

MEMORANDUM

TO: Britton Snipes, Public Works Director

Mary Beth Van Voorhis, Planning Director

Town of Loomis

FROM: Aimee Dour-Smith

DATE: February 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Public and Agency Comments on the Sierra College Boulevard Widening between

Brace Road and Taylor Road Project

The Town of Loomis circulated a Draft Initial Study (IS) and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Sierra College Boulevard Widening between Brace Road and Taylor Road Project from December 13, 2019 to January 17, 2020. The California Department of Transportation requested additional time for comments on January 17, 2020; the request was granted. A total of three comment letters were received from state and local agencies.

Commenter	Date
California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	January 2, 2020
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)	January 13, 2020
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	February 4, 2020

The comments received are summarized below, and responses to substantive comments are provided as well. Copies of comment letters are attached.

Conclusion

I have reviewed all of the comments, and none suggest and/or provide evidence that the analysis in the Draft IS is inadequate or inaccurate. The comments, as discussed in more detail below, provide clarification and direction on applicable standard specifications for project design. No changes or revisions to the Draft IS and associated mitigation measures are needed in response to these comments. The MND conclusion that all of the proposed project's environmental impacts would be less than significant or reduced to a less-than-significant level through mitigation is unchanged.

Comments Received

<u>California Department of Toxic Substances Control:</u> The DTSC did not comment on the specifics of the Draft IS. The DTSC recommended that six issues be evaluated in the IS: acknowledge the potential for project activities to release hazardous wastes, survey for aerially deposited lead (ADL), investigate the project site for mining waste, evaluate the potential for lead-based paints, ensure that imported soil used for backfill is free of contamination, and evaluate current or former agricultural land for organochlorinated pesticides.

As stated in the IS, the Project would not involve the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, so there is no reasonably foreseeable accident involving the release of hazardous materials. Based on site visits, historic and cultural resources inventories and surveys, and historic aerial imagery, the Project site has no history of mining use or waste. The Project will not demolish any structure which may contain lead based paint, but the roadway striping could contain lead based paints. The Project will follow standard specifications for the removal, handling, and disposing of yellow thermoplastic and yellow painted traffic stripe and pavement marking as detailed in the Caltrans standard specification 14-11.12. Based on aerial imagery from 1938, the Project site was historically adjacent to an orchard; therefore, a Phase II Environmental Site Investigation and soils testing consistent with DTSC *Interim Guidance for Sampling Agricultural Properties* (DTSC 2008) will be conducted prior to construction. The Project will include standard practices that all imported soil used for backfill will be certified weed-free and free of hazardous wastes.

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board: The CVRWQCB did not comment on the specifics of the Draft IS. The CVRWQCB identified the regulatory setting and applicable Basin Plan in which the proposed Project is located. The CVRWQCB also identified permitting requirements which may pertain to the proposed Project including: the construction stormwater general permit, Phase I and II municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permit, Clean Water Act Section 404 and 401 permits, waste discharge requirements, dewatering permit, and limited threat general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

As stated in the draft IS, the Town will apply for and obtain authorization under the Clean Water Act Section 404 and 401. The project will not disturb 1 or more acre of bare soil, and will therefore not be required to obtain coverage under the construction stormwater general permit. Neither the Phase I or Phase II MS4 permits apply to this project area. The project will not require dewatering of surface or groundwater, and will therefore not be required to obtain a dewatering permit or limited threat general NPDES permit.

California Department of Transportation: Caltrans commented on the Project design features. Caltrans notes the future widening of Sierra College Boulevard from 4 to 6 lanes south of the Project, between Granite Drive and Brace Road which is proposed as part of the proposed Costco development project. Caltrans requests that the Town consider: maintaining the right turn transitions from westbound Brace Road to northbound Sierra College Boulevard, maintain the right turn lane from eastbound Taylor Road to southbound Sierra College Boulevard, maintain the right turn lane from northbound Sierra College Boulevard onto eastbound Taylor Road, and add a pedestrian crosswalk on the east side of the Sierra College Boulevard and Brace Road intersection. Caltrans also requested information on and proposed treatment best management practices (BMPs) for the Project (e.g. bio strips, bio swales, trash interception devices).

As shown on Figure 3 (Project Features) in the IS, the Town will maintain all above referenced right turn transitions. The pedestrian crosswalk on the east side of the Sierra College Boulevard and Brace Road intersection will be completed as part of the proposed Costco development. The Town is progressing on design and will evaluate various treatment BMPs including, but not limited to, trash racks at drainage inlets.



Jared Blumenfeld Secretary for Environmental Protection

Department of Toxic Substances Control



Gavin Newson
Governor

Meredith Williams, Ph.D., Director 8800 Cal Center Drive Sacramento, California 95826-3200

January 2, 2020

Mr. Britton Snipes Town Public Works Director Town of Loomis P.O. Box 1330 Loomis, California 95650 Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JAN 03 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR SIERRA COLLEGE BOULEVARD WIDENING BETWEEN BRACE ROAD AND TAYLOR ROAD PROJECT – DATED DECEMBER 2019

(STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER: 2019129052)

Dear Mr. Snipes:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) received a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for Sierra College Boulevard Widening between Brace Road and Taylor Road Project.

The proposed project is to widen Sierra College Boulevard between Taylor Road and Brace Road and conduct intersection improvements.

DTSC recommends that the following issues be evaluated in the MND, Hazards and Hazardous Materials section:

- 1. The MND should acknowledge the potential for project site activities to result in the release of hazardous wastes/substances. In instances in which releases may occur, further studies should be carried out to delineate the nature and extent of the contamination, and the potential threat to public health and/or the environment should be evaluated. The MND should also identify the mechanism(s) to initiate any required investigation and/or remediation and the government agency who will be responsible for providing appropriate regulatory oversight.
- 2. Refiners in the United States started adding lead compounds to gasoline in the 1920s in order to boost octane levels and improve engine performance. This practice did not officially end until 1992 when lead was banned as a fuel additive in California. Tailpipe emissions from automobiles using leaded gasoline contained lead and resulted in aerially deposited lead (ADL) being deposited in

- and along roadways throughout the state. ADL-contaminated soils still exist along roadsides and medians and can also be found underneath some existing road surfaces due to past construction activities. Due to the potential for ADL-contaminated soil DTSC, recommends collecting soil samples for lead analysis prior to performing any intrusive activities for the project described in the MND.
- 3. If any sites within the project area or sites located within the vicinity of the project have been used or are suspected of having been used for mining activities, proper investigation for mine waste should be discussed in the MND. DTSC recommends that any project sites with current and/or former mining operations onsite or in the project site area should be evaluated for mine waste according to DTSC's 1998 Abandoned Mine Land Mines Preliminary Assessment Handbook (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/11/aml_handbook.pdf).
- 4. If buildings or other structures are to be demolished on any project sites included in the proposed project, surveys should be conducted for the presence of lead-based paints or products, mercury, asbestos containing materials, and polychlorinated biphenyl caulk. Removal, demolition and disposal of any of the above-mentioned chemicals should be conducted in compliance with California environmental regulations and policies. In addition, sampling near current and/or former buildings should be conducted in accordance with DTSC's 2006 Interim Guidance Evaluation of School Sites with Potential Contamination from Lead Based Paint, Termiticides, and Electrical Transformers (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wpcontent/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/Guidance Lead Contamination 050118.pdf).
- 5. If any projects initiated as part of the proposed project require the importation of soil to backfill any excavated areas, proper sampling should be conducted to ensure that the imported soil is free of contamination. DTSC recommends the imported materials be characterized according to DTSC's 2001 Information Advisory Clean Imported Fill Material (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/SMP_FS_Cleanfill-Schools.pdf).
- 6. If any sites included as part of the proposed project have been used for agricultural, weed abatement or related activities, proper investigation for organochlorinated pesticides should be discussed in the MND. DTSC recommends the current and former agricultural lands be evaluated in accordance with DTSC's 2008 Interim Guidance for Sampling Agricultural Properties (Third Revision) (https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/Ag-Guidance-Rev-3-August-7-2008-2.pdf).

Mr. Britton Snipes January 2, 2020 Page 3

DTSC appreciates the opportunity to review the MND. Should you need any assistance with an environmental investigation, please submit a request for Lead Agency Oversight Application, which can be found at: https://dtsc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2018/09/VCP App-1460.doc. Additional information regarding voluntary agreements with DTSC can be found at: https://dtsc.ca.gov/brownfields/.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 255-3710 or via email at Gavin.McCreary@dtsc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Havin Milliam M

Gavin McCreary Project Manager

Site Evaluation and Remediation Unit
Site Mitigation and Restoration Program
Department of Toxic Substances Control

cc: (via email)

Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse State.Clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov

Ms. Lora Jameson, Chief Site Evaluation and Remediation Unit Department of Toxic Substances Control Lora.Jameson@dtsc.ca.gov

Mr. Dave Kereazis
Office of Planning & Environmental Analysis
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Dave.Kereasis@dtsc.ca.gov





Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

13 January 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Brit Snipes Town of Loomis PO Box 1330 Loomis, CA 95650 JAN 13 2020 CERTIFIED MAIL 7019 0700 0002 0111 6395

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, SIERRA COLLEGE BOULEVARD WIDENING BETWEEN BRACE ROAD AND TAYLOR ROAD PROJECT, SCH#2019129052, SIERRA COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 16 December 2019 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the Request for Review for the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Sierra College Boulevard Widening between Brace Road and Taylor Road Project, located in Sierra County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

I. Regulatory Setting

Basin Plan

The Central Valley Water Board is required to formulate and adopt Basin Plans for all areas within the Central Valley region under Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Each Basin Plan must contain water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, as well as a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives with the Basin Plans. Federal regulations require each state to adopt water quality standards to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and the Antidegradation Policy are the State's water quality standards. Water quality standards are also contained in the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.38.

The Basin Plan is subject to modification as necessary, considering applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions and priorities. The original Basin Plans were adopted in 1975, and have been updated and revised periodically as required, using Basin Plan amendments. Once the Central Valley Water Board has adopted a Basin Plan amendment in noticed public hearings, it must be

KARL E. LONGLEY SCD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and in some cases, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Basin Plan amendments only become effective after they have been approved by the OAL and in some cases, the USEPA. Every three (3) years, a review of the Basin Plan is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes Basin Planning issues. For more information on the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins*, please visit our website: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/basin plans/

Antidegradation Considerations

All wastewater discharges must comply with the Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy contained in the Basin Plan. The Antidegradation Implementation Policy is available on page 74 at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/basin plans/sacsjr 201 805.pdf

In part it states:

Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State.

This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measured by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives.

The antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes. The environmental review document should evaluate potential impacts to both surface and groundwater quality.

II. Permitting Requirements

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.sht ml

Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits 1

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/storm water/municipal p ermits/

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water issues/programs/stormwater/phase ii munici pal.shtml

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements. If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACE at (916) 557-5250.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act or Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and

¹ Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications. For more information on the Water Quality Certification, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water issues/water quality certificati on/

Waste Discharge Requirements - Discharges to Waters of the State

If USACE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., "non-federal" waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project may require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation. For more information on the Waste Discharges to Surface Water NPDES Program and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/waste_to_surface_water/

Projects involving excavation or fill activities impacting less than 0.2 acre or 400 linear feet of non-jurisdictional waters of the state and projects involving dredging activities impacting less than 50 cubic yards of non-jurisdictional waters of the state may be eligible for coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2004-0004-DWQ (General Order 2004-0004). For more information on the General Order 2004-0004, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/20 04/wqo/wqo2004-0004.pdf

Dewatering Permit

If the proposed project includes construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, the proponent may apply for coverage under State Water Board General Water Quality Order (Low Risk General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board's Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Risk Waiver) R5-2013-0145. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage under the General Order or Waiver must file a Notice of Intent with the Central Valley Water Board prior to beginning discharge.

For more information regarding the Low Risk General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board decisions/adopted orders/water quality/200 3/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf

For more information regarding the Low Risk Waiver and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2013-0145_res.pdf

Limited Threat General NPDES Permit

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete Notice of Intent must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under the Limited Threat General Order. For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4709 or Greg.Hendricks@waterboards.ca.gov.

Original Signed By:

Greg Hendricks Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento (via email)

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 3
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February 4, 2019

GTS# 03-PLA-2019-00514 03-PLA-80 PM 7.708 SCH # 2019119068

Mary Beth Van Voorhis Town of Loomis - Planning Department 3665 Taylor Road Loomis, CA 95650

Sierra College Boulevard Widening between Brace Road and Taylor Road Project

Dear Ms. Van Voorhis:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the Initial Consultation review process for the project referenced above. The mission of Caltrans is to provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability. The Local Development-Intergovernmental Review (LD-IGR) Program reviews land use projects and plans through the lenses of our mission and state planning priorities of infill, conservation, and travel-efficient development. To ensure a safe and efficient transportation system, we encourage early consultation and coordination with local jurisdictions and project proponents on all development projects that utilize the multimodal transportation network.

The Sierra College Boulevard Widening between Brace Road and Taylor Road Project (Project) would widen Sierra College Boulevard in the Town of Loomis between Brace Road and Taylor Road, from four lanes to six lanes and the addition of both sidewalks and bicycle lanes. After review of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND), we are providing the following comments:

Traffic and Signal Operations

Sierra College Boulevard, between Brace and Taylor Roads, currently have existing bike lanes in both directions. However, to the north and south of this Sierra College Boulevard section there are no pedestrian sidewalks. It should be noted that Brace Road – which connects to Taylor Road - has no existing pedestrian walkways or bus facilities. A future development will also be built to

Ms. Mary Beth Van Voorhis Town of Loomis February 4, 2020 Page 2

the south of Sierra College Boulevard and Brace Road intersection which will have proposed pedestrian bike lanes, walkways and bus facilities.

Considering the future widening of Sierra College Boulevard, from 4-6 lane, and the proposed development the Town of Loomis should consider the following:

- Maintain or add lanes for the right turn transitions from westbound Brace Road onto northbound Sierra College Boulevard and from eastbound Taylor Road onto southbound Sierra College Boulevard.
- Maintain or add lanes for the right turn transition from northbound Sierra College Boulevard onto Taylor Road.
- Addition of a pedestrian crosswalk on the east side of Sierra College Boulevard and Brace Road intersection.

Hydraulics

Section 3.10.d of the ISMND. Impacts and Mitigation Measures, states that it does not include any features that would release pollutants. Pavement areas may generate pollutants from traffic that could enter the waterway. Confirm if any Treatment BMPs (Bio Strips, Bio swales, Trash interception devices, etc.) will be implemented with this project.

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

If you have any question regarding these comments or require additional information, please contact Shannon Roberts, Intergovernmental Review Coordinator for Placer County, by phone (530) 740-4989or via email to Shannon.T.Roberts@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

KEVIN YOUNT, Branch Chief

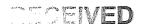
Office of Transportation Planning Regional Planning Branch—East



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit





_January 15, 2020

JAN 162020

TOWN OF LOOMIS

Brit Snipes Loomis, City of P.O. Box 1330 Loomis, CA 95650

Subject: Sierra College Boulevard Widening between Brace Road and Taylor Road Project

SCH#: 2019129052

Dear Brit Snipes:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named MND to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on 1/14/2020, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) available on the CEQA database for your retrieval and use. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

Check the CEQA database for submitted comments for use in preparing your final environmental document: https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2019129052/2. Should you need more information or clarification of the comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely.

Scott Morgan

Director, State Clearinghouse

cc: Resources Agency