

California Department of Transportation

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July 7, 2022

11-SD-15, 76
PM VAR
Water and Sewer Facilities Plan
DEIR/SCH#2021050602

Mr. Malik Tamimi
CIP Engineering Project Manager
Rainbow Municipal Water District
3707 Old Highway 395
Fallbrook, CA 92028

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Jul 7 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Dear Mr. Tamimi:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Notice of Preparation for the Water and Sewer Facilities Plan located near Interstate 15 (I-15) and State Route 76 (SR-76). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

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 Impact Study

- All projects within Caltrans' Right-of Way (R/W) must follow Caltrans' requirements.
- All projects within Caltrans' R/W will need an encroachment permit.
- No open trenching will be allowed within highway right of way, per Encroachment Permit Manual Section 603.6. "Underground installations within highway right-of-way must be performed using a trenchless technology method (Bore & Jack, Horizontal Directional Drilling, Microtunneling, Pipe Bursting or Pipe Ramming), unless specified otherwise by permit. Open trenching is authorized only when the applicant demonstrates that all alternatives have been investigated and that installation by a trenchless technology is not feasible."
- All construction work and staging for this project shall not be done on Caltrans' R/W. All construction access shall be done through local streets and not through Caltrans' R/W or any of the freeway ramps.

Hydrology and Drainage Studies

- Please provide hydraulics studies, drainage and grading plans to Caltrans for review.
- Provide a pre and post-development hydraulics and hydrology study. Show drainage configurations and patterns.
- Provide drainage plans and details. Include detention basin details of inlets/outlet.
- Provide a contour grading plan with legible callouts and minimal building data. Show drainage patterns.
- On all plans, show Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W).
- Early coordination with Caltrans is recommended.
- Caltrans generally does not allow development projects to impact hydraulics within the State's R/W. Any modification to the existing Caltrans drainage and/or increase in runoff to State facilities will not be allowed.

Design

- Since a few of proposed construction projects cross and align with the State R/W at locations for I-15 and SR-76, final design documents for review should include but not limited to Traffic Control, Construction Staging, BMPs and State R/W.
- Please refer to Project Development Procedures Manual- Chapter 17 for approval of encroachments on Instate Facilities.

- Caltrans is developing a broadband project for installing fiber optic within State R/W limits of SR-76 from I-15 until SR-79. Estimated year of construction of the project will begin in 2024 and end in 2025.

Traffic Control Plan/Hauling

The California Department of Transportation (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 Control Plan is to be submitted to Caltrans District 11, including the interchanges at I-15 and SR-76, 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 during closures, including routes and signage.

Potential impacts to the highway facilities (I-15 and SR-76) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

Environmental

Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as we have some discretionary authority of a portion of the project that is in Caltrans' R/W through the form of an encroachment permit process. We look forward to the coordination of our efforts to ensure that Caltrans can adopt the alternative and/or mitigation measure for our R/W. We would appreciate meeting with you to discuss the elements of the EIR that Caltrans will use for our subsequent environmental compliance.

An encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide approved final environmental documents for this project, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits. Specifically, CEQA determination or exemption. The supporting documents must address all environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W and address any impacts from avoidance and/or mitigation measures.

We recommend that this project specifically identifies and assesses potential impacts caused by the project or impacts from mitigation efforts that occur within Caltrans' R/W that includes impacts to the natural environment, infrastructure including but not limited to highways, roadways, structures, intelligent transportation systems elements, on-ramps and off-ramps, and appurtenant features including but not limited to lighting, signage, drainage, guardrail, slopes, fences and landscaping. Caltrans is interested in any additional mitigation measures identified for the project's draft Environmental Document.

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.
- Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction.
- Since the proposed project crosses and aligns with the state R/W in multiple locations for I-15 and SR-76, coordination with Caltrans is recommended as soon as possible.
- An Encroachment Policy Exception and/or Design Standard Decision Document may be required pending the proposed project scope within the Caltrans' R/W.
- Any modifications to the access control will need both Caltrans and FHWA approval. This is an important standard to maintain on the Interstate System and it would need very strong justification if it were to be granted. This requires an Encroachment Policy Exception (EPE) to document the proposed crossing of the access control lines at the two ends (PDPM Chapter 17, Article 2, Section 3, Non-Motorized Paths).

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.

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-a11y.pdf>

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- Chapter 2-2.13 of the Plans Preparation Manual for requirements regarding utilities and state R/W: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/cadd/ppm-text-ch2-sect2-13-a11y.pdf>
- Chapter 17 of the Project Development Procedures Manual <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/pdpm-chapter17-a11y.pdf>.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kimberly Dodson, IGR Coordinator, at (619) 985-1587 or by e-mail sent to Kimberly.Dodson@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Maurice A. Eaton

MAURICE EATON
Branch Chief
Local Development and Intergovernmental Review