

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: April 26-27, 2006

Reference No.: 2.2b.(2)  
Action Item

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Environmental Analysis

Ref: **SUMMARY – DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, ROUTE 18 IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY – REPLACE EXISTING BRIDGE NEAR BIG BEAR**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Department of Transportation recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) review and comment at the April 2006 Commission meeting on the following Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

- 08-SBd-18, PM 44.2/44.7, Replace existing bridge near Big Bear in San Bernardino County.

## **PROGRAMMING:**

This project is fully funded. This project is programmed in the 2006 State Highway Operation and Protection Program. The total estimated project cost is \$58,314,000. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2007-08.

## **ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:**

- Alternative 4 - "Lake Crossing". This alternative proposes to construct a new three-lane bridge across the western end of Big Bear Lake. This alternative would widen and realign the approach to accommodate the new structure and eliminate a substandard curve on Route 18. The intersection of Route 18 and Route 38 would be signalized to improve channelization during peak hour traffic on weekends and holidays.
- Alternative 5 - "Canyon Crossing". This alternative proposes to construct a new three-lane bridge across Bear Lake Canyon. This alternative would widen and realign the approach to accommodate the new structure and realign a substandard curve on Route 18. The intersection of Route 18 and Route 38 would be signalized to improve channelization during peak hour traffic on weekends and holidays.
- No-Build Alternative

**POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

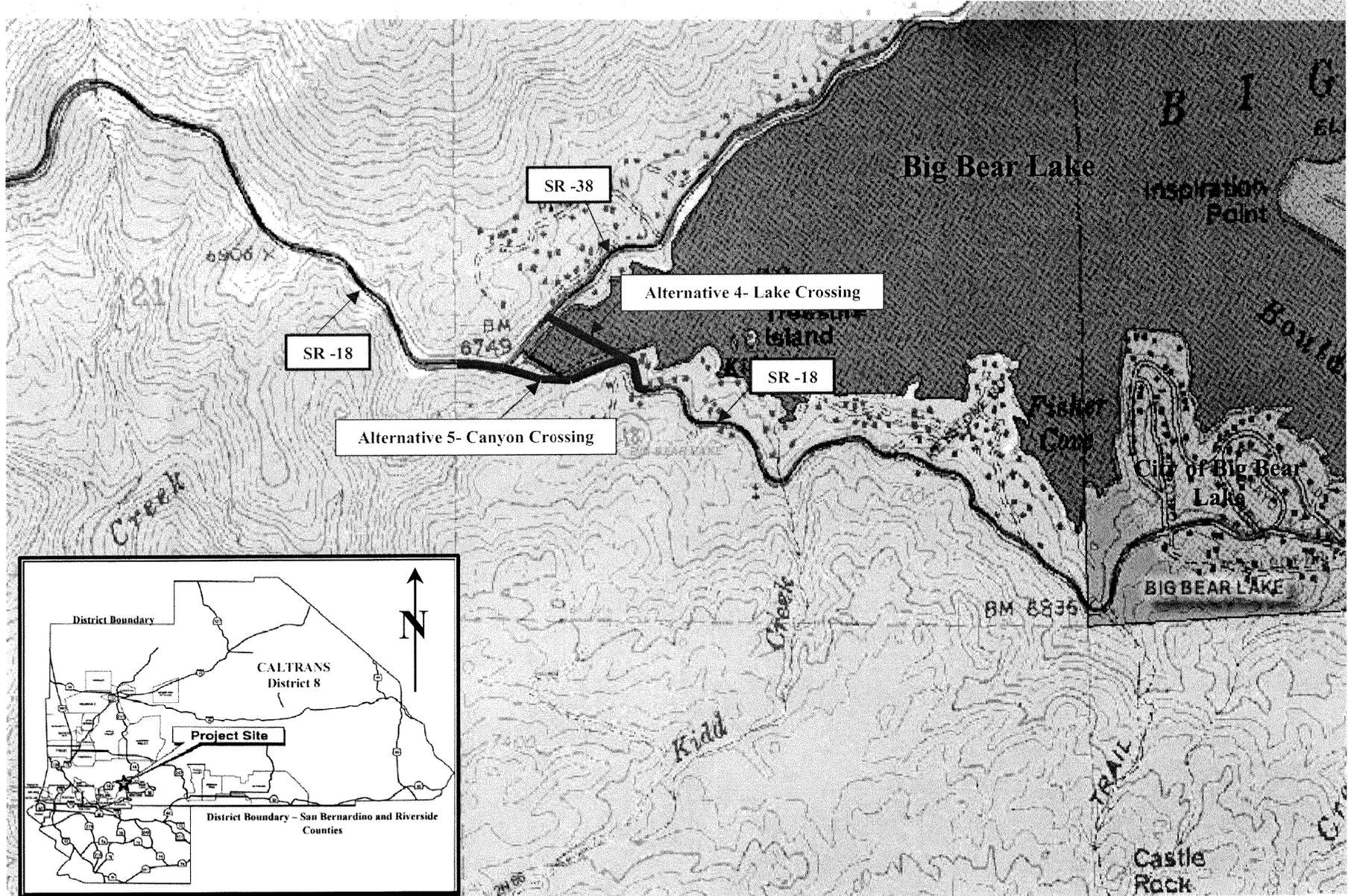
- Visual/Aesthetics

Because Route 18 and Route 38 are part of the United States Forest Service (USFS) scenic byway system and are eligible for listing as State Scenic Highways, any activities that could alter aesthetics could be considered significant. The proposed project will remove mature trees and modify large rock outcroppings in the area. It will also modify the gateway view of Big Bear Lake by introducing new and larger transportation elements. Therefore, it was determined that an Environmental Impact Report should be prepared.

**PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:**

- Context Sensitive Design.
- Execute a Memorandum of Agreement among the California Department of Transportation, USFS, Federal Highway Administration, and State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding bridge type, scale and visual treatments.
- Minimize impacts to rock outcroppings and mature trees to the extent feasible.
- Revegetation.
- Employ colored and textured concrete to complement natural surroundings.
- Treat rock cuts with oxidizing agents to simulate existing weathered conditions.
- Execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the SHPO to mitigate potential impacts to historic and archaeological resources. Designate environmentally sensitive areas for cultural resources not directly affected by construction activities.

Attachment



**Sbd 18 BIG BEAR BRIDGE REPLACEMENT**  
**08-Sbd-18-71.1/71.9 (PM 44.2/44.7)**  
**EA 227000**

