

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 12  
 1750 EAST FOURTH STREET, SUITE 100  
 SANTA ANA, CA 92705  
 PHONE (657) 328-6267  
 FAX (657) 328-6510  
 TTY 711  
[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



Making Conservation  
 a California Way of Life.

clear  
 4/4/19  
 E

April 4, 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 04 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Mr. Tom Perez  
 City of Laguna Beach  
 505 Forest Avenue  
 Laguna Beach, CA 92651

File: IGR/CEQA  
 SCH#: 2019039031  
 12-ORA-2019-01092  
 SR 1, PM 9.354  
 SR 133, PM 0.148

Dear Mr. Perez:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Laguna Canyon Channel Improvements Project in the City of Laguna Beach. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated, and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability.

The project consists of removing and replacing the transition structure immediately upstream of Beach Street and approximately 50 linear feet of double RCB structure at the Main Beach outlet. In addition, the project includes performing structural improvements within the existing culvert box between Beach Street and the Caltrans squash box structure located under South Coast Highway. The project is located generally between Beach Street and the existing ocean outfall at Main Beach, along the eastern portion of State Route 133 (SR 133) and on SR 1, Pacific Coast Highway (PCH). Caltrans is a responsible agency on this project and upon review, we have the following comments:

**Traffic Operations**

1. Please coordinate with appropriate Caltrans personnel overseeing the Box Culvert (Bridge) Replacement Project which aims to remove and replace double 11' W x 4.5' H RCB in SR 1 at 150' South of Broadway in the City of Laguna Beach.
2. Please submit the Transportation Management Plan (TMP) and Traffic Control Plans for Caltrans review and concurrence during construction for further review during PS&E stage (Plans, Specifications and Estimate).

During construction, pedestrian access must be provided around construction zones. Please provide any information on traffic handling that may impact Coast Highway (SR 1) or Laguna Canyon Road (SR 133).

### Design and Project Management

3. The project intends to have a six-month construction window that begins during the end of the rainy season. Caltrans Box Culvert (Bridge) Replacement Project will reconstruct the portion of the reinforced concrete boxes (RCB) within the State Right of Way and faces similar risk of construction during a storm event and has operated under the assumption that a moratorium prevented any construction between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Caltrans would like to coordinate the construction of its portion of the Laguna Canyon Channel concurrently with the City's project if possible to minimize the risk of a storm event during construction. Weather patterns have become less predictable and a storm event during construction could be catastrophic.

As such, please share projected construction staging plans and schedule with Caltrans as soon as they are available.

4. In addition to coordination with the Box Culvert (Bridge) Replacement Project, please coordinate with the ADA North Project located on SR 1. The project includes upgrades to sidewalk and pedestrian facilities to comply with ADA standards on SR 1 from south of Ruby Street to Ledroit Street.

### Environmental and Stormwater Compliance

5. In Section 3.8, Hydrology and Water Quality of the IS/MND, letter I. of Table VIII (page 57) indicates that there will be a "less than significant impact" on "drainage patterns due to changes in runoff flow rates or volumes." However, the discussion does not include the impact of the more efficient delivery of water via the improved drainage system.

The improved drainage conveyance system under all of the alternatives will improve flooding conditions upstream and as a result will convey water more efficiently towards South Coast Highway and the culvert opening at the ocean.

6. In Sections 3.8 C, D, E, and F of the IS/MND, please include discussion of the measures to attenuate flows through Design Pollution Prevention BMPs that protect against scour and attenuate flow velocities.
7. Section 3.8 E of the IS/MND says, "The new storm drain system has been designed and engineered to capture a greater percentage of stormwater that is conveyed through the Laguna Canyon Channel, while at the same time having a beneficial effect on stormwater drainage in the project area."

While it is understood that the project does not increase flows, this section implies more water will land at the ocean requiring energy dissipators. Please include a discussion to address this effect.

Mr. Perez  
4/4/2019  
Page 3

8. On Page 12 of the IS/MND document, a temporary construction easement by Caltrans is listed as a discretionary approval needed. Please include a Caltrans Encroachment Permit in the list of discretionary approvals.

### **Encroachment Permit Process**

#### **Hydrology**

9. Final storm drain plans, hydrology calculations and maps (existing and proposed conditions) need to be reviewed and approved during the Encroachment Permit process. Hydraulics calculations and maps (existing and proposed conditions) need to be reviewed and approved during the Encroachment Permit process to clarify that there will be no increase in water surface elevation in existing systems.

#### **Encroachment Permit**

10. Please be advised that any project work proposed in the vicinity of the State Highway System (SHS) will require an Encroachment Permit and all environmental concerns must be adequately addressed. If the environmental documentation for the project does not meet Caltrans' requirements, additional documentation would be required before the approval of the Encroachment Permit. For specific details for Encroachment Permits procedure, please refer to the Caltrans' Encroachment Permits Manual. The latest edition of the Manual is available on the web site:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

Please coordinate with appropriate Caltrans personnel regarding the Box Culvert (Bridge) Replacement and the ADA North projects as the project progresses towards construction.

Please continue to keep us informed of this project and any future developments which could potentially impact the SHS. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Joseph Jamorain, at (657) 328-6276 or [Joseph.Jamorain@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Joseph.Jamorain@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Scott Shelley  
Branch Chief, Regional-IGR-Transit Planning  
District 12