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Paul Dykeman,

Assistant Executive Director for Noise Certification Issues, Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Replacement or Retrofit of the East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, San Francisco and Alameda Counties, CA

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Alameda and San Francisco Counties, California.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John R. Schultz, Chief, District Operations-North, Federal Highway Administration, California Division, 980 Ninth Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, California 95814-2724.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation, will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to address seismic deficiencies in the existing East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, Interstate 80, by replacing or retrofitting the East Span from the bridge toll plaza to Yerba Buena Island.

Within the limits of the study for this project, various environmental resources and issues are known to exist and include but are not limited to: seismicity, tidal floodplain, water quality, wetlands, wildlife habitat, endangered species, navigation, historic resources, archaeological resources, noise, land use planning, and hazardous materials.

The EIS will address the impacts of retrofitting the existing structure, constructing a new structure and removing the existing structure.

Letters describing this proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and to private organizations and individuals that have previously expressed, or are known to have, an interest in this proposal. In addition, public meetings will be held.

Public Notice will be given of the exact time and place of the meetings.

To ensure that the full range of issues and alternatives related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to FHWA at the address provided above. The views of agencies having knowledge of or interest in the potential effects of the proposal on the environmental resources listed above are solicited.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

Issued on: April 10, 1997.

G.P. Wong,

Senior Transportation Engineer, Sacramento, California.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

Maglev Study Advisory Committee; Notice of Fifth Meeting

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of fifth meeting of the Maglev study advisory committee.

SUMMARY: As required by Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2 (1988) and 41 CFR Part 101-6, section 101-6, 1015(a), the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) gives notice of the fifth meeting of the Maglev Study Advisory Committee ("MSAC"). The purpose of the meeting is to advise DOT/FRA on the Congressionally mandated study of the near-term applications of maglev technology in the United States.

DATES: The fifth meeting of the MSAC is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. PST on Monday May 5, 1997.

ADDRESSES: The fifth meeting of the MSAC will be held in conjunction with the 1997 High Speed Ground Transportation Association Convention at Bally's Casino Resort at 3645 Las Vegas Boulevard South in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis and is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Those with special needs

should inform Mr. Mongini 5 days in advance of the meeting so appropriate facilities can be provided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Arrigo Mongini, Deputy Associate Administrator for Railroad Development, FRA RDV-2, 400 Seventh Street S.W., Washington D.C. 20590 (mailing address only) or by telephone at (202) 632-3286.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The fifth meeting of the Maglev Study Advisory Committee (MSAC) will be held on May 5, 1997 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. PST at Bally's Casino Resort at 3645 Las Vegas Boulevard South in Las Vegas, Nevada. The meeting is open to the public.

The MSAC was created by the National Highway System Designation Act to advise the Secretary of Transportation in the preparation of a report to be submitted by the Secretary to the Congress evaluating the near term applications of magnetic levitation transportation technology in the U.S. "with particular emphasis on identifying projects warranting immediate application of such technology." The Act further specifies that the study also "evaluate the use of innovative finance techniques for the construction and operation of such projects." The eight committee members collectively have experience in magnetic levitation transportation, design and construction, public and private finance, and infrastructure policy disciplines. The conference report on the National Highway System Designation Act specifies that "[t]he Committee should identify and analyze specific magnetic levitation projects, such as a connector from New York City to its airports, the transportation project under development between Baltimore, Maryland and Washington, DC, and technology transfer efforts underway in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, so that Congress can better assess how near-term magnetic levitation technology could complement existing modes of transportation * * *." The Secretary has assigned responsibility for preparing the report to the Federal Railroad Administrator, working closely with the MSAC. The Secretary's report to the Congress will discuss the extent to which the above and other potential magnetic levitation projects warrant immediate application, taking into account such factors as ability to be financed, benefits vs costs, extent of public commitment and support, and national significance.

This meeting will focus on reviewing the draft of the final report to the Secretary of Transportation and