

# California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
P.O. BOX 23660, MS-10D | OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660  
[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Dec 15 2021**

December 15, 2021

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

SCH #: 2021020289  
GTS #: 04-CC-2021-00506  
GTS ID: 22063  
Co/Rt/Pm: CC/680/23.0

Joseph Lawlor, Project Planner  
Contra Costa County  
Department of Conservation and Development  
30 Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553

## **Re: Martinez Refinery Renewable Fuels Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Joseph Lawlor:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Martinez Refinery Renewable Fuels 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 October 2021 Draft EIR.

### **Project Understanding**

The proposed project intends to repurpose the existing refinery to discontinue refining of crude oil and switch to production of fuels from renewable feedstock sources. The project is located near the State Route (SR)-4/Arnold Industrial Way interchange in Martinez.

### **Travel Demand Analysis**

The project VMT analysis and significance determination are undertaken in a manner consistent with the Office of Planning and Research's (OPR) Technical Advisory. Per the DEIR, this project is found to have a less than significant VMT impact, therefore working towards meeting the State's VMT reduction goals.

## **Biological Resources**

Please note the following regarding Appendix BIO: Biological Resources Appendices:

### 6. Avoidance and Minimization Measures:

- Clarify the nexus of completing Section 7 Biological Assessment, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Essential Fish Habitat consultation through the United States Army Corps of Engineers; and
- Clarify how the 2018 NLAA Programmatic Biological Opinion covers project activities, what specific measure covers specific activities, and why formal consultation is not necessary.

### General Comments:

- The 2018 NLAA Programmatic Biological Opinion covers species and habitat regulated by National Marine Fisheries Service. Please clarify if Section 7 consultation is necessary for species regulated by United States Fish & Wildlife Service, including, but not limited to: Salt marsh harvest mouse, Ridgway's rail, Soft Bird's-Beak, Delta smelt, etc. This document reports they have potential to occur in the Project area. However, effects analyses are not included, and determinations were not made. Please clarify if the project will result in a take. If a take is not warranted, please explain why;
- Concerning non-listed species-status species with potential to occur, please clarify how impacts would be avoided for each species;
- Please include a summary of agency technical assistance and coordination including names of agencies and representatives involved during the study phase. Although work is minor in nature at the terminals, please clarify if coordination and/or notification to the United States Coast Guard, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and/or State Lands Commission is necessary and if there were exemptions; and
- Please include names and numbers of all biological permits required for the project.

## **Equitable Access**

If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. As well, the project must maintain bicycle and pedestrian access during construction. These access considerations support Caltrans' equity mission to provide a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation network for all users.

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Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, or for future notifications and requests for review of new projects, please email [LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

MARK LEONG  
District Branch Chief  
Local Development Review

c: State Clearinghouse