

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 4

OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

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Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

**SEP 09 2019**

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September 9, 2019

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

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Melih Ozbilgin, Senior Water Resources Specialist  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118

**Project - San Luis Low Point Improvement Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)**

Dear Melih Ozbilgin:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for this project. In tandem with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), Caltrans' mission signals our continuing approach to evaluate and mitigate impacts to the State's multimodal transportation network. Our comments are based on ALTERNATIVE 5 of the July 2019 DEIR.

**Project Understanding**

Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) and the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation are proposing the San Luis Low Point Improvement Project to address water supply reliability and schedule certainty issues for SCVWD associated with low water levels in San Luis Reservoir. Alternative 5, which is located along Pacheco Creek near State Route (SR)-152 within Santa Clara County, includes construction and operation of a new dam and reservoir, pump station, conveyance facilities, and related miscellaneous infrastructure.

**Hydraulics**

Alternative 5 is within the special flood hazard area, which is subject to inundation from a 1% annual chance flood. The footprint of the base floodplain may be changed after implementation of this project, therefore leading toward potential impacts to SR-152. A floodplain impact evaluation study is requested, and mitigation measures may be required to address potential impacts to SR-

152.

### **SR-152- Eligible Scenic Highway Designation**

The document includes minimization measures for scenic highways but does not identify SR-152 as such. The DEIR should state that SR-152 is an eligible State Scenic Highway within Santa Clara County.

### **Construction-Related Impacts**

Potential impacts to SR-152 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, visit: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/transportation-permits>.

Prior to construction, coordination is required with Caltrans to develop a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to reduce construction traffic impacts to the STN.

### **Utilities**

Any utilities that are proposed, moved or modified within Caltrans' Right-of-Way (ROW) shall be discussed. If utilities are impacted by the project, provide site plans that show the location of existing and/or proposed utilities. These modifications require a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit.

### **Lead Agency**

As the Lead Agency, the Santa Clara Water District is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to the State Transportation Network (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 work or traffic control that encroaches onto the State right-of-way (ROW) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. To obtain an encroachment permit, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, six (6) sets of plans clearly indicating the State ROW, and six (6) copies of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans must be submitted to: Office of Encroachment Permits, California DOT, District 4, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA

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94623-0660. To download the permit application and obtain more information, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Mark Leong at 510-622-1644 or [mark.leong@dot.ca.gov](mailto:mark.leong@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Wahida Rashid  
Acting District Branch Chief  
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse