

## California Department of Transportation

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September 29, 2026

Jerry Moreno  
Public Works Division  
City of El Monte  
11333 Valley Boulevard  
El Monte, CA 91731

RE: Merced Avenue Stormwater Capture Project  
CUP No. 089  
SCH # 2026081108  
Vic. LA-164/PM 4.815, LA-10/PM 28.683  
GTS # LA-2026-05127-MND

Dear Jerry Moreno:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the above-referenced project. The Project proposes replacement of the existing concrete channel with a subsurface reinforced box culvert, installation of stormwater quality improvements including a bioswale and stormwater capture system, and construction of pedestrian improvements including a shared use path connecting Merced Linear Park to the Rio Hondo River Trail. The project is located in a local community in the City of El Monte.

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 Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) for more information:

<https://lci.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.

The Project encompasses approximately 2.56 acres and includes 0.35 miles of channel. Proposed pedestrian improvements include a raised crosswalk on Merced Avenue, connecting to a shared use path over the subsurface culvert and continuing to a raised crosswalk on Brockway Street. Pedestrian gates will be installed at Merced Avenue and Brockway Street, and motion detection lighting will be installed along the shared use path.

During construction, temporary lane closures or traffic diversions may occur along Merced Avenue and Brockway Street. If required, detour signage would be installed on adjacent streets to redirect traffic. These impacts would be temporary and intermittent, occurring between May 2027 and December 2028, depending on the specific construction activities and Project phase.

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. To minimize potential traffic impacts on State facilities, any large-size truck trips should 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.

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-2026-05127-MND.

Sincerely,

*Frances Duong*

FRANCES DUONG  
LDR Branch Chief

email: Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI)