

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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February 5, 2001

2135-IGR/CEQA
 KIN-VARIOUS
 DRAFT DAIRY ELEMENT
 OF THE KINGS COUNTY
 GENERAL PLAN

Mr. Bill Zumwalt
 Kings County Planning Agency
 1400 W. Lacey Boulevard
 Hanford, CA 93230

Dear Mr. Zumwalt:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Program EIR for the Draft Dairy Element of the Kings County General Plan. Caltrans has the following comments:

The cumulative impact of future dairy developments together with other local projects was not considered. The proposed dairy developments coupled with all the other local projects could generate a significant traffic impact that needs to be studied. It would be very difficult to monitor and record the cumulative impact from all the individual and dairy developments on a project-by-project basis. We recommend a mitigation monitoring program, based on the project traffic impacts, be established within this new Dairy Element or amend the Transportation/Circulation Element of the County General Plan per the Public Resources Code, Section 21081.6, Subdivision (a).

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Caltrans endeavors to maintain a minimum level of service (LOS) "C" on State highway facilities. Caltrans utilizes the methods outlined in the Highway Capacity Manual determining the level of service for State facilities. Caltrans considers the Florida Tables acceptable for planning purposes. Please consult the "Caltrans Guide for Traffic Impact Studies, January 2001" for details on our LOS recommendations. We request that our staff and your staff meet to discuss methodology and set a scoping meeting

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If you have any questions, please call me at (559) 488-7306.

Sincerely,

Al Dias
 Office of Transportation Planning
 District 6

Enclosure

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