

RESOLUTION 4101

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF COALINGA ADOPTING THE FRESNO COUNTY SB 743 IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES AND SETTING OF ASSOCIATED 13% THRESHOLD FOR VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED (VMT) ANALYSIS WITHIN THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA).

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB)743, signed into law in 2013 by Governor Edmund G. Brown, directed the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop updated criteria for measuring transportation impacts under CEQA using alternative metrics that promote a reduction in greenhouse gases, the development of multimodal transportation, and a diversity of land uses, all towards achieving the State's climate action goals; and

WHEREAS, OPR prepared proposed updates to the CEQA Guidelines and a Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts using VMT as the metric to evaluate the transportation impacts of a project under CEQA. OPR's CEQA Guidelines update was approved by the California Natural Resources Agency in November 2018 and the Governor's Office of Administrative Law on December 28, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Section 15064.3 of the CEQA Guidelines, added as part of the 2018 update, identifies VMT as the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts under CEQA, and states that a project's effect on automobile delay shall not constitute a significant environmental impact. Lead agencies are required to begin using the VMT metric by July 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the mandate on lead agencies in Section 15064.3 requires the City to update its CEQA transportation thresholds of significance; and

WHEREAS, the Fresno Council of Governments, in collaboration with the City of Coalinga, has prepared the Fresno County SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines for use by local agency members and developed the CEQA VMT Thresholds for Small Cities under their Circuit Planning and Engineering Program; and

WHEREAS, the SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines and CEQA VMT Thresholds for Small Cities provide methodology, threshold recommendations, screening criteria, and other matters related to the transition of the VMT metric for CEQA purposes; and

WHEREAS, the SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines also allows the anticipated use of level of service (LOS) analysis for local transportation analysis separate from CEQA, as required by SB 743; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coalinga has identified Fresno County as the region for all VMT analysis; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coalinga Planning Commission, at their regular meeting of July 26, 2022, recommended that the City of Coalinga City Council adopt the Fresno County SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines and Setting of Associated 13% Threshold for the City of Coalinga VMT Analysis within CEQA; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Coalinga using their independent judgement hereby adopts the Fresno County SB 743 Implementation Regional Guidelines and Setting of Associated 13% Threshold for the City of Coalinga VMT Analysis within CEQA and process as described in the CEQA VMT Thresholds for Small Cities.

The forgoing resolution was adopted at a regular council meeting of the City Council of the City of Coalinga on the 4th day of August 2022, and passed at said meeting with the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Mayor/Mayor Pro-Tem

ATTEST:

City Clerk/Deputy City Clerk