

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-AFC-01
Project Title:	Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP)
TN #:	258625
Document Title:	State of California Department of Transportation Comments - Morton Bay Geothermal Project - Docket # 23-AFC-01
Description:	N/A
Filer:	System
Organization:	State of California Department of Transportation
Submitter Role:	Public
Submission Date:	8/21/2024 5:14:05 PM
Docketed Date:	8/22/2024

*Comment Received From: State of California Department of Transportation
Submitted On: 8/21/2024
Docket Number: 23-AFC-01*

Morton Bay Geothermal Project - Docket # 23-AFC-01

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

California Department of Transportation

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August 21, 2024

11-IMP-111
PM 37.882
Morton Bay Geothermal Project
PSA Review
Docket Number 23-AFC-01

Mr. Eric W. Veerkamp
Project Manager
California Energy Commission
Docket Unit
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Veerkamp:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review process for the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the Morton Bay Geothermal project located near State Route 111 (SR-111) in Imperial County. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. The Local Development Review (LDR) Program reviews land use projects and plans to ensure consistency with our mission and state planning priorities.

Safety is one of Caltrans' strategic goals. Caltrans strives to make the year 2050 the first year without a single death or serious injury on California's roads. We are striving for more equitable outcomes for the transportation network's diverse users. To achieve these ambitious goals, we will pursue meaningful collaboration with our partners. We encourage the implementation of new technologies, innovations, and best practices that will enhance the safety on the transportation network. These pursuits are both ambitious and urgent, and their accomplishment involves a focused departure from the status quo as we continue to institutionalize safety in all our work.

Caltrans is committed to prioritizing projects that are equitable and provide meaningful benefits to historically underserved communities, to ultimately improve transportation accessibility and quality of life for people in the communities we serve.

We look forward to working with the California Energy Commission in areas where the agency and Caltrans have joint jurisdiction to improve the transportation network and connections between various modes of travel, with the goal of improving the experience of those who use the transportation system.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Traffic Analysis

Please provide the traffic analysis worksheets and electronic synchro files.

Page 5.14-7 indicates the Imperial County Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) threshold is 110 trips per day and page 5.14-14 indicates daily trips of 388 for project operations. Please clarify. If a VMT or Mobility Analysis was completed, please provide a copy for review.

Please provide the construction management plan for the vehicle trips during construction. The construction management plan for the vehicle trips during construction should also address a scenario if all the cumulative construction projects are generating trips and being constructed concurrently.

Design

Project PID #111800099 EA #43030 has a footprint that passes by the Morton Bay project. It involves rumble strip installation, guardrail upgrades, and ADA facility upgrades. Milestone M600 (CCA) is slated to be met by 11/29/24. Please coordinate with Caltrans appropriately.

Hauling

Caltrans has discretionary authority with respect to highways under its jurisdiction and may, upon application and if good cause appears, issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or special mobile equipment of a size or weight of vehicle or load exceeding the maximum limitations specified in the California Vehicle Code. The Caltrans Transportation Permits Issuance Branch is responsible for the issuance of these special transportation permits for oversize/overweight vehicles on the State Highway network. Additional information is provided online at: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/permits/index.html>

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Right-of-Way

Per Business and Profession Code 8771, perpetuation of survey monuments by a licensed land surveyor is required, if they are being destroyed by any construction.

Any work performed within Caltrans' R/W will require discretionary review and approval by Caltrans and an encroachment permit will be required for any work within the Caltrans' R/W prior to construction.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mark McCumsey, LDR Coordinator, at (619) 985-4957 or by e-mail sent to mark.mccumsey@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Rogelio Sanchez, for

KIMBERLY D. DODSON, GISP
Branch Chief
Local Development Review