

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION****DISTRICT 6**

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**DEC 19 2019**

December 19, 2019

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

06-TUL-65-23.43

06-TUL-190-11.96

06-KER-155-4.05

EA-IS-NOP

FRIANT-KERN CANAL MIDDLE REACH

CAPACITY CORRECTION PROJECT

SCH # 2019120007

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

Mr. Douglas Deflitch  
 Friant Water Authority  
 854 N. Harvard Avenue  
 Lindsay, CA 93277

Dear Mr. Deflitch:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation (NOP) and the Environmental Assessment (EA) / Initial Study (IS) for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to restore the capacity of a 33-mile segment of the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) starting east of Strathmore and ending east of Delano. The Project would impact State Route (SR) 65 - south of Strathmore, SR 190 - west of Porterville, and SR 155 - east of Delano.

The Project would restore the capacity of the FKC by both enlarging (raising) and realigning segments of the canal to restore its conveyance capacity to 4,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) in the upstream segment of the Middle Reach and 3,500 cfs in the downstream segment.

The Project would also include construction of a new 23-mile canal realigned to the east of the existing canal. Construction of the Project would take up to 3 years and would be continuous. A concrete batch plant that would primarily be used for construction of the canal lining would be built onsite.

The construction of major facilities is expected to be as follows:

- Existing utility relocation and well abandonment: 4 months,
- Deer Creek and White River check structures: 7 months each (14 months total),
- Siphons: four siphons constructed simultaneously over an approximately 3-month period (19 months total for all 25 siphons),
- Realigned canal: 16 months,
- Canal enlargement: 16 months.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. 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:

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

1. Caltrans must be identified and actively coordinated with as a CEQA responsible agency. Caltrans will rely on the CEQA document in our decision-making process. In order to avoid delays, it is imperative that the CEQA document be prepared to Caltrans standards and address all potential work occurring within the State Highway System.
2. Caltrans will require a Traffic Control Plan for SR 190 during the demolition and construction of the new canal realignment and the new canal bridge crossing SR 190. Specifics of the traffic control plan will be identified during the encroachment permit process.
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=MAOTO&brapath=PERM>
4. Due to the complexity of the project, 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.** Please review the permit application checklist at:  
<https://forms.dot.ca.gov/v2Forms/servlet/FormRenderer?frmId=TR0402&distpath=MAOTO&brapath=PERM>

If you have any other questions, please call me at (559) 488-7396.

Sincerely,



DAVID DEEL  
Associate Transportation Planner  
Transportation Planning – North