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Subject: Imperial County Lithium Valley Specific Plan DEIR SCH# 2023120104
Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2026 5:07:36 PM

Hello Jim,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the Draft Environmental Impact Review (DEIR) for the Lithium Valley Specific Plan.

Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to be a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as we have some discretionary authority of a portion of the project that is in Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W) through the form of an encroachment permit process.

I am reaching out on behalf of Caltrans D11 to request for an extension for our comments on the Lithium Valley Plan DIER. The reason for this extension is due to missing information that was not included in the State Clearinghouse DIER nor on the County Lithium Valley Specific Plan website. More specifically, Local Mobility Analysis Appendix C was not included. This technical appendix was referenced in the DEIR documents provided on the State Clearinghouse documents. The information in the Local Mobility Analysis is needed for Caltrans reviewers to provide the best comments. On Friday February 13, 2026, Caltrans reached out to Dudek (the Environmental Consultant) and asked for this document directly. We were able to obtain this information on February 17, 2026, but will need additional time to review as the missing information document is over one thousand pages long. This is crucial information that multiple divisions in Caltrans need to review.

I wanted to note that after we requested this information from the consultant and received it, County's website has also been updated (2/18) adding this missing Appendix C which was not available before. We want to be able to have time to review the Local Mobility Analysis Appendix C as this transportation analysis information is included in the document that was missing from this report.

We are asking for an extension from the original March 2, 2026, deadline to April 2, 2026.

Thank you,

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