

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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10/14/2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research



Making Conservation
a California Way of Life.

Oct 12 2020**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

October 12, 2020

Tyler Barns
Ventura County Public Works Agency – Watershed Protection
800 S. Victoria Avenue. #1600
Ventura CA, 93009

RE: Matilija Dam Ecosystem
Restoration – Notice of Preparation
(NOP)
SCH # 2002011094
GTS # 07-VEN-2020-00419
Vic. VEN-33/PM: 15.452, 15.809,
8.943 - 9.445, 6.275 - 7.438

Dear Tyler Barns:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-mentioned project's Notice of Preparation (NOP). The joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) certified in 2004 evaluated alternatives combining dam removal, sediment relocation, flood protection (levees), two bridge replacements, new recreation features, giant reed removal, and water supply improvements. Technical studies to refine project features continued between 2008 and 2016, resulting in a new dam removal method and reevaluation of other project components. In June 2017, VCPWA – WP received funding to implement the Matilija Dam Removal 65% Design Planning Project, comprising additional technical studies, construction design, and CEQA analyses. The VCPWA – WP has determined that preparation of a Subsequent EIR is warranted to provide a complete and objective analysis of the revised Project components developed to date.

Under Senate Bill 743 (2013), CEQA review of transportation impacts of a proposed development are adapting to eliminate consideration of delay-and capacity-based metrics such as level of service (LOS) and are instead focusing analysis on another metric of impact, "Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Effective July 1st, 2020, Caltrans replaced LOS with VMT when evaluating traffic impacts.

After reviewing the project's NOP Caltrans has the following comments:

- Caltrans agrees with the project's statements in the NOP regarding evaluating project alternatives and the potential impact this project may have to transportation along SR-33 and SR-150. As such, Caltrans suggests the project consider including an alternative for the removed dam materials to be stored or used on site. This alternative will reduce potentially significant impacts that may be caused by trucks hauling removed materials.

- Please consider scheduling the construction working hours during off peak hours to the maximum extent possible. This may minimize congestion and provide higher levels of safety to pedestrians and vehicular traffic in the project areas
- If the project develops VMT analysis please consider utilizing the latest version of the Technical Advisory and Guidelines on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and the latest version of Caltrans' Transportation Impact Study Guide.
- For this project's future SEIR, please keep in mind any work performed within Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W) will require further review and approval by Caltrans. Any proposed work within Caltrans' R/W will require an encroachment permit prior to activities or construction.

Further information included for your consideration:

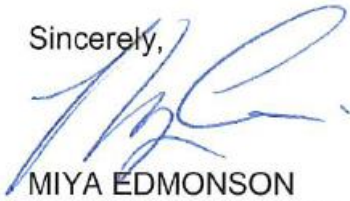
Storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Ventura County. Please be mindful that projects should be designed to discharge clean run-off water. Discharge of storm water run-off is not permitted onto State Highway facilities without a storm water management plan.

As a reminder, any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials which requires use of oversized-transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. We recommend large size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods

Finally, The NOP indicates that significant earth moving activities may take place during construction. Please consider covering all vehicles hauling dirt and sediment as unplanned spills can potentially adversely impact the performance of the state highway system.

If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact project coordinator Reece Allen, at reece.allen@dot.ca.gov and refer to GTS# 07-VEN-2020-00419

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
IGR/CEQA Branch Chief

cc: Scott Morgan, State Clearinghouse