

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 11
4050 TAYLOR STREET, MS-240
SAN DIEGO, CA 92110
(619) 709-5152 | FAX (619) 688-4299 TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



February 10, 2023

11-SD-15
PM 36.2

Crossover Pipeline Interstate 15 Bypass Project
MND/SCH#2023010203

Mr. Sean Paver
San Diego County Water Authority
Senior Water Resources Specialist
4677 Overland Ave.
San Diego, CA 92123

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 13 2023

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Dear Mr. Paver:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Crossover Pipeline Interstate 15 Bypass Project located near Interstate 15 (I-15). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We are striving for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety on the transportation network. These pursuits are both ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

We look forward to working with the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) in areas where the SDCWA and Caltrans have joint jurisdiction to improve the transportation network and connections between various modes of travel, with the goal of improving the experience of those who use the transportation system.

Caltrans has the following comments:

GeoTechnical

Notice will need to be provided to Caltrans (per Caltrans guidelines and policies) prior to a blast to schedule a traffic break so that there is no live traffic adjacent to the blast.

Hydraulics

Tunnel classification is required through the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal-OSHA) – Mining and Tunneling Unit. “Under California law, all tunnels (except horizontal directional drilling, which is at the District Manger’s discretion), underground chambers, and excavations, and all pipejacking and boring projects 30 inches or greater in diameter, are required to be Classified by the Division prior to bidding. This requirement is provided for in California Labor Code, Section 7995 [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml], and Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 8422 [<http://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/8422.html>].”

Environmental

Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as we have some discretionary authority of a portion of the project that is in Caltrans’ R/W through the form of an encroachment permit process. We look forward to the coordination of our efforts to ensure that Caltrans can adopt the alternative and/or mitigation measure for our R/W.

An encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans’ R/W prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide approved final environmental documents for this project, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits. Specifically, CEQA determination or exemption. The supporting documents must address all environmental impacts within the Caltrans’ R/W and address any impacts from avoidance and/or mitigation measures.

We recommend that this project specifically identifies and assesses potential impacts caused by the project or impacts from mitigation efforts that occur within Caltrans’ R/W that includes impacts to the natural environment, infrastructure including but not limited to highways, roadways, structures, intelligent transportation systems elements, on-ramps and off-ramps, and appurtenant features including but not limited to lighting, signage, drainage, guardrail, slopes, and landscaping. Caltrans is interested

in any additional mitigation measures identified for the project's draft Environmental Document.

Right-of-Way

- Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.
- Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction.

SDCWA shall prepare and submit to Caltrans closure plans as part of the encroachment permit application. The plans shall require that closure or partial closure of I-15 be limited to times as to create the least possible inconvenience to the traveling public and that signage be posted prior to the closure to alert drivers of the closure in accordance with Caltrans requirements. Traffic shall not be unreasonably delayed. The plan shall also outline suggested detours to use during the closures, traffic, including routes and signage.

The Highway Closure Plan, as part of the encroachment permit, should be submitted to Caltrans at least 30 days prior to initiating installation of the crossings. No work shall begin in Caltrans' R/W until an encroachment permit is approved.

Please see the following chapters in the Caltrans' manuals:

- Chapter 600 of the Encroachment Permits Manual for requirements regarding utilities and state R/W: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/traffic-operations/documents/encroachment-permits/chapter-6-ada-a11y.pdf>.
- Chapter 2-2.13 of the Plans Preparation Manual for requirements regarding utilities and state R/W: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/cadd/ppm-text-ch2-sect2-13-a11y.pdf>

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- Chapter 17 of the Project Development Procedures Manual <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/pdpm-chapter17-a11y.pdf>.

Continued coordination with Caltrans is recommended.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kimberly Dodson, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 985-1587 or by e-mail sent to Kimberly.Dodson@dot.ca.gov .

Sincerely,

Maurice A. Eaton

MAURICE EATON
Branch Chief
Local Development Review