



City of Banning

Community Development Department

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF PROPOSED THRESHOLD OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR VEHICLES MILES TRAVELED (VMT) PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) AND AS REQUIRED BY SENATE BILL (SB) 743.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Banning seeks to develop a threshold of significance under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines §15064.7. The proposed threshold of significance addresses Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) which the City will use in determining the project's significant effect on the environment relating to transportation impact. The VMT threshold will be used for project that require environmental analysis under CEQA.

Senate Bill (SB) 743 was signed by the Governor in 2013 and changed the way transportation impacts are measured under CEQA. SB 743 requires public agencies to transition from using vehicle level of service (LOS) to vehicle miles traveled (VMT) under CEQA when evaluating a project's transportation impact on the environment. The legislation also directed the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to look at different metrics for identifying transportation as a CEQA impact, and in November 2017, OPR identified VMT as the preferred metric. The State's CEQA Guidelines were updated to reflect the change required by SB 743, and on December 28, 2018, the Office of Administrative Law approved a comprehensive update to the Guidelines. Public agencies must adopt the newly approved amendments to the State CEQA Guidelines no later than 120 days after the effective date of the Guideline amendments.

Public agencies have until July 1, 2020 to adopt the actual VMT threshold of significance. Given the timing of this implementation, it is prudent for the city to address VMT prior to July 1, 2020, so that the city's transportation analysis in the General Plan Circulation Element is consistent with state law.

Pursuant Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, all public gatherings, regardless of venue or size of the Council Chambers shall occur with limited capacity and by videoconferencing. For this meeting, the Planning Commissioners, City staff, and public will be able to observe and participate in this meeting in one of the following ways listed below:

Videoconference: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/cityofbanning>

Online meeting ID: cityofbanning.

To just listen to the meeting or to offer audio comments only when recognized for that purpose: Dial-in number: (617) 793-8135

NOTE: Due to COVID-19, the Council Chambers will be open to the public in a limited capacity only.

Public Review and Comment: The City has developed a proposed threshold of significance for VMT. Per CEQA Guidelines §15064.7(b), a threshold of significance to be

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adopted for general use as part of the city's environmental review process must be adopted through the public review process by ordinance, resolution, rule or regulation. Interested persons can review the proposed threshold of significance and supporting information at <http://www.ci.banning.ca.us/426/Public-Notices-Announcements> or contacting the City's Community Development Department at (951) 922-3125, or by visiting the following link:

All parties interested in speaking either in support of or in opposition of this item are invited to attend said hearing, or to send their written comments to the Community Development Department, City of Banning at P.O. Box 998, Banning, California, 92220.

If you challenge any decision regarding the above proposal in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised in written correspondence delivered to the City Clerk at, or prior to, the time the Planning Commission makes its decision on the proposal; or, you or someone else raised at the public hearing or in written correspondence delivered to the hearing body at, or prior to, the hearing (California Government Code, Section 65009).

BY ORDER OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF BANNING, CALIFORNIA

Adam Rush, M.A., AICP
Community Development Director

Dated: May 19, 2020
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