989

1-1

The Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, Forestry Division, and Health Hazardous Materials Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.

The following are their comments:

PLANNING DIVISION:

Any highway project that includes road and ramp closures and/or detours has the potential to impede upon emergency response times, especially during high peak traffic hours. All road and ramp closures and detours should be approved and acceptable to the Fire Department so as not to adversely impact emergency responses.

1-2

For any questions regarding this response, please contact Loretta Bagwell, Planning Analyst, at (323) 881-2404 or Loretta.Bagwell@fire.lacounty.gov.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

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BELLFLOWER
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COMMERCE
COVINA
CUDAHY
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DUARTE

EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLEN DORA
HAWAIIAN GARDENS
HAWTHORNE
HERMOSA BEACH
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TEMPLE CITY
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WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:

Please notify the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Fire Stations 20 and 115 at least three days in advance of any street closures that may affect fire/paramedic responses in the area.

Provide three sets of alternate route (detour) plans to Fire Stations 20 and 115, with a tentative schedule of planned closures, prior beginning of construction.

1-3

Disruptions to water service shall be coordinated with the Los Angeles County Fire Department and alternate water sources shall be provided for Fire Protection during such disruptions.

The development of this project must comply with all applicable code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows, and fire hydrants.

1-4

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Land Development Unit appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project. Should any questions arise, please contact FPEA Claudia Soiza at (323) 890-4243 or Claudia.soiza@fire.lacounty.gov.

FORESTRY DIVISION – OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

The statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Forestry Division include erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, archeological and cultural resources, and the County Oak Tree Ordinance.

1-5

The County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Forestry Division has no further comments regarding this project.

For any questions regarding this response, please contact Forestry Assistant, Joseph Brunet at (818) 890-5719.

HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION:

The Health Hazardous Materials Division of the Los Angeles County Fire Department has no comments or requirements for the project at this time.

1-6

Please contact HHMD senior typist-clerk, Perla Garcia at (323) 890-4035 or Perla.garcia@fire.lacounty.gov if you have any questions.

If you have any additional questions, please contact this office at (323) 890-4330.

Pam Torres, Analyst
July 23, 2020
Page 3

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald M. Durbin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping tail.

RONALD M. DURBIN, CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

RMD:ac

Comment Letter 1: County of Los Angeles Fire Department – July 23, 2020

Comment 1-1

This comment states that the Draft IS/MND has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, Forestry Division, and Health Hazardous Materials Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.

Response to Comment 1-1

The City of Norwalk appreciates the LACFD for their interest in the Project and participation in the environmental review process. These introductory comments are noted for the administrative record and will be forwarded to the decision-makers for review and consideration. Specific comments regarding the Draft IS/MND are provided and responded to below.

Comment 1-2

PLANNING DIVISION:

This comment states that road and ramp closures and/or detours could potentially impede emergency response times, particularly during high peak traffic hours and that any road and ramp closures and detours should be approved and acceptable to the Fire Department.

Response to Comment 1-2

The City of Norwalk has noted the comment regarding road and ramp closures and/or detours being an impediment to emergency response times and to seek approval from LACFD prior to road and ramp closures and/or detours are put into effect. Within the Draft IS/MND, Response O-54, relating to fire protection services, specifies interferences would be temporary and limited. Additionally, Response Q-61, of the Draft IS/MND, describes potential impacts including delays within the project area. To minimize construction traffic-related delays, Mitigation Measure TRA-1 would be required. Mitigation Measure TRA-1 includes the preparation of a Traffic Management Plan which would include the City coordinating with appropriate agencies, including LACFD, before and during construction to ensure that construction activities would provide adequate vehicular circulation. Furthermore, Response Q-64 of the Draft IS/MND states that emergency vehicles would continue to have access to surrounding roadways during construction. No further response is required.

Comment 1-3

LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:

This comment states that the Land Development Unit reviewed the Project for access and water service requirements. There are two individual comments related to access and one to water service requirements:

1. This comment requests that the LACFD's Fire Stations 20 and 115 are notified at least three days in advance of any street closures that may affect fire/paramedic responses in the area.
2. This comment requests that three sets of alternate route (detour) plans are submitted to Fire Stations 20 and 115, with a tentative schedule of planned closures prior to the beginning of construction.
3. This comment requests the coordination with LACFD of any disruptions to water service with alternate water sources being provided for Fire Protection during such disruptions.

Response to Comment 1-3

The City of Norwalk has noted the comments regarding access and water service requirements received from the Land Division Unit. Responses to each of the three comments are provided as follows, and the responses to each numbered comment has a corresponding response number below.

1. This access comment identified a requirement for the City to notify LACFD Fire Stations 20 and 115 at least three days prior to any street closures that may affect emergency response. The City acknowledges this request and has a standard practice to communicate with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department at least three days in advance of any street closure. The City will be coordinating with the Department's Fire Stations 20 and 115.
2. This access comment requests that three sets of alternate route (detour) plans are submitted to Fire Stations 20 and 115, together with a tentative schedule of planned closures prior to the beginning of construction. The City acknowledges these requests and it is the City's standard practice for the City's construction contractor to prepare a traffic control plan. The traffic control plan will include alternative route (detour) plans and a schedule of planned closures as requested.
3. This water service comment requests the coordination with LACFD for any disruptions to water service and provision of alternate water sources for Fire Protection during any such disruption. The City acknowledges this request; however, there are no water service disruptions planned as part of implementation of the Project.

Comment 1-4

This comment requests that the development of the Project must comply with all applicable code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows, and fire hydrants.

Response to Comment 1-4

The City of Norwalk has noted the comment related to compliance with applicable code and ordinance requirements. The City understands the requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows, and fire hydrants and will comply with County of Los Angeles Fire Code.

The Project involves modification to and resurfacing of an existing road in an urban area and would be in compliance with all applicable codes and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows, and fire hydrants.

Comment 1-5

FORESTRY DIVISION - OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

This comment states that the statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Forestry Division include erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, archaeological and cultural resources and the County Oak Tree Ordinance.

The comment notes that the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Forestry Division has no further comments regarding this project.

Response to Comment 1-5

Each of the issue areas identified above have been addressed within the Draft IS/MND. Erosion control is addressed in Response G-26 of the Draft IS/MND. Watershed Management is addressed in Response J-44 related to stormwater and drainage on and offsite within the Draft IS/MND. Rare and endangered species and vegetation is discussed in Responses D-14, D-15, D-16 and D-17 of the Draft IS/MND. Fuel modification is discussed in Response I-39 and T-73 of the Draft IS/MND. Archaeological and cultural resources are discussed in Responses E-20, E-21, E-22 and R-65 of the Draft IS/MND. Therefore, each of the items falling under the statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department's Forestry Division has been evaluated in the Draft IS/MND. No specific comment on the contents of the Draft IS/MND were provided, and therefore, no further response is required.

Comment 1-6

HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION:

This comment states the Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD) of the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACFD) has no comments or requirements for the project at this time.

Response to Comment 1-6

The City notes the HHMD of the LACFD has no specific comments on the contents of the Draft IS/MND. Therefore, no further response is required.

Anna Millar

From: Ryan Todaro
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 6:16 PM
To: Anna Millar
Subject: FW: Firestone Boulevard Widening Project Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration comments

#2

From: Pamela Torres <ptorres@norwalkca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 5:29 PM
To: Glen Kau <GKau@norwalkca.gov>
Cc: Beth Chow <bchow@norwalkca.gov>; Ryan Todaro <RTodaro@esassoc.com>
Subject: FW: Firestone Boulevard Widening Project Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration comments

Comments from LA County regarding the project.

*Thank You,
Pamela Torres
Management Analyst – Public Services*

✉ Address 12700 Norwalk Blvd. Norwalk CA 90650
☎ Phone 562-929-5514
✉ Email ptorres@norwalkca.gov



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From: Toan Duong <TDUONG@dpw.lacounty.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 30, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Pamela Torres <ptorres@norwalkca.gov>
Cc: Jose Suarez <JSUAREZ@dpw.lacounty.gov>; Jose Cruz <JoCruz@dpw.lacounty.gov>; Jason Rietze <JRietze@dpw.lacounty.gov>; Long Thang <LTHANG@dpw.lacounty.gov>
Subject: Firestone Boulevard Widening Project Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration comments

**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND)
FIRESTONE BOULEVARD WIDENING PROJECT
CITY OF NORWALK
ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (RPPL2020004405)**

Thank you for the opportunity to review the IS/MND for the subject project. The project is for the widening of Firestone Boulevard between Hoxie Avenue/Northbound I-605 Freeway ramps to the west and Imperial Highway to the east within the City of Norwalk.

The Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) has reviewed the IS/MND and offers the following comments for your consideration:

1. The LACFCD operates and maintains the following storm drains and associated catch basins within the project boundary:
 - 1.1. BL 1110 - Lines A & B
 - 1.2. Longvest Drain
 - 1.3. BL 5902 - Line B

2-1
(cont)

Project components affecting the LACFCD's facilities or right of way will require a flood permit, storm drain plans approval, and hydrology study approval from the LACFCD through EPIC-LA at epicla.lacounty.gov. The LACFCD should be disclosed and included as a responsible permitting agency in the IS/MND.

2. The IS/MND, Page 48, section 42, paragraph (a) states "the current flow of stormwater is to onsite existing storm drain facilities which ultimately flow to City of Norwalk-maintained storm drain mains."

2-2

This statement is not totally accurate and should be revised. The largest storm drain system which collects storm water runoff from the project area is Project No. 1110 – Lines A and B, which ultimately discharge to the San Gabriel River, and is operated and maintained by the LACFCD.

We request the opportunity to review future environmental documents when they are available. For questions regarding the above comments, please contact Jason Rietze of Public Works, Stormwater Planning Division at (626) 300-3248 or jrietze@pw.lacounty.gov.

2-3

If you have any other questions or require additional information, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Toan Duong

Civil Engineer
Los Angeles County Public Works
Office: (626) 458-4921



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Comment Letter 2: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works – July 30, 2020

Comment 2-1

This comment states that the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) has reviewed the Draft IS/MND and identifies storm drains and associated catch basins within the Project boundary. Additionally, this comment specifies that components affecting the LACFCD's facilities or right of way will require a flood permit, storm drain plans approval, and hydrology study approval from the LACFCD through EPIC-LA at epicla.lacounty.gov.

Furthermore, the comment requests that LACFCD be disclosed as, and included, as a responsible permitting agency in the IS/MND.

Response to Comment 2-1

The City of Norwalk appreciates the LACFCD for their interest in the project and participation in the environmental review process.

The City acknowledges that if components affecting the LACFCD's facilities or right of way, a flood permit, storm drain plans approval, and hydrology study approval would be required from LACFCD. However, as stated in Response J-42-c, the project includes the reconstruction of 6 inlets, as well as 9 culverts and 11 catch basins which would connect to existing City infrastructure, and the Project would be constructed within the City's existing right-of-way. Therefore, at this time, the City does not anticipate physically affecting LACFCD's facilities or affecting the LACFCD's right-of-way, and LACFCD would not be identified as a CEQA Responsible Agency.

Comment 2-2

This comment asserts that there is an error on Page 48, within Response J-42-a of the Draft IS/MND regarding the ultimate flow of storm water and requests an amendment to the incorrect information.

Response to Comment 2-2

The intent of the discussion on Page 48, Section 42, paragraph (a), first paragraph, first sentence is to identify the flow of stormwater from the Project site. As stated, the flow of stormwater is to City of Norwalk maintained storm drain mains. However, to clarify that flow from the City's maintained storm drain mains ultimately is conveyed to the LACFCD storm drain system and discharged to the San Gabriel River, the first sentence of the first paragraph on Page 42 of the Draft IS/MND is revised as follows:

There are no natural water or drainage features on the Project Site, and the current flow of stormwater runoff is to onsite existing storm drain facilities ~~which ultimately~~ that flow to City of Norwalk maintained storm drain mains and ultimately to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District storm drain system that includes discharge to the San Gabriel River.

The above revision clarifies the location of the ultimate storm water flow from the Project Site.

Comment 2-3

This comment requests that the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works be provided the opportunity to review future environmental documents when they are available.

Response to Comment 2-3

The City of Norwalk appreciates the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works for their interest in the project and participation in the environmental review process. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is already included in the project mailing list and will be notified of the availability of the Final IS/MND and related documents, as requested.



GABRIELENO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS - KIZH NATION
Historically known as The Gabrielino Tribal Council - San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
recognized by the State of California as the aboriginal tribe of the Los Angeles basin

July 1, 2020

Project Name: Firestone Boulevard Widening Project located at Firestone Boulevard between Imperial Highway and Hoxie Avenue in the City of Norwalk

Dear Pamela Torres,

Thank you for your letter dated June 22, 2020 regarding AB52 consultation. The above proposed project location is within our Ancestral Tribal Territory; therefore, our Tribal Government requests to schedule a consultation with you as the lead agency, to discuss the project and the surrounding location in further detail.

3-1

Please contact us at your earliest convenience. ***Please Note: AB 52, "consultation" shall have the same meaning as provided in SB 18 (Govt. Code Section 65352.4).***

Thank you for your time,

Andrew Salas, Chairman
Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation
1(844)390-0787

Andrew Salas, Chairman
Albert Perez, treasurer I

Nadine Salas, Vice-Chairman
Martha Gonzalez Lemos, treasurer II

Dr. Christina Swindall Martinez, secretary
Richard Gradias, Chairman of the council of Elders

Comment Letter 3: Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – July 1, 2020

Comment 3-1

This comment states that the Project is within the Ancestral Tribal Territory of the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – Kizh Nation and requests that a consultation with the City is arranged to discuss the project and the surrounding location in further detail.

Response to Comment 3-1

The City of Norwalk appreciates your interest in the project and public review process and notes your request for further consultation. As per Response 11 on Page 4 of the Draft IS/MND, and under Assembly Bill 52 (Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1), the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians was sent a notification for consultation.

On October 14, 2020, City staff met with representatives of the Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians to discuss the Project. The representatives discussed the history of the Project area and the tribe's cultural affiliation with the geographic area that includes the Project site. The representatives understood the Project and requested that they be informed if cultural artifacts are discovered during construction activities. City staff informed the tribal representatives that the tribe would be informed in the event of unanticipated discovery of archaeological materials during construction activities. No further request by the tribal representatives was provided and consultation under AB 52 was concluded.



GABRIELENO BAND OF MISSION INDIANS - KIZH NATION
Historically known as The San Gabriel Band of Mission Indians
recognized by the State of California as the aboriginal tribe of the Los Angeles basin

Notice of Intent to Adopt An Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration

July 1, 2020

Project Name: Firestone Blvd between Hoxie Ave/ Northbound (NB) I-605 Freeway ramps to the west and Imperial Highway to the east

Dear Glen Kau,

We have received your Notice of Intent to adopt a Negative Declaration for the xxx in the City of Norwalk . Our Tribal Government is requesting the retention of a Native American Tribal Consultant to monitor all ground disturbance conducted for this project.

4-1

Sincerely,

Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians/Kizh Nation
(1844) 390-0787 Office

Andrew Salas, Chairman

Albert Perez, treasurer I

Nadine Salas, Vice-Chairman

Martha Gonzalez Lemos, treasurer II

Dr. Christina Swindall Martinez, secretary

Richard Gradias, Chairman of the council of Elders

PO Box 393 Covina, CA 91723

www.gabrielenoindians@yahoo.com

gabrielenoindians@yahoo.com

Comment Letter 4: Gabrieleno Band of Mission Indians – July 1, 2020

Comment 4-1

This comment requests the retention of a Native American Tribal Consultant to monitor all ground disturbance conducted for the Project.

Response to Comment 4-1

The City of Norwalk appreciates your interest in the project and public review process and notes your request for the retention of a Native American Tribal Consultant monitor. Per Response E-21 on Page 34 of the Draft IS/MND, the Project site has a very low potential to disturb buried archaeological resources based on the Cultural Resources Assessment that was prepared for the Project and included in Appendix C of the Draft IS/MND. The existing road development on the Project site was documented within the right-of-way as having ground disturbance of up to 5 feet in depth that involved excavation, grading and fill. Although there is a low potential to disturb buried archaeological resources as well as potential tribal cultural resources, Mitigation Measure CUL-1 was included. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 relates to unanticipated discovery of archaeological materials during construction. If there is an unanticipated discovery and the qualified professional archaeologist determines that the find could be a tribal cultural resource, the archaeologist will be required to consult with a Native American. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 on Pages 34 and 35 of the Draft IS/MND is modified to ensure that a Native American is consulted if there is a tribal cultural resource that is found.

CUL-1: In the event of an unanticipated discovery of archaeological materials during construction, the City shall retain the services of a qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for a Qualified Archaeologist, to evaluate the significance of the materials prior to resuming any construction-related activities in the vicinity of the find. If the qualified archaeologist determines that the discovery constitutes a significant resource under CEQA, avoidance is the preferred manner of mitigation. In the event avoidance is demonstrated to be infeasible, the City, in consultation with the qualified professional archaeologist, shall implement an archaeological data recovery program. If the qualified archaeologist determines that the discovery could be a tribal cultural resource, the City shall retain the services of a Native American tribe so that both the qualified professional archaeologist and the Native American tribal member can determine the significance of the find. Avoidance is the preferred manner of mitigation. In the event avoidance is demonstrated to be infeasible, the City, in consultation with the qualified professional archaeologist and the Native American tribal member, shall implement a tribal cultural resources data recovery program.



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY
SANITATION DISTRICTS**
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1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998
(562) 699-7411 • www.lacsd.org

July 20, 2020

Ref. DOC 5815361

Ms. Pamela Torres
City of Norwalk
12700 Norwalk Boulevard
Norwalk, CA 90650

Dear Ms. Torres:

NOI Response for Firestone Boulevard Widening Project

The Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (Districts) received a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (NOI) for the subject project on June 30, 2020. The proposed project site is located within the jurisdictional boundary of District No. 18. We offer the following comment:

- The proposed project may impact existing and/or proposed Districts’ facilities (e.g. trunk sewers, recycled waterlines, etc.) over which it will be constructed. Districts’ facilities are located directly under and/or cross directly beneath the proposed project alignment. The Districts cannot issue a detailed response to or permit construction of, the proposed project until project plans and specification that incorporate Districts’ facilities are submitted for our review. To obtain copies of as-built drawings of the Districts’ facilities within the project limits, please contact the Districts’ Engineering Counter at engineeringcounter@lacsd.org or (562) 908-4288, extension 1205. When project plans that incorporate our facilities have been prepared, please submit copies of the same to the Engineering Counter for our review and comment.

5-1

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (562) 908-4288, extension 2717 or at araza@lacsd.org.

Very truly yours,

Adriana Raza
Customer Service Specialist
Facilities Planning Department

AR:ar

cc: R. Paracuelles
A. Howard
Engineering Counter

Comment Letter 5: Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts – July 20, 2020

Comment 5-1

This comment states that the Project site is located within the jurisdictional boundary of Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts (LACSD) District No. 18 and may impact existing and/or proposed Districts' facilities (such as trunk sewers, recycled waterlines, etc.). The LACSD states they are unable to issue a detailed response, or permit construction of, the proposed Project until project plans and specifications that incorporate Districts' facilities are submitted for their review.

Response to Comment 5-1

The City of Norwalk thanks the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts for their interest in the project and participation in the environmental review process. Based on the Project Plans, no LACSD facilities will be impacted during construction activities.

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CHAPTER 4

Errata

The following text changes are made to the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) and incorporated as part of the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Final IS/MND). These changes are minor and do not alter the conclusions of the Draft IS/MND. Changes to the text are noted with underline (for added text) or ~~strikeout~~ (for deleted text).

Pages 34 and 35, last and first paragraphs, respectively

CUL-1: In the event of an unanticipated discovery of archaeological materials during construction, the City shall retain the services of a qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for a Qualified Archaeologist, to evaluate the significance of the materials prior to resuming any construction-related activities in the vicinity of the find. If the qualified archaeologist determines that the discovery constitutes a significant resource under CEQA, avoidance is the preferred manner of mitigation. In the event avoidance is demonstrated to be infeasible, the City, in consultation with the qualified professional archaeologist, shall implement an archaeological data recovery program. If the qualified archaeologist determines that the discovery could be a tribal cultural resource, the City shall retain the services of a Native American tribe so that both the qualified professional archaeologist and the Native American tribal member can determine the significance of the find. Avoidance is the preferred manner of mitigation. In the event avoidance is demonstrated to be infeasible, the City, in consultation with the qualified professional archaeologist and the Native American tribal member, shall implement a tribal cultural resources data recovery program.

Page 48, Section 42, paragraph (a), first paragraph, first sentence

There are no natural water or drainage features on the Project site, and the current flow of stormwater runoff is to onsite existing storm drain facilities ~~which ultimately~~ that flow to City of Norwalk maintained storm drain mains and ultimately to the Los Angeles County Flood Control District storm drain system that includes discharge to the San Gabriel River.

Page 65, Section 71, first paragraph, second sentence

Norwalk Emergency Management Office focuses on providing education, training, and guidance to minimize impacts and to bring the City back to normalcy effectively, and as soon as possible, after a major emergency or disaster (~~insert citation~~ City of Norwalk, 2022).

Page 68, Insertion of New Reference, assumes renumbering of remaining references

20. City of Norwalk, 2022. Norwalk Emergency Management Office. Available at <https://www.norwalk.org/city-hall/departments/public-safety/office-of-emergency-management>