

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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MAR 19 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

March 19, 2020

Ms. Ronelle Candia
 Kern Planning/Natural Resources Dept.
 2700 M Street, Suite 100
 Bakersfield, CA 93301

File: Ker-14- 14.39
 DEIR
 SCH #: 2019060259

Sanborn Solar Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

Dear Ms. Candia:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 9 appreciates the opportunity to review the DEIR for the Sanborn Solar project, which uses State Route (SR) 14 for one of the project accesses. We offer the following document corrections and comments:

- P 4.15-3, **Northern Site** - revise 1st sentence: "... would use Business East Route 58..." and 2nd sentence "...Lone Butte Road, from Business East Route 58 south to..." Correct elsewhere in the document and Traffic Impact Analysis. This is the "East" route for the highway portion relinquished to Kern County in 2006. It is no longer part of the State Highway System and should not be referred to as "SR 58."
- P 4.15-4, **Traffic Analysis** - revise as above, "1. Lone Butte Road/Business East Route 58."
- P 4.15-6, **California Department of Transportation** - revise 2nd sentence "... ~~has been is~~ under the jurisdiction of Caltrans District 9 ~~as of November 2015; prior to that time, all of Kern County was under the jurisdiction of Caltrans District 6.~~" (Prior to 1994, eastern Kern had also been under the jurisdiction of District 9.)
- P 4.15-15, **Construction Trips** - the "February 2020" construction start date should be updated.
- Section 4.15 **Traffic and Transportation** - in general, we concur with mitigation measure MM 4.15-1, for this topic. However, for the cumulative impact in A. ix., which reroutes peak hour construction trips, please include Caltrans (in addition to the County) as being able to request proof of compliance.

Eventually, the County could consider formation of an assessment district or traffic impact fee area to address cumulative impacts to the Purdy Road/SR 14 intersection from future development.

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- To fully assess any cultural impacts for Caltrans encroachment permit issuance, we will need more information about the cultural resource sites (locations, etc.). Please have the cultural resource consultant contact Emilie Zelazo at (760) 872-6041 or emilie.zelazo@dot.ca.gov for further discussion and perhaps sharing of reports.
- Please inform me if any sensitive status species are observed within the Caltrans R/W. If any boring is to occur within the R/W, temporary exclusionary tortoise fence will be included as an encroachment permit condition.
- For Caltrans encroachment permit information (for gen-tie crossing, traffic control, etc.), Stephen Winzenread - District 9 Encroachment Permit Engineer, may be contacted at (760) 872-5222 or stephen.winzenread@dot.ca.gov.
See: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep>
- Caltrans will file a Notice of Determination (NOD) with the State Clearinghouse when the Encroachment Permit is finalized. The NOD will reference Kern County's EIR and supporting documents.

We value our cooperative working relationship with Kern County regarding development impacts on the state transportation system. For any questions, feel free to contact me at (760) 872-0785 or at gayle.rosander@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



GAYLE J. ROSANDER
External Project Liaison

c: State Clearinghouse
Mark Reistetter, Caltrans D9