

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4

OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Nov 10 2020*Making Conservation
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November 10, 2020

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David Gittleson, Associate Engineer
City of Morgan Hill – Utilities and Engineering
Department
17575 Peak Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Sewer Relief Trunk - from Renz Lane to Highland Avenue Project – Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)

Dear David Gittleson:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Sewer Relief Trunk - from Renz Lane to Highland Avenue Project. We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system. The following comments are based on our review of the October 2020 IS/MND.

Project Understanding

The project proposes to install approximately 6.6 miles of sewer trunk line that would extend from the termination of the previously constructed Harding Avenue segment of the relief trunk sewer located at the intersection of Harding Avenue and Highland Avenue in San Martin, southeast to the previously constructed City of Gilroy segment of the relief trunk sewer located on Renz Lane in Gilroy.

The project will cross State Route (SR)-152 (Leavesley Road) and US-101 and therefore, require a Caltrans encroachment permit. The crossing of the SR-152 and US-101 will be installed by trenchless construction methods.

Hydraulics

Caltrans requests to review the design plans for the sewer lines installed by the trenchless construction methods that would cross both SR-152 and US-101, especially a sag pipe system (siphon system) for the crossing of US-101. Further comments may be provided after the review of the design plans.

Cultural Resources

Please note whether a pedestrian field survey/spot survey was conducted for the project area to identify archaeological resources. If so, Caltrans recommends the survey results to be included.

Construction-Related Impacts

Potential impacts to the State Right-of-Way (ROW) from project-related temporary access points should be analyzed. Mitigation for significant impacts due to construction and noise should be identified. 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, visit:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/transportation-permits>.

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

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the City of Morgan Hill is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the State Transportation Network (STN). The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto the ROW requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. 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 the State 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),

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approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement. Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov.

To download the permit application and to obtain more information on all required documentation, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Yunsheng Luo at Yunsheng.Luo@dot.ca.gov. Additionally, for future notifications and requests for review of new projects, please contact LDIGR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Mark Leong
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

cc: State Clearinghouse