

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 DIRECTOR
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September 13, 2021

10-MER-152-PM 13.232
Las Calmas Solar Project
County of Merced

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

September 14 2021

Ms. Tiffany Ho
Planner III
County of Merced
2222 M Street
Merced, CA 95340

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Dear Ms. Ho:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed Las Calmas Solar Project. The Department has the following comments:

1. The proposed project will have potential operational impacts on SR 152 during construction, especially at the intersection of SR 152/Billy Wright Road. The Transportation Impact Study is required and needs to be prepared per Vehicle Miles Traveled-Focused Transportation Impact Study Guide (TISG), May 20, 2020.
2. The traffic data used for the operational analysis at the SR 152/Billy Wright Road should be collected before the Covid-19 Pandemic. If the data is collected recently, adjusted factor needs to be applied.
3. With the potentially significant construction traffic including employee and truck traffic volumes at SR 152/Billy Wright Road, the TIS needs to include the safety analysis as follows:
 - Queuing/deceleration/acceleration at the intersection
 - Conflicts between the project's construction traffic and mainline SR 152 traffic
 - With the heavy volume on SR 152, high speed at this location, and heavy construction truck volume, the project's construction traffic needs to be prohibited from making a left-turn from Billy Wright Road onto westbound SR 152 and from westbound SR 152 onto Billy Wright Road. Detour plan for left-turn traffic needs to be discussed.
 - Truck entering and exiting the Billy Wright Road

4. The TIS needs to discuss the coordination with the County landfill regarding the access of landfill trucks during project's construction.
5. Please use Synchro 10 for the queue analysis at the intersection of SR 152/Billy Wright Road. The electronic file of the analysis needs to be submitted for reviewed.
6. Any work within the State's right-of-way will require an encroachment permit from Caltrans and must be done to our engineering and environmental standards, and at no cost to the State. The conditions of approval and the requirements for the encroachment permit are issued at the sole discretion of the Permits Office. For more information regarding the encroachment permit process, please visit our Encroachment Permit Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep> or you can contact their office at (209)948-7891.

Please keep us updated as the project progresses, we would like to review and provide comment to those developments.

If you have any questions, please contact Hilda Sousa at (209)986-9859 (email: hilda.sousa@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209)941-1921. We look forward to continuing to work with you in a cooperative manner.

Sincerely,

 for

TOM DUMAS, Chief
Office of Metropolitan Planning