



Yana Garcia
Secretary for
Environmental Protection



Department of Toxic Substances Control

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director
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Gavin Newsom
Governor

July 26, 2023

Ms. Gabrielle Duff, Branch Chief
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

July 28 2023

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR I-40 COLORADO RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT JUNE 2023 (STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: [2020110050](#))

Dear Ms. Duff:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for I-40 Colorado River Bridge Replacement Project. Based on a review of the DEIR, DTSC requests consideration of the following comments.

1. DTSC is conducting environmental remediation at the PG&E Topock Compressor Station and surrounding impacted areas including the I-40 Bridge Replacement Project Area. DTSC was the Lead Agency for the PG&E Topock Compressor Station Soil Investigation Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) State Clearinghouse Number [2012111079](#), the EIR and Subsequent EIR

for the Topock Compressor Station Final Groundwater Remediation Project State Clearinghouse Number [2008051003](#). As a result of these projects there are significant remediation infrastructures (wells, pipelines, communication lines and power lines) that are located near and directly beneath the existing I-40 bridge. All replacement alternatives may impact existing remediation infrastructures. DTSC recommends close communication and coordination on pending work locations to avoid potential impacts to existing infrastructure and ongoing remediation.

2. Due to the historical operation of PG&E prior to construction of the interstate highway, it is possible that soil contamination exists beneath the I-40 highway. Construction should proceed with care to protect workers. Discolored soil and potential waste debris encountered should be tested for metals, dioxin, PCB, and asbestos containing material within California limits from the end of the bridge deck to the Park Moabi Road exit.
3. DTSC has implemented revegetation mitigation directly below the current I-40 bridge. The location of this revegetation project was determined in coordination with PG&E and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All proposed alternatives may impact the vegetation that has been replanted. Any “take” of vegetation from the revegetation program due to impacts from the bridge replacement project would impact the long-term success and establishment of native vegetation in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the PG&E Topock Compressor Station Groundwater Remediation Project. A detailed account of native plants within the project area and a MMRP for their replacement should be coordinated with PG&E and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

As a result of the Topock Compressor Station Final Groundwater Remediation Project, DTSC has remedy infrastructures which are situated within locations of the proposed alignment alternatives. DTSC's recommendation for the preferred alternative is based on a comparison of the proposed alignments with the existing remedy infrastructures and gas pipeline alignments around the site. The proposed Alternative 1 - existing alignment will have the least impact to DTSC's remedy infrastructure and is the preferred alternative from DTSC's perspective. The second preferred alternative would be Alternative 3 - as the southern alignment would impact less DTSC infrastructures, but also existing gas pipeline and sensitive habitat in comparison to Alternative 2 - the northern alignment.

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DEIR. Should you have any questions regarding this comment letter, please contact Aaron Yue, Project Manager at (714) 484-5439 or via email at Aaron.Yue@dtsc.ca.gov or respond to this letter for additional guidance.

Sincerely,

Rebecca De Pont

Rebecca De Pont
Supervising Environmental Planner
Hazardous Waste Management Program
Permitting Division – CEQA Unit
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (via email)

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