

**California Department of Transportation**

DISTRICT 12  
1750 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 100 | SANTA ANA, CA 92705  
(657) 328-6000 | FAX (657) 328-6522 TTY 711  
<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-12>



November 3, 2023

Mr. Shawn Nevill  
Principal Planner  
OC Water District  
18700 Ward Street  
Fountain Valley, CA. 92832

File: LDR/CEQA  
SCH:2023100188  
12-ORA-2023-02401  
SR-55; PM Various

Dear Mr. Nevill,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the South Basin Groundwater Protection Project. The proposed Project would include the installation of groundwater extraction wells and conveyance piping, filtration to reduce sediment load, treatment with liquid-phase granular activated carbon ("GAC") to reduce volatile organic compound (VOC) concentrations, discharge treated water to the sewer, and further treatment by the public-owned treatment works at Orange County Sanitation District Plant 1 and the Orange County Water District Groundwater Replenishment System Advanced Wastewater Purification Facility. The proposed Project would comprise approximately eight extraction well alignments, consisting of a total of approximately 75 extraction wells, approximately 84 monitoring wells, approximately 10,000 feet of collection and discharge piping, and local treatment systems for suspended sediment and contaminant removal.

Since 2006 the OCWD has been investigating potential sources of volatile organic compounds (VOC) and perchlorate that were detected within Irvine Ranch Water District's production well IRWD-3, located north of Dyer Road and west of State Route 55 (SR-55). Further investigations have identified a plume of groundwater contamination bisected by the CA-55 freeway and roughly bounded by East Edinger Avenue on the north; Main Street on the west and south; Von Karman Avenue on the southeast; and Barranca Parkway and Red Hill Avenue on the northeast, which is referred to as the South Basin groundwater contamination plume. These identified plume boundaries make up perimeter of the project area. State Route 55 resides within the project area and is owned and operated by Caltrans. Therefore, Caltrans is a responsible agency on this project, and has the following comments:

## **Encroachment Permits**

1. Any project work proposed in the vicinity of the State Right-of-Way (ROW) would require an encroachment permit and all environmental concerns must be adequately addressed. If the environmental documentation for the project does not meet Caltrans's requirements for work done within State ROW, additional documentation would be required before approval of the encroachment permit. Please coordinate with Caltrans to meet requirements for any work within or near State ROW. For specific details for Encroachment Permits procedure, please refer to the Caltrans's Encroachment Permits Manual at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>
2. Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (657) 328-6553 or [D12.permits@doct.ca.gov](mailto:D12.permits@doct.ca.gov). Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment Permits. For specific details on Caltrans Encroachment Permits procedure and any future updates regarding the application process and permit rates, please visit the Caltrans Encroachment Permits homepage at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>.

Caltrans' mission is to provide a safe, sustainable, equitable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. Please continue to coordinate with Caltrans for any future developments that could potentially impact State transportation facilities. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Julie Lugaro at [Julie.lugaro@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Julie.lugaro@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Scott Shelley  
Branch Chief,  
LDR-Climate Change-Transit Planning  
Caltrans, District 12