

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 7 – Office of Regional Planning  
100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012  
PHONE (213) 897-0475  
FAX (213) 897-1337  
TTY 711  
www.dot.ca.gov



Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Jan 13 2021**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

January 13, 2021

Christopher Lopez  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power  
111 N Hope Street, Room 1044  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Stormwater Capture Parks Program –  
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)  
SCH # 2021010053  
GTS # 07-LA-2021-03468  
Vic. LA-170/PM: R18.309

Dear Christopher Lopez:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced MND. The proposed program would capture stormwater flows to recharge the San Fernando Groundwater Basin in order to increase local water supply, alleviate localized flooding in the area, and improve water quality. Underground infiltration galleries would be constructed within open space portions of nine parks located along State Route (SR) 170 between the Pacoima and Valley Village neighborhoods in the San Fernando Valley. In addition, improvements to park and recreational amenities would also be implemented as part of the program. The nine parks include David M. Gonzales Recreation Center, Fernangeles Park, Strathern Park North, Whitsett Fields Park North, Alexandria Park, North Hollywood Park, Valley Village Park, and Valley Plaza Park North as well as Valley Plaza Park South. The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

In addition to SR-170, the project is also located near Interstate 5 (I-5). Specifically, Fernangeles Park is located next to the I-5 ramps at Laurel Canyon Boulevard. From reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

- The MND states “Construction related to the installation of diversion structures and diversion pipes within city streets would require partial road closures with intermittent full road closures as permitted by Caltrans and/or Los Angeles Department of Transportation.” Any project work, including road closures, done on or near Caltrans’ right of way will likely require an encroachment permit, however, Caltrans’ Office of Permits will make the final determination on that. For more information on encroachment permits, see: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>.
- Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends that the project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause delays on any State facilities, please submit the construction traffic management plan detailing these delays for Caltrans’ review. Also, please ensure this plan includes alternate bicycle and pedestrian routes for any routes that will be affected during construction.

The following information is included for your consideration.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. Furthermore, Caltrans encourages Lead Agencies to implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies that reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and Greenhouse Gas emissions. Thus, Caltrans supports the TDM strategies this project has incorporated, such as creating walking paths in some of the parks. For more TDM options to further reduce this project's VMT impact, please refer to:

- The 2010 *Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures* report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), available at <http://www.capcoa.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>, or
- *Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference* (Chapter 8) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), available at <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/index.htm>.

If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Emily Gibson or Mayra Jimon, the project coordinators, at [Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Emily.Gibson@dot.ca.gov) or [Mayra.Jimon@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Mayra.Jimon@dot.ca.gov), and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2021-03468.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON  
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief  
cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse