

California Department of Transportation

CALTRANS DISTRICT 5
50 HIGUERA STREET | SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415
(805) 549-3101 | FAX (805) 549-3329 TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov



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Javier Cavazos
Santa Maria-Bonita Unified School District
Coordinator of Maintenance, Operations, Facilities, Transportation
708 South Miller Street
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Feb 29 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

COMMENTS TO THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (MND) FOR THE BONITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DRINKING WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Dear Javier Cavazos:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review the IS/MND for the Bonita Elementary School Water Improvement Project in the City of Santa Maria. The project proposes to connect the City's water system to Bonita Elementary School via an approximately 8,100 linear foot and two-inch diameter service line running along State Route (SR) 166. Additionally, the project includes some infrastructure improvements to a classroom building on the site. Access to the project site during construction would be provided by SR 166 and Black Rd. Increases in VMT from construction would be short-term, minimal, and temporary and would not increase after project build out. At this time, we offer the following comments in response to the IS/MND:

1. Caltrans supports development that is consistent with State and Federal planning priorities intended to promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety. We accomplish this by working with local agencies to achieve a shared vision of how the transportation system can and should accommodate interregional and local travel and development. Caltrans believes that continued coordination with your agency is imperative to achieve overall network connectivity.
2. *Drainage and Hydraulics*
Existing drainage structures need to be located and avoided. There are several longitudinal driveway culverts along Hwy 166, a double 42" RCP cross culvert at postmile 3.72 and a double 24" RCP crossing Black Road at Hwy 166. All culverts are at shallow depths. All existing drainage patterns need to be maintained.
3. *Encroachment Permits*

As discussed in the pre-application meeting on 12/12/2023 the proposed waterline should be installed outside the pavement of Route 166. It may be installed outside the paved area on either the eastbound or westbound side (or a combination of the two). Section 602.5B of the Encroachment Permit Manual (EPM) states that proposed longitudinal utilities must be installed as close to the State right of way line as possible. Section 603.3C states that all proposed underground utilities must be encased under any paved areas (if horizontal directional drilling is used, the HDPE may be used as encasement).

Any work within the State Right of Way will require an encroachment permit. Plans and profiles of the proposed work stamped and signed (including expiration date) by a CA registered civil engineer will be required. If Caltrans Standard Plans cannot be used for traffic control a stamped and signed Traffic Control Plan (TCP) will be required.

The encroachment permit application form, directions to complete the form, and plan requirements can be found at the following web address:
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>. Electronic encroachment permit application packages submissions should be sent to D5.Permits@dot.ca.gov. No permit fees are due during submission; Caltrans Accounting will invoice the responsible party for the permit fees (however, this proposed work would be fee exempt).

We look forward to continued coordination with the School District on this project. If you have any questions, or need further clarification on items discussed above, please contact me at shelby.fredrick@dot.ca.gov or 805-903-3395.

Sincerely,

Shelby Fredrick

Shelby Fredrick
Development Review Coordinator
Caltrans District 5, LDR South Branch

Cc: State Clearinghouse