

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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*Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life*

July 1, 2024

Amy Harbin  
City of Long Beach  
411 W. Ocean Blvd, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

RE: Alamitos Bay Water Quality  
Enhancement Project: Notice of  
Preparation (NOP)  
GTS # 07-LA-2024-04543  
SCH # 2024051330  
Vic. LA 1 PM 1.309, PM 0.624  
LA 22 PM 1.04

Dear Amy Harbin:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. The proposed project would maintain existing water circulation patterns in Alamitos Bay by replacing the existing once-through-cooling (OTC) pumps at AES Alamitos for power-generating operations with a new “fish-friendly” pump system separate from power-generating operations. OTC operations at AES Alamitos are anticipated to cease in December 2026, in accordance with current regulations from the State Water Resources Control Board. The proposed project would install new pumps to convey water from Alamitos Bay to the San Gabriel River Estuary, maintaining current circulation patterns and preventing water quality impacts to Alamitos Bay (including Marine Stadium and Colorado Lagoon). The proposed project includes installation of screens within the existing intake channel that will comply with regulatory criteria for fish impingement, fish entrainment, and trash removal. The new “fish-friendly” pumps will be installed within the intake channel of the existing AES Alamitos Unit 6. The new infrastructure would be installed within the intake channel as well as on land and require an anticipated construction duration of approximately 2 to 2.5 years. Construction activities are anticipated to require a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) from the California Coastal Commission (CCC), a Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and a Section 401 Certification from the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (LARWQCB). In addition, to operate the pumps, it is anticipated an NPDES discharge permit will be required from the LARWQCB. The City of Long Beach is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The closest state facilities are SR 1 and SR 22. After reviewing the project’s documents, Caltrans has the following comments:

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Caltrans will require an Encroachment Permit for work performed within the State Right-of-way. Caltrans recommends that large-size truck travel be limited to off-peak commute hours. Caltrans requires a permit for any heavy construction equipment and or materials that require the use of oversized transport vehicles on State highways.

Caltrans recommends that the Project limit construction traffic to off-peak periods to minimize the potential impact on State facilities. If construction traffic is expected to cause issues on any State facilities, please submit a construction traffic control plan detailing these issues for Caltrans' review.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jaden Oloresisimo, the project coordinator, at [Jaden.Oloresisimo@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Jaden.Oloresisimo@dot.ca.gov) and refer to GTS # 07-LA-2024-04534.

Sincerely,



Anthony Higgins  
Acting LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: State Clearinghouse