

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

March 04 2024

March 4, 2024

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Jocelyn Swain, Senior Planner
Community Development Department
Planning and Permitting Division
City of Lancaster
44933 Fern Avenue
Lancaster, CA 93534

RE: Lancaster Clean Energy Center (CUP No.
23-019)
SCH # 2024020266
Vic. LA-14/PM R66.723
GTS # GTS-2024-04446-MND

Dear Jocelyn Swain:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced environmental document. The applicant (Element New Energy Lancaster 1, LLC) proposes to construct and operate the Lancaster Clean Energy Center, a green hydrogen production plant powered by photovoltaic (PV) solar. This facility is self-sufficient, integrated, and off-grid and consists of a 650 megawatt PV solar generating facility; 330 MWh battery long-duration energy storage system; and a green hydrogen production plant incorporating 400 MWe of electrolyzers, liquefied hydrogen storage in up to two horizontal cylindrical tanks with a capacity of 30 metric tons each, and up to three 100 mt spherical liquefied hydrogen tanks. Onsite gaseous hydrogen storage consists of approximately 30 metric tons in a linear surface pipe storage arrangement. All hydrogen production would be located along 70th Street East.

The proposed project screens out of a VMT analysis as it would generate less than 110 vehicle trips per day. The project estimates that approximately 70 truck trips would be required at full buildout plus the trips from the 32 employees. This totals 102 trips per day which is less than the threshold. Therefore, impacts associated with VMT would be less than significant.

However, the 102 trips are very close to the 110 threshold trips. We encourage the Lead Agency to evaluate the potential Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) applications in order to better manage the transportation network, as well as transit service and bicycle or pedestrian connectivity improvements. For TDM options, please refer to the Federal

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Highway Administration's *Integrating Demand Management into the Transportation Planning Process: A Desk Reference* (Chapter 8). This reference is available online at:

<http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/fhwahop12035/fhwahop12035.pdf>

Truck access to the hydrogen component of the project site would be from the Antelope Valley Freeway via Avenue M to 50th Street East. Any large-size truck trips in the operation phase and construction phase should be limited to off-peak commute periods. Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that require the use of oversized transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin the project coordinator at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # GTS-2024-04446-MND.

Sincerely,

Frances Duong

FRANCES DUONG
Acting LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse