

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.*

**Governor's Office of Planning & Research****February 10, 2021****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

February 10, 2021

11-SD-15, 78  
PM VARGopher Canyon Water Pipeline Improvement Project  
MND/SCH#2021010159

Mr. Malik Tamimi  
Engineering Project Manager  
Rainbow Municipal Water District  
3707 Old Highway 395  
Fallbrook, CA 92028

Dear Mr. Tamimi:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Gopher Canyon Water Pipeline Improvement Project located near Interstate 15 (I-15) and State Route 78 (SR-78). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Caltrans has the following comments:

**Traffic Control Plan/Hauling**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has discretionary authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and may, upon application and if good cause appears, issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum limitations specified in the California Vehicle Code. The Caltrans Transportation Permits Issuance Branch is responsible for the issuance of these special transportation permits for oversize/overweight vehicles on the State Highway System. Additional information is provided online at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/permits/index.html>

A Traffic Control Plan may need to be submitted to Caltrans District 11, including the impacted interchanges at I-15 and SR-78, at least 30 days prior to the start of any construction. Traffic shall not be unreasonably delayed. The plan shall also outline suggested detours to use during closures, including routes and signage.

Potential impacts to the highway facilities (I-15 and SR-78) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

### **Environmental**

Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as we have some discretionary authority of a portion of the project that is in Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W) through the form of an encroachment permit process.

An encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide approved final environmental documents for this project, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits. Specifically, CEQA determinations or exemptions. The supporting documents must address all environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W and address any impacts from avoidance and/or mitigation measures.

We recommend that this project specifically identifies and assesses potential impacts caused by the project or impacts from mitigation efforts that occur within Caltrans R/W that includes impacts to the natural environment, infrastructure (highways/roadways/on- and off-ramps) and appurtenant features (lighting/signs/guardrail/slopes). Caltrans is interested in any additional mitigation measures identified for the MND.

### **Right-of-Way**

- Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.

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- Any work performed within Caltrans R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans R/W prior to construction.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158 or by visiting the website at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/ep/index.html>. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly Dodson, of the Caltrans Development Review Branch, at (619) 985-1587 or by e-mail sent to [Kimberly.Dodson@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Kimberly.Dodson@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

**electronically signed by**

MAURICE EATON, Branch Chief  
Local Development and Intergovernmental Review