



CITY OF HAYWARD

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Cover Memo

File #: PH 20-034, **Version:** 1

DATE: May 28, 2020

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Planning Manager

SUBJECT

Proposed Amendment of the *Hayward 2040 General Plan* to comply with changes to State law including the Establishment of new Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) CEQA thresholds for the City of Hayward.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Commission review the report and recommend the City Council approve Amendments to the *Hayward 2040 General Plan* (Attachment III) and establish new Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) thresholds for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis, consistent with SB 743 and per the findings for approval (Attachment II). The Commission previously reviewed and recommended that City Council approve Amendments to the *Hayward 2040 General Plan* related to the adoption of new Greenhouse Gas Emission reduction goals for the City.

SUMMARY

SB 743 changes the focus of transportation impact analysis in CEQA from measuring impacts to drivers, to measuring the impact of driving. The proposed Amendment will replace Level of Service (LOS) with vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita and provide streamlined review of land use and transportation projects that will help reduce future VMT per capita growth. VMT per capita is a quantifiable measure, in miles per capita, of the average total amount of vehicular travel. One single occupancy vehicle traveling ten miles would equal 10 VMT/capita. Four single occupancy vehicles traveling ten miles would equal 40 VMT and 10 VMT/capita. Typically, development located at greater distance from shopping and employment centers or in areas with few transportation options generates more vehicle trips and of longer distances versus a similar development located in proximity to BART Stations and other areas with more transportation alternatives. VMT is an important input in the analysis of air quality and greenhouse gas emissions and has been used for that purpose within CEQA for several years.

Since 2018, City staff and Nelson Nygaard have been working collaboratively to develop new transportation thresholds that comply with the provisions of SB 743. Currently, the City uses LOS as the threshold used in CEQA evaluations and the proposed changes would replace the current LOS thresholds with new VMT thresholds. The adoption of new thresholds to identify traffic impacts under CEQA will require an amendment to *the Hayward 2040 General Plan*.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I	Staff Report
Attachment II	Findings
Attachment III	Proposed GPA
Attachment IV	Proposed VMT Thresholds & Screening Criteria