

Memorandum

*Making Conservation
a California Way of Life*

To: JOSEPH LEE, CHIEF
DESIGN BRANCH A
ATTN: Michael Ardehalli, Transportation Engineer

Date: March 28, 2025

File: 12-ORA-74
PM 0.0/11.5
EA 12-OR9900
EFIS1219000072

From:  RICARDO CARAIG, P.E.
Branch Chief
Environmental Engineering

Subject: **Environmental Study and CE for the PROJECT EA 0R9900.**

Please refer to your request for Environmental Study Request (ESR) on the above referenced project that proposes to overlay asphalt concrete, upgrade existing drainage systems, upgrade the existing traffic census station, add curve warning signs (CWS), Upgrade existing Metal Guardrail Systems (MGS), Upgrade ladder crosswalk, add 2-feet buffer and add class II bike lane symbols along the SR 74 within the project limits (from Rte-74/I-5 Separation (PM 0.0) to 1.0-mile East of San Juan Creek (PM11.5), in Orange County.

We have reviewed the documents, and the following information are provided.

Air Quality

This project is exempt according to the Table 2 of Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 40 Section 93.126. Project submittal to the Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG) for Interagency Consultation is not required. Air Quality analysis is not needed.

Greenhouse Gas

The proposed project does not involve addition of lane; thus, motor vehicle capacity will not be increased. Operational GHG calculation is not needed.

According to Interim guidance: Determining CEQA significance for Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for projects on the state highway system, all projects requiring analysis for CEQA involve some level of construction emissions. Therefore, construction emissions must be quantified, and measures must be incorporated to reduce construction related emissions. Based on the available

information, construction GHG emissions is calculated using the Cal-CET 2021 (v 1.03). There would be 348 MT of GHG emission from the project during the construction of this project.

The construction contractor must comply with the Caltrans' Standard Specifications in Section 14-9 (2024) for reducing impacts from construction activities. Section 14-9.02 specifically requires compliance by the contractor with all applicable environmental laws and regulations related to air quality, including air pollution control district and air quality management district regulations and local ordinances.

Energy

This project is not capacity increasing project; thus, operational energy analysis is not required. One time energy will be consumed in the construction phase. Based on the available information, energy consumption during the construction of this project is calculated using the Cal-CET 2021 (v 1.03). There would be energy consumption of 4,132 MMBTU during the construction period.

Noise

The proposed project does not involve addition of lane; thus, according to FHWA 23CFR771, this project does not qualify as a Type I project. The traffic noise study is not needed. However, the project would need to comply with Caltrans' Standard Specification 14-8.02 to control noise during construction.

Hazardous waste

We have reviewed the project documents, conducted record search on Geotracker database and EnviroStor database. Based on the record search, at present we found no evidence of hazardous waste contamination that may significantly impact the project. ISA checklist is attached.

The project involves excavation under the paved or non-paved surface during culvert removal and replacement, guardrail updating, adding curve warning signs. Thus, ADL investigation is required. Design Branch needs to request Environmental Engineering for the ADL investigation in the early PS&E phase of the project with a plan and excavation details, highlighting the soil disturbance areas and depth of excavation

This project does not involve disturbance of concrete material pipe; thus ACM investigation is not required for this project.

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Yellow traffic stripe in this project was placed in 2024 under the project 0T6604 and 0U8204, thus the yellow traffic stripe/paint are not hazardous. SSP for non-hazardous paint will be provided in the design phase of the project.

This project proposes to remove existing wood posts for MBGR supports and signposts, which contain chemical preservatives. Therefore, the wood is considered as treated wood wastes (TWW). SSP for the TWW will be provided in the Design phase of the project.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Rabindra Bade of my staff at (949) 405-4297, or by electronic mail at rabindra.bade@dot.ca.gov.

c: Brian Santos, Project Manager, Caltrans District 12
Smita Deshpande, Environmental Analysis-Generalist Branch Chief, D12
Carmen Lo, Aso Env Plnr, Environmental Analysis-Generalist Branch, D12