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RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 23589 TO REVISE THE “VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED” THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR PURPOSES OF ANALYZING TRANSPORTATION IMPACTS UNDER THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT.

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(a) defines a threshold of significance as “an identifiable quantitative, qualitative or performance level of a particular environmental effect, noncompliance with which means the effect will normally be determined to be significant by the agency and compliance with which means the effect normally will be determined to be less than significant”; and

WHEREAS, 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

WHEREAS, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15064.7(c), when adopting thresholds of significance, a public agency may consider thresholds of significance adopted or recommended by other public agencies provided that the decision of the agency is supported by substantial evidence; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 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; and

WHEREAS, 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 – as the most appropriate metric to evaluate a project’s transportation impacts; and

1 WHEREAS, as a result, automobile delay, as measured by “level of service” and other
2 similar metrics, generally no longer constitutes a significant environmental effect under CEQA; and

3 WHEREAS, on June 16, 2020, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 23589 which
4 adopted VMT thresholds of significance for purposes of analyzing transportation impacts under the
5 CEQA; and

6 WHEREAS, CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 went into effect on July 1, 2020; and

7 WHEREAS, in recognition that the City, as a whole, is the dense urban center of the county
8 and in general experiences reduced VMT per capita, the City desires to revise the VMT thresholds of
9 significance to be at the current jurisdiction baseline; and

10 WHEREAS, on November 6, 2024, the Transportation Board of the City of Riverside,
11 California, considered revising the City’s VMT thresholds of significance to be the current
12 jurisdictional baseline VMT per capita for residential projects and the current jurisdictional baseline
13 VMT per employee for new office and industrial projects and revise the Traffic Impact Analysis
14 Guidelines accordingly, and recommended to the City Council that the revisions to the VMT
15 thresholds of significance and Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines be approved; and

16 WHEREAS, on November 21, 2024, the Planning Commission of the City of Riverside,
17 California, considered revising the City’s VMT thresholds of significance to be the current
18 jurisdictional baseline VMT per capita for residential projects and the current jurisdictional baseline
19 VMT per employee for new office and industrial projects and revise the Traffic Impact Analysis
20 Guidelines accordingly; and recommended to the City Council that the revisions to the VMT
21 thresholds of significance and Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines be approved; and

22 WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Riverside advertised for and held a public
23 hearing on December 17, 2024, to consider revising the City’s VMT thresholds of significance for
24 purposes of analyzing transportation impacts under the CEQA to be the current jurisdictional
25 baseline VMT per capita for residential projects and the current jurisdictional baseline VMT per
26 employee for new office and industrial projects and revise the Traffic Impact Analysis Guidelines;
27 and

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1 WHEREAS, the City Council received and considered the reports and recommendations
2 from the Transportation Board, the Planning Commission, and all other testimony, whether written
3 or oral, presented at the public hearing.

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Riverside,
5 California, as follows:

6 Section 1: The foregoing recitals are all true and correct.

7 Section 2: Resolution No. 23589 is hereby amended by revising the following sections:

- 8 1. For new residential projects, utilizing a threshold consistent with the City's current
9 jurisdictional baseline VMT Per Capita.
- 10 2. For new office and industrial projects, utilizing a threshold consistent with the City's
11 current jurisdictional baseline VMT Per Employee.

12 Section 3: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

13 ADOPTED by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2024.

14
15 _____
16 PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON
17 Mayor of the City of Riverside

18 Attest:

19
20 _____
21 DONESIA GAUSE
22 City Clerk of the City of Riverside

23 //

24 //

1 I, Donesia Gause, City Clerk of the City of Riverside, California, hereby certify that the
2 foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the City Council of said City at
3 its meeting held on the _____ day of _____, 2024, by the following vote, to wit:

4 Ayes:

5 Noes:

6 Absent:

7 Abstain:

8
9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the
10 City of Riverside, California, this _____ day of _____, 2024.

11
12 _____
13 DONESIA GAUSE
14 City Clerk of the City of Riverside
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27 CA: 24-1793.2 TAT 11/13/24
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