

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4

OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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December 30, 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

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Aaron Hope, Project Manager
East Bay Municipal Utility District
375 Eleventh Street, MS 701
Oakland, CA 94623-1055

**Central Reservoir Replacement Project – Draft Environmental Impact Report
(DEIR)**

Dear Aaron Hope:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Central Reservoir Replacement Project. We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system. The following comments are based on our review of the November 2019 DEIR.

Project Understanding

The East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) is proposing the Central Reservoir Replacement Project, which includes replacement of the existing 154-million gallon (MG), open-cut Central Reservoir with three new 17-MG concrete tanks within the existing reservoir basin. The project includes removal of vegetation and demolition of the existing reservoir, roof, lining, and material storage building, followed by removal of a portion of the reservoir's main embankment, construction of a reinforced tank foundation system, three 17-MG concrete tanks approximately 20 feet higher than the existing reservoir, a new rate control station, a valve structure, service road and site paving, a bioretention area, and security fencing all within the existing reservoir property. The project site design, with community input, incorporates existing landscaping, a mix of earthen berms, trees and shrubs to screen the tanks and emphasize the natural setting at the perimeter of the site while balancing earthwork. The Project also includes an

access driveway to connect the Redwood Day School parking area to Ardley Avenue. The project is directly adjacent to Interstate (I-) 580 and regional access for trucks is provided from I-880.

Hydraulics

Please provide a cross sectional view taken across eastbound I-580 and extending across the proposed Redwood School Access Driveway. The proposed access driveway shall not drain onto the existing freeway cut slope and shall be sloped away from the highway.

Highway Operations

Please state the construction traffic impacts on the I-880 off-ramps at High Street, 23rd Avenue, 29th Avenue, and Kennedy Street during the AM and PM peak hours. Additionally, state what impact will the expected average of 28 truck trips per hour have on the I-880 off-ramp intersections.

Landscape Architecture

Caltrans recommends that the protection of the existing trees during construction be monitored by a certified arborist. Also, planting and grading around the facility should include slope stabilizing ground covers, tree groves where the slope and access roads allow, and rounded, planted hills as seen from the streets.

Lead Agency

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

Aaron Hope, Project Manager
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Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Andrew Chan at 510-622-5433 or andrew.chan@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Mark Leong
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse