

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 11  
4050 TAYLOR STREET, MS-240  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110  
(619) 709-5152 | FAX (619) 688-4299 TTY 711  
[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)

Governor's Office of Planning & Research



February 9, 2022

**Feb 09 2022**

### STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

11-IMP-SR-111  
PM 24.9

Brawley Solar Energy DEIR  
SCH 2021070424/GPA# 21-0003

David Black  
Imperial County Planning & Development Services  
801 Main Street  
El Centro, CA 92243

Dear Mr. Black:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Brawley Solar Energy project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) located near State Route 111 (SR-111). 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:

#### **Design & Utilities Engineering**

Please be advised that Caltrans has a safety construction project near Andre Road and SR-111, scheduled to start construction in October of 2023. Early coordination with Caltrans will be required.

- This safety project will also include rumble strip work at SR-111 and Andre Road.

After the Brawley Solar project is completed, please coordinate with Caltrans Right of Way (R/W) Engineering to update as built-plans to reflect any possible changes at SR-111 and Andre Road.

Prior to the contractor's operation, Underground Dig Alert requirements must comply with Caltrans' standard specifications.

According to the DEIR document, the project includes a gen-tie line with 66-foot-high poles to interconnect to the Imperial Irrigation District (IID') existing North Brawley Geothermal Power Plant substation.

- According to the Highway Design Manual any poles located near state highways should be located outside the clear recovery zone.
- This would need to be reviewed by and concurred with Caltrans' Traffic Operations Branch.
- Supporting Poles (or guy wires) should not be placed in State R/W.
- If the overhead lines cross or span across the highway, vertical clearance will need to be met and follow California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) guidelines.

Per Caltrans design standards, if the fiber optic conduit is installed underground, the work on SR-111 would need to have proper traffic control and the roadway pavement structural section would need to be replaced where trenching occurs.

- This work must comply with tunneling Cal-OSHA Specs.
- Caltrans' Oversight Inspection must be present when working under SR-111, during the boring for the conduit.

### **Right-of-Way**

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. 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.

Please follow Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM) guidelines and standards for final design and plan submittal when applying for an encroachment permit with Caltrans.

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->

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[media/programs/traffic-operations/documents/encroachment-permits/chapter-6-ada-a11y.pdf](https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/traffic-operations/documents/encroachment-permits/chapter-6-ada-a11y.pdf).

- 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>.

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.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-3276 or emailing [D11.Permits@dot.ca.gov](mailto: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.

If you have any questions, please contact Roger Sanchez at (619) 987-1043 or by email at [roger.sanchez-rangel@dot.ca.gov](mailto:roger.sanchez-rangel@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Maurice A. Eaton*

MAURICE EATON  
Branch Chief  
Local Development Review