

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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*Making Conservation  
 a California Way of Life.*

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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MAY 16 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Kris Stepanian  
 Nevada Irrigation District  
 1036 West Main Street  
 Grass Valley, CA 95945

Greenhorn Sediment Removal

Dear Kris Stepanian:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the Certification of the Draft Environmental Impact Report review process. 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 through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

The Project includes the annual removal of sediment from the Greenhorn Arm of Rollins Reservoir. Due to the annual migration of aggregate from Greenhorn Creek into the Project Site, the Project will be ongoing, with the ultimate goal of maintaining water storage capacity in Rollins Reservoir. Ultimately, the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) would like to restore historic water storage capacity in Rollins Reservoir, returning the Project Site to pre-1965 conditions (following construction of Rollins Reservoir). However, with the extent of sediment build-up and the annual migration of aggregate to the Greenhorn Arm of Rollins Reservoir, it is unlikely that NID will be able to fully restore historic water storage capacity. Three primary Project components will be implemented annually: (1) notification/mobilization; (2) sediment removal; and (3) demobilization. The Project site encompasses all areas necessary for implementation of the Project. This includes the access road, staging areas, haul roads, stockpile area, and sediment removal area (i.e., Work Area). In addition, the Project includes implementation of a water quality and methylmercury monitoring program. The project site is in unincorporated Nevada County, California, approximately 6 miles north of the city of

Kris Stepanian, Nevada Irrigation District  
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Colfax on the Greenhorn Arm of Rollins Reservoir. The following comments are based on the documents received.

***Traffic Operations***

This project will not have a significant impact on the State highway network. Truck volumes entering the highway will be moderate most of the time and will be spread out over the course of the work day. The higher volumes that occur every six years on average, are not expected to meet the level of significance.

We do not request any changes to the draft EIR; however, we would like to provide the following minor comments for information only:

- There are several mentions of the Caltrans Safety Project on Route 174. The current schedule is to construct this project in 2020 and 2021. However, it is a complex project, so further delay is possible.
- Page ES-18 and page 3.12-21, the term "sighting distance" is used. The correct term regarding roadways is "sight distance."
- Page 3.12-16 mentions four surrounding cities/population centers: Grass Valley, Nevada City, Penn Valley and Relief. There is an area called "Relief" in Nevada County, but it's the first time we have heard of it; it is definitely not a population center. The only other major population center in Nevada County is Truckee, which would likely be accessed via Interstate 80.

Please provide our office with copies of any further actions regarding this project or future development of the property. We would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on any changes/updates related to this project.

If you have any question regarding these comments or require additional information, please contact Kena Sannar, Intergovernmental Review Coordinator for Nevada County, by phone (530) 634-7613 or via email to [kena.sannar@dot.ca.gov](mailto:kena.sannar@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



KEVIN YOUNT, Branch Chief  
Office of Transportation Planning  
Regional Planning Branch—East