

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 DIRECTOR
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May 30, 2024

10-MER-152-PM 13.232
Las Camas Solar Project
SEIR
SCH#2021080196

Lorri Hammer
County of Merced
2222 M Street, 2nd Floor
Merced, CA 95340

Dear Ms. Hammer:

The California Department of Transportation appreciates the opportunity to review the SEIR for the proposed 1,745 acre solar project at the southwest corner of SR 33 and SR 152. The project will be accessible via Billy Wright Road. The Department has the following comments:

1. Please submit the pre- and post-construction stormwater runoff calculations for two (2) 10-year/24-hour storm events to Caltrans for review and comment prior to project approval. The proposed bioretention basin must have adequate capacity and freeboard. The applicant needs to ensure the existing State drainage facilities will not be significantly impacted by the project.
2. The proposed development indicates a major increase in the imperious (Gravel area) stormwater runoff area.
 - a. Three (3) culvert systems along I-5 will be impacted: 390054001703, 390054001682, and 390054001674. No additional peak flow is allowed through these culverts, and any increase in runoff should be stored on-site. As indicated in the drainage report, the Group D soils have high runoff potential and low infiltration rates, being predominantly silts and clays. Soils within the project area are predominantly Apollo clay loam (82 percent). Adding gravel as a top layer will increase runoff and peak flow within the Caltrans right-of-way. The locations of these culverts can be seen in the attached picture.
 - b. If historical undeveloped topography shows drainage from this site flowed into the State Right-of-Way (R/W), it may continue to do so with the conditions that peak flows may not be increased from the pre-

construction quantity. Any increase in runoff generated by the proposed development should be stored/mitigated onsite. Caltrans will not allow additional runoff draining into the State R/W nor significantly impact the existing drainage patterns.

2. Please submit the following items for review and comment prior to project approval.
 - a. Truck turning template for largest truck that will be used for all truck turning movements for the three intersections, SR 152 & Billy Wright Road, SR 152 & SR 165, SR 165 & Onramp to I-5.
 - b. The AutoCAD files for the intersections mentioned above.
 - c. A pavement delineation plan for any changes to current striping along SR 152.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (209) 483-2582 or Nicholas Fung at (209) 986-1552.

Sincerely,



Tom Dumas
Chief, Office of Metropolitan Planning



Impacted culverts