

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 01 2021

*Serious Drought.
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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

March 1, 2021

Mr. Dwayne Chisam
Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency
6500 West Avenue N
Palmdale, CA 93551

RE: Eastside Water Bank Expansion Project
Vic. LA-138 R57.18
SCH # 2021020195
GTS # LA-2021-03495AL-MND

Dear Mr. Chisam:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The project is to expand the existing Eastside Water Bank facility to include three recharge basins east of the existing recharge ponds, three 18-inch turnout pipes, and a single 24-inch delivery pipeline. The three recharge basins would encompass 74 acres and would be located on a 160-acre parcel east of the existing recharge ponds. Operation of the project would involve the storing of surplus State Water Project raw water, which would be recharged into the local groundwater basin. Recharge is estimated to occur at a rate of 8,900 acre feet in 8 months.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has been codified into CEQA law. It mandates that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed developments be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts. As a reminder, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after the July 1, 2020 statewide implementation date. You may reference The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) website for more information.

<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/>

Also, Caltrans has published the VMT-focused Transportation Impact Study Guide (TISG), dated May 20, 2020 and Caltrans Interim Land Development and Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Safety Review Practitioners Guidance, prepared in July 2020.

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/transportation-planning/office-of-smart-mobility-climate-change/sb-743>

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For this project, transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials, which requires the use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways, will require a transportation permit from Caltrans. It is recommended that large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods and idle time not to exceed 10 minutes.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2021-03495AL-MND.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse