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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

28



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.

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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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