

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 10

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Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

**AUG 02 2019**

August 2, 2019

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Mr. Timothy Johnston, Senior Environmental Planner  
San Francisco Planning Department  
Environmental Division  
1650 Mission Street, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94103-2479

**TUO-120-PM R40.24**  
**SFPUC Mountain Tunnel**  
**Improvements Project**  
**Preliminary Mitigated**  
**Negative Declaration**  
**SCH #: 2019079057**

Dear Mr. Johnston,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) proposed Mountain Tunnel Improvements Project with SCH #: 2019079057 to improve the condition of the existing Mountain Tunnel, and to ensure the tunnel's continued ability to provide quality drinking water reliably to its 2.7 million customers in the San Francisco Bay Area. The project is in the central Sierra Nevada Mountain Range near the town of Groveland in Tuolumne County. The tunnel begins at Early Intake and extends approximately 19 miles west of the Priest Portal. The proposed improvements and the associated areas for construction staging and access would be located on a mix of lands owned by the United States Forest Service (USFS) or Bureau of Land Management subject to right-of-way managed by the City of San Francisco that were granted under the terms of the 1913 Raker Act, lands owned and managed by the USFS, City-owned lands, and privately-owned lands.

Caltrans has reviewed the preliminary Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and has the following comments: The biological measures described in the Initial Study (MND) will need to be adhered to during any construction activities within Caltrans right-of-way. Please submit the final MND with the Encroachment Permit application. This area is known to have sightings of the *Strix nebulosus* known as "Great Gray Owl" (State endangered species). Please include a determination on impacts/effects to this species in the completed package. Mitigation measures described in the MND in section F-4 Biological Resources for raptors, migratory birds, and special listed species can be utilized as appropriate measure for this species as well. Appropriate environmental studies

Mr. Timothy Johnston  
August 2, 2019  
Page 2

environmental studies must be submitted with this Encroachment Permit application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, and/or other resources within Caltrans right-of-way at the project site. CEQA documentation with supporting technical studies are required when submitting the renewed Encroachment Permit.

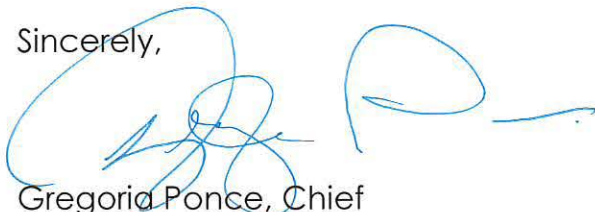
According to our records District 10 Encroachment Permits Office issued a Record Purpose Permit Number 1018-NMC-0236 (dated June 6, 2018 until July 31, 2019). A new permit must be submitted for Tuolumne State Route (SR)-120 at Post Mile (PM) 47.25 (10-TUO-120- PM 47.25) at the Cherry Road intersection (Figure 2-2) staging area and Mariposa County SR-120 at PM 43.65 (10-MPA-120-PM 43.65) see (Figure 2-4) staging area as attached to allow the SFPUC contractors to set up their contractor's yard in the interim where they can share the property used by Caltrans. Since this project has not started and the previous permit has expired, SFPUC will need to re-apply for a new encroachment permit. Caltrans request to receive all project related documentation for our review as well as notifications of any change in use or scope of work when applying for the new encroachment permit.

To obtain an encroachment permit, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and six (6) sets of plans clearly indicating the State ROW, and six (6) copies of signed and stamped traffic control plans must be submitted to: Office of Encroachment Permits, California DOT, District 10, 1976 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Stockton, CA 95205.

To download the permit application or to obtain more information, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>

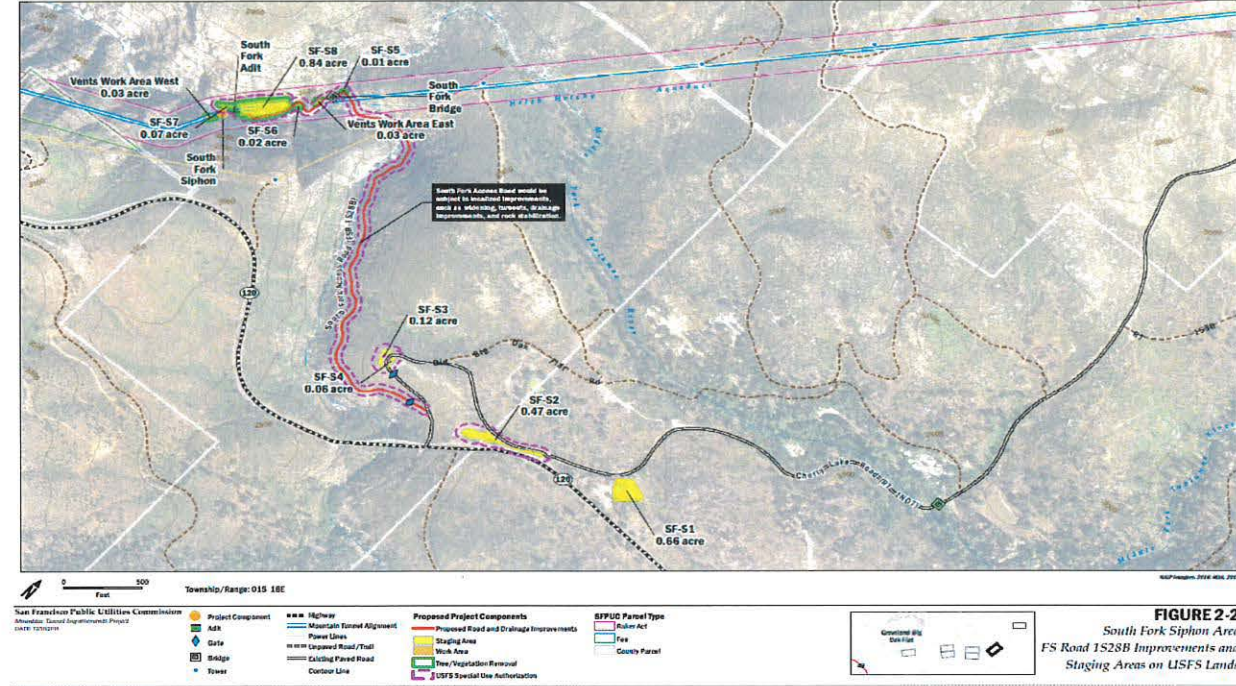
Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Michael Casas at 209-948-7475 or [Michael.Casas@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Michael.Casas@dot.ca.gov) or me at 209-948-7325 or [Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

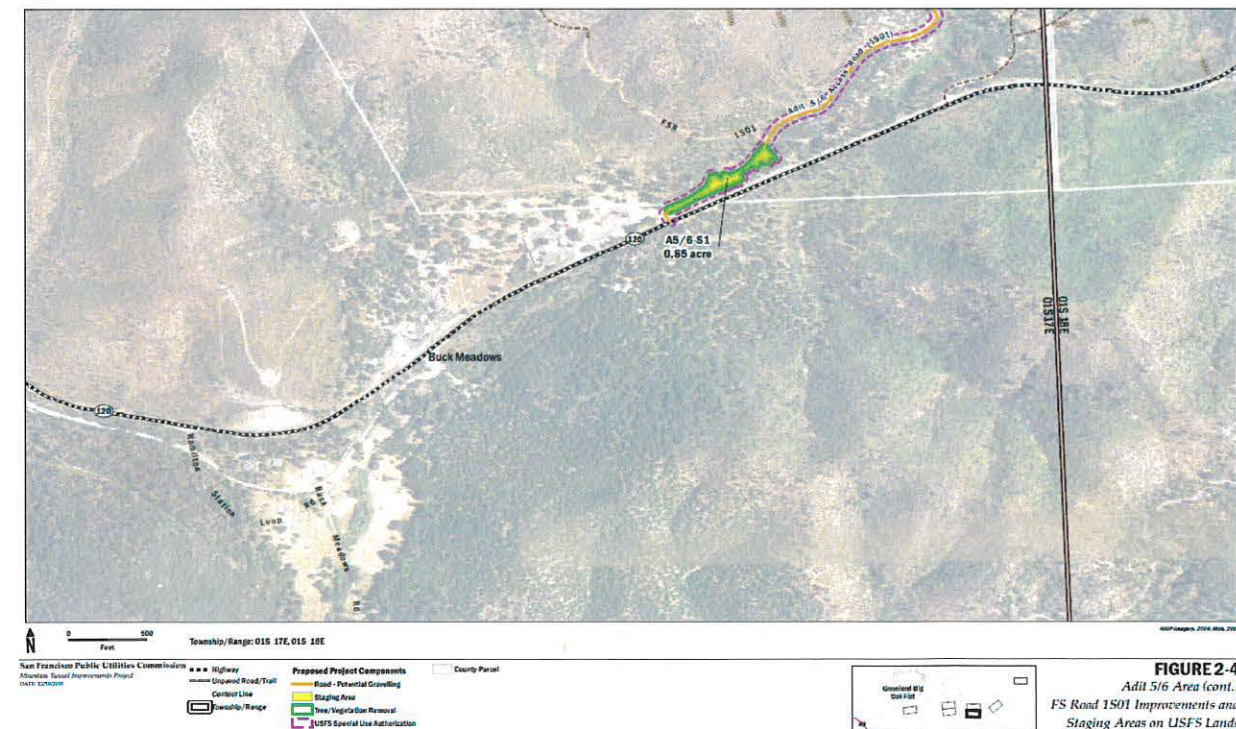


Gregoria Ponce, Chief  
Office of Rural Planning

**Figure 2-2**



**Figure 2-4**



*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability"*

Mr. Timothy Johnston  
August 2, 2019  
Page 4

C: Darin Grossi, Executive Director Tuolumne County Transportation Council  
David Gonzalves, Director, Tuolumne County Community Resources  
Agency  
State Clearing House