

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4

OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

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*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.*

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

May 10 2021**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

May 10, 2021

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Ryan Diller, Project Lead
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Northern Service Center
One Capital Mall, Suite 410
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Green Oaks Restoration + Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Dear Ryan Diller:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Green Oaks Restoration 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 April 2021 IS/MND.

Project Understanding

The proposed project would restore the natural hydrology of the former Steele Ranch property, raising the seasonal groundwater table to support wet meadow and riparian habitat. The project will maintain current habitat and create additional seasonal and perennial open water with enhanced adjacent upland habitat for the benefit of California Red Legged Frogs and San Francisco Garter Snakes. The site is adjacent to Highway (HWY) 1.

Hydrology

Please address the following concerns regarding the site hydrology and possible impacts to the adjacent State facilities:

- Clarify how the project proposes to raise the groundwater table to support habitat;
- Ensure that any increase in storm water runoff to State Drainage Systems or Facilities be treated, contained on project site, and metered to preconstruction levels; and

- Explain any additional flooding impacts on the existing adjacent properties. As well, any flood plain impacts must be documented and mitigated to the extent possible.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the California Department of Parks and Recreation is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the State Transportation Network (STN). The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

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.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto the State Right of Way (ROW) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office of Encroachment Permits to submit a completed encroachment permit application package, digital set of plans clearly delineating the State ROW, digital copy of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans, this comment letter, your response to the comment letter, and where applicable, the following items: new or amended Maintenance Agreement (MA), approved Design Standard Decision Document (DSDD), approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement. Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov.

To download the permit application and to obtain more information on all required documentation, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

Ryan Diller, Project Lead

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Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Laurel Sears, laurel.sears@dot.ca.gov. Additionally, for future notifications and requests for review of new projects, please contact LDIGR-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 tail stroke extending to the right.

MARK LEONG

District Branch Chief

Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse