

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836  
SACRAMENTO, CA 942360001  
(916) 653-5791

**S-4**

March 11, 2013

**RECEIVED**  
MAR 14 2013RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Ms. Cathy Bechtel  
Project Development Director  
Riverside County Transportation Commission  
Post Office Box 12008  
Riverside, California 92502

Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Mid County Parkway Project, Between Cities of Perris and San Jacinto, Riverside County, Near Milepost 442.95, California Aqueduct, East Branch, Southern Field Division, SCH2004111103

Dear Ms. Bechtel:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS) for the Mid County Parkway Project (Parkway Project) in Riverside County. The RDEIR/SDEIS describes the proposal to improve a 16-mile transportation corridor to relieve local and regional traffic congestion between the cities of Perris and San Jacinto and surrounding Riverside County communities. The Project involves west-east transportation in western Riverside County between Interstate 215 in the west and State Route 79 in the east.

Three build alternatives are proposed in the Parkway Project that affect Ramona Expressway southeast of Lake Perris. One of the alternatives, Alternative 4 Modified, follows a northern alignment near Lake Perris. This alternative follows the Perris Valley Storm Drain to the south of Ramona Expressway and crosses Ramona Expressway in two places, between Lake Perris and Interstate 215. This alternative may impact a pending California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Emergency Release Facility project that will upgrade and enhance State Water Project infrastructure of Lake Perris. The DWR project, scheduled between 2013 and 2016, includes construction of facilities along the northern alignment of Ramona Expressway, between Perris Valley Storm Drain and Lake Perris Dam. In addition, a future project involving the outlet tower for Lake Perris, near Martin Street and Bernasconi Hills, to the south of Lake Perris, may be impacted. DWR's construction and ongoing operations and maintenance activities shall not be disrupted during the construction of the Parkway Project.

Please provide DWR with a copy of any subsequent environmental documentation when it becomes available for public review. Any future correspondence relating to the above-mentioned concerns of DWR should be sent to:

S-4-1

S-4-2

Ms. Cathy Bechtel  
March 11, 2013  
Page 2

California Department of Water Resources  
Division of Operations and Maintenance  
State Water Project Encroachments Section  
Attn: Leroy Ellinghouse, Jr.  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 641-1  
Sacramento, California 95814

S-4-2

If you have any questions, please contact Leroy Ellinghouse, Jr., Chief, State Water Project Encroachments Section, at (916) 653-7168 or Jonathan Canuela at (916) 653-5095.

Sincerely,



David M. Samson, Chief  
State Water Project Operations Support Office  
Division of Operations and Maintenance

cc: Office of Planning and Research  
California State Clearinghouse  
1400 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044