

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: February 19, 2009

Reference No.: 2.2a.(3)
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Jay Norvell
Division Chief
Environmental Analysis

Subject: **NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
ROUTE 11 IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY**

ISSUE:

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) is being asked to review and comment at its February 19, 2009 Commission meeting on the following Notice of Preparation (NOP):

- 11-SD-11, PM 0.0/2.1, PPNO 0999 - Route 11 in San Diego County. Construct a new segment of Route 11, a commercial vehicle enforcement facility, and new port of entry in Otay Mesa.

PROGRAMMING:

This project in San Diego County would construct a new four-lane highway and port of entry (POE) at the United States-Mexico border from east of Route 905/Otay Mesa border crossing to the future Route 125/905 junction. Tier 1 (PPNO 1000) was programmed in the 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program for approximately \$6.0 million in interregional improvement program shares for environmental. The Tier 1 Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) was prepared to inform the public and decision-makers about the potential environmental effects of the proposed program and the preferred corridor. The Tier 1 Final EIR/EIS was presented to the Commission at its October 2008 meeting. This NOP is for the project level environmental document, Tier II (PPNO 0999). Tier II is programmed in the Trade Corridors Improvement Fund program for approximately \$709 million and includes interregional improvement program funds, federal demonstration funds, and local funds/public toll financing. The total estimated cost of both Tier I and Tier II is \$715 million. Construction of the project is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2012-13.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

The Western Corridor alignment for the Route 11 and the Otay Mesa East POE was selected as the preferred alternative during the Tier I/Program level environmental analysis. This Tier II environmental analysis will consider the following preliminary alternatives/design variations:

- (1) No Build/No Action Alternative.

- (2) Transportation System/Demand Alternative: Implement pedestrian, cyclist, transit, and other transportation systems/demand management measures alone, without implementation of Route 11 and the new POE No Build/No Action Alternative.
- (3) Toll Alternative: Construct Route 11 using toll implementation options.
- (4) Two Interchange Option: Building two interchanges between Route 11 and local roadways, or one interchange only, with the exact locations of the interchanges to be determined after consideration of public input.
- (5) Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility Alternative: Utilize the existing commercial vehicle enforcement facility (CVEF) at the existing Otay Mesa POE to also serve the proposed Otay Mesa East POE, versus accommodating the construction of a new CVEF adjacent to the new POE.

POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

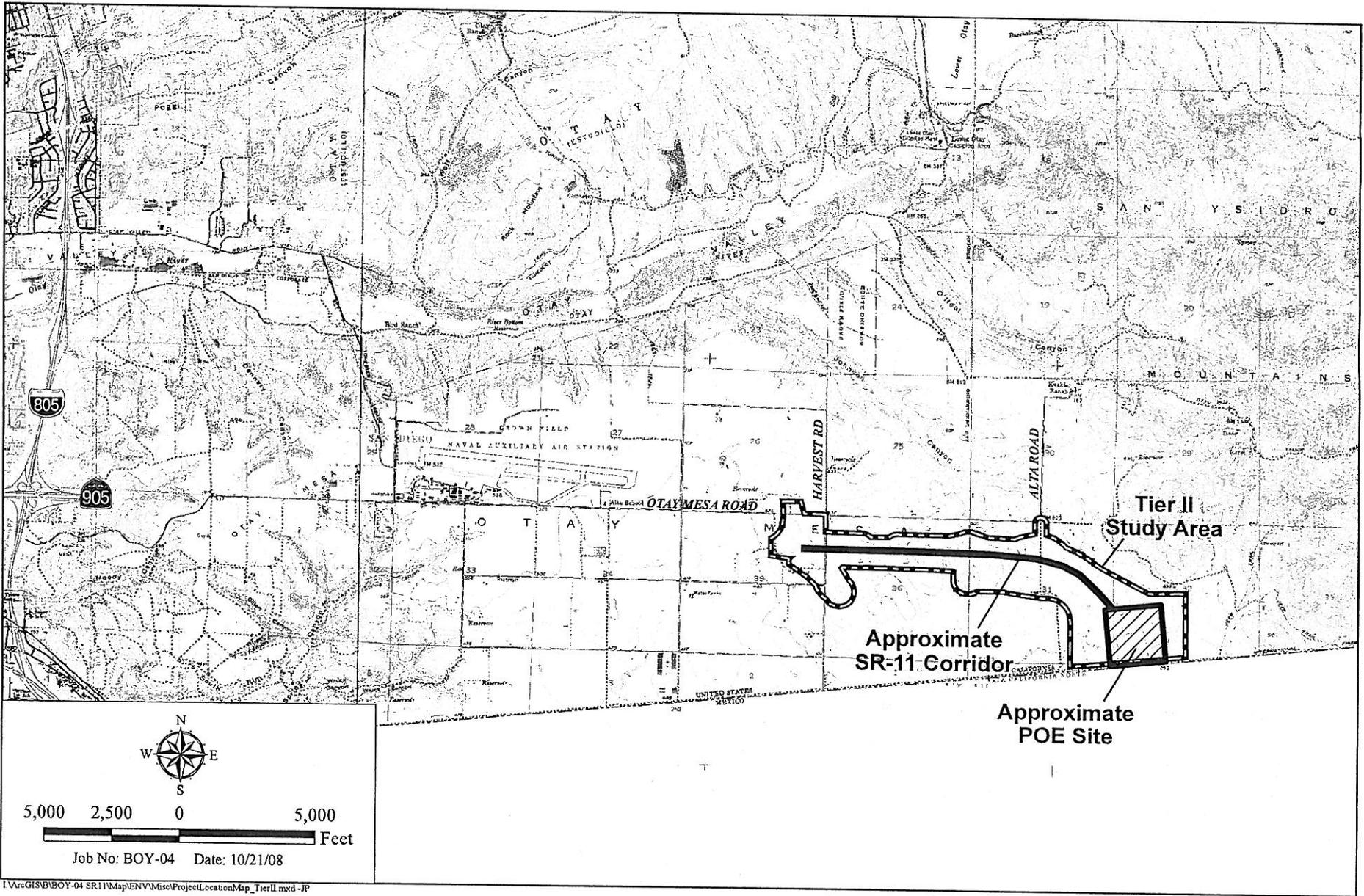
- Community Impacts/Growth
- Energy
- Visual/Aesthetics
- Paleontology
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources (Natural Communities, Wetlands and Other Waters, Plant Species, and Threatened and Endangered Species)

An EIR will be prepared for the project because the study encompasses an extensive area and has generated public controversy. The project could potentially result in substantial environmental impacts to these resources.

PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:

Once design and operational features are determined, further analysis would be required to determine any potential growth-related impacts, which could vary widely. If necessary, measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts to environmental resources from induced growth would be identified in the Tier II Draft EIR/EIS. Mitigation and/or recommendations for actions by other agencies may be required to address cumulative biological resources and other cumulative environmental issues. Cumulative impacts would be evaluated in greater detail based on project-specific design and operational characteristics, as well as updated past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects and environmental baseline information during this phase of the environmental process.

Attachment - Map



Project Location Map

STATE ROUTE 11 AND OTAY MESA EAST PORT OF ENTRY