

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 RURAL PLANNING
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

February 14, 2024

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Eric Bradbury
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95814

AMA-88-PM 33.47
Tiger Creek Regulator Dam
Spillway Replacement
Project
SCH 2024010525

Dear Mr. Bradbury,

Caltrans appreciates the opportunity to review and respond to the Tiger Creek Regulator Dam Spillway Replacement Project. Activities are at the Tiger Creek Regulator Reservoir (Reservoir) on Tiger Creek, approximately 24 miles northeast of Jackson. The proposed project includes one staging and spoils disposal site approximately one mile south of the Reservoir and another staging site along State Route (SR) 88 in the community of Pioneer, approximately 8.5 miles west-southwest of the Reservoir. The proposed project includes the construction of a new spillway along the Dam's right abutment and the decommissioning of the old spillway infrastructure along the Dam's left abutment. The project aims to allow the Dam to safely pass a flood event of up to 6,000 cubic feet per second. The new spillway includes the construction of the following elements: A new spillway intake (crest structure), a new notch through the existing Dam, a new concrete chute, new flip bucket splitter blocks, and a new plunge pool. Other associated features of the proposed project include a permanent access road, a temporary access road with four temporary bridges across Tiger Creek, a 240-foot-long cofferdam in the Reservoir, a new 450-foot single-span log boom and anchor blocks, and new lighting on the Dam.

This project is located approximately 2.5 miles from SR 88. The cross streets are Tiger Creek Road and Salt Springs Road.

Caltrans at this time has the following comments:

Environmental

If any materials or equipment are stored in Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) at the Cedar Mills Staging area or anywhere else, then specify the types of materials and equipment.

Those activities would require an Encroachment Permit from Caltrans prior to the start of any construction-related activities. If any construction-related activities, including staging and/or vegetation management, will encroach into Caltrans ROW, the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans Right of Way, at the project site(s). Evidence of consultation with local Native American tribes and interested parties will need to be presented within the technical documents for approval of encroachment in the Caltrans ROW. If there are impacts to protected water resources within Caltrans ROW, Caltrans will need to see the correspondence with the permitting authorities (California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board) and be provided copies of any required permits prior to the start of any construction in Caltrans ROW.

There are mature trees within and/or near Caltrans ROW at the Cedar Mill Staging Area location that could provide suitable nesting habitat. If work, staging, and/or vegetation management occurs at this location or any other location in Caltrans ROW as a result of the project between February 1 and September 30 of any year, a pre-construction bird survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the start of any construction related activities in Caltrans ROW. If an active nest is observed, a protective buffer must be established around the nest per CDFW guidelines. No work is allowed within the protective buffer limits until the young have fledged and until authorized by the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office. Results of the pre-construction bird survey(s) must be provided to the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office prior to the start of construction.

Hydrology

Based on Dam_Location_Map_1-24-2024.docx, the crossing is at the AMA/CAL county line on SR26, which is inconsistent with the Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal. More information is needed to determine the implications of the state route crossings. Additional review is required for review.

Traffic Operations

Please provide the off-tracking templates for this project's largest truck for all turning movements at Cedar Mills Staging area, Tiger Creek Road, and Salt Springs Road (Spur 1).

Caltrans suggests Amador County continue to coordinate and consult with Caltrans to identify and address potential cumulative transportation impacts that may occur from this project and other developments near this location. This will assist Caltrans in ensuring that

traffic safety and quality standards are maintained for the traveling public on existing and future state transportation facilities.

Encroachment Permits

If any future project activities encroach into Caltrans ROW, the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, and/or other resources within Caltrans ROW at the project site(s). For more information, please visit the Caltrans Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments, please contact Paul Bauldry at (209) 670-9488 (email: paul.bauldry@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 483-7234 (email: Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregoria Ponce'

Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning

c: Chuck Beatty, Director, Amador County Planning Department