

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

Hollister-Gilroy Area  
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November 13, 2023

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Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

**Nov 15 2023****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

San Benito County Resource Management Agency  
Attn. Arielle Goodspeed, Principal Planner  
2301 Technology Parkway  
Hollister, CA 95023

Reference: Environmental Document Review and Response  
SCH# 2023100587

I was recently requested to review the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the San Benito Ag Center, located at highway 129 and Searle Road in San Juan Bautista. The California Highway Patrol's (CHP) interest in commenting surrounds our concerns for the unsafe entering/exiting of commercial vehicles from the San Benito Ag Center Project onto State Route (SR) 129, along with an increase in heavy commercial vehicle traffic along the proposed routes. The CHP has an additional interest with increased response times, enforcement, and service calls resulting from the increase in heavy truck traffic and the subsequent impact to vehicular traffic.

The proposed traffic route to the Project site, via a private access road (Short Road) connecting with SR-129 leads to several traffic safety concerns. The project also dictates the hours of operation would be "24 hours per day, 365 days a year". The identified hours/days of operation along with the enhanced commercial vehicle travel would directly affect commute traffic currently being experienced on SR-129 and cause additional delays on US-101. The hours of operation would also affect weekend travelers utilizing SR-129 and US-101 in the area. Due to the slow moving loaded commercial vehicles entering/exiting the private access road onto SR-129, there is potential for a significant increase in crashes and calls for service. An additional safety concern exists for loaded commercial vehicles turning from westbound SR-129, across the eastbound traffic lane, onto the private access road. The private access road(s) being utilized will need to ensure all necessary roadway improvements are completed to safely accommodate loaded commercial vehicles.

Based upon the previously mentioned concerns with utilizing SR-129, it is the CHP Hollister-Gilroy Area's opinion, SR-129 would require additional improvement to the roadway to sustain an increase commercial vehicle travel, such as widening of roadways, additional traffic lanes, signal controlled dedicated turn lanes, etc.

Another aspect not noted in the project documentation, is any necessary roadway improvements to any roadways used for the San Benito Ag Center Project by the additional loaded commercial vehicles. The documentation also needs to address any material spillage from loaded commercial vehicles, its impact on the safety of the roadways, and how it will be mitigated. Facility operators



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need to ensure they establish, monitor, and enforce facility rules related to commercial vehicle safety as CHP personnel work to ensure compliance with California Vehicle Code provisions.

Sincerely,



P. COOPER, Captain  
Commander