

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Aug 24 2020

Making Conservation
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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

August 24, 2020

Ajit Vaidya
Department of Toxic Substances Control
8800 Cal Center
Sacramento, CA 95826

RE: Whittier Narrows Operable Unit Treatment
for Drinking Water End Use Project –
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2020089015
GTS # 07-LA-2020-03338
Vic. LA-164/PM: 2.636

Dear Ajit Vaidya:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced MND. The project would construct a 7,265-foot-long blend water supply pipeline, a 20-foot-long blended water pipeline connection to the existing 30-inch San Gabriel Valley Water Company pipeline on Durfee Avenue, and a new off-site booster station. The purpose of the proposed project is to increase the pumping rate of the existing groundwater extraction wells to contain groundwater contamination within the Main San Gabriel Basin. The project would increase the capture of the contaminants and prevent further migration into the adjoining Los Angeles Central Groundwater Basin and help protect nearby municipal water supply wells. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project is located adjacent to sections of State Route 60 (SR-60) in Los Angeles County. As noted in the MND, this project may need an encroachment permit for any work on or near SR-60, however this determination will be made by Caltrans' Office of Permits.

The following information is included for your consideration.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. Furthermore, Caltrans encourages Lead Agencies to implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies that reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. For TDM options to potentially include in this project, please refer to:

- The 2010 *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), available at <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>, or
- *Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference* (Chapter 8) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), available at <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/index.htm>.

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As a reminder, Senate Bill 743 (2013) mandates that VMT be used as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts of all future development projects under CEQA, starting July 1, 2020. For information on determining transportation impacts in terms of VMT on the State Highway System, see the Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA by the California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), dated December 2018: [http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743 Technical Advisory.pdf](http://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743_Technical_Advisory.pdf).

The Department can also refer to Caltrans' updated Vehicle Miles Traveled-Focused Transportation Impact Study Guide (TISG), dated May 2020 and released on Caltrans' website in July 2020. Caltrans' new TISG is largely based on the OPR 2018 Technical Advisory: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/sb-743/2020-05-20-approved-vmt-focused-tisg-a11y.pdf>.

Finally, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause delays on any State facilities, please submit the Construction Traffic Management Plan detailing these delays for Caltrans' review.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Emily Gibson, the project coordinator, at Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov, and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2020-03338.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief
cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse