

RESOLUTION NO. 6471

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA, CALIFORNIA ADOPTING REVISED CEQA POLICIES AND PROCEDURES WHICH INCORPORATE NEW THRESHOLDS FOR TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS RELATED TO VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED AND DIRECTING STAFF TO FILE A NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, in 2013 the State Legislature adopted SB 743 which addressed a range of topics aimed to better promote statewide policies that: combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions; encourage infill development instead of urban sprawl; and promote multi-modal transportation networks; and

WHEREAS, as a result of SB 743 the methodology for analyzing transportation impacts has been modified and using a traditional level of service (LOS) analysis which measures traffic delays is no longer allowed; and

WHEREAS, as of July 1, 2020 transportation impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines will instead use vehicle miles traveled (VMT) as the metric to measure transportation impacts (see CEQA Guidelines section 15064.2); and

WHEREAS, although a LOS analysis may no longer be used to determine whether projects will have transportation impacts, there are still situations in which it will be helpful for the City to have a local transportation assessment; and

WHEREAS, the City hired Fehr & Peers to assist the City in implementing SB 743, and

WHEREAS, Fehr & Peers provided a SB 743 Implementation Transportation Analysis Updates document (Transportation Analysis) for the City; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Analysis includes processes for both a transportation impact analysis for CEQA using a VMT analysis and a Local Transportation Assessment to provide an additional LOS-based project review for certain projects to determine opportunities for operations or capacity improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Transportation Analysis also includes Transportation Thresholds of Significance in compliance with SB 743; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15022, each public agency is required to adopt local objectives, criteria and procedures to comply with CEQA, which may be done by adopting the State CEQA Guidelines by reference; and

WHEREAS, Gardena needs to adopt updated CEQA Policies and Procedures which include the new thresholds for transportation impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Gardena considered this matter on June 2, 2020 in conjunction with changes to the Circulation Element, at which time it considered all evidence presented, both written and oral; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission adopted PC Resolution No. 5-20 recommending that the City Council adopt the CEQA Policies and Procedures and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Gardena considered this matter on July 14, 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDENA DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Findings. The City Council, based upon substantial evidence in the record, hereby makes the following findings:

A. Each and every WHEREAS clause listed above is a true and correct statement.

B. The Gardena CEQA Policies and Procedures, attached hereto as Exhibit A, are in compliance with the requirements of CEQA. The Gardena CEQA Policies and Procedures incorporate new thresholds for transportation impacts.

C. The transportation thresholds under consideration are consistent with State requirements as to how transportation impacts should be evaluated for the purposes of CEQA review of projects. The revised thresholds are based upon the VMT metric that is specifically required in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3. Additionally, the City is setting the new CEQA thresholds at a point that has been established based upon review of the State Office of Planning and Research (OPR) guidance.

D. The Gardena CEQA Policies and Procedures are consistent with the following goals and policies of the City's General Plan:

- Circulation Goal 1: Promote a safe and efficient circulation system that benefits residents and businesses, and integrates with the greater Los Angeles/South Bay transportation system.

- Circulation Goal 3: Promote alternative modes of transportation that are safe and efficient for commuters, and available to persons of all income levels and disabilities.

- Land Use Goal 1: Preserve and protect existing single-family and low/medium-density residential neighborhoods while promoting the development of additional high quality housing types in the City.

- LU 1.5: Provide adequate residential amenities such as open space, recreation, off-street parking and pedestrian features in multifamily residential developments.

- Land Use Goal 4: Provide the highest quality of public facilities possible to meet the needs of the City's residents and businesses and promote the City's image and cultural heritage.

- LU 4.3: Design public improvements to encourage pedestrian activity and access and to provide safe and convenient pedestrian circulation.

SECTION 2. Adoption of Policies and Procedures. The City Council hereby adopts the Gardena CEQA Policies and Procedures attached hereto as Exhibit A, which includes the new thresholds for transportation impacts.

SECTION 3. CEQA. The adoption of these Policies and Procedures are exempt from CEQA under the common sense exemption of Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) where it can be seen with certainty that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment given that regardless of whether the City takes these actions, State law mandates the change in the methodology assessing traffic impacts. Additionally, these actions are exempt under Guidelines Section 15308 because they are taken to protect the environment. Staff is directed to file a Notice of Exemption with the Office of the County Clerk.

SECTION 4. Effective Date. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

SECTION 5. Certification. the City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution; shall cause the same to be entered among the original Resolutions of said City; and shall make a minute of the passage and adoption thereof in the records of the proceedings of the City Council of said City in the minutes of the meeting at which the same is passed and adopted.

Passed, approved, and adopted this 14th day of July, 2020.



TASHA CERDA, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Romero

pr

MINA SEMENZA, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa E. Kranitz", written over a horizontal line.

LISA E. KRANITZ, Assistant City Attorney

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES) SS:
CITY OF GARDENA)

I, **MINA SEMENZA**, City Clerk of the City of Gardena, do hereby certify that the whole number of members of the City Council of said City is five; that the foregoing Resolution, being **Resolution No. 6471** duly passed and adopted by the City Council of said City of Gardena, approved and signed by the Mayor of said City, and attested by the City Clerk, all at a regular meeting of said City Council held on the **14th day of July, 2020**, and that the same was so passed and adopted by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS TANAKA AND KASKANIAN, MAYOR PRO TEM
 HENDERSON, COUNCIL MEMBER FRANCIS AND MAYOR CERDA

NOES: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

Becky Romero
for _____
City Clerk of the City of Gardena, California

(SEAL)