

## California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 9  
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July 29, 2021

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

File: Ker-58-var  
DEIR  
SCH#: 2021010168

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

### Bellefield Solar - Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)

**July 30 2021**

Dear Ms. Candia:

### STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Thank you for giving the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 9 the opportunity to comment during the NOP phase for the Bellefield Solar project. The project would access State Route (SR) 58 in eastern Kern County and California City, and include gentle crossings of SR 14 and 58. I appreciate our phone and email interaction. We offer the following:

- In our Notice of Preparation letter (January 28, 2021) we requested a map/aerial figure that identified the state highway accesses, and that they be analyzed in the DEIR's construction traffic analysis for geometrics, queuing, etc. Figure 1 - Bellefield Site Access, is included as the last page of Appendix L - Transportation Analysis. The DEIR section 1.5.4 - **Project Characteristics/Site Access** (page 1-17) does not coincide with Figure 1. It lists a 50<sup>th</sup> (which perhaps meant to be 30<sup>th</sup>), 140<sup>th</sup> (AKA Rosamond, which seems to be outside the project area) and Sunset Avenue (which we find to be a road east of Mojave and SR 14). The Hyundai-Kia Blvd listed would be the 55<sup>th</sup> on Figure 1. Please reconcile Figure 1 and the DEIR narrative for the proposed state highway access points.
- The Traffic Analysis addressed Level of Service of highway segments – not operational adequacy of the access intersections as requested. Some SR 58 access are grade separated interchanges (Altus and 140<sup>th</sup>/Rosamond Blvd). Three others are at-grade, and two of them (55<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup>) have some auxiliary lanes. Of the most concern is the proposal for the 30<sup>th</sup> street access, which has no paved center median. See Attachment – [Aerial Bellefield SR 58 Accesses](#), with views of these three locations. Please update the Transportation Analysis to assess the Altus, 30<sup>th</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup>, 70<sup>th</sup> and any other State highway access locations for operational integrity including geometrics, median storage, and queuing. Merited intersection improvements shall be built to Caltrans standards.

Should improvements be merited at these access points, it is imperative that their footprints are included in the DEIR studies for biological, cultural resources, etc.

Where feasible, the project proponent should strive for construction access at existing grade separated SR 58 locations and utilize frontage road areas.

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- Figure 1 – Bellefield Solar Project Locations (DEIR page 5), notes several gen-tie crossings of SR 58 and SR14. As a reminder, installation will be done per Caltrans standards with an encroachment permit. Details regarding state highway gen-tie crossings may be found in Section 600 Utility Permits of the **Encroachment Permit Manual** at: <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/traffic-operations/documents/encroachment-permits/chapter-6-ada.pdf>.
- The Project's Construction Traffic Control Plan will need to cover work during any intersection improvements, gen-tie crossings, Oak Creek Road detours, etc. as well as for the solar power facility itself. As already stated in the DEIR, Caltrans District 9 will be a reviewer.
- For permitting, design standards and traffic control information, you may contact Stephen Winzenread, District 9 Permits Engineer, at (760) 874-8348. The permit application may be found at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

We value our cooperative working relationship with Kern County regarding development impacts to the state transportation system. For any questions, feel free to contact me at (760) 874-8330 or at [gayle.rosander@dot.ca.gov](mailto:gayle.rosander@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



GAYLE J. ROSANDER  
External Project Liaison

Enclosure

c: State Clearinghouse  
Mark Reistetter, Caltrans D-9

**30<sup>th</sup> Street @ SR 58 Postmile 118.4** dirt at median crossover and south approach, some pavement north approach  
Not in Postmile Log. Existing use access on the section line.





30 Street (cont'd)





**55th Street @ SR 58 Postmile 120.99** (Hyundai-Kia) left turn lanes, east bound right

R 120.992

DH Road Approach - Rt./Median X-over



**70<sup>th</sup>/Zoro Street @ SR 58 Postmile 122.45** left turn lanes, east bound right



R 122.447

DH Road Approach - Lt. & Rt./Median X-over

