

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: July 13-14, 2005

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

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Ref: **SUMMARY – DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, ROUTE 101 IN MONTEREY COUNTY – IMPROVE SAFETY, OPERATIONS AND ACCESSIBILITY IN PRUNEDALE**

## **ISSUE:**

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

- 05-Mon-101, KP R146.8/161.6 (PM R91.2/100.4). Improve safety, operations and accessibility in Prunedale in Monterey County.

## **PROGRAMMING:**

This project is fully funded in the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program for \$154,457,000 in Interregional Improvement Program funds, \$66,012,000 in Regional Improvement Program funds, and \$4,097,000 in Federal Demonstration funds. The total estimated project cost is \$224,566,000. The project is scheduled to begin construction in Fiscal Year 2008-09.

## **ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:**

- Build Alternative – Construct two new interchanges, improve an interchange, improve and construct local roads including the addition of one new overcrossing and one new undercrossing, and install median barriers.
- No Build Alternative.

**POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

- Aesthetics (Visual Resources)
- Biological resources
- Hydrology and water quality

This project, along with most other major transportation projects in this community over the past 40 years, has evoked substantial public controversy on the basis of potential community impacts. As a result, an Environmental Impact Report is being prepared in anticipation of continuing public controversy and to ensure legal defensibility under the “fair argument” standard of the California Environmental Quality Act.

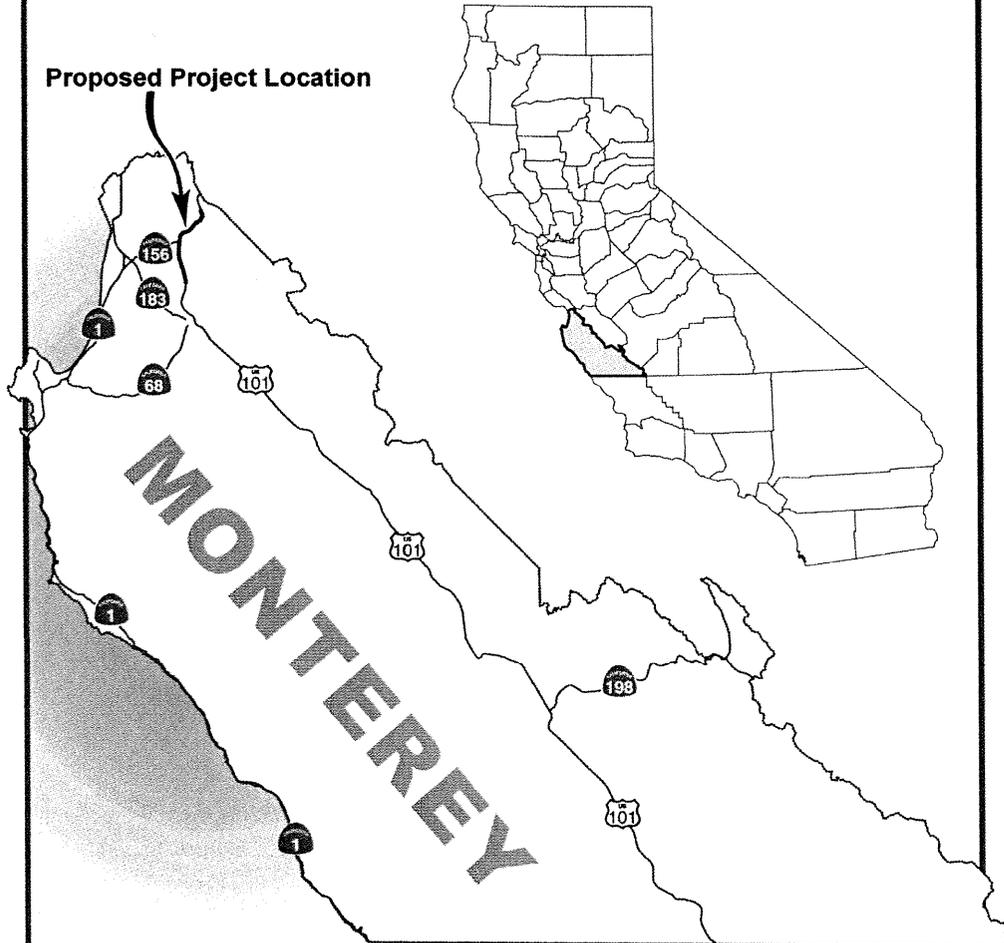
**PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:**

- Construct retaining walls where feasible to reduce project footprint and wetland impacts.
- Restore or mitigate for wetland and habitat loss.
- Pre-construction surveys for sensitive species.
- Designate environmentally sensitive areas.
- Grading for a natural appearance, and planting to control erosion and improve aesthetics.
- Minimize clearing and grubbing.
- Biological monitoring during construction.
- Preserve existing native vegetation and revegetate with native plants to the extent feasible.
- Salvage and replant native plants or collect seeds for re-seeding where feasible.
- Store and reuse topsoil that is free of noxious weeds to protect sensitive plant communities.
- Remove exotic and invasive weeds.
- Remove trees prior to nesting season of sensitive bird species.
- Biologist inspection of trees for active nests prior to tree removal.
- Minimize soil disturbance during the rainy season.
- Implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.
- Meet other terms and conditions of the Section 7 Biological Opinion.
- Meet permit requirements for California Department of Fish and Game 1601 Agreement, Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit, and Regional Water Quality Control Board 401 permit.

Attachment

# Project Vicinity Map

Route 101  
Prunedale Improvement Project  
EA 05-0161E0  
KP R146.8/161.6 (PM R91.2/100.4)



NOT TO SCALE