

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
P.O. BOX 23660, MS-10D | OAKLAND, CA 94623-0660  
[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



October 30, 2024

SCH #: 2024060688  
GTS #: 04-SCL-2017-01295  
GTS ID: 7642  
Co/Rt/Pm: SCL/152/R30.43

Todd Sexauer, Senior Environmental Planner  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118-3614

### **Re: Design Level Geotechnical Investigations for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project – Notice of Preparation (NOP) for a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Todd Sexauer:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Design Level Geotechnical Investigations for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. 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 October 2024 Draft NOP and a reiteration of comments for the June 2024 Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

Please note this correspondence does not indicate an official position by Caltrans on this project and is for informational purposes only.

#### **Project Understanding**

The proposed project will assist with the design and construction of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion through geotechnical tests. The project includes 149 subsurface exploratory borings and 32 test pits. Several locations identified are marked within the Right of Way (ROW) of State Route 152 (SR 152).

#### **Climate Change**

Please keep Caltrans informed about developments and implementations of various climate stressors, as well as ongoing adaptation and resilience initiatives at this project location near SR 152. A particular area of concern is the vulnerability to wildfires at this project location. Wildfires poses a significant risk along Caltrans' ROW, particularly affecting critical infrastructure such as culverts. Please see attached image of culverts around the project area.

The choice of culvert material determines susceptibility to direct wildfire damage. Culverts made from High-density polyethylene (HDPE), Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC), corrugated steel pipe, composite materials, and wood are more susceptible to wildfire damage. As a result, small culverts constructed from these materials, exposed to elevated wildfire risk, have been prioritized for adaptation measures.

Therefore, please keep Caltrans updated with the geotechnical progress and efforts around Pacheco Reservoir. We look forward to engaging these partners for regional collaboration and seeking multi-benefit solutions to protect vulnerable shorelines, communities, infrastructure, and the environment.

For any questions or concerns within District 4's geographical boundaries, please contact the Caltrans Bay Area Climate Change Planning Coordinators at [vishal.ream-rao@dot.ca.gov](mailto:vishal.ream-rao@dot.ca.gov) and [lucius.wu@dot.ca.gov](mailto:lucius.wu@dot.ca.gov).

### **Construction-Related Impacts**

Project work that requires movement of oversized or excessive load vehicles on State roadways requires a transportation permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, please visit Caltrans Transportation Permits ([link](#)).

Prior to construction, coordination may be required with Caltrans to develop a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to reduce construction traffic impacts to the State Transportation Network (STN).

### **Encroachment Permit**

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto Caltrans' ROW requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office of Encroachment Permits to submit a completed encroachment permit application package, digital set of plans clearly delineating Caltrans' ROW, digital copy of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans, this comment letter, your response to the comment letter, and where applicable, the following items: new or amended Maintenance Agreement (MA), approved Design Standard Decision Document (DSDD), approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement.

The checklist TR-0416 ([link](#)) is used to determine the appropriate Caltrans review process for encroachment projects. The Office of Encroachment Permit requires 100% complete design plans and supporting documents to review and circulate the permit application package. To obtain more information and download the permit application, please visit Caltrans Encroachment Permits ([link](#)). Your application package may be emailed to [D4Permits@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D4Permits@dot.ca.gov).

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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](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov). For future early coordination opportunities or project referrals, please contact [LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luo Yunsheng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Luo" being more prominent and the last name "Yunsheng" written in a more connected, flowing style.

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

c: State Clearinghouse