

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 11-12, 2009

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

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Jay Norvell
Division Chief
Environmental Analysis

Subject: **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**
ROUTE 5 IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) review and comment at its March 11-12, 2009 Commission meeting on the following Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

- 07-LA-05, PM 45.4/59.0 – Construct high occupancy vehicle lanes in each direction and roadway improvements near Santa Clarita in Los Angeles County. (EA 2332E0)

PROGRAMMING:

This project in Los Angeles County will construct high occupancy vehicle lanes in each direction and roadway improvements from Route 5/14 interchange to just south of Parker Road Interchange near the City of Santa Clarita. The project is not fully funded. The project is programmed with Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) funds and private funds in the amount of \$63,200,000. The total cost of the project is estimated to be between \$506,000,000 and \$605,000,000. Assuming the availability of funding, construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2010-11.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

The DEIR identifies three alternatives:

- No Build Alternative.
- Reduced Median Alternative. This alternative would widen the center median 48 feet, construct high occupancy vehicle lanes, add auxiliary lanes and outside shoulders of the north and southbound lanes between Route 14 and north of Parker Road.
- Full Median Alternative. This alternative would widen the center median 62 feet, construct high occupancy vehicle lanes, add auxiliary lanes and outside shoulders of the north and southbound lanes between Route 14 and north of Parker Road.

POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

Potential significant environmental effects identified at this phase of the project include:

- Biological Resources – temporal and cumulative loss of oak woodlands.

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

PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:

- Establish environmentally sensitive areas to protect adjacent woodlands and habitat.
- On and off-site revegetation where feasible.
- Incorporate construction windows to minimize nesting bird season.
- Incorporate engineering design to blend slopes into existing natural areas.
- Minimize construction footprint and implement water quality best management practices.

Attachment - Map

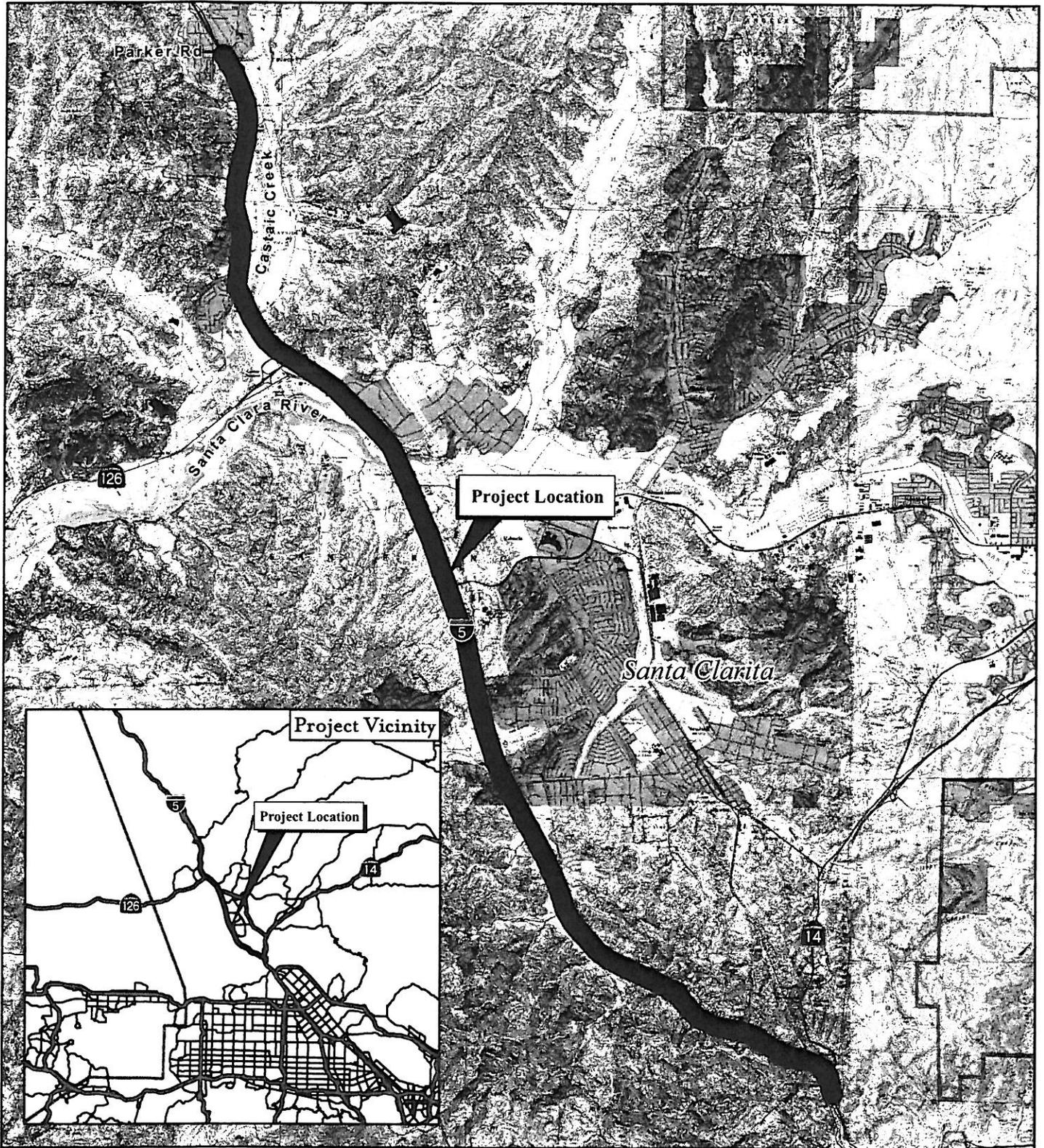
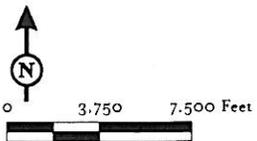


FIGURE ES.1

LEGEND

 Project Location



I-5 HOV / Truck Lanes Project

Project Location

07-LA-5 PM R45.4/R59.0

EA 2332E0

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' QUAD, CALIF.

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