Westbound State Route 91 Lane Extension and Auxiliary Lane Reconstruction

(from East of the Northbound SR-55/Westbound SR-91 Connector through the Tustin Avenue Interchange)

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
DISTRICT 12 – ORA – 91, PM 7.9/9.5
Project ID 1200000078; EA 0C5600

Initial Study/with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation

November 2010

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General Information About This Document

What's in this document?

The California Department of Transportation (Department) has prepared this Initial Study, which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the proposed project located in Orange County, California. The document describes why the project is being proposed, alternatives for the project, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, the potential impacts from each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

What should you do?

- Please read this Initial Study. Additional copies of this document, as well as the technical studies, are available for review at:

  Caltrans District 12
  3347 Michelson Drive, Suite 100
  Irvine, California 92612
  (949) 724-2000

  City of Anaheim Regional Library
  500 W. Broadway
  Anaheim, California 92805
  (714) 765-1880

  City of Anaheim
  Planning Department
  200 South Anaheim Boulevard
  Anaheim, California 92805
  (714) 765-5009

- Attend public hearing.
  A public hearing will be held on December 2, 2010, at Crescent Elementary School, from 4:30 pm to 7:00 pm.
- We welcome your comments. If you have any comments regarding the proposed project, please attend the Public Hearing and/or send your written comments to the Department by the deadline.
- Submit comments via postal mail to:

  Leslie Manderscheid, Environmental Branch Chief
  Department of Transportation, Environmental Analysis Branch B
  3347 Michelson Drive, Suite 100
  Irvine, California 92612-1692
- Submit comments via e-mail to: SR91TustinAve_D12@dot.ca.gov
- Submit comments by the deadline: December 20, 2010

What happens after this?

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, the Department may: (1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, (2) undertake additional environmental studies, or (3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, the Department could design and construct all or part of the project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Department of Transportation, Attn: Public Information Office, 3347 Michelson Drive Suite 100, Irvine, California, 92612; (949) 724-2021 or use the California Relay Service TTY number, 711 or 1-800-735-2922.

12-ORA-91-PM 7.9/9.5
Project ID 1200000078; EA 0C5600

Westbound State Route 91 Lane Extension and Auxiliary Lane Reconstruction (from East of the Northbound SR55/Westbound SR91 Connector through the Tustin Avenue Interchange)

INITIAL STUDY (WITH PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION)

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

11-15-10
Date of Approval

Cindy Quon
District Director
California Department of Transportation
District 12

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PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation, District 12 (Department) proposes to improve State Route 91 (SR-91) in the City of Anaheim, Orange County by extending a westbound (WB) lane from the northbound (NB) State Route 55 (SR-55)/WB SR-91 connector through the Tustin Avenue Interchange and reconstruct the WB auxiliary lane from east of the NB SR-55/WB SR-91 connector to the Tustin Avenue off-ramp.

Determination

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is the Department's intent to adopt an MND for this project. This does not mean that the Department's decision regarding the project is final. This MND is subject to modification based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

The Department has prepared an Initial Study for this project, and pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

The proposed project would have no effect on Farmlands/Timberlands, Coastal Zones, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Land Use, Growth, Plant Species, and Threatened and Endangered Species.

In addition, the proposed project would have no significant effect on Visual/Aesthetics, Air Quality, Natural Communities, Animal Species, Invasive Species, Cultural Resources, Geology/Soils/Seismic/Topography, Hazardous Waste/Materials, Hydrology and Floodplains, Water Quality and Storm Water Runoff, Noise, Utilities and Emergency Services, Traffic and Transportation/Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities, and Paleontological Resources.

The proposed project would have no significantly adverse effect on Wetlands and Other Waters, because the following mitigation measure would reduce potential effects to insignificance:

BIO-2 The existing riverine habitat falls under the regulatory jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) pursuant to Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code. Compensatory mitigation for riverine habitat will be required for ACOE Section 404 and CDFG Section 1600 permitting. Riverine habitat subject to ACOE and CDFG jurisdiction may be mitigated at a minimum mitigation-to-impact ratio up to 3:1 for permanent impacts and 1:1 for temporary impacts. Mitigation may involve in-lieu fee transfer to organization that manage and restore similar riverine habitat. In addition to measures implemented through BMPs and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP), temporary jurisdictional riverine impact areas will be restored to pre-construction conditions upon the completion of the work. Final details for compensatory mitigation will be evaluated through coordination between the Department and the resource agencies.

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Cindy Quon Date
District Director
California Department of Transportation District 12

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List of Technical Studies (Separately Bound)

Air Quality Analysis (February 2010)

Final Geotechnical Review Report for SR-91 Improvements Between SR-55 and Tustin Avenue Interchange, Anaheim, California (May 2003; Revised January 2004)

District Preliminary Geotechnical Report (December 2009)

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Report (January 2004)

Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment Update Memorandum (May 2010)

Historic Resources Compliance Report (January 2010)

Location Hydraulic Study (November 2010)

Natural Environment Study (May 2010)

Noise Study Report (April 2010)

Paleontological Resources Identification and Evaluation Report (January 2010)

Traffic Analysis Report (May 2009)

Visual Impact Assessment (March 2010)

Wetlands Delineation and Assessment of Jurisdictional Waters Report (January 2010)

Water Quality Assessment Report (February 2010)

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