

FHWA funding and/or approval, FHWA is lead agency under NEPA, with the Caltrans acting as its liaison and providing oversight for the NEPA process. Some potential project impacts determined to be significant under CEQA may not be considered significant under NEPA.

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, the RCTC and the FHWA may undertake additional environmental and/or engineering studies. A Final EIR/EIS will include responses to comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS. Following preparation of the Final EIR/EIS, if the decision is made to approve the project, a Notice of Determination will be published for compliance with CEQA and a Record of Decision will be published for compliance with NEPA.

The MCP Alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS include five Build Alternatives (4, 5, 6, 7 and 9) and two No Build Alternatives (1A and 1B). At its regular meeting of September 12, 2007, the RCTC Board approved identification of Alternative 9 with the Temescal Wash Design Variation (TWS DV) as the locally preferred alternative for the MCP project. However, the final selection of an alternative will not be made until after the consideration of public comments on the Draft EIR/EIS, and before approval of the Final EIR/EIS.

Alternative 1A represents 2035 traffic on the planned street network except for future improvements to Cajalco Road and Ramona Expressway, which would remain as they exist today. Construction of the MCP project would not be implemented with the No Project/No Action Alternative 1A. The future west-east traffic described in the study area would be served by the existing Cajalco Road and El Sobrante Road between I-15 and Interstate 215 (I-215) and by the existing Ramona Expressway between I-215 and SR-79. This alternative assumes 2035 land use conditions and implementation of planned improvements to the regional and local circulation system as accounted for in the adopted Riverside County General Plan (2003), RCTC's Measure A program, and other adopted plans and policies.

Alternative 1B represents 2035 traffic levels on the planned street network, according to the Circulation Element of the Riverside County General Plan. Construction of the MCP project would not be implemented with No Project/No Action Alternative 1B. This alternative is the same as Alternative 1A but includes the implementation of Cajalco Road and Ramona Expressway improvements consistent with the

Riverside County General Plan Circulation Element.

Alternative 4 is a six-to eight-lane limited access parkway alternative. Alternative 4 is located south of Lake Mathews and follows a northerly alignment through Perris. This alternative would be located south of the existing Cajalco Road west of Lake Mathews Drive and located north of Ramona Expressway from I-215 to the Perris Drain, from where it follows the Perris Drain on an elevated structure southerly to Placentia Avenue. From that point, Alternative 4 continues east through the McCanna Hills, where it follows Ramona Expressway. Alternative 4 would connect to system-to-system interchanges at I-15, I-215, and SR-79.

Alternative 5 is a six-to eight-lane limited access parkway alternative. Alternative 5 is located south of Lake Mathews and follows a southerly alignment through Perris. This alternative is located south of the existing Cajalco Road west of Lake Mathews Drive and is located south of Ramona Expressway from I-215 (following Rider Street and Placentia Avenue) to just west of Antelope Road. From that point, Alternative 5 continues east where it follows Ramona Expressway. Alternative 5 would connect to system-to-system interchanges at I-15, I-215, and SR-79.

Alternative 6 involves the implementation of arterial improvements included in the Riverside County General Plan west of El Sobrante, including a six-lane arterial north of Lake Mathews and a four-lane limited access expressway south of Lake Mathews. East of El Sobrante, this alternative is the same as Alternative 4 described above, providing a new six-to eight-lane limited access parkway. The proposed arterial street improvements north and south of Lake Mathews are consistent with the Riverside County General Plan Circulation Element and generally follow the alignments shown in the General Plan.

Alternative 7 involves the implementation of arterial improvements included in the Riverside County General Plan west of El Sobrante, including a six-lane arterial north of Lake Mathews, a four-lane limited-access expressway south of Lake Mathews. East of El Sobrante, this alternative is the same as Alternative 5 described above, providing a new six-to eight-lane limited access parkway. The proposed arterial street improvements north and south of Lake Mathews are consistent with the Riverside County General Plan Circulation Element and

generally follow the alignments shown in the General Plan.

Alternative 9 is a four-to six-lane controlled access parkway between I-15 and Old Elsinore Road, south of Lake Mathews and Mead Valley. The alternative is aligned south of Metropolitan Habitat Conservation Plan Reserve lands and traverses the Gavilan Hills area. From Old Elsinore Road to the I-215 interchange, Alternative 9 is a six-to eight-lane controlled access parkway. East of I-215, Alternative 9 follows Placentia Avenue; east of Evans Road, it follows a common alignment with Alternatives 4-7 through McCanna Hills and along Ramona Expressway. Alternative 9 is a six-to eight-lane controlled-access parkway between I-215 and SR-79. Alternative 9 would connect to system-to-system interchanges at I-15, I-215, and SR-79.

The Draft EIR/EIS and technical studies are available for viewing at the following locations during regular business hours: (1) RCTC, 4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor, Riverside, CA 92502; (2) FHWA, 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100, Sacramento, CA 95814; (3) Caltrans District 8 Office—6th Floor, 464 W. 4th St., San Bernardino, CA 92401; (4) City of Corona—Public Works Department, 400 South Vicentia Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 210, Corona, CA 92882; (5) Corona Public Library, 650 S. Main St., Corona, CA 92882; (6) Perris Public Library, 163 E. San Jacinto Ave., Perris, CA 92507; (7) San Jacinto Public Library, 500 Idyllwild Dr., San Jacinto, CA 92583; (8) Woodcrest Library, 16625 Krameria, Riverside, CA 92504; and (9) Hemet Library, 300 E. Latham Avenue, Hemet, CA 92543. You may also view and comment on the Draft EIR/EIS at <http://www.midcountyparkway.org>.

Issued on: October 2, 2008.

**Nancy E. Bobb,**

*Director of State Programs, Major Projects Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration, 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100, Sacramento, CA 95814.*

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## **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### **Federal Highway Administration**

#### **Environmental Impact Statement: San Diego, CA**

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

will be prepared for the proposed State Route 76 (SR-76) South Mission Road to the Interstate 15 (I-15) interchange highway improvement project in San Diego County, California.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Susanne Glasgow, Deputy District Director, at the California Department of Transportation, District 11—Environmental Division, M.S.-242, 4050 Taylor Street, San Diego, California 92110, Telephone (619) 688-0100.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Effective July 1, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration assigned and Caltrans assumed environmental responsibilities for this project, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327. Caltrans will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a proposal for a highway improvement project in San Diego County, California. The proposed project would upgrade and improve operations on SR-76 from the vicinity of South Mission Road to the vicinity of the SR-76/I-15 interchange. The proposed improvements would upgrade the roadway to current design standards and improve operations of intersections and at the interchange on and off ramps. These improvements are considered necessary to provide for the increase in existing and projected traffic demand. The total length of the proposed project is approximately 5.2 miles. Preliminary alternatives under consideration include (1) Take no action; (2) construct improvements along the existing roadway; and (3) construct a new southern alignment. Anticipated final approvals for the proposed project include, but are not limited to, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Consultation under Section 2081 of the California Endangered Species Act, conformance with the Section 404 MOU Integration Process, conformance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, conformance with Section 1602 of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, conformance with Section 4(f), and conformance with the Clean Air Act.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, Cooperating/Participating Agencies (including Tribal governments), local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have an interest in this proposal. National Environmental Policy Act documentation for the proposed project began in March 2008. The Public Scoping meeting will be held at the Bonsall Community Center in Bonsall, California on October 22, 2008, from 5

p.m. to 8 p.m. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the public hearing (as applicable). The EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

To ensure that the full range of issues to this proposed action is addressed and all significant issues are identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties.

Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the address provided above.

(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: October 7, 2008.

**Nancy E. Bobb,**

*Director, State Programs, Sacramento, California.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Highway Administration

[Docket No. FHWA-2008-0140]

#### Proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Assigning Environmental Responsibilities to the State of Alaska

**AGENCY:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Alaska Division Office, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of proposed MOU and request for comments.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces that the FHWA and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (State) have developed a proposed MOU, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 326, under which the FHWA would assign to the State the FHWA's responsibility for determining whether a project is categorically excluded from preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.* (NEPA), and for carrying out certain other responsibilities for conducting environmental reviews, consultations, and related activities for Federal-aid highway projects. The public is invited to comment on any aspect of the proposed MOU, including the proposed designations of categorical exclusions and scope of environmental review,

consultation and other activities to be assigned.

**DATES:** Please submit comments by November 28, 2008.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments identified by Federal Document Management System (FDMS) Docket Number FHWA-2008-0140, or by any of the following methods:

*Web site:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

*Fax:* 1-202-493-2251.

*Mail:* Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Room W12-140, Washington, DC 20590-0001

*Hand Delivery:* U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Room W12-140, Washington DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

*Docket:* For access to the docket to view a complete copy of the proposed MOU, or to read background documents or comments received, go to <http://www.regulations.gov> at any time or go to the ground floor, U.S. Department of Transportation, Room W12-140, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. (EST), Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Tim Haugh, Environmental Program Manager, FHWA Alaska Division, 709 West 9th Street, Room 851, Juneau, AK 99802, Office Hours 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (AST) Monday through Friday, (907) 586-7418, [tim.haugh@dot.gov](mailto:tim.haugh@dot.gov); or William Ballard, Statewide Environmental Manager, Statewide Design and Engineering Services, Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, P.O. Box 112500, Juneau, AK 99811-2500, Office Hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (AST) Monday through Friday, (907) 465-6954, [bill.ballard@alaska.gov](mailto:bill.ballard@alaska.gov).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

##### Electronic Access

An electronic copy of this notice may be downloaded using a computer, modem, and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the Office of the Federal Register's home page at <http://www.archives.gov> and the Government Printing Office's Web site at <http://www.access.gpo.gov>. An electronic version of the proposed MOU may be downloaded by accessing the FDMS docket, as described above, at <http://www.regulations.gov>.