

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 12

1750 EAST FOURTH STREET, SUITE 100

SANTA ANA, CA 92705

PHONE (657) 328-6310

FAX (657) 328-6510

TTY 711

[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.*

Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

**SEP 13 2019****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

September 13, 2019

Jo Ann Corey  
Irvine Ranch Water District  
15600 Sandy Canyon Avenue  
Irvine, CA 92618

File: IGR/CEQA  
SCH#: 2019080009  
IGR Log # 2019-01193  
SR133 PM 12.906; SR 241  
PM 27.496

Dear Ms. Corey:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, and integrated efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

The proposed project would increase the capacity of the existing recycled water reservoir to serve the community's seasonal and future recycled water needs. The reservoir capacity would increase from approximately 500 acre-feet (AF) to 5,000 AF. As part of the reservoir expansion, the existing engineered dam would be replaced with a new engineered dam that would meet and exceed the latest safety standards. The proposed project is located on the northeast side of Portola Parkway between Bee Canyon Access Road and State Route (SR) 133 in the County of Orange. The nearest State facility to the project site are SR-133 and SR-241.

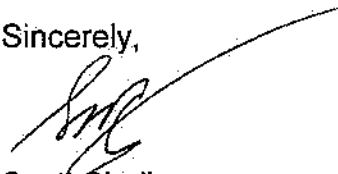
Caltrans is a responsible agency on this project and has the following comments:

1. The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) should evaluate the potential impact to traffic and circulation during the construction phase that include: related vehicle trips and operational vehicle trips on local and regional roadways, particularly both SR-241 and SR-133.
2. Traffic assessment for the project requires a Traffic Impact Study (TIS). The following intersections on Caltrans right of way should be included in the TIS:
  - Northbound SR-133 and Irvine Boulevard on/off-ramps
  - Southbound SR-133 and Irvine Boulevard on/off-ramps
  - Northbound SR-241 and Portola Parkway on/off-ramps
  - Southbound SR-241 and Portola Parkway on/off-ramps

3. Prior to the construction stage, please include a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to Caltrans for review and approval.
4. Caltrans wishes to caution that deeply buried archaeological resources have been discovered in the vicinity of the current project area, making the deployment of archaeological monitors during construction especially important for this undertaking.
5. Please be advised that Caltrans Encroachment Permit prohibits the discharge of groundwater onto State facilities. All State drainage facilities should be protected during construction and the existing flow pattern shall be maintained. Final construction plans will be reviewed by Caltrans Hydraulics Branch during Encroachment Permit Process.
6. In the event of any activity on Caltrans right of way an encroachment permit will be required. For specific details on Encroachment Permits procedure, please refer to Encroachment Permits Manual at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>

Please continue to keep us informed of this project and any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions or would like to meet with us regarding these comments, please do not hesitate to call Maryam Molavi at (657) 328-6280.

Sincerely,



Scott Shelley  
Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning  
District 12