

## California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 PLANNING  
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July 3, 2023

Mr. Mark Campbell  
Superintendent  
Calaveras Unified School District  
PO Box 788  
San Andreas, CA 95249

**CAL-12-PM 14.41 Initial Study  
Toyon Middle School Wastewater  
Treatment Plant Upgrade Project -  
SCH 2019039117**

Dear Mr. Campbell,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project Initial Study. The proposed project is to replace the wastewater system at the Toyon Middle School (TMS). There is no sewer service in the vicinity of the TMS. In 2018 the Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD) completed an Alternatives Analysis Report which evaluated multiple treatment alternatives against the CUSD Project goals and determined that the Onsite Recirculating Sand Filter Treatment with Offsite Disposal Alternative is preferred. This alternative requires acquisition of  $\pm 10.7$  acres of privately held parcel Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 040-006-042 immediately north of TMS. To date the CUSD has not acquired this parcel. If the  $\pm 10.7$  acres of privately held parcel cannot be acquired, then the preferred project would include the Recirculating Sand Filtration with Onsite Underground Drip Disposal (UDD).

The Project is located northeast of the intersection of State Route (SR) 12 and SR 26 in the community of Valley Springs within APNs 040-004-038, 040-006-043, and 040-006-042.

### **Caltrans has the following comments:**

Caltrans suggests Calaveras Unified School District continue to coordinate and consult with Caltrans to identify and address potential cumulative transportation impacts from this project and other developments near this location. This will assist Caltrans in ensuring that traffic safety and quality standards are maintained for the traveling public on existing and future state transportation facilities.

### **Environmental**

If any construction related activities will encroach into Caltrans Right of Way (ROW), the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans Right of Way, at the project site(s). Evidence of consultation with local Native American tribes and interested parties will need to be presented within the technical documents for approval of encroachment in the Caltrans ROW. Updated consultation efforts may be requested for CEQA compliance. If there are impacts to protected water resources within Caltrans ROW, Caltrans will need to see the correspondence with the permitting authorities (California Department of Fish and Wildlife - CDFW, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board) and be provided copies of the required permits prior to the start of any construction in Caltrans ROW. There are mature trees within and/or near Caltrans ROW that could provide suitable nesting habitat. If work will occur between February 1 and September 30 of any year, a pre-construction bird survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the start of any construction related activities in Caltrans ROW. If an active nest is observed, a protective buffer must be established around the nest per CDFW guidelines. No work is allowed within the protective buffer limits until the young have fledged and until authorized by the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office. Results of the pre-construction bird survey(s) must be provided to the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office prior to the start of construction. This differs from the nesting bird season and bird surveys periods described in the Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). All work in Caltrans ROW must adhere to the pre-construction bird survey requirements described above in this comment.

### **Hydrology**

The proposed site development is adjacent to the state route (SR). The developer needs to ensure that the existing State drainage facilities will not be significantly impacted by the project. If historical undeveloped topography shows drainage from this site flowed into the State ROW, it may continue to do so with the conditions that peak flows may not be increased from the pre-construction quantity and the site runoff be treated to meet present storm water quality standards. If historical undeveloped topography shows drainage from this site did not flow into the State ROW, then it will not be allowed to flow into the State ROW at this time.

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We request to review the pre- and post-construction runoff calculations and drainage plans to understand flow patterns. Additional review will be done once drainage plans and calculations are submitted.

**Encroachment Permits**

If any project activities encroach into Caltrans ROW, the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. For more information, please visit the Caltrans Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shiferaw Jemberie (209) 986-9635 (email: [Shiferaw.jemberie@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Shiferaw.jemberie@dot.ca.gov)) or me at (209) 483-7234 (email: [Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov)).

Sincerely,

*Gregoria Ponce'*

Gregoria Ponce', Chief  
Office of Rural Planning

cc: Gabriel Elliott, Planning Director, Calaveras County Planning Department