

California Department of Transportation

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February 12, 2026

Lisa Worrall, Senior Environmental Planner
California Energy Commission
715 P Street, MS 40
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Prairie Song Reliability Project
SCH # 2026020074
Vic. LA-14/PM R52.35
GTS # LA-2026-05012-NOP

Dear Lisa Worrall:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced NOP. The applicant proposes to construct, own, and operate a 1,150-megawatt (MW) battery energy storage system (BESS) with an approximate capacity of 9,200 megawatt hours (MWh). This project will include essential infrastructure such as a substation, inverters, buildings for operations and maintenance, stormwater management, and communication systems. It will connect to Southern California Edison's Vincent Substation via a short overhead line using monopoles and steel lattice towers. The BESS will store electricity from the grid, charging during low demand and discharging at peak times to enhance grid reliability in the Los Angeles Basin and potentially defer regional transmission upgrades.

The project's transportation impacts will be evaluated, and no significant environmental effects are expected after mitigation. Operations will generate 32 daily trips, which will minimally affect road performance, transit, bike/pedestrian facilities, or emergency access, and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) from operations align with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3. Construction over 26 months will temporarily increase traffic but is not anticipated to impact freeway off-ramp queues or emergency access. Peak construction VMT remains below Los Angeles County's significance threshold. Mitigation measures include the implementation of a Construction Management Plan, various traffic control measures, compliance with hazardous materials regulations, and the provision of additional secondary access to avoid long cul-de-sacs.

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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.

Also, Caltrans has published the VMT-focused Transportation Impact Study Guide (TISG), dated May 20, 2020 and the Local Development Review (LDR) Safety Review Practitioner's Guidance, prepared in February 2024. For your review, please consider the SB 743 Implementation Resource at the following link when preparing the environmental document:

<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/sustainability/sb-743/resources>

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-2026-05012-NOP.

Sincerely,

Anthony Higgins

Anthony Higgins
Acting LDR Branch Chief

Cc: State Clearinghouse