



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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SENT VIA E-MAIL:

May 22, 2020

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Sally Gee, Project Planner

Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority

100 North Old San Gabriel Canyon Road

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Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (Draft PEIR) for the Proposed Los Cerritos Wetlands Restoration Plan

South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) staff appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-mentioned document. The following comments are meant as guidance for the Lead Agency and should be incorporated into the Final PEIR.

The Lead Agency proposes to develop programs to guide wetland restoration, habitat conservation, and flood management with a planning horizon of 2040 (Project Project). The Proposed Project will include, among others, removal and relocation of oil pipelines. The Proposed Project encompasses 503 acres and is located in the East Long Beach and North Seal Beach area along the border of Los Angeles County and Orange County.

Based on a review of the Hazards and Hazardous Materials Section in the Draft PEIR, the Lead Agency is committed to developing and implementing a Health and Safety Plan and a Soil, Landfilled Materials, and Groundwater Management Plan that includes a materials disposal plan specifying how the contractor will remove, handle, transport, and dispose of all excavated material in a safe, appropriate, and lawful manner¹. If on-site or earth-moving activities involve equipment or operations which either emits or controls air pollution, South Coast AQMD staff should be consulted in advance of the project start to determine the need for any permits or plans are required to be filed and approved by South Coast AQMD prior to start of operation. Disturbing soils containing toxic air contaminants are subject to the requirements of South Coast AQMD Rule 1466 – Control of Particulate Emissions from Soils with Toxic Air Contaminants². Therefore, in addition to the discussions of South Coast AQMD Rules 401, 402, 403, 1113, 1166, and 1186³, it is recommended that the Lead Agency include a discussion to demonstrate compliance with Rule 1466 in the Air Quality Section of the Final PEIR.

Pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21092.5(a) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(b), South Coast AQMD staff requests that the Lead Agency provide South Coast AQMD staff with written responses to all comments contained herein prior to the certification of the Final PEIR. In addition, issues raised in the comments should be addressed in detail giving reasons why specific comments and suggestions are not accepted. There should be good faith, reasoned analysis in response. Conclusory statements unsupported by factual information will not suffice (CEQA Guidelines Section 15088(c)). Conclusory statements do not facilitate the purpose and goal of CEQA on public disclosure and are not meaningful, informative, or useful to decision makers and to the public who are interested in the Proposed Project.

¹ Draft PEIR. Page 3.7-38.

² South Coast AQMD. Rule 1466. Accessed at: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/rule-book/reg-xiv/rule-1466.pdf>.

³ Draft PEIR. Page 3.2-19.

Sally Gee

May 22, 2020

South Coast AQMD staff is available to work with the Lead Agency to address any air quality questions that may arise from this comment letter. Please contact me at lsun@aqmd.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Lijin Sun

Lijin Sun, J.D.

Program Supervisor, CEQA IGR

Planning, Rule Development & Area Sources

LS

LAC200514-08

Control Number