

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 9
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Jan 29 2021**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.

January 28, 2021

Ms. Ronelle Candia
Kern County Planning/Natural Resources Dept.
2700 M Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, California 93301

File: Ker-58-var
NOP DEIR
SCH#: 2021010168

Bellefield Solar - Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Ms. Candia:

Thank you for giving the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 9 the opportunity to comment during the NOP phase for the Bellefield Solar project, which would access State Route 58 in eastern Kern County and California City. We offer the following:

- The Project's proposed access points from SR 58 are all supposedly by existing roads (Checklist section XVII), but not all locations are clear from the Project Description narrative. Please provide us a map/aerial figure(s) that identify the state highway accesses, so we can determine feasibility. If feasible, these must be analyzed in the DEIR's construction traffic analysis for geometrics, queuing, etc. Auxiliary lanes, other widening or paving could be merited. Also, a construction phase Traffic Management Plan will likely be beneficial.
- No additional stormwater run-off is allowed onto State highway right-of-way (R/W). We look forward to reviewing the DEIR's Hydrology Report.
- Any Project security fence placed along SR 58 R/W should be on Project property at a sufficient distance from the R/W fence to allow for its maintenance from within Project property.
- It is difficult to tell from the map scale, but we assume that all connector lines are outside of state highway R/W. The document denotes gen-tie crossings of SR 58 and SR14; an encroachment permit will be required.

Details regarding state highway gen-tie crossings may be found in Section 600 Utility Permits of the **Encroachment Permit Manual** at: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/traffic-operations/documents/encroachment-permits/chapter-6-ada.pdf>

Ms. Ronelle Candia
January 28, 2021
Page 2

The permit application may be found at:
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

For permitting details, you may contact Stephen Winzenread, District 9 Permits Engineer, at (760) 872-5222.

We value our cooperative working relationship with Kern County regarding development impacts to the state transportation system. For any questions, feel free to contact me at (760) 872-0785 or at gayle.rosander@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gayle J. Rosander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'G'.

GAYLE J. ROSANDER
External Project Liaison

c: State Clearinghouse
Mark Reistetter, Caltrans D-9