

California Department of Transportation

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Mar 03 2022

March 2, 2022

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Mr. David Ruby, Planning Manager
Tuolumne County Community
Development Department
2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370

TUO-108-PM R4.487
Initial Study Mitigated Negative
Declaration (IS-MND)
Tuolumne Bioenergy Biomass
Manufacturing
SCH 2022010042

Dear Mr. Ruby,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Initial Study for Site Development Permit SDP21-001 for the Tuolumne Bioenergy Woody Biomass Pellet Manufacturing Facility. The Site Development Permit SDP21-001 will allow the development of a wood pellet manufacturing facility consisting of a 4,000 square foot building, outdoor equipment, covered storage, outdoor storage, and associated infrastructure. The project site consists of two parcels totaling 3.24± acres zoned Light Industrial (M-1) and Open Space (O) under Title 17 of the Tuolumne County Ordinance Code. The facility would have access to approximately 44,000 tons (BDT) of biomass annually to produce 29,000 to 31,000 tons of wood pellets for domestic home heating purposes. The wood pellets produced by this project would be packaged and sold in 40-pound bags for individual use, and one-ton bulk bags for wholesale distribution to regional and national suppliers that sell to the domestic home heating customer. The project site is located on an undeveloped site at 15031 Camage Avenue in Tuolumne. It is approximately 1.95 miles from State Route (SR) 108 and Standard Avenue intersection, on Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 061-150-46 and 061-150-47.

This letter replaces the previous Caltrans comment letter on January 10, 2022 regarding traffic operations for the Tuolumne Bioenergy Biomass project IS-MND.

Caltrans has the following updated comments:

Reviewing the trip generation provided on pages 78 and 79 of the IS-MND, the previous comments regarding the lead agency provide traffic existing and future traffic counts and trip generation will not be needed. The Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) produced from this project will not affect the nearby SR 108 due to the distance of the project location and the produced VMT being lower than Tuolumne county's threshold. The Hook trucks

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that are mentioned in the IS-MND will only move material within the facility, which will not contribute to the VMT on the nearby state route.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michael Casas at (209) 986-9830 (email: Michael.Casas@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 483-7234 (email: Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning

C: State Clearinghouse
Natalie Rizzi, Senior Planner, Tuolumne County Community Planning Department