

DOCKETED

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CUP 489-87 Amendment - Wasco Coal Terminal

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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December 11, 2013

2135-IGR/CEQA
06-KER 43-24.125
CUP 489-87 Amendment
Wasco Coal Terminal Expansion
Savage Services Corporation

Ms. Keri Cobb
City of Wasco
764 E Street
Wasco, CA 93280

Dear Ms. Cobb:

Thank you for the opportunity to review a proposed amendment to Conditional Use Permit (CUP) No. 489-87 allowing for an increase in operating capacity for the Wasco Coal Terminal. The amendment would allow the coal transfer station to increase operating capacity from the current restricted maximum capacity of 900,000 tons of bituminous coal per year to the design capacity of 1,500,000 tons per year. No physical expansion or new construction is proposed. The project is located just east of State Route (SR) 43, between H Street and Wasco Avenue, in the City of Wasco in Kern County.

The proposed Hydrogen Energy California (HECA) project (Docket 08-AFC-8A), is located at the southwest corner of the Adohr Road/Tupman Road intersection, approximately 27 miles south of the City of Wasco. With the approval of the proposed amendment to CUP 489-87, the existing Wasco Coal Terminal would be dedicated to serving the HECA project exclusively by providing coal to aid in the production of clean hydrogen fuel, as part of Alternative 2 listed in the HECA Application for Certification.

Caltrans offers the following comments:

- Based on the information provided, Caltrans anticipates intersection upgrades or adjustments will be needed to provide capacity and adequate turning paths for truck traffic. In the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and the Traffic Study Technical Memorandum, Revision 2 for the HECA project, SR 43/Poso Avenue and SR 43/Kimberlina Road are among the intersections analyzed. Caltrans requests that these intersections be analyzed further to address the above stated concerns. They are two access points out of Wasco for trucks departing the coal transfer station.
- Caltrans recommends the use of Wasco Avenue, rather than SR 43 as proposed, for accessing the Wasco Coal Terminal. While both the DEIS and Technical Memorandum for the HECA project make the determination based on LOS that impacts to the SR 43/Poso Avenue intersection are less than significant, Caltrans has concerns related to

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truck turning movements based on the urban setting and geometry of this intersection. Caltrans recommends that mitigation measures for impacts generated by the Wasco Coal Terminal expansion be focused on the SR 43/Kimberlina Road intersection, and that truck traffic for coal transloading use the segment of Wasco Avenue between Kimberlina Road and Poso Avenue, rather than the parallel segment on SR 43.

- According to page 2-4 of the docketed Wasco Coal Terminal Supplemental Environmental Analysis, under “Other Related Projects”, the segment of Wasco Avenue between Kimberlina Road and Jackson Avenue may be closed as a result of the implementation of the California High Speed Rail (HSR) Project. Caltrans requests to be included in discussions with the Wasco Coal Terminal, HECA, the California High Speed Rail Authority, and the City of Wasco to address subsequent effects on the operation of SR 43 from the partial closure of Wasco Avenue.
- Caltrans recommends the City of Wasco include SR 43 and SR 58 in the City of Wasco Impact Fee Program, in order to ensure proposed development contribute proportional share for future improvements to the State facilities.

If you have any questions, please call me at (559) 488-4325.

Sincerely,



ALEC KIMMEL, Transportation Planner
Planning South Branch

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