

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 PLANNING
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March 10, 2023

Peter Kampa
General Manager
Groveland Community
Services District
18966 Ferretti Road
Groveland, CA 95321

TUO-120-PM 32.246
Drought Improvement
Project – Groveland CSD
Initial Study

Dear Mr. Kampa,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Drought Improvement Project Initial Study that proposes construction of two new groundwater wells and the installation of a new water storage tank and distribution lines. The project also relocates the existing alternate water supply and water treatment system and improve the alternate water supply intake. The project purpose is to ensure an adequate water supply during drought conditions. Existing water service will not be significantly impacted during construction.

The proposed project will take place in three adjacent communities: Big Oak Flat, Groveland, and Pine Mountain Lake near State Route (SR) 120 in western Tuolumne County.

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.

Environmental

If any construction related activities encroach into Caltrans Right of Way (ROW), the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties, biological resources, hazardous waste

locations, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans ROW, at the project site(s). Evidence of consultation with local Native American tribes and interested parties will need to be presented within the technical documents for approval of encroachment in the Caltrans ROW. If there are impacts to protected water resources within Caltrans ROW, Caltrans will need to see the correspondence with the permitting authorities: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB). There are mature trees within and/or near Caltrans ROW that could provide suitable nesting habitat. If work will occur between February 1 and September 30 of any year, a pre-construction bird survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the start of any construction related activities in Caltrans ROW. If an active nest is observed, a protective buffer must be established around the nest per CDFW guidelines. No work is allowed within the protective buffer limits until the young have fledged and until authorized by the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office.

Hydrology

The proposed site development will not alter drainage patterns or result in an increase of runoff. Once completed, the surface area will be restored to pre-project conditions. There are no state-owned culverts or drainage facilities located near the proposed construction sites.

Encroachment Permits

If any project activities encroach into Caltrans ROW, the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this 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'

Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning

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