

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 505-5003
FAX (213) 897-1337
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

October 13, 2023

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Oct 12 2023

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Randall McInvale
United Water Conservation District
1701 North Lombard St., Suite 200
Oxnard, CA 93030

RE: United Conservation District Freeman
Diversion Multiple Species Habitat
Conservation Plan — Notice of
Preparation (NOP)
SCH# 2013111031
Vic. VEN-118/PM 2.234
GTS # 07-VEN-2019-00560

Dear Randall McInvale:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. United Water Conservation District (UWCD) will prepare an Environmental Impact Report to evaluate the effects of its proposed Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MS HCP) and facility and operations modifications associated with the implementation of the MSHCP. The primary elements of the proposed project that could result in changes to the physical environment are the construction, operations, and maintenance of a new fish passage facility at the Freeman Diversion; modified water diversion operations; replacement of the fish screen at the Freeman Diversion; and habitat restoration and enhancement within the Santa Clara River watershed. The United Water Conservation District is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

After reviewing the project's NOP, Caltrans has the following comments:

As stated in Figure 6, the project proposes a crossing along SR-118 (Los Angeles Ave). Caltrans requests an encroachment permit for this physical encroachment into the State Right-of-Way. This Right-of-Way line needs to be identified in future project plans. A maintenance agreement is expected to be created between Caltrans and the Lead Agency to share the burden of costs for the proposed street crossing. For more information about encroachment permits, please visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>.

It is expected that further evaluation of potentially significant impacts related to traffic generated by construction activities for the proposed project will be conducted in the EIR. The Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) needs to specify the duration of the construction period. The CTMP should be reviewed and approved by City Staff to reduce any impacts to less than significant levels.

As stated on page 25, the project would not alter traffic generation or effects on roadways, and operation and maintenance activities would be expected to generate minimal new trips. The Project's potential impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that requires the 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 issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

Caltrans looks forward to reviewing the forthcoming EIR. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jaden Oloresisimo, the project coordinator, at Jaden.Oloresisimo@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS # 07-VEN-2019-00560.

Sincerely,

Anthony Higgins for

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse