

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4  
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING  
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[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



August 29, 2024

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GTS #: 04-SCL-2024-01312  
GTS ID: 33540  
Co/Rt/Pm: SCL/101/41.183

Allie Jackman, Project Manager  
City of Santa Clara  
1500 Warburton Avenue  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

### **Re: NRS-KRS 115 kV Transmission Line — Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)**

Dear Allie Jackman:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the NRS-KRS 115 kV Transmission Line 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 July 2024 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 include an overhead transmission line that will cross over State Route (SR)-101 near postmile 41.183. The transmission line will be 2.24 miles long and will run between two facilities.

#### **Aeronautics**

Caltrans Aeronautics has reviewed the MND for the NRS-KRS 115 kV Transmission Line project in Santa Clara County. One of the goals of the Caltrans Aeronautics Program is to assist cities, counties, and Airport Land Use Commissions (ALUC) or their equivalent, to understand and comply with the State Aeronautics Act pursuant to the California Public Utilities Code (PUC), Section 21001 et seq.

The project site is approximately 0.5 miles south-east of the San Jose Mineta International Airport and spans three safety zones defined by the Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP) for Santa Clara County. Therefore, it must adhere to the

safety criteria and restrictions defined in the ALUCP, adopted by the ALUC pursuant to PUC Section 21674. The project also contains portions in the 70dB and 75dB Aircraft Noise Contours. The City of Santa Clara should consider the safety zone and noise compatibility polices stipulated in the ALUCP.

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 ([link](#)).

### **Project Management**

If the project requires freeway lane closures during construction, Caltrans must review and approve lane closure timing and traffic handling plans in the Encroachment Permit process. Maintenance of these transmission lines must be the responsibility of the sponsoring agency, which may require an amendment to existing maintenance agreements.

Additionally, Caltrans has a planned pavement preservation project that is in the vicinity of the proposed project. Coordination may be required during the construction phase.



### **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).

### **Lead Agency**

As the Lead Agency, the City is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the STN. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

### **Encroachment Permit**

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control, or any modification or additional work that encroaches onto Caltrans' Right of Way (ROW) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit and coordination with Caltrans. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office

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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. All proposed work must be submitted through a Caltrans Encroachment Permit process. The proposed project may require an encroachment policy exception for a permit to be issued so coordinate with the Encroachment Permit office closely.

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](#)). Please note that the checklist TR-0416 is used to determine the appropriate Caltrans review process for encroachment projects. Your application package may be emailed to [D4Permits@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D4Permits@dot.ca.gov).

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](mailto: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](mailto:LDR-D4@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



MARLEY MATHEWS  
Acting Branch Chief, Local Development Review  
Office of Regional and Community Planning

c: State Clearinghouse