

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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April 27, 2016

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03-TAH-99/70.991
SCH# 2016032081
CIP# 95179

Mr. Donaldo Palaroan
Transportation Division
County of El Dorado
924 B Emerald Bay Road
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Meyers Stream Environment Zone/Erosion Control Project – Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)

Dear Mr. Palaroan:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the project referenced above. Caltrans' new mission, vision, and goals signal a modernization of our approach to California's transportation system. We review this local development for impacts to the State Highway System in keeping with our mission, vision and goals for sustainability/livability/economy, and safety/health. We provide these comments consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy, and build communities, not sprawl. The proposed project will implement source control, hydrologic control, treatment of drainage pipes, and drainage crossings and inlets, which eventually drain into Lake Tahoe, to help meet project goals, and regional Environmental Improvement Program objectives, including federal and state environmental goals to reduce peak flow volumes and increase water quality. The project is located in an existing residential development in the community of Meyers, approximately .2 miles west of the intersection of United States Highway 50 (US 50) and State Route 89 (SR 89)/Pioneer Trail. The following comments are based on the IS/MND.

Hydraulics

On page 3, the IS/MND states, "Proposed improvements along the drainage easement include removing trees, vegetation and debris for improved channel efficiency and functionality; and, diversion/ check dams to re-wet the meadow, slow flow velocities, pond, spread, promote infiltration, and reduce sediment transport downstream." What would be the potential impact of these actions on water surface elevations in ditches/drainage facilities within State's Right of Way

(ROW)? The IS/MND also states on page 3, "Approximately 575 acres of watershed drain to the nine acre meadow with the majority of the contribution entering from the State's storm drain system at Apache Ave. and Santa Fe Rd." Proposed alterations within the 9-acre meadow could potentially increase water surface elevations within State's ROW. The study should include a hydraulic model for the area, and the design of the water quality project must also include water surface elevations in pre-project and post-project conditions.

In the Hydrology/Water Quality section on page 3, the IS/MND states, "The Project will have no long term negative impacts on hydrology/water quality." Whereas it is commendable that there would be no negative impacts on water quality as result of implementation of this project, the study should also address any flooding issues on US 50 and local streets.

Please provide a copy of the Drainage Report, which includes the hydrology for the 575 acres contributing runoff to the 9-acre parcel, to Arthur Murray for review.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any work or traffic control that would encroach onto State ROW, including US 50 and SR 89, requires an encroachment permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and five sets of plans clearly indicating State ROW must be submitted to the address below.

Charles Laughlin
California Department of Transportation
District 3 Office of Permits
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901

Traffic-related mitigation measures should be incorporated into the construction plans prior to the encroachment permit process. See the website link below for more information.

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/>.

Please provide our office with copies of any further actions regarding this project. We would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on any changes related to this development.

If you have any questions regarding these comments or require additional information, please contact Arthur Murray at (916) 274-0616 or arthur.murray@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



ERIC FREDERICKS, Chief
Office of Transportation Planning – South Branch