

Town of Yountville

Resolution Number 21-4095

ADOPTING THE VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (VMT) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUNTVILLE DETAILED IN THE TJKM TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM, WHICH INCLUDES THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE, SCREENING CRITERIA, AND MITIGATION MEASURES FOR TRANSPORTATION RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AS REQUIRED BY THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) GUIDELINES IMPLEMENTING SB 743.

Recitals

1. 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; and
2. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7(b) requires that thresholds of significance must be adopted by ordinance, resolution, rule, or regulations, developed through a public review process, and be supported by substantial evidence; and
3. Senate Bill (SB) 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. 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 per land use unit per day – as the most appropriate metric to evaluate a project’s transportation impacts. As a result, automobile delay, as measured by Level of Service (LOS) and other similar metrics, no longer constitutes a significant environmental effect under CEQA. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3 went into effect on July 1, 2020; and
4. The Napa Valley Transportation Authority retained TJKM Transportation Consultants to develop a strategy for local environmental review of transportation impacts using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), the new metric; and
5. Staff and the Consultant team, in response to the State guidelines, have developed the *VMT Recommendations for Town of Yountville* Technical Memorandum, which identifies a 15% reduction below current VMT levels as the appropriate threshold of significance for transportation impacts, and sets forth screening criteria for new development projects. The screening criteria include project location, size, and land use; and
6. Staff and the Consultant team, using State guidelines, have also developed mitigation options for projects which cannot be determined to have less than significant impacts on the environment and screened from further VMT analysis using the screening criteria; and
7. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.7, the thresholds of significance identified in the *VMT Recommendations for Town of Yountville* Technical Memorandum have been developed through a public review process and are supported by substantial evidence. The Town Council

held duly noticed public hearing on December 7, 2021. Town staff and the Consultant team presented substantial factual information regarding the proposed standards and criteria in staff reports and through oral presentations before the Town Council, who considered all public testimony and information presented during the public hearing regarding this program; and

8. The Town Council has determined that the *VMT Recommendations for Town of Yountville* Technical Memorandum establishes an appropriate threshold of significance under CEQA as required by State law.

Now therefore, the Town Council of the Town of Yountville does resolve as follows:

1. The Town Council hereby approves and adopts the recitals set forth above in support of this resolutions.
2. The Town Council has determined that the adoption of a new local CEQA threshold of significance for VMT impacts and the adoptions of the *TJKM VMT Recommendations for Town of Yountville* Technical Memorandum will not have a significant environmental impact and is exempt from CEQA review under Section 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines. This action is being undertaken to comply with State mandate (SB 743) and will be used in a regulatory process (CEQA review) that involves procedures for the protection of the natural environment.
3. The Town Council hereby adopts the *TJKM VMT Recommendations for Town of Yountville* Technical Memorandum, as attached hereto, and approves the Planning Director to update the Town's Local CEQA Guidelines, thereby establishing the VMT thresholds of significance for transportation impact analysis pursuant to CEQA.
4. The Resolution is hereby adopted and becomes effective and in full force immediately upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Yountville, State of California, held on this 7th day of December 2021 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

John F. Dunbar, Mayor

ATTEST:

Eddy Gomez
Deputy Town Clerk