

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 11

4050 TAYLOR STREET, M.S. 242

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July 10, 2015

11-SD-94/125
EA 14665 (1100000078)

To All Interested Individuals, Organizations, and Businesses:

Notice of Availability of Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration, and Notice of Public Hearing

This letter is to inform you that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared a Draft Initial Study /Environmental Assessment (Draft IS/EA) and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which examines the potential environmental impacts for the proposed interchange project, located on State Route 94 (SR-94) and State Route 125 (SR-125). The proposed project will construct a direct freeway-to-freeway connection from southbound SR-125 to eastbound SR-94 in the Cities of La Mesa and Lemon Grove. The proposed project extends from the Lemon Avenue on-ramp to the eastbound Kenwood Drive off-ramp. The proposed project will result in the construction of a freeway-to-freeway connector to allow direct SR-125 south to SR-94 east movements.

A copy of the Draft IS/EA and proposed MND/FONSI for this project is enclosed for your review. The document describes the purpose and need for the project, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, potential impacts that would result from construction of the project, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The Draft IS/EA and proposed MND/FONSI for this project were prepared in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations including the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Caltrans is preparing this Draft IS/EA as the NEPA lead agency under the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program enacted under Section 1313 of the 2012 program Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), effective October 1, 2012. The Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program allows the State of California to assume responsibility for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) compliance with federal environmental law.

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The document is currently in public circulation, and is available on the internet at the following link: www.dot.ca.gov/dist11/envir.htm. It may also be reviewed at the Caltrans District 11 offices, located at 4050 Taylor Street, Building 1, San Diego, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and at the following locations:

La Mesa Public Library
8074 Allison Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91942
(619) 469-2151

Lemon Grove Public Library
3001 School Lane
Lemon Grove, CA 91945
(619) 463-9819

Spring Valley Branch Library
836 Kempton Street
Spring Valley, CA 91977
(619) 463-3006

Casa De Oro Library
9805 Campo Road, #180
Spring Valley, CA 91977
(619) 463-3236

Please send written comments regarding the proposed project to Caltrans District 11 during the 30-day public review period from July 15, 2015 to August 14, 2015 via postal mail to:

David Nagy, Senior Environmental Planner
Environmental Analysis, Branch B
California Department of Transportation – District 11
4050 Taylor Street, MS 242
San Diego, CA 92110

An open forum public hearing for the project is scheduled for July 28, 2015 at the City of La Mesa Police Department Community Room, 8085 University Avenue, La Mesa, California 91942 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Caltrans representatives will be on hand at the public hearing to provide information on the project and answer questions. A Certified Court Reporter will be available to take public comments for the record, or comments may be submitted in writing if preferred. The public is invited to make formal comments on the project at the hearing, and Caltrans will respond to substantive comments in the final environmental document.

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Individuals who require special accommodation (such as American Sign Language or foreign language interpreter, accessible seating, and documentation in alternative formats) are requested to call the District 11 Public Information Office at (619) 688-6670. Telephone typewriter (TTY) users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929 (TTY), (800) 735-2929 (Voice), or 711.

This notice is also to inform you that pending the results of the public review, which ends on August 14, 2015, Caltrans intends to certify this Draft IS/EA, adopt the proposed MND, and to issue a FONSI.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact David Nagy, Senior Environmental Planner, Environmental Analysis, Branch B, at (619) 688-0224. Thank you for your interest in this transportation project.

Sincerely,



BRUCE L. APRIL
Deputy District Director, Environmental

Enclosure

c: David Nagy, Senior Environmental Planner, Environmental Analysis, Branch B, Caltrans
District 11