

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 09 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE



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April 9, 2019

Mr. Topah Spoonhunter, Director
Bishop Paiute Development Corporation
270 See Vee Lane, Box 1
Bishop, CA 93514

File: Iny-395-118
TEA Add/Rev TEA
SCH #: 2016094002

Bishop Paiute – Casino Tribal Environmental Assessment (EA) Addendum/Hotel Revised Tribal EA

Dear Mr. Spoonhunter:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 9 appreciates the opportunity to review the proposed EA updates for the Casino and Hotel Projects at the southeast corner of US 395/Pa Ha Lane.

Over the past several years, Caltrans, the Bishop Paiute Development Corporation (BPDC) and its consultants, (and occasionally Inyo County) have interacted regarding transportation issues in this area. These EA updates include some traffic/transportation "mitigation measures" but only for a subset of the traffic circulation site – the "Casino" and "Hotel" projects (which also include restaurant, bar, conference center, offices, etc.). The adjacent gas station/convenience store shares circulation features (including US 395 and Pa Ha Lane access) and is a major contributor to traffic safety and operation; hence, is also a component of site circulation.

Our October 14, 2016 letter (enclosed) responded to previous project documents and the Traffic Study, which is quoted in these EA updates. Traffic analysis used the Level of Service metric, which is not the best to assess/solve on-going (and future) operational issues, which the Tribe, tribal project patrons, Caltrans, and the travelling public experience and witness. Previous improvements discussed included a raised center median on Pa Ha Lane and US 395. Even if the BPDC does not consider improvements such as a raised median with these project updates, such feature would improve overall safety and circulation efficiency. Caltrans would welcome future discussion.

We value our cooperative working relationship with the BPDC and the Tribe regarding transportation issues. Feel free to contact me at (760) 872-0785 or gayle.rosander@dot.ca.gov for any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gayle J. Rosander".

GAYLE J. ROSANDER
External Project Liaison

Enclosure

c: Mark Reistetter, Caltrans District 9
State Clearinghouse