

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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April 25, 2025

SCH #: 2024060688
GTS #: 04-SCL-2017-01395
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 – 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 March 2025 DEIR.

Please note this correspondence does not indicate an official position or approval 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 near State Route 152 (SR 152) within Caltrans' Right of Way (ROW).

Climate Change

Caltrans District 4 Climate Change thanks you for informing the potential impacts of the project on culverts in Caltrans ROW. Please keep Caltrans District 4 informed if future planned exploratory boring will include culverts at this project location. The D4 Climate Coordinators can be reached at D4_ClimateResilience@dot.ca.gov. The previous comments about wildfire vulnerability still stands.

Project Management

Geotechnical Investigation appears to include sites within Caltrans ROW along SR 152. It is our understanding that Caltrans District 04 issued an encroachment permit for this work (04-20-N-SV-2548). Please ensure the State Representative listed on the permit is notified a minimum of seven days prior to start of work.

Also, this project is associated with the Caltrans' SR 152 Improvement project for Access to Pacheco Reservoir. Please coordinate with Caltrans as needed.

Environmental Protection

Caltrans recommends using flexible material wetland protection mats when crossing South Fork Pacheco Creek to avoid disturbing the streambed gravel.

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

Sincerely,



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

c: State Clearinghouse