

GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE ADOPTING
"VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED" THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR PURPOSES OF
ANALYZING TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS UNDER THE CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND TRAFFIC IMPACT ANALYSIS GUIDELINES FOR
VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED AND LEVEL OF SERVICE ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines ("CEQA Guidelines") encourage public agencies to develop and publish generally applicable "thresholds of significance" to be used in determining the significance of a project's environmental effects;

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(a) defines a threshold of significance as "an identifiable quantitative, qualitative or performance level of a particular environmental effect, noncompliance with which means the effect will normally be determined to be significant by the agency and compliance with which means the effect normally will be determined to be less than significant";

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(b) requires that thresholds of significance for general use must be adopted by ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulations, developed through a public review process, and be supported by substantial evidence;

WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(c), when adopting thresholds of significance, a public agency may consider thresholds of significance adopted or recommended by other public agencies provided that the decision of the agency is supported by substantial evidence;

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 743, enacted in 2013 and codified in Public Resources Code section 21099, required changes to the CEQA Guidelines regarding the criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts of projects;

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research ("OPR") proposed, and the California Natural Resources Agency certified and adopted, new CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 that identifies vehicle miles traveled ("VMT") – meaning the amount and distance of automobile travel attributable to a project – as the most appropriate metric to evaluate a project's transportation impacts;

WHEREAS, as a result, automobile delay, as measured by "level of service" ("LOS") and other similar metrics, will no longer constitute a significant environmental effect under CEQA;

WHEREAS, the City of Garden Grove, following internal study and a public review process consisting of a staff presentation and public hearing before the Planning Commission, wishes to adopt VMT thresholds of significance for purposes

of CEQA consistent with OPR's recommendations and guidelines for analyzing potential transportation impacts of proposed development projects; and

WHEREAS, following a public hearing on June 18, 2020, the Garden Grove Planning Commission recommended the City Council adopt this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, on July 14, 2020, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing to consider this Resolution, at which all persons interested were given an opportunity to be heard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Garden Grove as follows:

Section 1. The City of Garden Grove hereby adopts the Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines for Vehicle Miles Traveled and Level of Services Assessment ("Guidelines") that are attached as Exhibit A to this Resolution, including the Vehicle Miles Traveled ("VMT") thresholds of significance for purposes of analyzing transportation impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") contained therein. The VMT thresholds set forth in the Guidelines are consistent with the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research's ("OPR's") recommendations. These thresholds of significance have been developed through a public review process and are supported by substantial evidence, as required by CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7.

Section 2. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the City Council, and the City Clerk shall attest to and certify the vote adopting this Resolution.