

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

September 23, 2020

Brandt, Cook
Amador County Water Agency
12800 Ridge Road
Sutter Creek, CA 95685

AMA-88-PM 31.593
Amador Water Agency
Tank A & B Replacement
IS MND
SCH 2020080464

Dear Mr. Cook,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Initial Study to adopt a Mitigate Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Amador Water Agency Tank Replacement project. The proposed project involves replacement of the two-existing above ground water storage tanks (0.25 million and 0.50-million-gallon capacity, respectively) with two new one-million-gallon above ground water storage tanks on the adjacent parcel. The new above ground covered tanks would be approximately 75 feet in diameter and 36 feet in height and constructed from welded steel plates. The new tanks will sit on concrete pads with a 13-foot gravel setback. The site will be surrounded by an 8-foot-tall perimeter chain link fence and will have two gated and paved entrance points (one existing and a new one at the northwest corner of the site). The project will also include placement of overflow vaults on the north/northwest side of the tanks, meter vaults just south of the tanks, and a fire hydrant near the southern property line. Once the new tanks are constructed and operational, the existing tanks will be demolished on accessor's parcel numbers 023-160-028 and 012-160-013. The project is located at 26179 Elkhorn, Court Pioneer, CA. It is approximately one half-mile form Buckhorn Ridge Road and State Route (SR) 88 in Amador County.

Caltrans has the following comments regarding the IS-MND Tank Replacement:

If work occurs within Caltrans Right of Way, there are large mature trees along SR 88. These trees may provide habitat for nesting birds. If removal of these trees will occur during migratory bird season (February 15 – September 1), a pre-construction bird survey will be required. If an active bird nest is observed, a

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protective buffer will be established to protect the nest until the young have fledged. The size of protective buffers will be determined in coordination with California Department of Fish and Wildlife or using applicable species-specific survey and monitoring protocol guidelines.

If any underground utility construction work or traffic control measures take place within Caltrans Right of Way (ROW), an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans Permit Office is required. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with the application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, and/or other resources within Caltrans right of way at the project site. Please include California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation with supporting technical studies when submitting the Encroachment Permit. For more information please visit the Caltrans Website at;
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments, please contact Michael Casas at (209) 986-9830 (Email: michael.casas@dot.ca.gov) or me Kevin Schroder at (209) 986-9635 (Email: Kevin.Schroder@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Kevin Schroder

Kevin Schroder, Acting Branch Chief
Office of Rural Planning