

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Dec 01 2020

December 3, 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

11-SD-8
PM 73.95
JVR Energy Park
DEIR/SCH #2019039044

Ms. Susan Harris
Project Environmental Coordinator
San Diego County Planning and Development Services
5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310
San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Ms. Harris:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), State Clearinghouse (SCH #2019039044) for the JVR Energy Park located adjacent to Interstate 8 (I-8) near the community of Jacumba Hot Springs. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with Caltrans' mission and state planning priorities.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Environmental

Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as we have some discretionary authority of a portion of the project that is in Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W) through the form of an encroachment permit process. Please indicate our status as a Responsible Agency for the Final EIR. We look forward to the coordination of our efforts to ensure that Caltrans can adopt the alternative and/or mitigation measure for our R/W. We would appreciate meeting with you to discuss the elements of the DEIR that Caltrans will use for our subsequent environmental compliance.

Although not currently identified, should any work within the Caltrans' R/W be identified, an encroachment permit(s) will be required for prior to construction. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide approved final environmental documents for this project, corresponding technical studies, and necessary regulatory and resource agency permits. Specifically, any CEQA determinations or exemptions. The supporting documents must address all environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W and address any impacts from avoidance and/or mitigation measures.

Caltrans recommend that this project specifically identifies and assesses potential impacts caused by the project or impacts from mitigation efforts that occur within Caltrans R/W that includes impacts to the natural environment, transportation infrastructure, and appurtenant features including lighting, structures, signs, guardrail, drainage, slopes, etc.). Caltrans is interested in any additional mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR.

Caltrans recommends all fire prevention activities be maintained, including defensible space from structures, fuels reduction, and utility clearance mandates.

Traffic Engineering Analysis

1. This development will only be accessing their proposed project off the existing Carrizo Gorge Road. There are no indications that this project will need access off Interstate 8 for the property closes to the existing Interstate 8 Right of Way. Please note that the State has full Access Control throughout the Interstate 8 corridor and that there is no right of way fence opening or San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) access off Interstate 8.
2. Encroachment Permit applications and plans will need to be submitted for any proposed work on or affecting the Interstate 8 freeway, freeway ramps, or other Caltrans transportation facilities.

Glare Issue

The proximity of the project site to I-8 raises some concerns regarding potential glare that could pose a potential risk to motorists traveling on I-8. General information was provided to Caltrans describing the reflective characteristics of these types of facilities. The project's potential glare

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characteristics should be considered as part of the County's Permit approval. Caltrans would want to ensure that all lighting, including reflected sunlight and reflected night lighting, within this project should be placed and/or shielded so as not to be hazardous to vehicles traveling on I-8.

Traffic Control Plan/Hauling

Caltrans has discretionary authority with respect to transportation facilities under its jurisdiction and may, upon application and if good cause appears, issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum limitations specified in the California Vehicle Code.

The Caltrans Transportation Permits Branch is responsible for the issuance of these special transportation permits for oversize/overweight vehicles on the State Highway System. Additional information is provided online at:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/permits/index.html>

A Traffic Control Plan is to be submitted to Caltrans District 11, including the interchange at I-8/ Carrizo Gorge Road, at least 30 days prior to the start of any construction. Traffic shall not be unreasonably delayed. The plan shall also outline suggested detours to use during closures, including routes and signage.

Potential impacts to the highway facilities (I-8 and SR-94) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark McCumsey at (619) 985-4957 or by email at mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

electronically signed by

MAURICE EATON, Branch Chief
Local Development and Intergovernmental Review Branch