

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 12

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a California Way of Life.*

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

May 18 2021**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

May 18, 2021

Ms. Jo Ann Corey
Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Ave
Irvine, CA 92618

File: IGR/CEQA
IGR#: 2019-01613
SCH#: 2019080009
SR 133 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 Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project in the Irvine Ranch Water District. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.

The proposed Syphon Reservoir Improvement Project (proposed project) would increase the capacity of the existing recycled water reservoir from approximately 500 acre-feet (AF) to 5,000 AF. The proposed project would replace the existing engineered dam with a new engineered dam, increasing the existing 59-foot dam height to 136 feet and increasing the elevation of the dam crest from the existing 388 feet above mean sea level (amsl) to 466 feet amsl. A spillway would be included with the new dam to protect the reservoir from overtopping. As part of the new design, the engineered embankment dam would include a seepage control drainage system and a circulation system for the reservoir. The existing strainer and disinfection facilities would be demolished, reconstructed, and expanded at the toe of the new dam to provide filtration and disinfection. Additional project features include new onsite access and maintenance roads; wetland and riparian mitigation areas; and a potential recreational facility.

The proposed project would be built within the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD) service area at the site of the existing Syphon Reservoir, which is currently a recycled water storage reservoir. Syphon Reservoir is located in the

unincorporated County of Orange, California, on the northeast side of Portola Parkway between Bee Canyon Access Road, State Route 133 (SR 133), and State Route (SR 241). The majority of the property bounded by these thoroughfares is owned by IRWD, however, both SR 133 and SR 241 are owned and operated by Caltrans. Caltrans is a responsible agency and has the following comments:

Advanced Planning

1. Please coordinate any construction work that may affect traffic flow on SR-133 with Caltrans Project Management.

Transportation Planning

2. Figure 3.12-1 Map legend – please add freeway/highway (I-5, SR-261, SR-241) leg.
3. Consider including a discussion on general transportation safety improvements, especially for vulnerable road users such as bicyclists and pedestrians.

Permits:

4. Please coordinate with Caltrans to meet the requirements for any work within or near State Right-of-Way. A fee may apply. If the cost of work within the State right of way is below one Million Dollars, the Encroachment Permit process will be handled by our Permits Branch; otherwise the permit should be authorized through the Caltrans's Project Development Department. When applying for Encroachment Permit, please incorporate all Environmental Documentation, SWPPP/ WPCP, Hydraulic Calculations, R/W certification and all relevant design details including design exception approvals. For specific details for Encroachment Permits procedure, please refer to Caltrans' Encroachment Permits Manual. The latest edition of the Manual is available on the web site:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

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Please continue to coordinate with Caltrans for any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Julie Lugaro at: Julie.lugaro@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Shelley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Scott" being more prominent than the last name "Shelley".

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