

California Department of Transportation

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

July 20, 2022

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Eric Bradbury, State Water **STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**
Resources Control Board
1001 "I" Street, 2nd Floor, Room 2-114
Sacramento, CA 95812

TUO-108-PM 17.215
Initial Study Phoenix
Hydroelectric Project
- SCH 2022060644

Dear Mr. Bradbury,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Initial Study for the Phoenix Hydroelectric Project which is operated by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) for power generation and distribution of electricity to the local grid and to meet the water needs of Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD). The hydropower facility proposed changes include modifications to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) project boundary, modifications to recreational facilities for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, and operations and maintenance modifications.

The project site is located in the community of Twain Harte with the nearest cross street of Lyons Reservoir Road and State Route (SR) 108. The facility provides water to the TUD, generates power, and is required to meet streamflow requirements for the South Fork Stanislaus River (SFSR).

Caltrans has the following comments:

Caltrans suggests that the County of Tuolumne continue to coordinate with Caltrans in identifying and addressing potential pedestrian safety and cumulative transportation impacts from this project and other developments near this location. This will assist Caltrans in ensuring that pedestrian, traffic safety, and quality standards are maintained for the traveling public on existing and future state transportation facilities in Tuolumne County.

Encroachment Permits

If project construction activities encroach into Caltrans Right of Way (ROW), the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans

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Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans ROW at the project site(s). Approved California Environmental Quality Acts (CEQA) documentation with supporting technical studies is required when submitting the Encroachment Permit 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 Shiferaw Jemberie (209) 986-9635 (email: Shiferaw.jemberie@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 483-7234 (email: Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning

c: David Ruby, Planning Manager, Tuolumne County Planning Department
State Clearinghouse