

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7

100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

PHONE (213) 505-5003

FAX (213) 897-1337

TTY 711

www.dot.ca.gov

*Making Conservation
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April 29, 2022

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Kyle Cason
City of Whittier
13230 Penn Street
Whittier, CA 90602

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

RE: Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project
Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)
SCH # 2022040165
Vic. LA-72/PM: 2.78
GTS # 07-LA-2022-03910

Dear Kyle Cason:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced MND. The City of Whittier developed the Murphy Reservoir Replacement Project to respond to necessary repairs to the Murphy West and East Reservoirs and provide the water storage capacity needed to meet the demands of Pressure Zone 577, consistent with the City's Water Master Plan Update of 2018. Under the proposed project, the two existing reservoirs, which each of capacity of 0.5 million gallons (MG), would be replaced with one new reservoir of 2.31 MG capacity to address existing system deficiencies. The City of Whittier is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The project site is approximately 1 mile from State Route 72 (SR-72). After reviewing the MND, the proposed project is a continuation of operation and maintenance activities conducted for the existing reservoirs and would not introduce new or increased vehicle miles traveled (VMT) on the local roadways. Also, construction-related traffic would be short-term and cease upon completion of construction activities. The proposed project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b), and no impacts associated with VMT would occur. The following information is included for your consideration.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Furthermore, Caltrans encourages Lead Agencies to implement Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies that reduce VMT and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. For TDM strategies that the Lead Agency may want to consider integrating into this project to further reduce VMT, please refer to:

- The 2010 Quantifying Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Measures report by the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), available at <http://www.capcoa.org/wpcontent/uploads/2010/11/CAPCOA-Quantification-Report-9-14-Final.pdf>, and/or
- Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference (Chapter 8) by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), available at <https://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/index.htm>

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. Caltrans recommends that the Project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

Finally, any work completed on or near Caltrans' right of way may require an encroachment permit. However, the final determination on this will be made by Caltrans' Office of Permits. This work would require additional review and may be subject to additional requirements to ensure current design standards and access management elements are being addressed. For more information on encroachment permits, see: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Herrera, the project coordinator, at Karen.Herrera@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2022-03910.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse