

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 11

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Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

**March 19 2024**

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### STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

11-IMP-86

PM 53.3

GPA22-0003 ZC22-0004 Ormat-Truckhaven Geothermal

MND/SCH#2024020495

Mr. Derek Newland

Planner III

Imperial County Department of Planning and Development Services

801 Main Street

El Centro, CA 92243

Dear Mr. Newland:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the GPA22-0003 ZC22-0004 Ormat-Truckhaven Geothermal Project (Project) located near State Route 86 (SR-86). The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Caltrans has the following comments:

#### **Aeronautics**

The exploratory well sites are located within 1 mile of the Salton Sea Airport, a public use airport that is privately owned by Burrtec Waste Industries. The Salton Sea Airport is included within the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan for Imperial County Airport (County of Imperial, 1996).

#### Amending a General Plan

Per the California Public Utilities Code Section 21001 et seq. relating to the State Aeronautics Act, Section 21676(b) prior to the amendment of a general plan...within the planning boundary established by the airport land use commission pursuant to Section 21675, the local agency shall first refer the proposed action to the commission. If the commission determines that the proposed action is inconsistent with the commission's plan, the referring agency shall be notified. Any proposed development in the defined safety zones, therefore, must adhere to the safety criteria and restrictions defined in the

Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan(s) adopted by the ALUC pursuant to the PUC, Section 21674.

### Obstruction Evaluation

In accordance with APM-HAZ-2, the Applicant will be required to file a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) due to the height of the drill rigs.

The proposed Project must comply with requirements outlined by the FAA, specified in Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 77. (14 CFR Part 77). Title 14 CFR Part 77.9 provides vertical and horizontal criteria for construction near an airport. Moreover, the California Public Utilities Code Section 21659 prohibits structural hazards near airports. An Obstruction Analysis will be required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulation, Part 77 "Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace." To ensure compliance notices should be submitted to the FAA's Obstacle Evaluation Group (OEG) online at the following site:

<https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/portal.jsp>.

Additionally, in accordance with Condition S-2 of CUP#18-0038, Well #87-6 shall be located no closer than one thousand (1,000) feet from the Salton Sea Airport Runway.

Caltrans Aeronautics encourages the direct communication with the FAA and Burrtec Waste Industries, the owner of Salton City Airport throughout various phases of the Project. Burrtec Waste Industries shall be given prior notice of all drilling and construction operations for each proposed exploratory wells located within 1 mile of the airport.

These comments delineate the areas of review by Caltrans Aeronautics concerning airport-related noise, safety, and land use planning issues. If you have any questions, please contact me by email at [tiffany.martinez@dot.ca.gov](mailto:tiffany.martinez@dot.ca.gov). The Aviation Safety Officer for this area may also be reached for advisory or technical comments as necessary.

### **Traffic Control Plan**

Please provide a Traffic Control Plan to Caltrans at least 30 days prior to the start of any construction. We would like a copy to ensure construction impacts from construction activities to the State Highway System and travelling public are minimized/in place. Traffic shall not be unreasonably delayed. The plan shall also outline suggested detours to use during closures, including routes and signage.

Potential impacts to the highway facilities (SR-86) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

## Design

The following Caltrans projects have footprints passing by the area:

- Project ID # 1122000280 Bridge Preservation Project
  - First Working Day anticipated June 01, 2024
  - Contract Acceptance anticipated March 01, 2025
  
- Project ID # 1123000001 Broadband Project
  - Approve Contract anticipated December 05, 2024
  - Contract Acceptance anticipated May 15, 2026
  - Fiber Optic conduit line running under IMP-086 in State Right-of-Way

## Right-of-Way

- Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.
- Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158 or emailing [D11.Permits@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D11.Permits@dot.ca.gov) or by visiting the website at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Charlie Lecourtois, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 985-4766 or by e-mail sent to [Charlie.lecourtois@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Charlie.lecourtois@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Kimberly D. Dodson*

KIMBERLY D. DODSON, G.I.S.P.  
Acting Branch Chief  
Local Development Review