State of California • Department of Transportation

MEDIA ADVISORY

Date: Thursday, November 15, 2012

District: 6 – Fresno, Kern, Madera, Kings and Tulare

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Recommends Preferred Alternative for Centennial Corridor Project Public Information Meeting Scheduled

BAKERSFIELD - Caltrans is recommending Alternative B as its preferred alternative for the Centennial Corridor Project because the other build alternatives under consideration would directly affect local parks or historic properties.

Alternative B would provide route continuity and associated congestion relief along State Route 58 from Cottonwood Road to Interstate 5. Alternative B would extend State Route 58 in a westerly direction from State Route 99 for approximately one-half mile along the south side of Stockdale Highway, before turning northwest and ultimately connecting to the Westside Parkway just east of Mohawk Street (see attached map).

Public Information Meeting

To provide the public with additional information on this decision and the project, Caltrans has scheduled a Public Information Meeting for December 6, 2012 at the Kern County Administrative Offices, Building Rotunda, 1115 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, from 4 to 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in an open house format and the public may come and go at any time during the three-hour period. Large scale maps showing potential impacts and project exhibits detailing the process and options considered will be available for review. Right-of-way specialists, engineers, and environmental planners will also be on hand to discuss the project.

Why is Alternative B Caltrans' Recommended Preferred Alternative?

Key to Caltrans' decision was the necessity to follow the requirements of Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Section 4(f) provides a high-level of protection to public parks and historic properties and requires Caltrans to select an alternative that avoids those resources, if such an alternative is available.

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Both Alternative A and C impact properties protected by Section 4(f). Despite extensive efforts, the project team was unable to develop any other viable alternative that avoids protected properties, leaving Alternative B as the only remaining viable build alternative.

- Alternative A would impact a portion of the Kern River Parkway west of Mohawk Street and the Rancho Vista Historic District located south of Stockdale Highway west of State Route 99. Rancho Vista was recently found to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for its incorporation of innovative mass-production techniques during the post-World War II period, and for embodying characteristics of a housing type, period, and method of construction.

- Alternative C would impact a portion of Saunders Park, including removal of the basketball courts, enclosed roller hockey arena, and the splash/water play area.

Engineering efforts to realign Alternatives A and C to avoid impacts to properties protected by Section 4(f) resulted in significant cost increases and additional impacts. It is estimated that Alternative B would cost $570 million. The variations of Alternatives A and C that would avoid Section 4(f) properties would cost anywhere from $787 million to over $2 billion.

Release of Draft Environmental Document (an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement)
The draft environmental document is expected to be circulated to the public in spring 2013 for 60 days. Caltrans will hold a public hearing during the 60-day document circulation period. The final identification of a preferred alternative will be made after consideration of all comments on the draft environmental document.

Contact Information
For additional information on the Centennial Corridor Project, property status, and the right-of-way process, please call or email Caltrans at 1-888-404-6375 or Centennial@dot.ca.gov.

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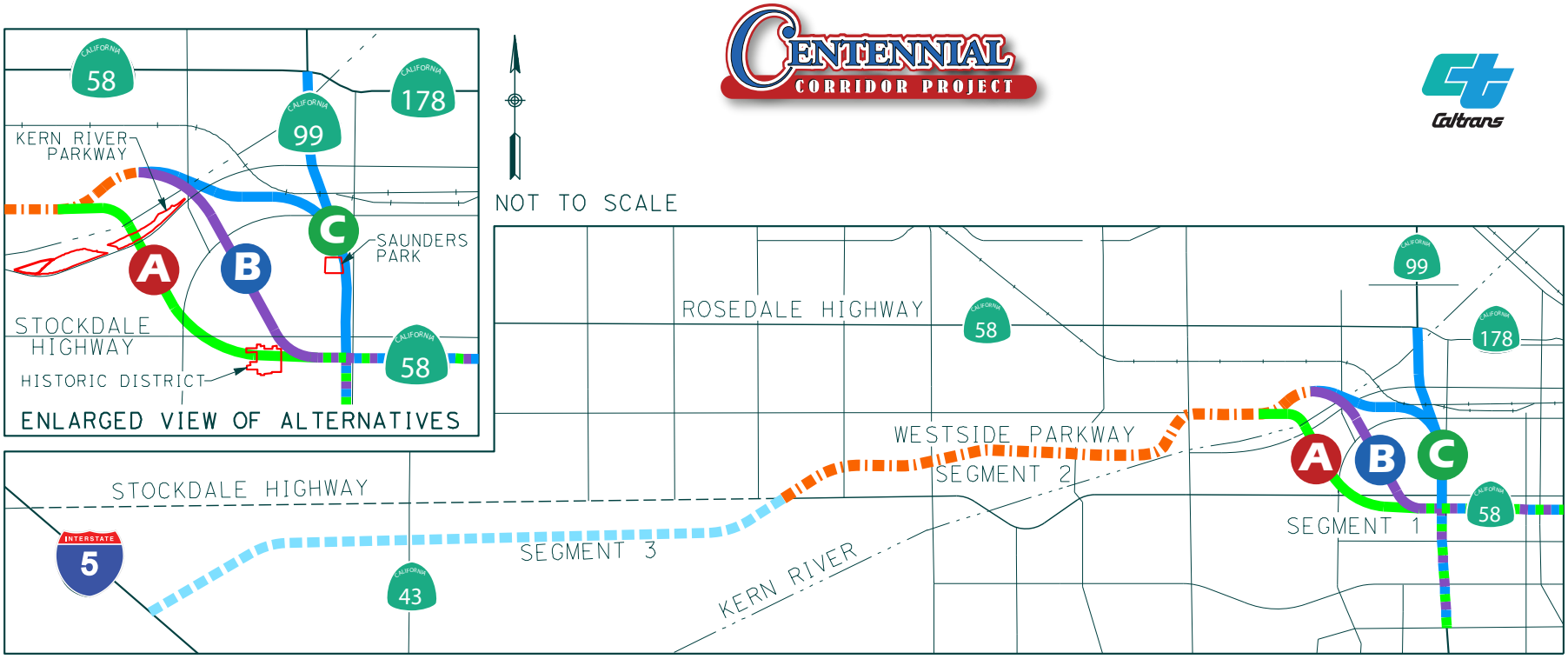
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CORRIDOR PROJECT
Caltrans
NOT TO SCALE
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KERN RIVER
PARKWAY
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SAUNDERS
PARK
STOCKDALE
HIGHWAY
HISTORIC DISTRICT
58
ENLARGED VIEW OF ALTERNATIVES
ROSEDALE HIGHWAY
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WESTSIDE PARKWAY
SEGMENT 2
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SEGMENT 1
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STOCKDALE HIGHWAY
INTERSTATE
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KERN RIVER