California Department of Transportation

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November 14, 2025

11-IMP-98
PM 30.28
Heber 1 Parasitic Solar Energy Project
NOP/SCH#22025101397

Mr. Alan Molina
Imperial County Planning
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

Dear Mr. Molina:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the development review process for the Heber 1 Parasitic Solar Energy Notice of Preparation (NOP), located near State Route 98 (SR-98). Caltrans's mission is to improve lives and communities through transportation. Caltrans reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and State transportation planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We strive for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety of the transportation network. These pursuits are ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Traffic Analysis
A Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT) based Traffic Impact Study (TIS) should be provided for this project. Please use the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (formerly known as Planning and Research) to identify VMT related impacts.[1]

The TIS may also need to identify the proposed project's near-term and long-term safety or operational issues, on or adjacent to existing or proposed State facilities.

[1] California Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) 2018. "Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA." https://opr.ca.gov/docs/20190122-743_Technical_Advisory.pdf

Environmental
Caltrans welcomes the opportunity to be a responsible agency under CEQA, as we have some discretionary authority over a portion of the project in Caltrans' Right-of-Way (R/W) through an encroachment permit process. We look forward to coordinating our efforts to ensure that Caltrans can adopt the alternative and/or mitigation measure for the State's R/W. We would appreciate meeting with the lead agency to discuss the elements of the environmental document that Caltrans will use for our subsequent environmental compliance.

We recommend that this project identifies and assesses potential impacts caused by the project or impacts from mitigation efforts within Caltrans' R/W. This includes impacts to the natural environment, infrastructure including but not limited to highways, roadways, structures, intelligent transportation systems elements, on-ramps and off-ramps, and appurtenant features including but not limited to fencing, lighting, signage, drainage, guardrail, slopes and landscaping.

Right-of-Way
Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.

Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction.

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by visiting the website at https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep. Projects with the following:

- require a Caltrans Encroachment Permit
- have completed the Caltrans Local Development Review (LDR) process
- have an approved environmental document

need to have documents submitted for Quality Management Assessment Process (QMAP) process via email to D11.QMAP.Permits@dot.ca.gov. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Roger Sanchez, LDR Coordinator, by phone (619) 987-1043 or by e-mail at roger.sanchez-rangel@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kimberly D. Dodson

KIMBERLY D. DODSON, GISP
Branch Chief
Local Development Review