California Department of Transportation

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January 8, 2026

Mr. David Norris
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
Environmental Planning and Assessment
111 North Hope Street, Room 1044
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Encino Reservoir Floating Solar Pilot Project
SCH # 2025120093
Vic. LA-405/PM 39.004, LA-101/PM 20.246
GTS # LA-2025-04969-MND

Dear Mr. David Norris:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced NOP. The Proposed Project constructs a 5-megawatt (MW), 10-acre floating solar panel array that would be located on the southwest portion of Encino Reservoir. An approximately 4,000 square-foot 30-kilowatt (kW), ground-mount photovoltaic system would also be installed in the southwest area of the reservoir property. All associated electrical components including inverters, transformers, and switchgear would be located adjacent to the ground-mount system. All electrical equipment would interconnect to the existing 34.5-kilovolt (kV) above ground distribution line within the Encino Reservoir property. In addition to the solar components as discussed above, a 5-MW, 20-megawatt hours (MWh) iron-flow battery energy storage system would be installed on an approximately 6,500 square-foot area north of the reservoir.

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. You may reference the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) for more information:

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

As a reminder, VMT is the standard transportation analysis metric in CEQA for land use projects after July 1, 2020, which is the statewide implementation date.

Construction activities for the proposed project would occur within the boundaries of the Encino Reservoir property. During construction, the project site would accommodate temporary staging and laydown areas for construction materials and equipment, as well as worker vehicle

parking. Construction vehicle access would be available via the gate from Encino Avenue. No lane closures or restrictions on public roads would be required. Additionally, operations of the proposed project would not change the circulation system.

We concur that "In general, public services, including public utility functions such as the proposed project, are assumed under the LADOT Guidelines to not generate substantial VMT, and therefore, are presumed to have a less than significant impact on VMT. Operation of the proposed project would primarily rely on remote operation, with occasional truck deliveries and maintenance visits by personnel, and therefore would not result in a net increase in VMT. Impacts would be less than significant."

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.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Alan Lin, the project coordinator, at (213) 269-1124 and refer to GTS # LA-2025-04969-MND.

Sincerely,

Anthony Higgins for

MIYA EDMONSON
LDR/CEQA Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse