

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**DISTRICT 6 OFFICE**

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Aug 10 2020**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Making Conservation
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August 10, 2020

06-KER-5-9.358

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
PASTORIA SOLAR PROJECT

Cindi Hoover
Kern County Planning
2700 M Street, Suite #100
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Dear Ms. Hoover:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposal to develop 650 acres for solar power. The project site is located in vacant land west of Interstate 5 (I-5) near Grapevine, in the County of Kern.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) provides the following comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

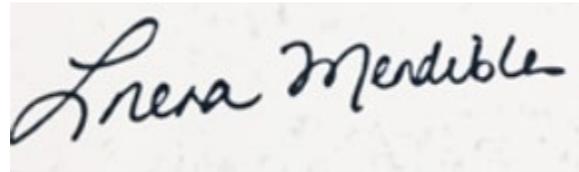
1. Per the report, workers are encouraged to carpool, especially during the peak of the construction operations. Assuming carpooling, the project site would generate an estimated maximum of 345 AM and 345 PM peak hour trips. Of the peak hour trips, it estimated that 162 trips (47%) would be distributed onto Grapevine Road East and an estimated 183 trips (53%) would be distributed onto Grapevine West of which both roads have access to I-5.
2. To prevent queuing along the off-ramps, it is recommended to stagger the start times of the daily work schedule for the workers. The applicant should also consult with Caltrans prior to initiation of construction activities that may affect area traffic (such as equipment and supply delivery necessitating lane closures, trenching, etc.) along I-5 in order to implement appropriate traffic controls.
3. Besides construction activities, and once operational, traffic generated by the project site would be insignificant.

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4. Caltrans recommends that the project proponent continue to work with the County of Kern to further implement improvements to reduce vehicles miles traveled and offer a variety of transportation modes for its employees.
5. Caltrans recommends the project provide charging stations for electric vehicles as part of the statewide efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions.

If you have any further questions, contact Scott Lau at (559) 445-5763 or scott.lau@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Lorena Mendibles" in a cursive, flowing script.

LORENA MENDIBLES, Chief
Transportation Planning - South