CITY OF DUARTE
PLANNING COMMISSION
M I N U T E S
June 15, 2020

Planning Commission
Commissioners
Paula Watson-Gardner, Chair
Sara Vasquez, Vice-Chair
George K. Farra
Tina Heany
Wally Wolff

NOTICE: Due to the state and local State of Emergency resulting from the threat of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), Governor Newsom has issued Executive Order N-29-20 in which Section 3 supersedes Paragraph 11 of Executive Order N-25-20 (issued on March 12,2020) addressing Brown Act regulations. This new order states that the City does not need to make a physical location available for members of the public to observe a public meeting and offer public comment. The Order allows the City to hold City Council meetings via teleconferencing and allows for members of the public to observe and address the meeting electronically.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTATION OF ANY ABSENCES:

Chair Watson-Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following were in attendance:

PRESENT:	Watson-Gardner, Vasquez, Heany, Farra, Wolff
ABSENT:	None
STAFF:	Hensley, Golding, Hernandez
DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY:	None

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Heany lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Farra motioned to approve the minutes of May 18, 2020 and seconded by Heany. The motion was approved 5-0-0-0.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

None.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS:

A. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Policy - Setting of Thresholds of Significance for traffic analyses associated with development projects.

Attachments: Staff Report and PC Resolution 2020-05

Director Hensley introduced the consultant that has been working with the City and joint project with San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments. Erik Ruehr, presented a detailed report about the signed SB 743, changes in transportation studies done for CEQA, replacing

level of service, using Vehicles Miles Traveled (VMT), and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Hensley thanked Consultant Ruehr and discussed the philosophies of teamwork with other cities, majority of cities thresholds selection and answered questions from the Commissioners.

Chairperson Watson-Gardner opened Commissioner's inquiries.

Farra asked the following general questions related to: areas or potential projects that are not covered in the City; the definition and coverage area for the land use plan; the baseline area is the Northwest Subarea of the San Gabriel Valley; and how VMT compared with the proposed/certain land use plan of the Northwest area of the San Gabriel Valley and entire area including residential. Mr. Ruehr and Hensley responded to Farra's inquiries.

In addition, Farra asked if the City will be providing information to an applicant regarding the existing VMT for the area, what is the 85% VMT of the threshold that cannot exceed, and if the City had calculations currently available or when will they be available. Hensley responded.

Chairperson Watson-Gardner closed Commissioners' inquiries and called for a motion on the item.

Farra motioned to recommend with a caveat discussed previously that the City have the VMT numbers for the area and thresholds of significance before enforcing/applying to a new project. The motion was Seconded by Heany and carried 5-0-0-0 by the following Roll Call vote: Yes: Warson-Gardner, Vasquez, Farra, Heany, Wolff; No: None.

6. ITEMS FROM DIRECTOR:

Hensley provided development updates and answered Commissioner Farra's inquiry about the proposed Wyndham Hotel.

7. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS:

There were no comments from the Commissioners.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Watson-Gardner adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m. to Monday, July 20, 2020.

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Craig Hensley, Secretary