

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7

100 S. MAIN STREET, MS 16

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

PHONE (213) 269-1124

FAX (213) 897-1337

TTY 711

www.dot.ca.gov

*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

August 11, 2025

Julia Aranda, Engineering Manager
Casitas Municipal Water District
1055 Ventura Avenue
Oak View, CA 93022

RE: Casitas-Ojai Water System
Consolidation Project
SCH # 2025070808
Vic. VEN-150/PM 19.95 to 16.78
VEN-33/PM 12.78
GTS # VEN-2025-00648-MND

Dear Julia Aranda:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced environmental document. The Casitas Municipal Water District, CMWD, project to integrate the Ojai and Casitas water systems involves pipeline installation, tank demolition and construction, tank rehabilitation, water treatment system upgrades, and pump station replacement in Ojai and unincorporated Ventura County.

The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. Senate Bill 743 (2013) has codified into CEQA law and mandated that CEQA review of transportation impacts of proposed development be modified by using Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the primary metric in identifying transportation impacts for all future development projects. As a reminder, all environmental documents should include Vehicle Miles Traveled. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:

<https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/#guidelines-updates>

The project's construction would cause only short-term, temporary increases in vehicle miles traveled (VMT), with infrequent operations afterward. Since Casitas has no adopted VMT thresholds and operational VMT impacts would be negligible, the project would not result in a significant VMT impact or conflict with CEQA requirements.

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Please be reminded that any work performed within the State Right-of-way, if any, will require an Encroachment Permit from Caltrans. Any modifications to State facilities must meet all mandatory design standard and specifications.

Any transportation of heavy construction equipment and/or materials that require the use of oversized transport vehicles on State highways will need a Caltrans transportation permit. Any large-size truck trips be limited to off-peak commute periods for the construction phase and operation phase. Construction truck loads should be covered with a tarpaulin cover.

Storm water run-off is a sensitive issue for Los Angeles County. Please be mindful that projects should be designed to discharge clean run-off water. Additionally, discharge of storm water run-off is not permitted onto State highway facilities without any storm water management plan.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin, the project coordinator, at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # VEN-2025-00648-MND.

Sincerely,



MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

email: State Clearinghouse