

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 17, 2017

Reference No.: 4.21 - *Replacement Item*  
Information

From: SUSAN BRANSEN  
Executive Director

Prepared By: Jose Oseguera  
Assistant Deputy Director

Subject: **QUARTERLY REPORT – COMMISSION COMMENT LETTERS ON NOTICES OF PREPARATION AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORTS**

## **SUMMARY:**

At the June 2009 California Transportation Commission (Commission) Meeting, the Commission delegated to the Executive Director the authority to provide comments to routine Notices of Preparation and Draft Environmental Impact Reports. The Commission's delegation to the Executive Director requires that comments to routine Notices of Preparation and Draft Environmental Impact Reports be reported to the Commission on a Quarterly basis.

For the period of January 1, 2017 to March 31, 2017, the Commission received five Notices of Preparation. The Executive Director's comment letters are attached.

## **BACKGROUND (OR FINANCIAL RESOLUTION FOR ALLOCATIONS):**

At the June 2009 Commission Meeting, the Commission delegated to the Executive Director the authority to provide comments to routine Notices of Preparation and Draft Environmental Impact Reports. The commission's delegation to the Executive Director requires that comments to routine Notices of Preparation and Draft Environmental Impact Reports be reported to the Commission Quarterly.

Attachments:

- Executive Director's comment letters to Notice of Preparation

BOB ALVARADO, Chair  
FRAN INMAN, Vice Chair  
YVONNE B. BURKE  
LUCETTA DUNN  
JAMES EARP  
JAMES C. GHIEMMETTI  
CARL GUARDINO  
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SENATOR JIM BEALL, Ex Officio  
ASSEMBLY MEMBER JIM FRAZIER, Ex Officio

SUSAN BRANSEN, Executive Director

## CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1120 N STREET, MS-52  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
P. O. BOX 942873  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001  
(916) 654-4245  
FAX (916) 653-2134  
<http://www.catc.ca.gov>

March 6, 2017

Ms. Elizabeth White  
Office of Environmental Analysis  
California Department of Transportation, District 4  
111 Grand Avenue, MS 8B  
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement Project

Dear Ms. White,

The California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, received the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement Project. The project will replace the Alameda Creek Bridge and realign the bridge approaches on State Route 84 (SR-84) from postmile 13.0 to 13.6, in southern Alameda County.

The Commission has no comments with respect to the project purpose and need, the alternatives studied, the impacts evaluated, and the evaluation methods used. The Commission should be notified as soon as the environmental process is finalized since project funds cannot be allocated for project design, right of way or construction until the final environmental document is complete. The Commission will consider the environmental impacts and will make a determination on whether to approve the project for future consideration of funding.


Upon completion of the California Environmental Quality Act process, prior to the Commission's action to approve the project for future consideration of funding, the Commission expects the lead and/or implementing agency to provide written assurance whether the selected alternative identified in the final environmental document is or is not consistent with the project programmed by the Commission and included in the appropriate Regional Transportation Plan. In the absence of such assurance of consistency, it may be assumed that the project is not consistent and Commission staff

Ms. White  
Draft EIR for the Alameda Creek Bridge Replacement Project  
March 6, 2017  
Page 2

will base its recommendations to the Commission on that fact. The Commission may deny funding to a project which is no longer eligible for funding due to scope modifications or other reasons.

If you have any questions, please contact Jose Oseguera, Assistant Deputy Director, at (916) 653-2094.

Sincerely,

  
SUSAN BRANSEN  
Executive Director

c: Phil Stolarski, Acting Chief (Division of Environmental Analysis), California Department of Transportation

BOB ALVARADO, Chair  
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March 6, 2017

Ms. Smita Deshpande  
Generalist Branch Chief  
Department of Transportation, District 12  
1750 East Fourth Street, Suite 100  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

RE: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the State Route (SR) 241/State Route (SR) 91 Tolloed Express Lanes Connector Project

Dear Ms. Deshpande,

The California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, received the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the SR-241/SR-91 Tolloed Express Lanes Connector Project. The project will construct a direct connector between SR-241 and the 91 Express Lanes with a total length of approximately 8.7 miles.

The Commission has no comments with respect to the project purpose and need, the alternatives studied, the impacts evaluated, and the evaluation methods used. The Commission should be notified as soon as the environmental process is finalized since project funds cannot be allocated for project design, right of way or construction until the final environmental document is complete. The Commission will consider the environmental impacts and will make a determination on whether to approve the project for future consideration of funding.


Upon completion of the California Environmental Quality Act process, prior to the Commission's action to approve the project for future consideration of funding, the Commission expects the lead and/or implementing agency to provide written assurance whether the selected alternative identified in the final environmental document is or is not consistent with the project programmed by the Commission and included in the appropriate Regional Transportation Plan. In the absence of such

Ms. Deshpande  
Draft SEIR for the SR-241/SR-91 Tolled Express Lanes  
March 6, 2017  
Page 2

assurance of consistency, it may be assumed that the project is not consistent and Commission staff will base its recommendations to the Commission on that fact. The Commission may deny funding to a project which is no longer eligible for funding due to scope modifications or other reasons.

If you have any questions, please contact Jose Oseguera, Assistant Deputy Director,  
at (916) 653-2094.

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Transportation

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February 7, 2017

Ms. Heather A. Tomley  
Director of Environmental Planning  
Port of Long Beach  
4801 Airport Plaza Drive  
Long Beach, CA 90815

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility Project

Dear Ms. Tomley,

The California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, received the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility Project. The project will construct additional railcar storage and staging capacity, including additional rail tracks for locomotive fueling and railcar repair to accommodate more efficient assembly of cargo trains up to 10,000 feet in length.

The Commission has no comments with respect to the project purpose and need, the alternatives studied, the impacts evaluated, and the evaluation methods used. The Commission should be notified as soon as the environmental process is finalized since project funds cannot be allocated for project design, right of way or construction until the final environmental document is complete. The Commission will consider the environmental impacts and whether to approve the project for future consideration of funding.

Upon completion of the California Environmental Quality Act process, prior to the Commission's action to approve the project for future consideration of funding, the Commission expects the lead and/or implementing agency to provide written assurance whether the selected alternative identified in the final environmental document is or is not consistent with the project programmed by the Commission and included in the appropriate Regional Transportation Plan. In the absence of such

Ms. Tomley  
Draft EIR for the Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility Project  
February 7, 2017  
Page 2

assurance of consistency, it may be assumed that the project is not consistent and Commission staff will base its recommendations to the Commission on that fact. The Commission may deny funding to a project which is no longer eligible for funding due to scope modifications or other reasons.

If you have any questions, please contact Jose Oseguera, Assistant Deputy Director, at (916) 653-2094.

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Executive Director

c: Phil Stolarski, Acting Chief (Division of Environmental Analysis), California Department of Transportation

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January 17, 2017

Mr. Tom Fitzwater  
SVRT Environmental Planning Manager  
VTA Environmental Programs & Resources, Building B-2  
3331 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95134

RE: Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (Draft SEIS/SEIR) for the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Silicon Valley – Phase II Extension Project

Dear Mr. Fitzwater,

The California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, received the Draft SEIS/SEIR for Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) BART Silicon Valley – Phase II Extension Project. The project consists of a 16-mile extension of the BART system from BART's Warm Springs Station in Alameda County into Santa Clara County. VTA's BART Silicon Valley Program is planned to be implemented in two phases. This Draft SEIS/SEIR addresses Phase II, which is the remaining six miles of the Silicon Valley Program from Berryessa to San Jose that was not approved in the 2010 EIS. Although the 16-mile, six station, BART Silicon Valley Program was approved in previous EIRs, this SEIR will be the first California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document to evaluate a six mile, four station extension.

The Commission has no comments with respect to the project purpose and need, the alternatives studied, the impacts evaluated, and the evaluation methods used. The Commission should be notified as soon as the environmental process is complete, as the Commission cannot allocate funds to a project for design, right of way or construction until the final environmental document is complete and the Commission has considered the environmental impacts of the project and approved the environmentally cleared project for future consideration of funding.



Mr. Fitzwater

Draft SEIS/SEIR for VTA's BART Silicon Valley – Phase II Extension Project

January 17, 2017

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Upon completion of the CEQA process, prior to the Commission's action to approve the project for future consideration of funding, the Commission expects the lead and/or implementing agency to provide written assurance whether the selected alternatives identified in the final environmental document is or is not consistent with the project programmed by the Commission and included in the Regional Transportation Plan. In the absence of such assurance of consistency, it may be assumed that the project is not consistent and Commission staff will base its recommendations to the Commission on that fact. The Commission may deny funding to a project which is no longer eligible for funding due to scope modifications or other reasons.

If you have any questions, please contact Jose Oseguera, Assistant Deputy Director, at (916) 653-2094.

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Executive Director

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<http://www.catc.ca.gov>

January 18, 2017

Mr. Richard Putler  
Senior Environmental Planner  
Central Region Environmental Division  
California Department of Transportation  
855 M Street, Suite 200  
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Porterville Intersection Improvements on State Route 190 Project

Dear Mr. Putler,

The California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, received the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Porterville Intersection Improvements on State Route 190 Project. The project will construct a turn lane, eliminate merge movements, and allow pedestrian movements in five locations along State Route 190.

The Commission has no comments with respect to the project purpose and need, the alternatives studied, the impacts evaluated, and the evaluation methods used. The Commission should be notified as soon as the environmental process is complete, as the Commission cannot allocate funds to a project for design, right of way or construction until the final environmental document is complete and the Commission has considered the environmental impacts of the project and approved the environmentally cleared project for future consideration of funding.

Upon completion of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, prior to the Commission's action to approve the project for future consideration of funding, the Commission expects the lead and/or implementing agency to provide written assurance whether the selected alternative identified in the final environmental document is or is not consistent with the project

Mr. Putler

Draft EIR for the Porterville Intersection Improvements on State Route 190

January 18, 2017

Page 2

programmed by the Commission and included in the appropriate Regional Transportation Plan. In the absence of such assurance of consistency, it may be assumed that the project is not consistent and Commission staff will base its recommendations to the Commission on that fact. The Commission may deny funding to a project which is no longer eligible for funding due to scope modifications or other reasons.

If you have any questions, please contact Jose Oseguera, Assistant Deputy Director, at (916) 653-2094.

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