

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

**Aug 18 2020****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.*

August 18, 2020

11-IMP-111

PM 41.3

Wister Solar Energy Facility  
DEIR/SCH# 2019110140

Ms. Patricia Valenzuela  
Imperial County  
Planning and Development Services  
801 Main Street  
El Centro, CA 92243

Dear Ms. Valenzuela:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Wister Solar Energy Facility Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) (SCH# 2019110140) located near State Route 111 (SR-111). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with Caltrans' mission and state planning priorities.

Caltrans has the following comments:

**Traffic Control Plan/Hauling**

Terra-Gen shall prepare and submit to Caltrans closure plans as part of the encroachment permit application. The plans shall require that closure or partial closure of SR-111 be limited to times as to create the least possible inconvenience to the traveling public and that signage be posted prior to the closure to alert drivers of the closure in accordance with Caltrans requirements. Traffic shall not be unreasonably delayed. The plan shall also outline suggested detours to use during the closures, traffic, including routes and signage.

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The Highway Closure Plan, as part of the encroachment permit, should be submitted to Caltrans at least 30 days prior to initiating installation of the crossings. No work shall begin in Caltrans Right of Way (R/W) until an encroachment permit is approved.

Any work performed within Caltrans R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans R/W prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide an approved final environmental document including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination addressing any environmental impacts with the Caltrans' R/W, and any corresponding technical studies.

Please see Section 600 of the Encroachment Permits Manual for requirements regarding utilities and state R/W:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/ep-manual>

Caltrans has discretionary authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and may, upon application and if good cause appears, issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum limitations specified in the California Vehicle Code. The Caltrans Transportation Permits Issuance Branch is responsible for the issuance of these special transportation permits for oversize/overweight vehicles on the State Highway System. Additional information is provided online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/permits/index.html>

Potential impacts to the highway facilities (SR-111) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mark McCumsey, of the Caltrans Development Review Branch, at (619) 688-6802 or by e-mail sent to [mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov](mailto:mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**electronically signed by**

MAURICE EATON, Branch Chief  
Local Development and Intergovernmental Review Branch