Project Development Process

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Prepare Project
Study Report
        ↓
Secure Project
Programming
        ↓
Prepare Draft
Project Report
        ↓
Perform
Environmental Studies
        ↓
Secure
Project Approval
   ↓        ↓        ↓
Obtain Approvals,   Prepare    Acquire
Agreements          PS & E     Rights of Way
& Permits
        ↓        ↓        ↓
Prepare & Advertise
Contract
        ↓
Conduct & Complete
Construction Project
        ↓
Project
Close-out
```

How Caltrans Develops Projects

The Caltrans project development process:

- **Begins with feasibility studies and ends with a completed project.**

- **Has been designed through statute and regulations to provide many avenues for citizens and agencies to comment on project issues.**

Prepare Project Study Report

- **Prepare Project Initiation Document**

- **This includes scoping of the physical work, the budget and schedule to deliver the project. Also, the Need and Purpose of the project is refined.**

- **Typical Timeframe: 6 Months to 12 Months**

Secure Project Programming

- **Project competes for available funding from a variety of sources.**

- **Timing is dependent on funding cycle and project's relative priority**

- **For RTIP funds, regional transportation planning agencies make decisions.**
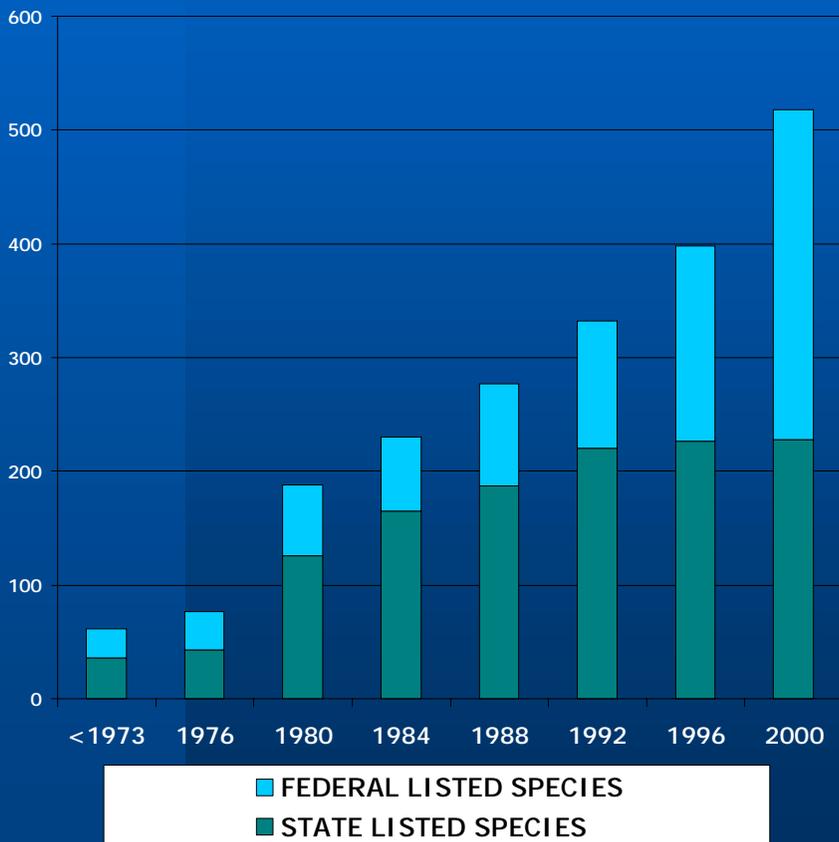
Prepare Draft Project Report

- **Prepare Draft Project Report - engineering report that describes the work.**

- **Consideration of Alternatives**

- **Timeframe: parallel with Environmental Document**

Perform Environmental Studies

- **Environmental Studies Include:**
    - **Visual Impact analysis**
    - **Air Quality studies**
    - **Noise impacts**
    - **Water Quality studies**
    - **Hazardous Waste investigations**
    - **Hydraulic/Floodplain studies**
    - **Paleontology studies**
    - **Biological studies and assessments**
    - **Wetlands studies**
    - **Archeological surveys**
    - **Cultural and historical studies**

Listed Species

Perform Environmental Studies

- **Alternatives must be formally considered under a variety of circumstances**

- **Goal is to find least environmentally damaging alternative that fulfills Need and Purpose**

- **Timeframe on large documents averages 5 years**

Secure Project Approval

- **Project Approval/Environmental Approval**

- **FHWA and other regulatory Agencies must approve**

Final Design

- **Detailed Design, preparing of contract documents to be bid**

- **Entails range of activities from detailed engineering to color of walls and type of landscaping**

- **Timeframe: 2 years typical**

Acquire Rights of Way

- **Concurrent with detailed design**

- **Ensures that there is physical room and rights to build project**

- **Timeframe: Typically 6 months to 2 years**

Obtain Approvals, Agreements & Permits

- **Concurrent with R/W and Final design. Includes:**
  - **Permits**
  - **Cooperative Agreements**
  - **Freeway and Controlled Access Highway Agreements**
  - **Relinquishment Agreements**
  - **Maintenance Agreements**

Prepare & Advertise Contract

- **Design is complete.**
- **Right of Way - All needed properties have been obtained either by easement or acquisition, and all utilities have been taken care of.**
- **All permits and Agreements obtained**
- **California Transportation Commission must approve a fund request.**
- **Final project documents and bid package are then assembled for advertising.**

Conduct & Complete Construction Project

- **A Contractor is selected and the Construction contract is awarded**
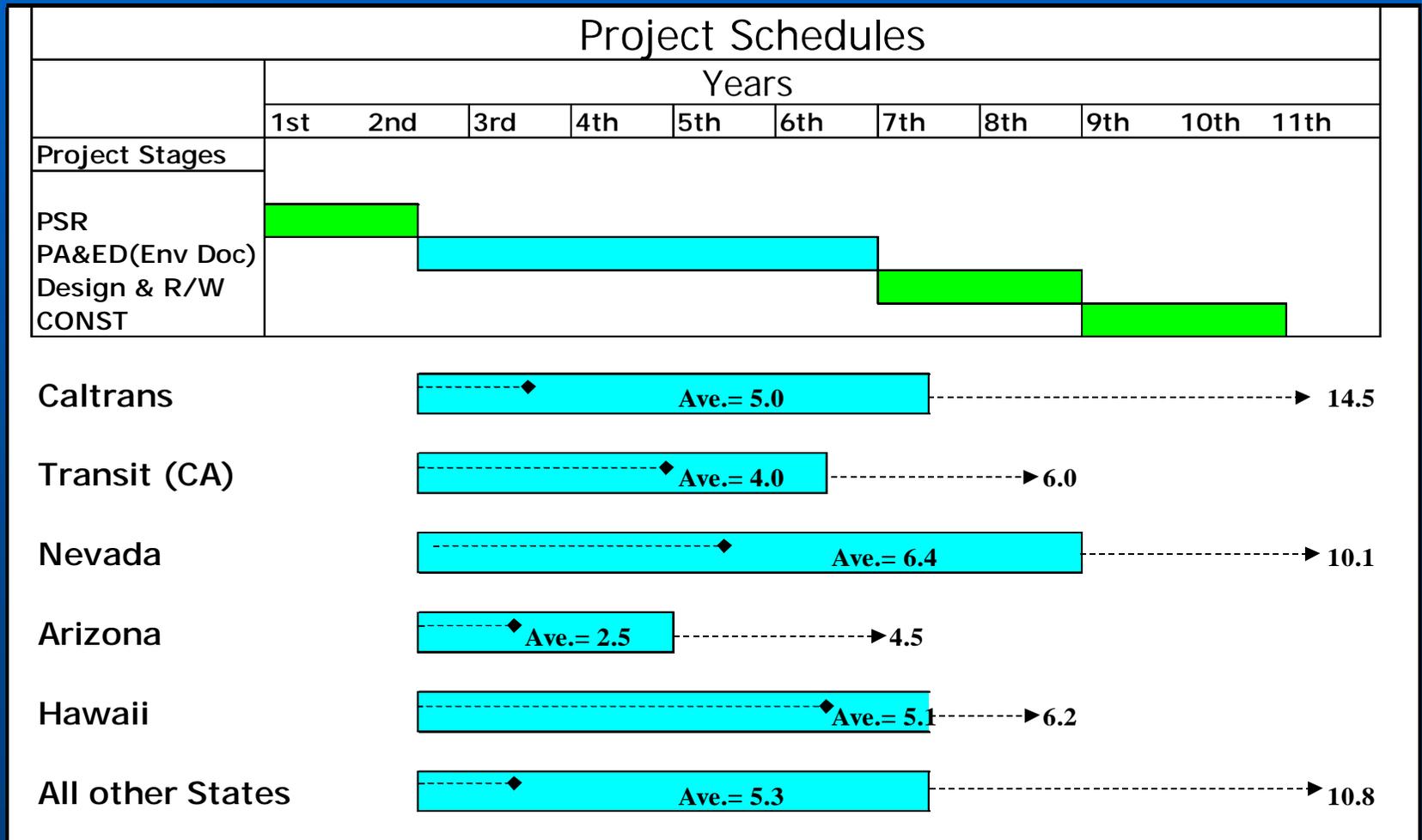
- **Timeframe: Varies, 6 months to 3 years**

Challenges - PSR

- **Need and Purpose**

- **Scope of work clear and obtainable**

- **Consensus**

Challenges - PA&ED

- **Timeline for Environmental Analysis**

- **Reviews time by other agencies can be 40% or more of time**

Typical Highway Improvement Project

Challenges - Design and R/W

- **Ensuring Need and Purpose met**

Streamlining Efforts

- **Involve Resource Agencies at Project Initiation**

- **Manage MOUs - continuously improve**

- **Good project Scopes and Schedules**

Streamlining

- **Funds for staff at Resource and Regulatory agencies to deal with expanding Transportation Program**

- **Partnering meetings with EPA/CT/FHWA**

- **Enhance Coordination with Coastal Commission, NMFS, USEPA, USACoE, USFWS,SHPO, CDFG**

Streamlining

- **Reduce reworking project decisions by more involvement and outreach at critical times**

- **Perform activities concurrently when possible**

- **Utilize consultants for peak workloads and specialties**