

Comment Letter S1

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN, Jr., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
 DISTRICT 11, DIVISION OF PLANNING  
 4050 TAYLOR ST., M.S. 240  
 SAN DIEGO, CA 92110  
 PHONE (619) 688-6960  
 FAX (619) 688-4299  
 TTY 711  
 www.dot.ca.gov



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January 6, 2014

11-SD-8  
 PM 67.23  
 Soitec Solar Development  
 SCH# 2012121018

Mr. Robert Hingtgen  
 County of San Diego  
 5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 110  
 San Diego, California 92123

JAN 09 2014  
 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
 SERVICES

Dear Mr. Hingtgen:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) received notice of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) SCH# 2012121018, for the Soitec Solar Development located near Interstate 8 (I-8). Caltrans has the following comments:

Utility Encroachment:

Please refer to Caltrans Encroachment Permits Manual ([http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/encroachment\\_permits\\_manual/index.html](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/developserv/permits/encroachment_permits_manual/index.html)) for guidance on utility encroachment. The following information is contained in Chapter 600, Table 6.7 (page 6-35) of the Encroachment Permit Manual. Line supports for overhead lines crossing freeways must comply with these requirements, they:

1. Should have a minimum lateral clearance of 30' from the edge of a through lane and 30' from the edge of a ramp lane, when possible.
2. Shall be located outside the right-of-way (R/W) or between the R/W line and access control line if different. Any other placement must be approved by the Division of Design, Chief.
3. Should not be permitted in medians.
4. Should not be permitted on cut or fill slopes.
5. Shall not impair sight distances.
6. Shall be compatible with access requirements.

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Response to Comment Letter S1

Caltrans  
 Jacob Armstrong  
 January 9, 2014

S1-1

The County of San Diego (County) acknowledges California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requirements for utility encroachments. Table 1-11 of the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) includes all discretionary approvals/permits that are expected to be obtained during the decision-making process; in response to this comment, the County has made revisions and clarifications to the DPEIR. Revisions have been made to Table 1-11, Approvals/Permits Expected to be Obtained, in Chapter 1.0, and Section 3.1.8.2 (State Regulations) and are presented in ~~strikeout~~/underline format. The DPEIR has been clarified to state that encroachment permits, and potentially, transportation permits from Caltrans will be required for construction of the Proposed Project. As such, the project will comply with the requirements of these permits.

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Traffic:

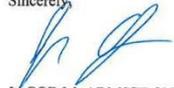
Please refer to Caltrans Encroachment Permits Manual for guidance on Traffic Control. The following information is contained in Appendix E (page E-42) of the Encroachment Permit Manual. For placement of aerial lines, installation or removal of overhead conductors crossing a freeway requires traffic control by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and usually occur on weekend mornings. The CHP can perform a rolling break in traffic on most highways to allow up to a five-minute clearing. These breaks are adequate for simple cable installation. Utility personnel carry the conductors across the freeway lanes and hoist them into place on the opposite side of the freeway. On larger conductor crossings such as transmission lines, 1" or greater in diameter, districts may determine that safety nets are needed to prevent transmission lines from falling on traffic during cabling installations. Temporary safety-net support poles are placed at protected locations outside shoulders and in medians. If locations for temporary supports are not available, the utility company may use K-rail and sand barrel crash cushions. After rope nets are strung during CHP traffic breaks other work is then allowed to proceed. Placement of the aerial line may be by helicopter.

Any work performed within Caltrans R/W must provide an approved final environmental document including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) determination addressing any environmental impacts within the Caltrans' R/W, and any corresponding technical studies. If these materials are not included with the encroachment permit application, the applicant will be required to acquire and provide these to Caltrans before the permit application will be accepted. Identification of avoidance and/or mitigation measures will be a condition of the encroachment permit approval as well as procurement of any necessary regulatory and resource agency permits

Additional information regarding encroachment permits may be obtained by contacting the Caltrans Permits Office at (619) 688-6158. Early coordination with Caltrans is strongly advised for all encroachment permits.

If you have any questions on the comments Caltrans has provided, please contact Roy Abboud of the Development Review Branch at (619) 688-6968.

Sincerely,



JACOB M. ARMSTRONG, Chief  
Development Review Branch

*"Caltrans improves mobility across California"*

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The County appreciates this information, which is not inconsistent with the information presented in the DPEIR (see Section 3.1.8.2). The Final Program Environmental Impact Report and all corresponding technical studies will be included with any required Caltrans permit application. The County will continue coordination with Caltrans for all necessary permits.

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