

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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July 9, 2002

11-SD-78

PM 11.18

Doc. #: SCH 1999071007

Jerry Backoff

Director of Planning

City of San Marcos

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**SUBJECT: Draft SEIR for San Marcos Highlands – SCH 1999071007
Responses to California Department of Transportation comments**

Dear Mr. Backoff:

Freeway Operations Branch recently received the responses to the Department's comments, dated December 21, 2001, sent by Bill Figge of the Development Review and Public Transportation Branch to the State Clearinghouse. It is our understanding that there is a Public Meeting regarding this project tonight, so we wanted to fax you a quick letter regarding one of the responses in particular.

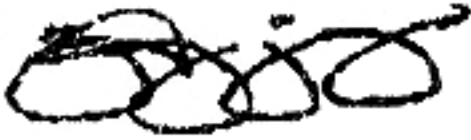
The Department's comment was: "Traffic Analysis for the Highland Estates Housing Project, Figure 6, Page 9; 20% of the project traffic is shown accessing the westbound SR-78 entrance ramp at Las Posas Road and 10% of the project traffic is shown accessing the eastbound SR-78 entrance ramp at Grand Avenue. Las Posas Road will be the shortest route to SR-78 and SR-78 is the closest freeway to this project, so these figures appear low. The prediction that only 40% (20% + 10% + 5% at each of the Twin Oaks Valley Road ramps) of project traffic will utilize SR-78 also appears low." The response to this comment was: "The project trip distribution was approved by city staff. The proposed project trip distribution can be considered a worse case scenario with the majority of trips distributed to Rancho Santa Fe/SR-78 for existing conditions, and Las Posas Road/SR-78 for 2005 and buildout conditions."

It is still our belief that the project traffic using SR-78 and the various ramps will be greater than the percentages used for this project. Please review and verify this information.

In addition, it is our understanding that Las Posas Road may eventually be extended to Buena Creek Road. If it is anticipated some regional traffic will use Las Posas Road to Buena Creek Road to Twin Oaks Valley Road to Deer Springs Road to I-15, as an alternative to the SR-78 / I-15 interchange, please verify that this traffic is included in the traffic analysis for the planned Las Posas Road / SR-78 interchange and that the eastbound exit ramp, in particular, will not back up onto the freeway.

Thank you for your consideration of this information on short notice. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Brian Hadley at (619) 718-7854.

Sincerely,



ERWIN A. GOJUANGCO, Chief

Freeway Operations Branch

Cc: Sandra Farrel
BHadley / TOta / Freeway Operations files

EAG:bh