

California Department of Transportation

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JAN 31 2023

January 31, 2023

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

11-IMP-111
PM 39.2

VEGA SES 2,3 & 5 Solar Energy Project
DEIR/SCH# 2021050013

Mr. David Black
Planner IV
Imperial County Planning and Development Services
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Dear Mr. Black:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) of the VEGA SES 2,3 & 5 Solar Energy Project (SCH# 2021050013) located near State Route 111 (SR-111) and McDonald Road in Imperial County. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with Caltrans' mission and state planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We are striving for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety on the transportation network. These pursuits are both ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

We look forward to working with the County of Imperial in areas where the County and Caltrans have joint jurisdiction to improve the transportation network and connections between various modes of travel, with the goal of improving the experience of those who use the transportation system.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Traffic Management Plan/Hauling

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 network. Additional information is provided online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/permits/index.html>

A Traffic Management Plan is to be submitted to Caltrans District 11, including the intersections at SR- 111 and McDonald Road, 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, including routes and signage.

Potential impacts to the highway facilities (SR-111) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

Please see the following chapters in the Caltrans' manuals:

- Chapter 600 of the Encroachment Permits Manual for requirements regarding utilities and state R/W: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/traffic-operations/documents/encroachment-permits/chapter-6-ada.pdf>.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158 or emailing D11.Permits@dot.ca.gov or by visiting the website at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

Mr. David Black, Planner IV
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If you have any questions, please contact Mark McCumsey at (619) 985-4957 or by email at mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Maurice A. Eaton

MAURICE EATON
Branch Chief
Local Development Review