

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: April 13-14, 2005

Reference No.: 2.2b.(1)  
Action Item

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Ref: **SUMMARY – DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, STATE ROUTE 65 IN  
TULARE COUNTY – WIDEN EXPRESSWAY NEAR TERRA BELLA**

## **ISSUE:**

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) is being asked to review and comment at the April 2005 Commission meeting on the following Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

- 06-Tul-65, KP 0.0/29.0 (PM 0.0/18.0). Widen to four-lane expressway near Terra Bella in Tulare County.

## **PROGRAMMING:**

This project is currently programmed in the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for \$3,195,000 for right-of-way capital and support. The project is not fully funded. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$69 million for capital and support. The strategy for construction will be to break the project down into phases. Construction of Phase 1 is scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2007-08, with Phases 2 and 3 to be constructed as funding becomes available.

## **ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:**

- Build Alternative – Widen from two lanes to four-lane expressway.
- No Build Alternative.

## **POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

Noise impacts - Several sensitive receptors would exceed the applicable noise abatement criteria. Of these, three receptor sites representing homes and farmhouses would experience a substantial noise increase (an increase in excess of 12 dBA). Noise abatement for these receptor sites was considered but the abatement measures were determined not to be reasonable and feasible. Because there will be unmitigated potentially significant impacts, an Environmental Impact Report with a Statement of Overriding Considerations is being prepared.

**PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:**

Construct a sound wall at Deer Creek Recreational Park. As stated above, noise abatement for other sensitive receptors is not recommended because noise abatement costs would exceed what is reasonable.

Attachment

