

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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a California Way of Life*

October 18, 2023

Wai Lan Lee
PE, Engineer
Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency
25521 Summit Circle
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

RE: Honby Tanks Pipeline Project - MND
SCH #2023090505
GTS #07-LA-2023-04316
Vic. LA-14/PM 29.56

Dear Wai Lan Lee,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency proposes the construction and operation of a new pipeline to convey water to and from the Honby Tanks and the Honby Booster Station. The proposed pipeline would be buried underground for the entirety of the alignment and would not have any above ground components upon completion. The project would not involve any new operation and maintenance activities, and no new employees would be required.

After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

Construction of the proposed project would require temporary lane closures along Honby Avenue for pipeline installation. The lane closure could slow traffic through the local area and thereby affect implementation of emergency response and emergency evacuation plans. The Lead Agency reports that operational activities associated with the proposed project would occur solely on the project site and would not interfere with emergency response. With implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-6, the project contractor(s) shall prepare and implement a traffic control plan to safely redirect traffic, utilize traffic control measures, and give emergency response providers advance notification at least one week prior to the start of work when lane closures are required. As the Rio Vista Elementary school is situated along Honby Avenue and Cedarcreek Street, Caltrans recommends the incorporation of channelizing devices preceded by approved warning signs to 1) divert traffic in advance of a temporary traffic control zone and 2) define traffic lanes through the work zone to protect motorists, bicyclists, or pedestrians. Following implementation of Mitigation Measure HAZ-6 would reduce impacts to emergency access to a less-than-significant level.

Construction of the proposed project would temporarily increase the transport and use of hazardous materials in the project area through the operation of vehicles and equipment. On-site substances would include diesel fuel, oil, solvents, and other similar materials brought onto the construction site for use and storage during the construction period. To reduce potential construction-related impacts, Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 would be required. Before construction begins, the construction contractor shall develop and implement a Hazardous Materials Management and Spill Control Plan (HMMSCP) that includes a project-specific contingency plan for hazardous materials and waste operations.

As the project has less than significant or no Transportation Impact, Caltrans recommends the following during construction:

1. Construction vehicles should avoid congested state facilities especially during peak hours.
2. Construction vehicles are recommended to transport to and from construction sites during non-peak hours.
3. Cover construction trucks with tarpaulin to avoid debris spillage onto the roadways.

The project would involve no new operation and maintenance activities compared to existing conditions, and thus would not generate significant levels of operational VMT. Increases in VMT from construction would be short-term. As a reminder, Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using VMT as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. Caltrans' targets of tripling trips made by bicycle, doubling trips made by walking and public transit, and a 15% reduction in statewide VMT can be achieved through collaborative improvements to the state-wide transportation network.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Anthony Higgins, at anthony.higgins@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS #07-LA-2023-04316.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong for

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse