

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF REGIONAL AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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www.dot.ca.gov



April 16, 2025

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GTS #: 04-SM-2025-00668
GTS ID: 35856
Co/Rt/Pm: SM/101/19.577

Don Lewis, Senior Planner
City and County of San Francisco
49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400
San Francisco, CA 94103

Re: 12 kV Power Distribution Replacement – Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)

Dear Don Lewis:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the 12 kV Power Distribution Replacement 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 Draft MND.

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 would involve removing and in-kind replacing electrical cables within an existing 12 kV underground concrete utility duct bank for the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). Surface construction activities for the proposed project would include clearing vegetation, widening some existing private vehicle access roads, and installing new gravel vehicle access roads on the SFO West of Bayshore (WOB) property. Additionally, five permanent access pads surrounding existing manholes and a vehicular access gate would be installed on the WOB property. Project work will be completed on sites adjacent to U.S. Route 101 (U.S. 101) and the concrete utility duct bank crosses under U.S. 101.

Emergency Access

The *Emergency Access* section of the draft MND mentions a new access gate for Manhole PD-B504 to be installed within an existing fence owned by Caltrans. It also mentions access agreements that are restricted to certain agencies. Please provide further details or clarification regarding these access agreements as the Caltrans Right-of-Way Office is unfamiliar with details regarding an access agreement between Caltrans and the City and County. Please also refer to Chapter 17 of the Caltrans Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM, [link](#)) as it has very specific information regarding the limitations on access to adjacent properties for emergency purposes. Please be advised that the City and County's proposal for the new access gate within the existence fence owned by Caltrans may not be feasible if it does not meet the criteria for an exception to the policy.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any temporary or permanent work including traffic control that encroaches in, under, or over any portion of the State highway rights-of-way requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit and an encroachment policy exception may be required for the new access gate.

The Office of Encroachment Permits requires 100% complete design plans and supporting documents to review and circulate the permit application package. The review and approval of encroachment projects is managed through the Encroachment Permits Office Process (EPOP) or the Project Delivery Quality Management Assessment Process (QMAP), depending on project scope, complexity, and completeness of the application. Please use the following resources to determine the appropriate review process:

- TR-0416 Applicant's Checklist ([link](#))
- Caltrans Encroachment Projects Processes – Information Video ([link](#))
- Flowchart, Figure 1.2 in Section 108, Overview of the Encroachment Review Process, of Chapter 100 – The Permit Function, Caltrans Encroachment Permit Manual ([link](#))

The permit approval typically takes less than 60 days, but may take longer depending on the project scope, size, complexity, completeness, compliance with applicable laws, standards, policies, and quality of the permit package submitted. Projects requiring exceptions to design standards, exceptions to encroachment policies, or external agency approvals may need more time to process.

To obtain more information and download the permit application, please visit Caltrans Encroachment Permits ([link](#)).

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 STN.

In addition, please note the following upcoming Caltrans projects are within the vicinity of the proposed project and may pose a construction conflict and require coordination between Caltrans and the City and County:

- *Project 04-0W150* – Managed lane facility project for U.S. 101 from 1 mile south of the U.S. 101 and Interstate 380 separation to the San Mateo/San Francisco County line. For any questions or to discuss project coordination, please contact Kelly Ma, Caltrans Project Manager, at Kelly.Ma@dot.ca.gov.
- *Project 04-4Y040* – Improvement project for the U.S. 101 and San Bruno Avenue interchange. For any questions or to discuss project coordination, please contact Rommel Pardo, Senior Project Manager of Program and Project Management for San Mateo County, at Rommel.Pardo@dot.ca.gov.
- *Project 04-4H360* – Utah Avenue overcrossing project to enhance safety and improve traffic operations for the U.S. 101 intersections at South Airport Boulevard/Utah Avenue and San Mateo Avenue/Utah Avenue, as well as modification of the Airport Boulevard/Produce Avenue/San Mateo Avenue intersection. For any questions or to discuss project coordination, please contact Katie Mulder, Caltrans Project Manager, at Katie.C.Mulder@dot.ca.gov.

Equitable Access

If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. As well, the project must maintain bicycle and pedestrian access during construction. These access considerations support Caltrans' equity mission to provide a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation network for all users.

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

Don Lewis, Senior Planner
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luo Yunsheng". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Luo" being more prominent and the last name "Yunsheng" following in a similar style.

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

c: State Clearinghouse