

Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: October 7, 2008

From: JOHN F. BARNA, JR.

File: Book Item 2.2a (2)
Action

Ref: Notice of Preparation – Environmental Impact Report for the Yerba Buena Island Ramps Improvement Project

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, provide comments in response to the Notice of Preparation that an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared for the Yerba Buena Island Ramps Improvement Project?

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Commission make no comments regarding the preparation of the EIR or the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR. However, staff recommends that a letter be sent recommending that the necessary funding sources be secured to fully fund the project.

BACKGROUND: The San Francisco County Transportation Authority (Authority) proposes to remove the westbound on-ramp and the westbound off-ramp located on the eastern side of Yerba Buena Island (YBI). A new westbound on-ramp and a new westbound off-ramp would be constructed. The replacement ramps would address design standards and traffic safety requirements.

This project is separate from both the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge East Span Seismic Safety Project and the Treasure Island and Yerba Buena Island Redevelopment Plan. This project has been proposed to address the geometric and operational deficiencies of the existing westbound on-ramp and existing westbound off-ramp on the eastern side of Yerba Buena Island and their effects on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (I-80) mainline, without degrading the mainline operation as compared to the no-action alternative. This project would improve safety, and facilitate traffic operations, at the I-80/Yerba Buena Island interchange.

Since the project involves a federal action, the environmental document will consist of a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)/EIR. The Authority, acting as the Lead Agency under CEQA, is preparing the EIR. Caltrans, acting as the Lead Agency under NEPA, will issue the EIS.

The Yerba Buena Island Ramps Improvement Project is estimated to cost \$113,000,000. Funding is anticipated through the Proposition 1B Local Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program, Federal Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program and other local funding sources. Construction is scheduled to begin in fiscal year 2011/12.

Attachments

- Project Fact Sheet
- Project Location

Figure 1
Regional Location

