

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 4

OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research  
Making Conservation  
of California a Way of Life.**Feb 05 2021****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

February 5, 2021

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Co/Rt/Pm: SCL/152/16.42

Michael F. Coleman, Environmental Planner  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118

**Re: Pacheco/Santa Clara Conduit Right-of-Way Acquisition – Initial Study/  
Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)**

Dear Michael F. Coleman:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Pacheco/Santa Clara Conduit Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition 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 January 2021 Draft IS/MND.

**Project Understanding**

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve pipe vault maintenance and repair access for District work crews and implement cost-effective physical improvements to vaults and above-ground maintenance sites along the Santa Clara (SCC) and Pacheco (PC) conduits. The improvements would allow new operational methods of pipeline and vault access and maintenance in areas where existing access is currently limited. Some of the existing pipe vaults are in close vicinity to State Route (SR)-152.

**Hydraulics**

Any runoff to State facilities shall be metered to preconstruction levels. With respect to directing storm water to the vegetated areas, please clarify if the existing ground will be graded into the basin.

In addition, provide explanation of the less-than-significant determination for section 3.9.2.2 – D on page 3-96 in the IS/MND.

### **Construction-Related Impacts**

Potential impacts to the State 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 Transportation Network (STN).

### **Lead Agency**

As the Lead Agency, the Santa Clara Valley Water District is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the 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), approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement. Your application package may be emailed to [D4Permits@dot.ca.gov](mailto: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>.

Michael F. Coleman, Environmental Planner  
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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 written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

MARK LEONG  
District Branch Chief  
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse