

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 8-9, 2004

Reference No.: 2.2a.  
Action Item

From: CINDY MCKIM  
Acting Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Gary R. Winters  
Division Chief  
Environmental Analysis

Ref: **SUMMARY – NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, ROUTES 5, 805 IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY – ADD HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE (HOV) LANES IN SAN DIEGO, SOLANA BEACH, ENCINITAS, CARLSBAD AND OCEANSIDE**

## **ISSUE:**

The California Transportation Commission is being asked to review and comment at the December 2004 Commission meeting on the following Notice of Preparation (NOP):

- 11-SD-5, KP R45.7/R89.1 (PM R28.4/R55.4), 11-SD-805, KP 43.9/46.3 (PM 27.3/28.8). Add High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes in San Diego, Solana Beach, Encinitas, Carlsbad and Oceanside in San Diego County.

## **PROGRAMMING:**

This project is not fully funded. The project is programmed in the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program for \$2,000,000 in Regional Improvement Program Funds, \$4,000,000 in Federal Discretionary Funds, and \$6,000,000 in Regional Surface Transportation Program Funds for Project Development. The total estimated project cost is \$672 million with construction estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2009-10.

## **ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:**

- Eight mixed-flow lanes plus four HOV lanes plus buffer – Add two HOV lanes in each direction, separated from the other lanes by a buffer;
- Ten mixed-flow lanes plus four HOV lanes plus buffer – Add two HOV lanes and a mixed-flow lane in each direction, separated by a buffer;
- Eight mixed-flow lanes plus four HOV lanes plus barrier – Add two HOV lanes in each direction, separated from the other lanes by a physical barrier and standard shoulders;
- Ten mixed-flow lanes plus four HOV lanes plus barrier – Add two HOV lanes and a mixed-flow lane in each direction, separated by a physical barrier and standard shoulders;
- No Build;

- Alternatives will be examined for each lagoon crossing along the project corridor. Alternatives will include continuing 2:1 fill slopes, and removing fill and lengthening bridge structures.

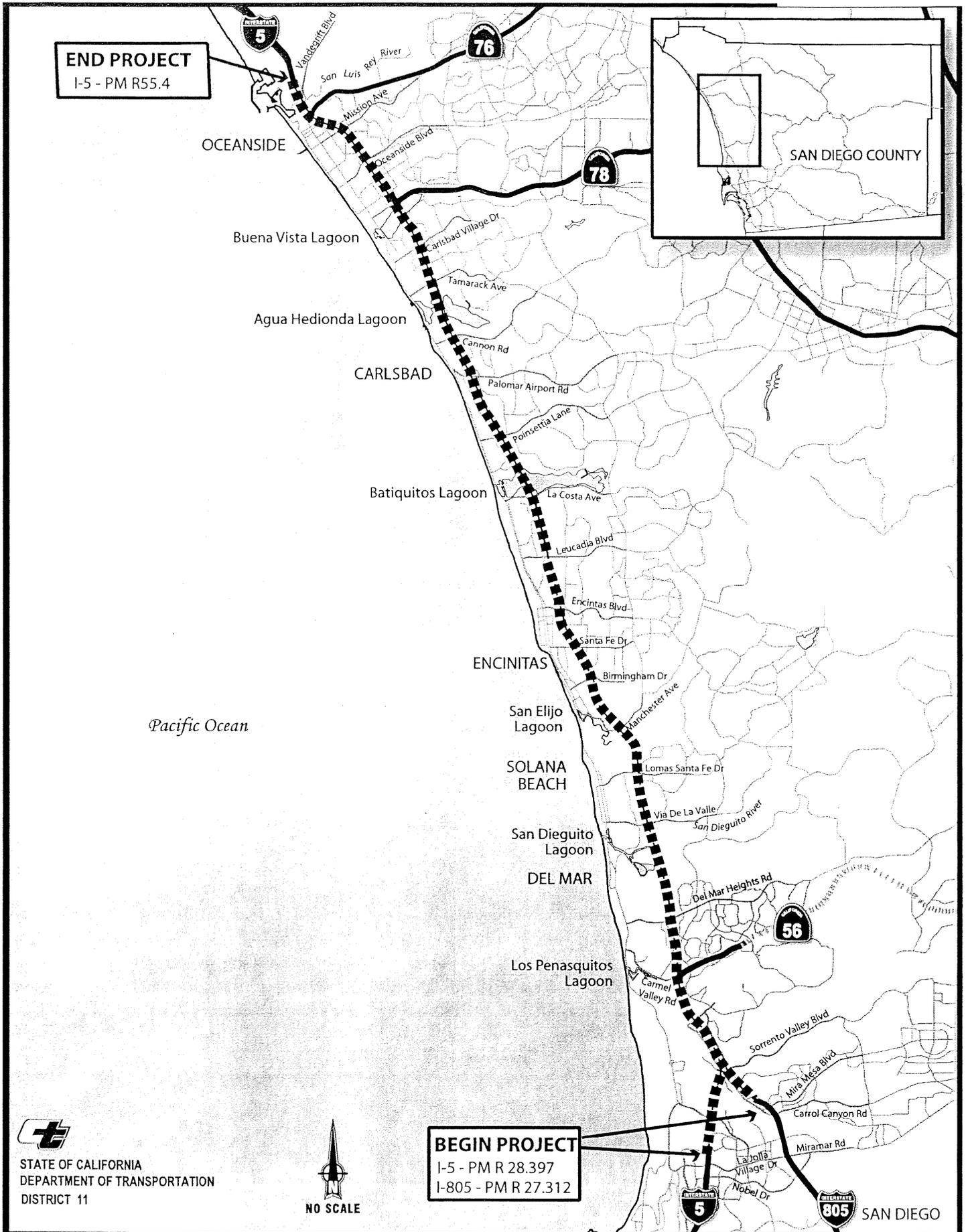
**POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

- Natural resources (endangered species, habitats and wetlands).
- Cultural resources
- Noise
- Community
- Coastal Zone impacts
- Visual impacts

**PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:**

- Avoidance
- Off-site and on-site mitigation for natural resource impacts
- Noise attenuation
- Design project to lessen visual impacts of cut/fill slopes, retaining walls, and views to lagoons and ocean

Attachment



North Coast I-5 Corridor Project Location Map

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

To: CTC Liaison  
 Department of Transportation -  
 Division of Environmental Analysis  
 ATTN: Ms. Marilee Mortenson  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 1120 N Street, MS 27  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sacramento, CA 95814  
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From: California Dept. of Transportation  
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 District 11  
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 2829 Juan Street  
 San Diego, CA 92110  
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Subject: **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**  
*Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.*

Project Title: North Coast Interstate 5 Corridor Project

Project Location: On Interstate 5 from La Jolla Village Drive in San Diego north along I-5 to Vandegrift Boulevard in Oceanside, California and on Interstate 805 from just north of Mira Mesa Blvd to the Interstate 5/Interstate 805 merge.

Project Description: Caltrans proposes to add high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes in each direction along the corridor. One general purpose lane in each direction may also be added from Del Mar Heights Road to State Route 78. The project would also include interchange improvements and auxiliary lanes where needed and approximately five direct access ramps (DARs) to allow transit vehicles and carpoolers a transition point into the designated HOV lanes.

This is to inform you that the California Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration will be the lead agency and will prepare an environmental impact report/statement (EIR/EIS) for the project described within this notice. Your participation as a responsible agency is requested in the preparation and review of this document.

We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval actions for the project.

A more detailed project description, location map, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

A copy of the Initial Study ( is) ( is not) attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please direct your response to Jason A. Reynolds, Chief-Environmental Analysis Branch A, MS 46 Telephone (858) 616-6609 at the address shown above. Please supply us with the name for a contact person in your agency.

Date 10/15/04

Signature Jason A. Reynolds  
 Title Branch Chief

### **Project Description**

The proposed project begins at post mile (PM) 28.4 and kilo-post (KP) 45.7 on Interstate 5 (I-5) and at PM 27.3 (KP 43.9) on Interstate 805 and continues northerly on I-5 to PM 55.4 (KP 89.1). The proposed project would include the addition of HOV lanes to the existing facility. General-purpose lanes may also be added from Del Mar Heights to State Route 78. This project also proposes additional auxiliary lanes in areas with foreseeable operational needs such as heavy weave areas.

Five direct access ramps (DARs) are proposed in the project corridor to provide direct connections for HOV traffic and regional transit vehicles to and from the median. These DARs would enhance HOV/Transit freeway access and improve freeway operations on the general-purpose lanes. DARs are proposed at critical locations in the corridor.

Within the limits of the project, environmental resources and issues are known to exist including but not limited to: archaeological sites, biological resources including wetlands and sensitive species, water quality, impacts to park land – Section 4(f) land, proximity impacts to existing residential areas such as noise, air pollution, change of community character, and visual impacts to natural undisturbed areas due to cuts, fills, and structures. This list of environmental resources and issues are a result of preliminary research and may not be all-inclusive.

Alternatives will be examined at the lagoon locations. At each lagoon, it is anticipated that an alternative to remove all or part of existing fill and the placement of a structure will be examined.

Public scoping meetings were held in each city along the project length at the following locations:

Wed., Jan. 7 Carlsbad Library - George & Patricia Gowland Meeting Room - 1775 Dove Lane

Tue., Jan. 13 Oceanside High School - Multi Purpose Room - 100 S. Horn St.

Tue., Jan 27 Encinitas Community Center - Room 142B - 1140 Oakcrest Park Dr.

Tue., Feb. 10 Solana Beach – Solana Beach City Council Chambers 635 S. Highway 101

Tue., Feb. 17 Del Mar City Hall - Council Chambers Room 1050 Camino Del Mar

Tue., March 2 San Diego - Westfield Shopping Town UTC - Forum Hall behind Wells Fargo Bank

A Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was published by the Federal Highway Administration on January 12, 2004.