

## California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 PLANNING  
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January 10, 2022

Ms. Natalie Rizzi, Senior Planner  
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 Ms. Rizzi,

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.

### **Caltrans has the following comments:**

1. Project proponent needs to provide Caltrans with the following information:
  - a. Provide existing traffic counts AM & PM for the following:
    - i. SR-108 West / Mono Way EB and WB On & Off ramps
    - ii. SR-108 East / Mono Way and EB and WB On & Off ramps
  - b. Provide a Layout of the facility – specifically the entry and exit to internal roads

- c. Provide Existing AM & PM peak periods counts at all entrances (Opening Day)
  - d. Provide Existing + Project AM & PM peak periods counts at all entrance (With Project)
  - e. Provide Trip Generation for Existing, Existing + Project and Existing + Project + future Design traffic volumes
  - f. Provide the "anticipated level of traffic resulting from the project was not large enough to warrant a traffic study."
  - g. Provide number of employees and number of parking spaces for employees
2. Additional comments will be provided after review of items 1.a. to 1.g. listed above.

An Encroachment Permit will be required for work (if any) done within Caltrans' right of way (ROW). This work is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act. A qualified professional must conduct any such studies undertaken to satisfy Caltrans' environmental review responsibilities. Ground disturbing activities to the site prior to completion and/or approval of required environmental documents may affect Caltrans' ability to issue a permit for the project. Furthermore, if engineering plans or drawings will be part of the permit application, they should be prepared in standard units. The project proponent shall submit an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with the application. For more information please visit the Caltrans Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

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'*

Gregoria Ponce', Chief  
Office of Rural Planning

C: State Clearinghouse