California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 PLANNING
P.O. BOX 2048 | STOCKTON, CA 95201
(209) 948-7325 | FAX (209) 948-7164 TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov

September 9, 2025

Mr. Kevin Williams
Calaveras County Water District
120 Toma Ct
San Andreas, CA 95249

CAL-26-PM 34.779 West Point Drought Water Supply Initial Study – SCH 2025080901

Mr. Williams,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed West Point Drought Water Supply Project Initial Study which proposes modifications to the existing 35-foot high, 500-foot-long dam and reservoir to increase water storage capacity and enhance performance of the West Point potable water system. The proposed improvements include raising and enlarging the earthen dam towards the upstream side of the existing dam using materials excavated from within the reservoir basin to increase capacity from 50 acre-feet (AF) to approximately 150 AF. The proposed new high-water level within the reservoir will be at an elevation of 2,999 feet.

The West Point Regulating Reservoir project is located at 1121 Winton Road in the community of West Point, within Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 040-26-009.

Caltrans has the following comments:
Caltrans suggests that the Calaveras County continue to coordinate with Caltrans in identifying and addressing potential pedestrian safety and cumulative transportation impacts from this project and other developments near this location. This will assist Caltrans in ensuring that pedestrian, traffic safety, and quality standards are maintained for the traveling public on existing and future state transportation facilities in Calaveras County.

Environmental
It appears that the project is located more than 1 mile from Caltrans Right of Way (ROW). However, if there are any construction related activities that will encroach into Caltrans ROW as a result of the project, the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit with the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies may include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties,

biological resources, hazardous waste/materials, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans ROW, at the project site(s). Evidence of consultation with local Native American tribes and interested parties will need to be presented within the technical documents for approval of encroachment in the Caltrans ROW.

Hydrology

While the project site (existing reservoir) is 1.2 miles away from Caltrans facilities in the northeast direction, without available as-built or proposed improvement plans, Caltrans could not visualize nor understand the existing and proposed reservoir configuration and details of other related facilities, including but not limited to concrete spillway, for impact assessment/study on Caltrans' existing drainage facilities within the project limits. Please send us any available as-built plans and proposed improvements plans for our information, file/record, and assessment.

Although the proposed improvements may not change the existing flow patterns or adversely impact the existing Caltrans drainage facilities near State Route (SR) 26, Caltrans would like to review the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) on how storage water will be released downstream during severe storm events resulting in heavy rainfall, or rapid snowmelt, or blockage of the concrete spillway which could lead to water flows over the top of the dam/reservoir or earthen dam failure. Caltrans would like to assess whether the project will adversely impact Caltrans' existing drainage facilities on SR 26.

IS/MND Report, Section 1.1 "Project Brief", 4th paragraph, 3rd sentence stated, "These changes will also require modification or replacement of the existing spillway, piping, drainage channel, …; the existing concrete lined channel to be replaced with box culvert where it intersects the fill for the enlarged dam." Caltrans would like to review proposed development plans showing existing and proposed changes to the drainage facilities as mentioned above to clearly understand the flow concept and patterns, in order to determine whether the proposed improvements will cause any adverse impacts to the existing Caltrans drainage facilities and roadway within the project limits.

Encroachment Permits

If any project activities encroach into Caltrans ROW, the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. For more information, please visit the Caltrans Website at: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shiferaw Jemberie (209) 986-9635 (email: Shiferaw.jemberie@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 639 -8832 (email: Gregoria.ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregoria Ponce'

Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning

c: Bret Sampson, Director, Calaveras County Planning Department
State Clearinghouse