

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7

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March 6, 2025

Jose Martinez, General Manager
Valley County Water District
5121 Lante St
Baldwin Park, CA 91706

RE: Valley County Water District Nixon
Storage Expansion– Mitigated Negative
Declaration (MND)
SCH #2025020095
GTS #07-LA-2025-04735
LA-605/PM 24.34

Dear Jose Martinez,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above referenced project. The Project proposes to provide additional water storage capacity at the Clinton O. Nixon Treatment and Storage Facility and for the Valley County Water District (VCWD) service area. According to the 2021 Water Master Plan, the VCWD service area has a deficiency in storage of 4.84 MG (million gallons) and build-out of land use and population growth in the future would have increased the existing deficient storage to 6.02 MG. As identified in the 2021 Water Master Plan, the proposed Project would include the construction of additional water reservoir tanks with a capacity of 2.5 MG each to help offset the existing and forecast storage deficiencies within the VCWD service area. This includes the demolition of the existing carport, warehouse, district office, and associated foundations and pavement. The reduction of storage deficiency would provide for more water for users including firefighting purposes and minimizing service outages.

Construction of the proposed Project would require short-term equipment and worker vehicle trips to the Project site and staging area. The Project would utilize off-highway trucks as well as other equipment used for hauling and trenching. Adhering to the construction noise ordinance, workers arriving prior to 7:00 AM and leaving either prior to or after afternoon peak-hour traffic (6:00 PM) would minimize trips during peak hours. Once construction activities are complete, traffic would revert to the current conditions. The Project does not anticipate any operation-related transportation impacts.

After reviewing the MND, Caltrans has the following comments:

Per Senate Bill 743 (2013), CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development uses Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. The Project would generate a temporary increase in traffic due to construction. However, this generation would be incremental and would not overwhelm any major roadways adjacent to the Project site. Construction would remove the carport, warehouse, and district offices to accommodate the new reservoir tanks on site. Thus, the proposed Project would reduce the overall trips compared to existing conditions.

Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that requires the use of oversized transport vehicles on State Highways will require a Caltrans transportation permit. Caltrans recommends limiting 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. We look forward to the coordination of our efforts to ensure potential impacts to the highway facilities and traveling public are discussed and addressed before work begins.

If you have any questions, please contact project coordinator Frances Duong, at frances.duong@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS #07-LA-2025-04735.

Sincerely,



Anthony Higgins
Acting LDR Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse