

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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February 28, 2013

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Zone 7 Water Agency

ALA084451
 ALA-84-VAR
 SCH#2013012075

Mr. Eike Rank
 Zone 7 Water Agency
 100 North Canyons Parkway
 Livermore, CA 94551

Dear Mr. Rank:

Arroyo Mocho Stanley Reach Riparian Restoration and Channel Enhancement Pilot Project – Mitigated Negative Declaration

comment :

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Arroyo Mocho Stanley Reach Riparian Restoration and Channel Enhancement Pilot Project. The following comments are based on the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). As lead agency, the Zone 7 Water Agency is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to State facilities. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, and implementation responsibilities as well as lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures and the project's mitigation fees should be specifically identified in the environmental document. Any required improvements should be completed prior to issuance of project permits. An encroachment permit is required when the project involves work in the State's right of way (ROW). Caltrans will not issue an encroachment permit until our concerns are adequately addressed. Therefore, we strongly recommend that the lead agency ensure resolution of Caltrans' CEQA concerns prior to submittal of the encroachment permit application; see the end of this letter for more information regarding the encroachment permit process.

1

Hydrology Impacts

The project proposes to remove an existing concrete grade control structure located a short distance downstream of the State Route (SR-) 84 bridge across Arroyo Mocho. The MND states that upon removal of this grade control structure, the channel is expected to adjust to a new channel slope in equilibrium. We are concerned that the change in channel profile could jeopardize the integrity of the existing bridge foundation. Please discuss any studies/assessments that addresses impacts to existing bridge and its foundation caused by the change in channel profile.

2

The vegetation enhancements will introduce woody debris to the system that will accumulate around the existing SR-84 bridge piers in Arroyo Mocho. Removal of this material is the responsibility of Zone 7 Water Agency. Please coordinate with us to develop a maintenance agreement to address this concern.

3

Further, the vegetation enhancement appears to terminate on the upstream side of SR-84 across Arroyo Mocho. Please discuss any enhancement work downstream of the state bridge.

4

Encroachment Permit

As stated above, any work or traffic control within the State Right-of-Way (ROW) requires an encroachment permit that is issued by Caltrans. Traffic-related mitigation measures will be incorporated into the construction plans during the encroachment permit process. See the following website link for more information:

5

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>

To apply for an encroachment permit, submit a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and five (5) sets of plans which clearly indicate State ROW to the address at the top of this letterhead, marked ATTN: David Salladay, Mail Stop #5E.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please call Yatman Kwan, AICP of my staff at (510) 622-1670.

Sincerely,



ERIK ALM, AICP
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse