

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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Connie Chen, Public Utilities Regulatory Analyst
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Collinsville 500/230 Kilovolt Substation Project - Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Connie Chen:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Collinsville 500/230 Kilovolt Substation 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 January 2025 NOP.

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 involves several components to upgrade the electric grid, including construction of a new 500/230 kilovolt substation ("Collinsville Substation") and appropriate connections to existing facilities. These connections include several miles of new transmission lines, included 4.5 miles of submarine cables, new telecommunications paths collocated with the new transmission lines, a new microwave tower, and a new fiber optic path.

Travel Demand Analysis

With the enactment of Senate Bill (SB) 743, Caltrans is focused on maximizing efficient development patterns, innovative travel demand reduction strategies, and multimodal improvements. For more information on how Caltrans assesses Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis for land use projects, please review Caltrans'

Transportation Impact Study Guide ([link](#)). Caltrans looks forward to reviewing the VMT analysis in the DEIR when it is available.

Climate Change

Please keep Caltrans informed about the various climate stressors and ongoing adaptation and resilience initiatives as they are developed and implemented at this project location. Caltrans is interested in engaging in multi-agency and regional collaboration, to find multi-benefit solutions that protect vulnerable shorelines, communities, infrastructure, and the environment. Consider aligning any potential shoreline adaptation with countywide efforts (Contra Costa Resilient Shoreline Plan) on climate adaptation and vulnerability.

Caltrans actively collaborates with regional partners to address climate vulnerabilities and would like to remain updated on any potential adaptation measures or initiatives at this location and will greatly appreciate being included in ongoing local efforts as this project develops. Caltrans prioritizes working with regional and local partners to strategize and adopt effective adaptation measures for the transportation system in the area. For any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Caltrans Bay Area Climate Change Planning Coordinators at D4_ClimateResilience@dot.ca.gov.

Construction-Related Impacts

Potential impacts to the State Right-of-Way (ROW) from project-related temporary access points should be analyzed. Mitigation for significant impacts due to construction and noise should be identified. 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).

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mary McGee, 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,



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

c: State Clearinghouse