

## California Department of Transportation

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research



**JAN 25 2023**

January 25, 2023

### STATE CLEARING HOUSE

11-IMP-98  
PM 42.8  
VEGA SES 4 Solar Energy Project  
SCH 2021050018

Mr. David Black  
County of Imperial  
Planning and Development Services  
801 Main St.  
El Centro, CA 92243

Dear Mr. Black:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review process for the proposed VEGA SES 4 Solar Energy project near State Route 98 (SR-98). 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 our 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 has the following comments:

### **Traffic Analysis**

The proposed project access at SR-98 post mile 45.23, will have construction vehicles using SR-98 and driving on the shoulder then onto an unpaved road, to access the project site.

- SR-98 Shoulder is not designed for this and therefore Caltrans paving and Materials branch will need to review and approve any proposed project site access, from SR-98.
- Soil tracking onto SR-98 will need to be mitigated through the Caltrans encroachment permit process.
- A traffic control plan will need to be approved to inform the public motorists of construction equipment entering and exiting a non-paved road.
- For safety purposes, acceleration and/or deceleration lanes may be required as part of the permitted access design, from SR-98.

The I-8 and Gordon Wells Road access path may need soil tracking mitigation at Gordon Wells Road to prevent soil tracked onto the I-8 ramps. Possible coordination with Caltrans Permits Branch will be required.

Please follow Caltrans encroachment permits manual's appendix J "Road Connections and Driveways" and the most current version of Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM) Section 205.4.

- Driveways connecting to State highways shall be paved a minimum of 20 feet from the edge of shoulder or to the edge of State right of way, whichever is less to minimize or eliminate tracking onto SR-98.

### **Hydrology**

Caltrans generally does not allow development projects to impact hydraulics within the State's Right-of-Way. Any modification to the existing Caltrans drainage and/or increase in runoff to State facilities will not be allowed.

### **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.

Clearly show/delineate Caltrans easements and Caltrans Right-of-Way (R/W) on future project plans.

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Any work performed within Caltrans' Right of Way (R/W) will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide an approved final environmental document, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits, specifically, any CEQA determinations or exemptions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Roger Sanchez, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 987-1043 or by e-mail sent to [roger.sanchez-rangel@dot.ca.gov](mailto:roger.sanchez-rangel@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Maurice A. Eaton*

MAURICE EATON  
Branch Chief  
Local Development Review