

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

March 24, 2026

Subject: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the 03-2J220 Henness Pass CAPM Project.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared an Initial Study (IS) with proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the proposed project located in Sierra County on State Route (SR) 89. Caltrans is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Project Location: The proposed project is located on State Route (SR) 89 in Sierra County, between Post Mile (PM) 0.0 and PM 15.2. The total length of the project is approximately 30.3 miles long.

Project Description:

Caltrans proposes to preserve pavement along the length of the project, which includes overlaying 0.20-foot of HMA-A and placing a new structural section on dig out areas identified with local pavement failure (Appendix A-Project Layouts). The project would also replace 21 culvert systems and rehabilitate 36 existing drainage systems currently in poor condition using Cured-in Place Pipe (CIPP). Additional work would include construction of a Maintenance Vehicle Pullout at southbound PM 12.25, replacing approximately 11,830 linear feet of guardrail with metal beam guardrail (MBGR), upgrading Transportation Management Systems (TMS) elements (signs, non-standard signs, etc.), and replacing the existing census station at PM 14.75 to meet current standards.

Environmental Effects: The proposed project would have Less than Significant Impacts to Aesthetics, Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Waste, Noise, Transportation, and Mandatory Findings of Significance. The proposed project would have Less than Significant Impacts with mitigation measures to Biological Resources.

Availability of Document: Pursuant to CEQA requirements, a Draft IS MND is being made available for a public review period commencing on March 30, 2026, and ending on April 29, 2026. The document can be viewed digitally via Caltrans weblink:
<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-3/d3-programs/d3-environmental/d3-environmental-docs/d3-sierra-county>

Comments: Caltrans will be accepting written comments on the Draft IS MND for consideration prior to adoption of the document. Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, and can be submitted by mail to:

California Department of Transportation, North Region Environmental–District 03, Attn: Angelica Flores, 703 B Street, Marysville, CA 95901.

Submit comments via email to: 03_2J220_Project_Inbox@dot.ca.gov