

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**DISTRICT 6**

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

SEP 24 2019

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

6-KER-33-69.499
SCH #2019089091
Berrenda Mesa Solar Project

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mr. Phillip Nixon
Berrenda Mesa Water District
14823 Highway 33
Lost Hills, CA 93249

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Thank you for the opportunity to review Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Berrenda Mesa Water District Solar Project. The project proposes to construct and install a fenced and gated 8-megawatt solar photovoltaic energy generation facility, interconnection to Pump Station A, and installation of electrical connection equipment at Pump Station A. The project is located between State Route (SR) 33 and SR 46, south of Kecks Road in Kern County.

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.

Caltrans provides the *following comments* consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

1. As stated on page 81 of the initial study report, the construction phase will result in approximately 28 worker trips per day. Once completed and the facility is in operation, there will be substantially less trips. Routine maintenance would require approximately 12 annual trips.
2. The vehicle trips generated by this facility are not anticipated to have a significant traffic impact. However, it is recommended that the applicant improve the driveway access per the Caltrans Encroachment Manual — Appendix J, Road Connections and Driveways. This would ensure compliance with Caltrans Design Manual Section 205.4, which requires: "Driveways connecting to State highways shall be paved a minimum of 20 feet from the edge of shoulder or to the edge of State right of way, whichever is less to minimize or eliminate gravel from being scattered on the highway and to provide a paved surface for vehicles and bicycles to accelerate and merge."

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system
to enhance California's economy and livability"*

3. An encroachment permit must be obtained for all proposed activities for placement of encroachments within, under or over the State highway rights-of-way. Activity and work planned in the State right-of-way shall be performed to State standards and specifications, at no cost to the State. Engineering plans, calculations, specifications, and reports (documents) shall be stamped and signed by a licensed Engineer or Architect. Engineering documents for encroachment permit activity and work in the State right-of-way may be submitted using English Units. The Permit Department and the Environmental Planning Branch will review and approve the activity and work in the State right-of-way before an encroachment permit is issued. The Streets and Highways Code Section 670 provides Caltrans discretionary approval authority for projects that encroach on the State Highway System. Encroachment permits will be issued in accordance with Streets and Highway Codes, Section 671.5, "Time Limitations." Encroachment permits do not run with the land. A change of ownership requires a new permit application. Only the legal property owner or his/her authorized agent can pursue obtaining an encroachment permit. Please call the Caltrans Encroachment Permit Office - District 6: 1352 W. Olive, Fresno, CA 93778, at (559) 488-4058. Please review the permit application checklist at:
<https://forms.dot.ca.gov/v2Forms/servlet/FormRenderer?frmId=TR0402&distpath=MAOT O&brapath=PERM>
4. Upon project approval by the local public agency and prior to an encroachment permit application submittal, the project proponent is required to schedule a "Pre-Submittal" meeting with District 6 Encroachment Permit Office. Please contact District 6 Encroachment Permit Office at (559) 488-4058 to schedule this meeting.

If you have any further questions, please contact Lupita Mendoza, Transportation Planner, at (559) 488-4260.

Sincerely,



LORENA MENDIBLES, CHIEF
Transportation Planning-South