

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

June 07 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

June 7, 2021

Christopher Cannon
City of Los Angeles Harbor Department
Environmental Management Division
425 S. Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

RE: Southern California International Gateway –
Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report
(RDEIR)
SCH # 2005091116
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03595
Vic. LA-1/PM: 9.238

Dear Christopher Cannon:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced RDEIR. The Southern California International Gateway (SCIG) project is a proposal by BNSF Railway to build and operate a new, state of the art intermodal railyard facility. It will be located within four miles of the San Pedro Bay ports in a largely industrial area east of the Wilmington community of the City of Los Angeles, and with portions in the cities of Carson and Long Beach. The facility will have direct access to the Alameda Rail Corridor. SCIG would allow trucks to travel a short distance from the ports before transferring their freight to rail cars, which would then carry the freight to destinations throughout the country. The City of Los Angeles Harbor Department is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project is located near the Pacific Coast Highway and State Route 47. It was previously evaluated under CEQA in a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) that was certified in 2013. Caltrans reviewed and commented on this FEIR during the public review process. The current RDEIR provides additional detailed information on two air quality impacts, as required by a writ of mandate filed on May 23, 2018. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21168.9 (b), the RDEIR is limited to addressing only the court-ordered items necessary to bring the 2013 FEIR into compliance with CEQA. Therefore, Caltrans has limited our review to just the additional information provided. This information relates to the frequency and duration of offsite ambient air pollutant concentrations, and the cumulative offsite pollutant concentrations of the SCIG Project in combination with a proposal to expand the Union Pacific Railroad's Intermodal Container Transfer Facility. We have no comments on this additional information.

The following information is included for your consideration. Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause delays on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these delays for Caltrans' review.

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Any work completed on or near Caltrans' right of way might require an encroachment permit, however, the final determination on this will be made by Caltrans' Office of Permits. For more information on encroachment permits, see: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Emily Gibson, the project coordinator, at Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2021-03595.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong

FRANCES DUONG
Acting IGR/CEQA Branch Chief
cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse