

# Memorandum

**To:** Chair and Commissioners

**Date:** November 19, 2008

**From:** JOHN F. BARNA, JR

**File:** Book Item 2.2a (2)  
Action

**Ref:** Notice of Preparation – Environmental Impact Report for the San Gabriel Trench Grade Separation 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 San Gabriel Trench Grade Separation Project?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Commission make no comments regarding the environmental issues to be addressed in the EIR. However, staff recommends that a letter be sent to the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE) that states:

- In the event the preferred alternative includes a scope of work that is not consistent with the prior programming actions for this project, the revised scope would require an amendment to the project baseline agreement.
- If the preferred alternative results in an estimated cost above the current programmed amount, ACE is responsible for securing necessary supplemental funds to ensure the project is successfully and timely delivered.
- In its adopting resolution for the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund (TCIF), the Commission established its intention to monitor the outcomes of the environmental process with regard to air quality impacts due to emissions from diesel or other particulates and related mitigation strategies. The Commission will only allocate TCIF to projects that can demonstrate compliance with applicable environmental requirements, including the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. The Commission expects that ACE would commit to the implementation of these mitigation measures as part of its submittal of the final environmental document for approval for future funding consideration.

**BACKGROUND:**

ACE is the Lead Agency for the preparation of the EIR/EA in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the San Gabriel Trench Grade Separation project in the City of San Gabriel. The purpose of the Notice of Preparation is to gain input into the scope and content of the environmental information that will be evaluated in the EIR/EA.

The San Gabriel Trench Grade Separation Project is located primarily in the City of San Gabriel, beginning just west of the City of Alhambra and ending just east of the City of Rosemead. The project is located along the Union Pacific Railroad Alhambra Subdivision. The existing track depression through the City of Alhambra would be continued eastward through the City of San Gabriel. A 2.1 mile section of the track will be lowered to below grade in a trench. Bridges will be constructed at Ramona Street, Mission Road, Del Mar Avenue and San Gabriel Boulevard. The rail line will return to grade where it crosses the Rubio Wash, east of San Gabriel Boulevard. Ramona Street, Mission Road and Del Mar Avenue all will remain at their current elevations; however, San Gabriel Boulevard will be raised not more than 2 feet to accomplish the grade separation at that crossing. The rail crossing at Walnut Grove Avenue will remain at grade with a shallow lowering of the roadway to match the proposed railroad grade. In addition, new bridge structures will be provided at the Alhambra Wash and the Rubio Wash.

This project is programmed in the TCIF program of projects. The project, including eligible prior grade separation expenditures, is estimated to cost \$723,566,000 and is programmed with TCIF (\$336,600,000), Federal (\$133,500,000), State/PUC (\$25,000,000), Local (\$204,466,000), and Railroad (\$24,000,000) funds. Construction of the project is anticipated to begin in 2011 and be completed in 2014.