

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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Ann Calnan, Environmental Lead
Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority
3331 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95134-1906

Re: Beneficial Reuse of Excavated Material in Tidal Marsh Restoration Project— Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Ann Calnan:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Beneficial Reuse of Excavated Material in Tidal Marsh Restoration Project. We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system.

The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities. The following comments are based on our review of the January 2023 NOP.

Project Understanding

The proposed project would place excavated or other "fill" material into several former salt production ponds around South San Francisco Bay to raise the pond bottoms for the purpose of accelerating the timeline for tidal marsh habitat restoration. The project would also involve a series of analyses to evaluate the transport and placement of excavated material.

Environmental

Please note soil alongside roadways in California have high concentrations of lead, other metals, petroleum hydrocarbons, and naturally occurring asbestos. The hazardous materials technical memorandum mentioned in this document should include a thorough sampling of soil including the list of 17 metals dictated by the

California Administrative Manual (CAM17), petroleum hydrocarbons and naturally occurring asbestos. The results of the sampling must be compared to the environmental screening levels published by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. The suitability of such soil for aquatic life must be evaluated early on by the project team.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the State Transportation Network (STN). The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

Equitable Access

If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. As well, the project must maintain bicycle and pedestrian access during construction. These access considerations support Caltrans' equity mission to provide a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation network for all users.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Marley Mathews, Transportation Planner, via LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov. For future early coordination opportunities or project referrals, please contact LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



YUNSHENG LUO
Branch Chief, Local Development Review
Office of Regional and Community Planning

c: State Clearinghouse