

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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www.dot.ca.gov



September 19, 2024

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GTS #: 04-SM-2020-00610
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Co/Rt/Pm: ALA and
SM/VAR/VAR

Sam Fielding, Coastal Program Analyst
Bay Conservation and Development Commission
375 Beale Street, Suite 510
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Cargill, Incorporated Solar Salt System Maintenance and Operations Activities – Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)

Dear Sam Fielding:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Cargill, Incorporated Solar Salt System Maintenance and Operations Activities Project. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities. The following comments are based on our review of the August 2024 Draft EA.

Please note this correspondence does not indicate an official position by Caltrans on this project and is for informational purposes only.

Project Understanding

The purpose of the proposed project is to continue maintenance of and operational activities at Cargill's solar salt systems located in Newark/Fremont and Redwood City in a safe and environmentally protective manner over the next 10 years. Project objectives include continuing to conduct various activities to maintain the systems for salt production, implementation of preliminary sea level rise adaptation efforts, and development of alternative maintenance methods. The Cargill, Inc. solar salt plants are located adjacent to State Route (SR) 84 and U.S. Route 101 (U.S. 101).

Climate Change/Sea Level Rise

Please keep Caltrans informed about climate stressors, as well as the development and implementation of adaptation and resilience initiatives at this project location.

Caltrans is committed to multi-agency and regional collaboration to identify multi-benefit solutions that protect vulnerable shorelines, communities, infrastructure, and the environment.

Given the geographical scope of the project, which spans Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) across two counties and multiple jurisdictions, we look forward to collaborating with local community-based organizations (CBOs), jurisdictions, and agencies like the Bay Conservation Development Commission (BCDC). Caltrans is especially interested in working with Cargill to develop a long-term Sea Level Rise (SLR) Management Plan, given the proximity of their operations to Caltrans ROW on U.S. 101 and SR 84.

Additionally, Caltrans is eager to participate in potential future studies, such as Cargill's Vinyl Sheet Pile Pilot Study for SLR adaptation. Considering concerns around potential overtopping discussed on page 2-44 of the Draft EA, please keep Caltrans District 4 informed on ongoing maintenance efforts and strategies for developing long-term adaptation and management methods for the entire system.

For inquiries or concerns within District 4's geographical boundaries, please contact the Caltrans Bay Area Climate Change Planning Coordinators at Hunter.Oatman-Stanford@dot.ca.gov and Lucius.Wu@dot.ca.gov.

Construction-Related Impacts

Project work that requires movement of oversized or excessive load vehicles on State roadways requires a transportation permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, please visit Caltrans Transportation Permits ([link](#)).

Prior to construction, coordination may be required with Caltrans to develop a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to reduce construction traffic impacts to the State Transportation Network.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto Caltrans' ROW requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office of Encroachment Permits to submit a completed encroachment permit application package, digital set of plans clearly delineating Caltrans' ROW, digital copy of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans, this comment letter, your response to the comment letter, and where applicable, the following items: new or amended Maintenance Agreement (MA), approved Design Standard Decision Document (DSDD), approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement.

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The Office of Encroachment Permit requires 100% complete design plans and supporting documents to review and circulate the permit application package. To obtain more information and download the permit application, please visit Caltrans Encroachment Permits ([link](#)). Please note that the checklist TR-0416 is used to determine the appropriate Caltrans review process for encroachment projects. Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Luana Chen, Transportation Planner, via LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

For future early coordination opportunities or project referrals, please visit Caltrans LDR website ([link](#)) or contact LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

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

YUNSHENG LUO
Branch Chief, Local Development Review
Office of Regional and Community Planning

c: State Clearinghouse