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June 9, 2022

Ron Kosinski  
California Department of Transportation  
Office of Local Assistance District 7  
100 South Main Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

I-10 Express Lanes Extension Project - Notice of Preparation  
City of Claremont Comments

Dear Mr. Kosinski,

The purpose of this letter is to provide comments from the City of Claremont on the proposed I-10 Express Lanes Extension Project to close the gap on the I-10 between I-605 and Los Angeles/San Bernardino County Line.

The City of Claremont is providing comments on specific areas of concern directly related to the I-10 Freeway:

- Soundwall gap at the south side of the freeway creating concerns with Noise and Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Emission issues as well as creating Community Impacts and quality of life issues for residential neighborhoods to the south of the gap
- Existing freeway drainage patterns discharging onto private property prompting Water Quality and Storm Water Runoff concerns
- Bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns at the Indian Hill Boulevard underpass resulting from Lack of Complete Streets Features
- Vehicular, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Safety Concerns at the Indian Hill Boulevard - I-10 Interchange, resulting from Cumulative Impacts
- Potential need of additional right of way to accommodate proposed project affecting existing land use and existing utilities

**Soundwall Gap at the south side of the freeway:**

The City of Claremont has pursued the installation of soundwalls at the I-10 Freeway for more than 20 years. Though the majority of soundwalls were installed with past Caltrans projects, there is still a gap in the eastbound direction between College and Mills Avenues. The current gap in the soundwall infrastructure creates quality of life issues affecting the residential properties

directly exposed to the freeway noise and pollution without mitigation. This situation also raises concerns with Noise and Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Emission issues as well as Community Impacts and quality of life issues for residential neighborhoods to the south of the gap,

To address the City's and community's concerns, Claremont Mayor Stark sent a letter to Mr. Ben Jong on August 18, 2021, to request Metro' support to complete the soundwall gap at this location. In response, a letter was received indicating that this gap would be evaluated with the project that is currently being proposed: Express Lanes Extension project. The letter also indicates that Metro will work with Caltrans to address any necessary mitigation measures. Please refer to Attachment A for specific details. Moving forward, it is imperative that this gap is effectively addressed and that a soundwall be constructed to close the current gap with the proposed project to address the environmental concerns.

**Existing freeway drainage patterns discharging onto private property prompting Water Quality and Storm Water Runoff concerns**

There is an ongoing situation involving concentrated freeway drainage patterns discharging onto private property and public right of way during storm events. This issue dates back from 2014 and has yet to be resolved. City staff has attempted to work with Caltrans to get this issue resolved, to no avail. The proposed project needs to address this situation and in the process, correct the nuisance overflow issues that remain unresolved. Please refer to Attachment B for reference backup documents.

**Bicycle and pedestrian safety concerns at the Indian Hill Boulevard underpass resulting from Lack of Complete Streets Features**

The outdated Indian Hill Boulevard freeway underpass presents safety concerns for bicyclists and pedestrians resulting from the substandard accommodations and lack of complete streets features. Collisions resulting in fatalities and injuries occurring in this area are a very serious concern. Claremont is requesting that the existing conditions at the underpass be evaluated with the project to ensure that alternative modes of transportation also receive adequate and safe infrastructure with the proposed project. The dim and ineffective lighting conditions at the underpass is also a concern as it has a negative impact on public safety. The City of Claremont is requesting that this area be evaluated for Complete Streets improvements in the environmental process.

**Vehicular, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Safety Concerns at the Indian Hill Boulevard - I-10 Interchange, resulting from Cumulative Impacts**

The City of Claremont is requesting that a Cumulative Impact analysis be conducted in this area to address the cumulative impacts resulting from the proposed project. There is a concern with the resulting environmental degradation that will compromise the most vulnerable populations.

**Potential need of additional right of way to accommodate proposed project affecting existing land use and existing utilities concerns**

The City has concerns with the potential need of additional right to accommodate the project, under both, temporary and permanent scenarios. The existing land uses would be negatively impacted in the event that additional right of way is needed. The commercial properties adjacent to the property would be the most impacted. In addition, it should be noted that the City has drainage and sewer easements adjacent to the freeway right of way. The need for additional right of way, could require utility relocation. This needs to be properly addressed in the environmental process.

**Potential aesthetic concerns with new freeway signage**

The City has concerns with the potential negative aesthetic impacts if any new signage is associated with this project. Examples exist throughout the region of large elevated freeway signage for similar express lanes. Such signage could negatively impact Claremont neighborhoods that may have views of any new signage.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (909) 399-5342 or City Engineer Maria Tipping at (909) 399-5474, should you have any questions or if you need more information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Brad Johnson  
Community Development Director

Attachments: A – Mayor Stark’s Letter (8/18/21)  
B – Storm Runoff Concerns

cc: City Manager Adam Pierre  
Claremont City Council  
Senator Anthony Portantino  
Assemblyman Chris Holden  
Supervisor Kathryn Barger



## CITY OF CLAREMONT

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City Council • (909) 399-5444  
 Corey Calaycay  
 Jed Leano  
 Sal Medina  
 Ed Reece  
 Jennifer Stark

August 18, 2021

Ben Jong  
 Soundwall Project Manager, San Gabriel Valley Region  
 Metro  
 1 Gateway Plaza  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Jong:

**Request for Soundwall Gap Closure at Eastbound I-10 Freeway  
 (Between College and Mills Avenues)**

The purpose of this letter is to submit the City of Claremont's formal request for installation of an additional soundwall that would close the gap at the Eastbound I-10 Freeway between College and Mills Avenues. The City is requesting Metro's support to achieve the installation of this soundwall.

The City of Claremont has pursued the installation of soundwalls at the I-10 Freeway for more than 20 years. Though most of the soundwalls were installed with the Caltrans HOV/Express Lanes project, there is still a gap in the eastbound direction between College and Mills Avenues. Since this location should have been considered with the Caltrans HOV improvements, our understanding was that continuous soundwalls would be constructed along the Claremont corridor, including this location. The current gap in the soundwall is creating quality of life issues affecting the residential properties directly exposed to the freeway noise and pollution without mitigation. Please refer to the photo (Attachment) for reference.

The Metro soundwall installation policy states that Metro will consider constructing soundwalls as part of new highway construction projects such as highway widening, carpool lanes, express lanes, and changes to the highway alignment. As such, the I-10 HOV/Express Lanes project should have evaluated this location for soundwall gap completion. To move forward, we are requesting your support to assist staff with future steps, including the installation of the missing wall. Additionally, we are respectfully requesting a copy of the environmental studies (including noise studies) conducted at this location for review and further consideration.

Ben Jong / Metro  
August 18, 2021  
Page 2 of 2

The City appreciates your help in getting this issue resolved. If you have questions regarding this matter, please contact City Engineer Maria B. Tipping at (909) 399-5474.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Stark  
Mayor

(Attachment)

c: City Council  
Adam Pirrie, City Manager  
Jamie Earl, Assistant City Manager  
Brad Johnson, Community Development Director  
Shahzad Amiri, Metro Executive Officer-Congestion Reduction Programs  
Tony Tavares, Caltrans District 7 Director  
James Medina, Caltrans Public Information Officer  
Marisa Creter, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Executive Director



Google



**Metro**

Los Angeles County  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

One Gateway Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2952

213.922.2000 Tel  
metro.net

August 27, 2021

Ms. Jennifer Stark  
Mayor  
City of Claremont  
207 Harvard Avenue  
P.O. Box 880  
Los Angeles, CA, 90012

Subject: Soundwall Inquiry (Eastbound I-10, Between College and Mills Avenue)

Dear Ms. Stark:

We received your letter dated August 19, 2021 regarding the potential need for freeway soundwalls on Eastbound I-10, between College and Mills Avenue.

Freeway soundwalls are constructed either as retrofit/after-the fact, or as part of new freeway widening/capacity enhancement projects if warranted. Metro's retrofit soundwall program [<https://www.metro.net/about/highway-soundwalls>] was set up to, in the order of priority, construct soundwalls that were eligible to be built as part of freeway widening projects implemented by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) but were not constructed. The location referenced in your letter is not on the Metro retrofit soundwall list.

Based on the information we received from Caltrans, this location did not qualify for soundwalls to be constructed as part of the I-10 HOV lanes project. However, Metro's Congestion Reduction Program will begin preparation of an environmental document (ED) in Fall 2021 for the I-10 ExpressLanes Extension Project, which includes the segment on Eastbound I-10 between College and Mills Avenue. The ED being led by Caltrans will conduct noise studies to determine eligibility of soundwalls along the I-10 corridor, including the segment between College and Mills Ave. Depending on the results of the noise assessment, Metro will work with Caltrans to address necessary mitigation measures such as soundwalls in accordance with environmental regulations (i.e., CEQA, NEPA) and Caltrans guidance.

For more information regarding LA Metro's I-10 ExpressLanes Extension Project please contact Daniel Tran at 213-922-2313. For any other questions or concerns regarding the Countywide Soundwall Program, please contact Lucy Delgadillo at 213-922-7099.

Sincerely,

Abdollah Ansari  
Sr. Executive Officer, Highway Program

cc: Shahrzad Amiri, LA Metro Congestion Reduction Program  
Adam Pirrie, Claremont City Manager  
Jamie Earl, Claremont Assistant City Manager  
Brad Johnson, Claremont Community Development Director  
Tony Tavares, Caltrans District 7 Director  
James Medina, Caltrans District 7 Public Information Officer  
Marisa Creter, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments Executive Director

**Maria Tipping**

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**From:** Maria Tipping  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2018 2:40 PM  
**To:** Pak, Shirley Y@DOT  
**Cc:** Yadav, Prakash A@DOT  
**Subject:** RE: City of Claremont: Caltrans Drainage Issues at the I-10 Freeway Impacting

Thank you. We will be there.

Thank you.

Maria.

---

**From:** Pak, Shirley Y@DOT [mailto:shirley.pak@dot.ca.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 18, 2018 9:19 AM  
**To:** Maria Tipping  
**Cc:** Yadav, Prakash A@DOT  
**Subject:** RE: City of Claremont: Caltrans Drainage Issues at the I-10 Freeway Impacting

Good morning, Maria:

Mr. Yadav will be available to meet with your staff on 1/23/2018 at 10:00 a.m. at Motel 6, in the vicinity of the drainage issues.

Thanks.

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**From:** Maria Tipping [mailto:mtipping@ci.claremont.ca.us]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018 1:57 PM  
**To:** Pak, Shirley Y@DOT <shirley.pak@dot.ca.gov>  
**Cc:** Yadav, Prakash A@DOT <prakash.yadav@dot.ca.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: City of Claremont: Caltrans Drainage Issues at the I-10 Freeway Impacting

Thank you Shirley. City staff is available next Tuesday. Please let me know if you prefer to meet in the morning or afternoon.

Thank you.

Maria.

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**From:** Pak, Shirley Y@DOT [mailto:shirley.pak@dot.ca.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 17, 2018 1:33 PM  
**To:** Maria Tipping  
**Cc:** Yadav, Prakash A@DOT  
**Subject:** RE: City of Claremont: Caltrans Drainage Issues at the I-10 Freeway Impacting

Good afternoon, Maria:

We are investigating into this issue. One of our hydraulic engineers, Mr. Prakash Yadav, will be available on next Tuesday, 1/23/2018 to meet with the City staff on site. Are your staff available?

Thanks.

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**From:** Maria Tipping [<mailto:mtipping@ci.claremont.ca.us>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2018 10:52 AM  
**To:** Pak, Shirley Y@DOT <[shirley.pak@dot.ca.gov](mailto:shirley.pak@dot.ca.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: City of Claremont: Caltrans Drainage Issues at the I-10 Freeway Impacting  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning Shirley,

The City and Motel 6 property owner are looking forward to meeting with you and your staff to discuss the storm water situation experienced at the Motel 6 property. In the past, City staff, property owner and Caltrans staff met on site in an effort to mitigate impacts to the private site. Unfortunately, resolution of this situation has been delayed with lack of progress. The most recent storm event raised new concerns as impacts to the private property continue to occur.

City staff is available to meet next Thursday, January 18, after 10:30 am. Please let me know if your staff is available then. If not, I would appreciate if you could provide a few available dates so we can move forward with coordinating a meeting on-site.

Thank you for attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Maria

Maria B. Tipping, P.E.  
Senior Civil Engineer  
City of Claremont  
(909) 399-5330 (voice)  
(909) 399-5327 (fax)

---

**From:** Young, Kenneth C@DOT [<mailto:kenneth.c.young@dot.ca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2018 10:40 AM  
**To:** Maria Tipping  
**Cc:** Pak, Shirley Y@DOT  
**Subject:** FW: City of Claremont: Caltrans Drainage Issues at the I-10 Freeway Impacting  
**Importance:** High

Hi Maria,

It was a pleasure to discuss this matter with you.

The appropriate contact is as follows:

- Shirley Pak, Chief, Office of Stormwater Management; Phone: (213) 897-0428

Shirley and her staff should be able to assist the City and the property owner in reevaluating the needs to minimize impacts.

If you should need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 897-6091.

Sincerely,

Ken Young  
Chief, Office of Corridor Management (East)  
California Department of Transportation  
District 7 – Division of Traffic Operations  
100 S. Main Street, Suite 100; MS-15  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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**From:** Maria Tipping [<mailto:mtipping@ci.claremont.ca.us>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 03, 2018 7:33 AM  
**To:** Young, Kenneth C@DOT <[kenneth.c.young@dot.ca.gov](mailto:kenneth.c.young@dot.ca.gov)>  
**Cc:** Jason Barber <[jbarber@ci.claremont.ca.us](mailto:jbarber@ci.claremont.ca.us)>  
**Subject:** FW: City of Claremont: Caltrans Drainage Issues at the I-10 Freeway Impacting  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning Ken. Happy New Year.

I am contacting you to follow up on the e-mail sent December 13, requesting a meeting to discuss I-10 Freeway drainage. I would appreciate if you could provide available meeting dates for the next two weeks.

Thank you.

Maria.

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**From:** Maria Tipping  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2017 9:22 AM  
**To:** 'Young, Kenneth C@DOT'  
**Subject:** City of Claremont: Caltrans Drainage Issues at the I-10 Freeway Impacting  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning Ken,

I hope everything is going well for you on this Wednesday.

I am contacting you in regard to freeway drainage run off at the I-10 Freeway, east of Indian Hill Boulevard, which is affecting public and private property. The private property that is being affected is Motel 6. The owner is requesting a meeting with the City and Caltrans to resolve an on-going situation that has been affecting his property for a number of years. I would appreciate if you could help resolve this situation that was first reported to Caltrans in 2014. Please see below for background information.

On 12/3/14, City's Public Works Inspector, Ralph Rodriguez, responded to a Code Enforcement call regarding heavy water flow impacting Motel 6 property, east of Indian Hill Boulevard, south of the I-10 Freeway. Ralph inspected the area to evaluate the situation. He witnessed heavy water flow coming the I-10 freeway right of way, entering the hotel's parking lot and continuing flowing west, onto Indian Hill Boulevard, at Auto Center Drive. Ralph also found several freeway drainage facilities, such as spillways, inlets or run-off pipes directly draining onto private property (Motel 6) and from there, dumping the water onto public right of way at Indian Hill and Auto Center Drive.

At the time, Ralph noticed that many of these drainage structures had been recently constructed. The new construction included a concrete opening, approximately 2' by 3' wide, with a concrete pipe spanning outward approximately 8 to 10 feet beyond the outlet opening. This opening was constructed right into the I-10 10 freeway soundwall directing drainage onto Motel 6 property. Ralph also noticed a concrete spillway with

directional concrete blocks set to slow down the rapid rate of water flow. Under heavy rain conditions, water flows at a rapid rate from this concrete spillway at the base of the freeway soundwall and spills outward through the opening of the soundwall onto the Motel parking lot. During heavy downpours, this directional water flow emanating from the freeway right of way creates flooding conditions at the hotel parking lot as well as Indian Hill Boulevard, at Auto Center Drive.

At the time, and in an effort to resolve this issue, City staff met with Caltrans representatives a number of times. In response, Caltrans installed a few boulders at the spillway in an effort to slow down the heavy water flow. Once again, the City is being contacted by Motel 6 owner to report that drainage flows and debris from the freeway right of way continue to affect private property. He wants this issue resolved for good.

Next week, City staff is scheduled to meet with Motel 6 owner and we would like to have a Caltrans representative attend this meeting as well. We are proposing to meet either Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on Caltrans availability. In moving forward with a solution, we need to get a hold of a Caltrans representative who can address this situation in a more permanent manner.

Your help is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Maria

Maria B. Tipping, P.E.  
Senior Civil Engineer  
City of Claremont  
(909) 399-5330 (fax)  
(909) 399-5327 (fax)