

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life*

September 28, 2021

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**September 29 2021**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Ms. Jocelyn Swain  
City of Lancaster  
44933 Fern Avenue  
Lancaster, CA 93534

RE: AVTA Solar Facility  
SCH # 2021090068  
Vic. LA-14/PM R64.68  
GTS # LA-2021-03697-MND

Dear Ms. Swain:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced MND. The proposed project consists of the construction and operation of 5.72-megawatt (MW) direct current (DC)/4.38 MW alternating current (AC) solar facility with battery storage in the Light Industrial (LI) zone. The proposed project would be constructed as three separate arrays and two of the array areas would also have battery storage. This development would support Antelope Valley Transit Authority (AVTA) operations.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:

<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/updates/guidelines/>

As a reminder, VMT is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after July 1, 2020, which is the statewide implementation date. In addition, Caltrans has published the VMT-focused Transportation Impact Study Guide (TISG), dated May 20, 2020 and the Caltrans Interim Land Development and Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Safety Review Practitioners Guidance, prepared on December 18, 2020. You can review these resources at the following links:

<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/sb-743/2020-05-20-approved-vmt-focused-tisg-a11y.pdf>

<https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/transportation-planning/documents/sb-743/2020-12-22-updated-interim-ldigr-safety-review-guidance-a11y.pdf>

Caltrans encourages lead agencies to prepare traffic safety impact analysis at the State facilities for all future developments in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process so that, through partnerships and collaboration, California can reach zero fatalities and serious injuries by 2050.

In July 2020, the City of Lancaster adopted standards and thresholds for analyzing projects with respect to vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in accordance with Senate Bill 743. A series of screening criteria were adopted and if a project meets one of these criteria, a VMT analysis is not required. These criteria are: 1) project size – generates fewer than 110 trips per day; 2) locally serving retail – commercial developments of 50,000 square feet or smaller; 3) project located in a low VMT area – 15% below baseline; 4) transit proximity; 5) affordable housing; and 6) transportation facilities. The proposed project meets Criteria 1. During construction of the proposed project, it is anticipated that less than 110 trips per day will be generated from workers traveling to and from the site plus delivery of equipment and materials. Once the alternative energy project is in operation, there would be monthly service visits to the project. The VMT threshold set by the City of Lancaster would not be exceeded by development of the proposed project. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2021-03697AL-MND.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON  
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse