

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-162

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
ESCONDIDO, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING THE VEHICLE
MILES TRAVELED EXCHANGE PROGRAM AND
ADOPTION OF A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 743, enacted in 2013, required changes to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Guidelines regarding the criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts of projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research proposed, and the California Natural Resources Agency certified and adopted, new CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, which identifies the metric “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; and

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 requires that lead agencies, for purposes of CEQA, evaluate the transportation impacts of a project using the metric VMT; and

WHEREAS, automobile delay, as measured by “level of service” and other similar metrics, with limited exceptions in the context of roadway capacity projects, generally no longer constitutes a significant environmental effect under CEQA; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA, lead agencies are required to determine the significance of all environmental effects for a project; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Escondido, California, adopted Transportation Impact Analysis Guidelines including “thresholds of significance” for the VMT metric for a project’s transportation impacts on April 21, 2021 as recommended by CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7; and

WHEREAS, The City engaged the assistance of a consultant – Fehr & Peers – to prepare a VMT Exchange Program to streamline the identification of mitigation measures when development projects exceed VMT thresholds pursuant to CEQA; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA, the City is the Lead Agency for the Project, as the public agency with the principal responsibility for approving the VMT Exchange Program; and

WHEREAS, the City prepared an Initial Study and found that a Negative Declaration would be the appropriate CEQA document; and

WHEREAS, the VMT Exchange Program was presented to the Transportation and Community Safety Commission on July 14, 2022. The Commission recommended approval by City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Escondido, California as follows:

1. That the above recitations are true.
2. That the Findings of Fact, attached hereto as Exhibit “A,” have been made by the City Council with regard to the Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.
3. That the City Council does hereby adopt the Negative Declaration, attached as Exhibit “B.”
4. The City Council, therefore, directs that a Notice of Determination be filed with the County Clerk of the County of San Diego in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

5. The City Council does hereby adopt the VMT Exchange Program, attached as Exhibit "C."