

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: November 7-8, 2007

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

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

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Environmental Analysis

Subject: **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, STATE ROUTE 156 IN SAN BENITO COUNTY – ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS NEAR HOLLISTER**

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) review and comment at the November 2007 Commission meeting on the following Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

- 05-SBt-156, PM 3.0/R8.2, Roadway improvements near Hollister in San Benito County.

PROGRAMMING:

This project in San Benito County would construct roadway improvements that include widening, from two lanes to four lanes, a portion of State Route 156 near Hollister. The project is not fully funded. The project is programmed in the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program for project development and right-of-way for \$22,203,000. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$78,300,000, capital and support. This project should be ready for construction in Fiscal Year 2009-10, depending on the availability of funds.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

Alternatives considered for the proposed project include:

- Alternative 1: No Build.
- Alternative 2: This alternative would construct a four-lane divided expressway with two-lane frontage roads north and south of the expressway.
- Alternative 3: This alternative would construct a four-lane conventional highway/expressway. No frontage roads would be constructed.
- Alternative 4: This alternative would construct a four-lane expressway with a two-lane frontage road on the north side of the expressway.

POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

- Construction-period and project generated noise impacts.
- Temporary water quality degradation.
- Permanent loss of Farmlands.

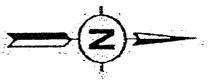
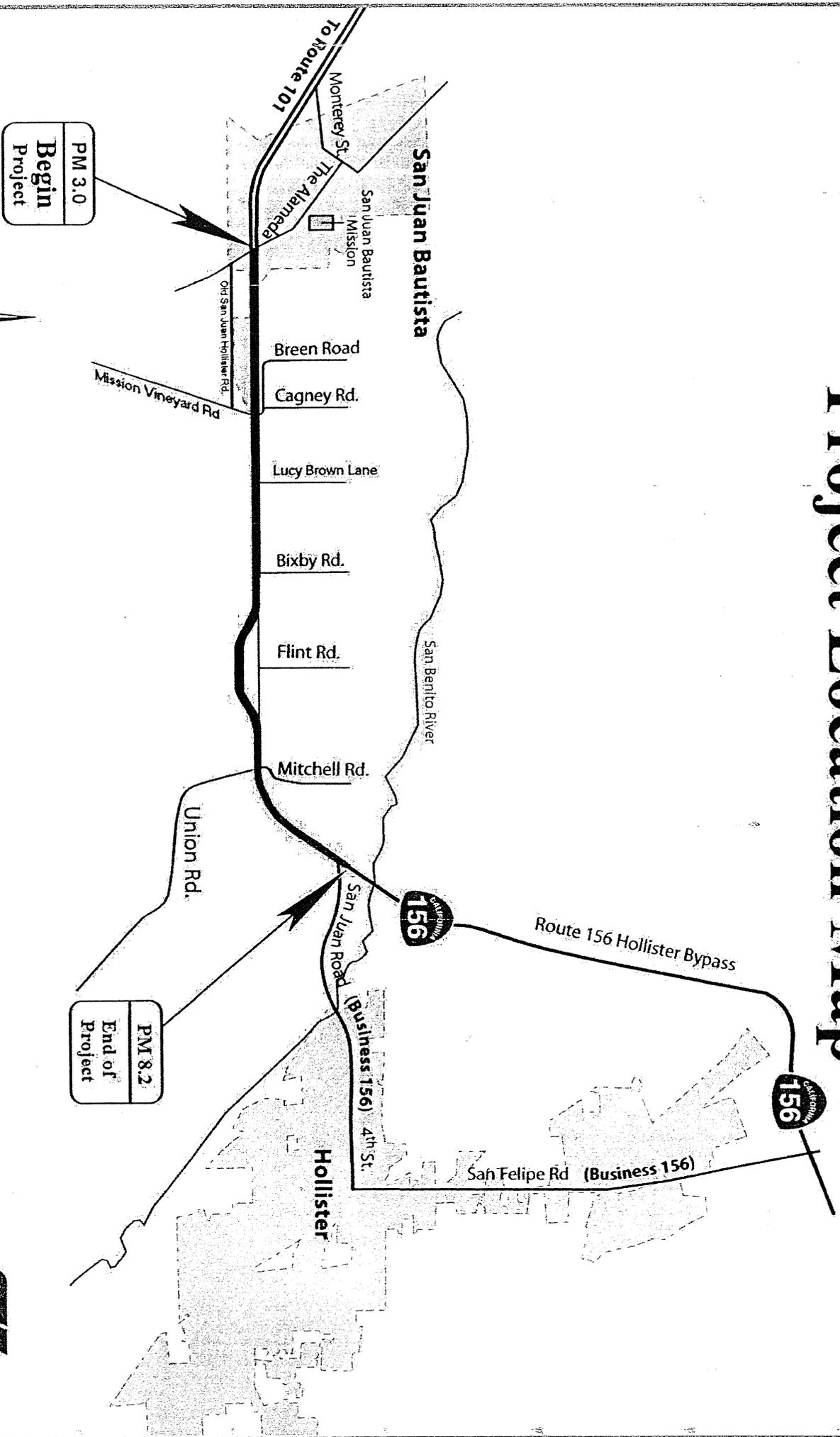
Because of the potentially significant environmental impacts listed above, an Environmental Impact Report is being prepared.

PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:

- Employ noise-reducing construction practices and incorporation of soundwalls into the final project design.
- Employ Best Management Practices (BMPs) for drainage and erosion control during construction.

Attachment

Project Location Map



Not to Scale

