

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

50 HIGUERA STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415
PHONE (805) 549-3111
FAX (805) 549-3329
TDD (805) 549-3259
<http://www.dot.gov/dist05>



*Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!*

October 9, 2009

SLO 166 PM 17.25

John McKenzie, Project Manager
San Luis Obispo County
976 Osos Street, Room 300
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Mr. McKenzie,

**EXCELERON LLC CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT (DRC2009-00002) NOTICE OF
PREPARATION SCH# 2009091046**

Thank you for submitting the above referenced proposed project document for our review. The following comments were generated as a result.

In the recent past, a traffic analysis was prepared on behalf of Exceleron LLC that was intended to respond to Caltrans' Management January 5, 2009 request for a definitive traffic engineering analysis comparing the appropriateness of either shoulder widening vs. left-turn channelization as traffic mitigation for the Exceleron's proposed project's access to State Route (SR)166 at Alamo Road Intersection. Throughout Caltrans' history of commenting on the Exceleron project, Caltrans Staff have been consistent in stating that existing traffic volumes and recent collision history on SR 166 are not the central reason for us to request the construction of the east-bound SR 166 left-turn lane, and shoulder-widening as project-specific mitigation.

The overriding issue for Caltrans is the perceived safety problem inherent with the addition of slow-moving heavy truck-trips to an underdeveloped intersection with high-speed through-traffic inclusive of a high percentage of truck volumes, within a designated safety corridor. All traffic analysis offered by the project proponents prior to the circulation of the Exceleron NOP (SCH # 2009091046) failed to convince Caltrans Traffic Operations and Traffic Safety Engineers that shoulder widening, in lieu of left-turn channelization, will specifically address Caltrans' overriding concerns for traffic safety at the SR 166/Alamo Road intersection.

With the issuance of the NOP, Caltrans now requests for both the construction phase and the operational phase of the oil field development, that the east-bound SR 166 left-turn

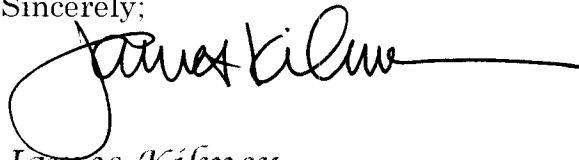
Mr. McKenzie
October 9, 2009
Page 2

lane and the accompanying shoulder-widening upgrade to existing standards, be required as project-specific mitigation for the current Exceleron oil field development proposal.

Caltrans, remains convinced that left-turn channelization is the appropriate key operational improvement needed to address Exceleron's oil field construction and production-generated truck traffic. Caltrans will also be requesting as traffic mitigation and a requirement for the encroachment permit, that the affected area's shoulder widths be brought up to current design standard.

If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Kilmer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

James Kilmer

District 5
CEQA Coordinator/Development Review
San Luis Obispo County

Telephone: (805) 549-3683
Email: James_kilmer@dot.ca.gov

Cc: G. Marshall, SLO County Public Works
Carol Florence, Oasis Landscape