

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 10-11, 2009

Reference No.: 2.2a.(1)
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 9 IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

ISSUE:

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) is being asked to review and comment at its June 10-11, 2009 Commission meeting on the following Notice of Preparation:

- 04-SCI-09, PM 2.5/7.0 - Route 9 in Santa Clara County. Widen shoulders, install metal beam guardrails, install retaining walls, warning signs, and roadway improvements in the city of Saratoga. (PPNO 0385F)

PROGRAMMING:

The project will widen shoulders, install metal beam guardrail, construct retaining walls, and install warning signs in the city of Saratoga. The project is fully funded in the 2008 State Highway Operation and Protection Program. The total estimated project cost is \$13,000,000, capital and support. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2010-11.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

The Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will evaluate the following alternatives:

No Build Alternative:

The No-Build Alternative proposes to maintain the existing conditions without any alterations.

Build Alternative:

This alternative proposes roadway improvements that include improving sight distance, increasing the superelevation, widening shoulders, and installing metal beam guardrails, retaining walls, and warning signs.

POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

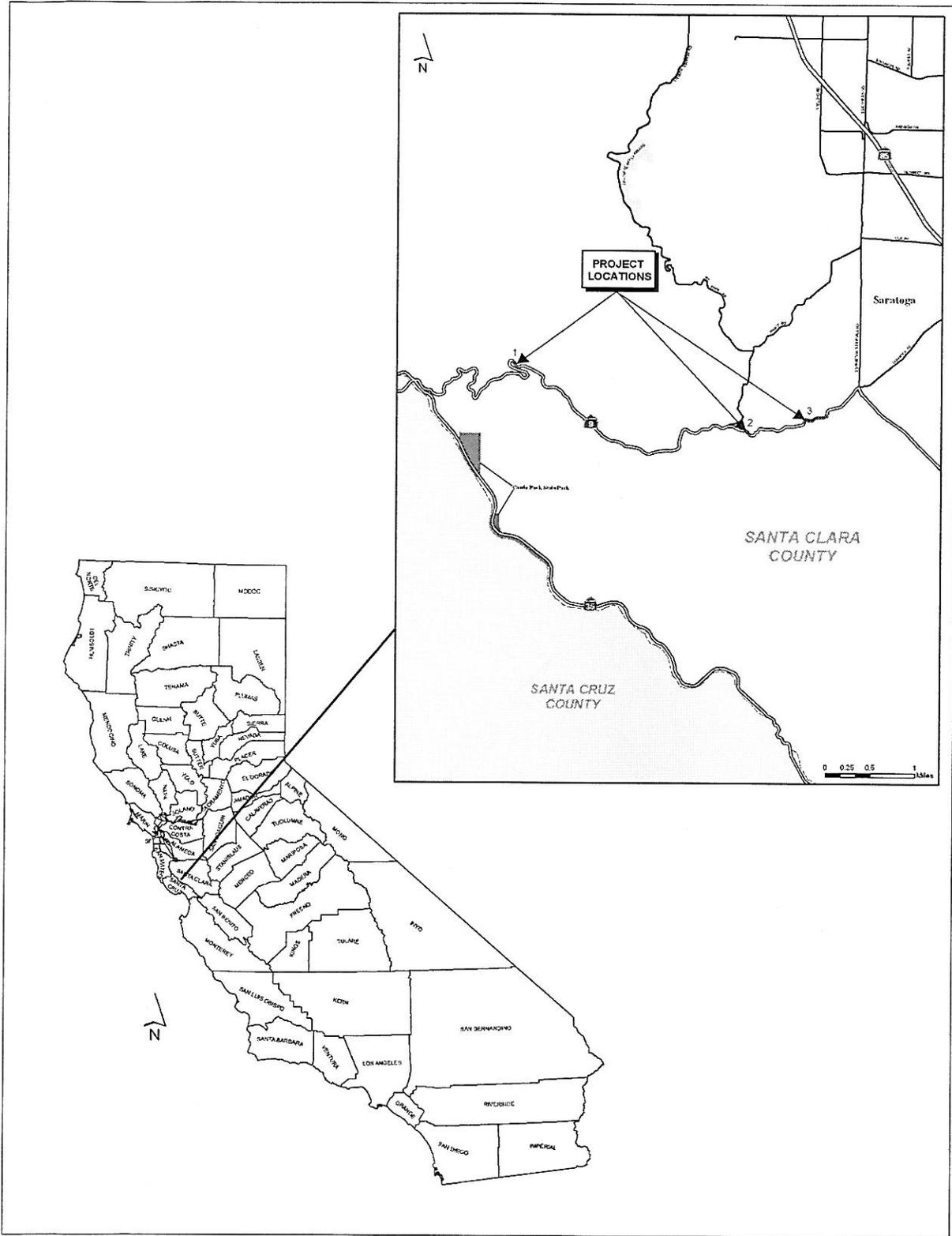
- Biological Impacts – Oak woodlands and Redwood forests, and associated threatened and endangered species.
- Visual Impacts – Scenic highway resources.

An EIR will be prepared for the project because of permanent impacts to the above resources.

PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:

Proposed measures to minimize harm include minimization of disturbance in sensitive habitats, work windows to avoid/reduce biological impacts to species, minimization or avoidance of tree/vegetation removal, revegetation of native tree/shrubs where feasible, incorporate aesthetic wall treatments, light/glare minimization measures, and species-specific mitigation measures.

Attachment - Map



State Route 9 Safety Improvement Project Vicinity Map