

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 11 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



Making Conservation
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April 11, 2019

11-IMP-98
PM 22.85

Le Conte Battery Energy Storage Project
NOP/SEIR

Mr. David Black
Project Planner
Imperial County Planning and Development Services
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Dear Mr. Black:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review process for the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the proposed Le Conte Battery Energy Storage Project located on State Route 98 (SR-98) near Brockman Road, west of the city of Calexico. 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 to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Caltrans has the following comments:

It is understood that the project will only access SR-98 from one access point using the existing Centinela Solar Energy Plant driveway that was permitted through a Caltrans Encroachment Permit in 2015.

Traffic Control Plan/Hauling

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has discretionary authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and may, upon application and if good cause appears, issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum limitations specified in the California Vehicle Code. The Caltrans Transportation Permits Issuance Branch is responsible for the issuance of these special transportation permits for oversize/overweight vehicles on the State Highway System. Additional information is provided online at:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/permits/index.html>

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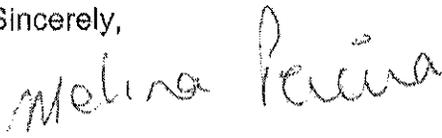
A Traffic Control Plan is to be submitted to Caltrans District 11 at least 30 days prior to the start of any construction. Traffic shall not be unreasonably delayed. The plan shall also outline suggested detours to use during closures, including routes and signage.

Potential impacts to the highway facilities (I-8 and SR-98) and traveling public from the detour, demolition and other construction activities should be discussed and addressed before work begins.

The Highway Closure Plan, as part of the encroachment permit, should be submitted to Caltrans at least 30 days prior to initiating installation of the crossings. No work shall begin in Caltrans Right of Way (R/W) until an encroachment permit is approved. As part of the encroachment permit process, the applicant must provide the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) exemption notice and any corresponding technical studies.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark McCumsey at (619) 688-6802 or by email at mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melina Pereira".

MELINA PEREIRA, Acting Branch Chief
Local Development and Intergovernmental Review Branch