

# State Route 37 Flood Reduction Project



Second Public Scoping Meeting – December 14, 2022

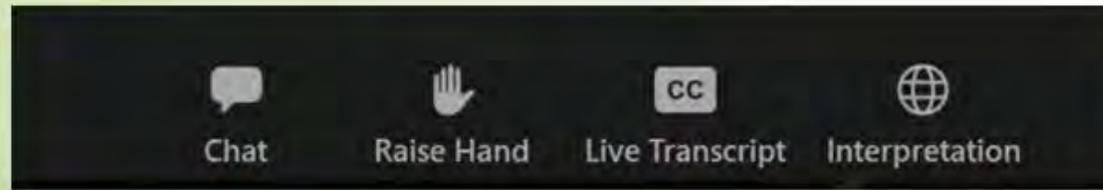


# Introduction to the Panel

- Matt O'Donnell
  - Public Information Officer
- Ahmed Rahid
  - Regional Project Manager
- Kelsey Kress
  - Project Engineer
- Cody Ericksen
  - Senior Environmental Scientist

# Access to Presentation and Transcription

- **Link to Presentation:** The meeting presentation will be posted on the project webpage. The link to the webpage is included in the Chat box.
- **Transcription:** The meeting is being transcribed.



To turn on closed captions, click on the cc/Live Transcript icon on the bottom of your screen and choose the “enable” option.

*This meeting is being recorded. A link to the presentation will be posted on the project website.*

<http://www.sr37corridorprojects.com/>



# NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The California Department of Transportation, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ensures *“No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”*

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Related federal statutes, remedies, and state law further those protections to include sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, and age.

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# DECLARACIÓN DE LA NORMA DE NO DISCRIMINACIÓN



El Departamento de Transporte de California, bajo el Título VI de la Ley de Derechos Civiles de 1964, asegura que *“Ninguna persona en los Estados Unidos, debido a su raza, color u origen nacional, será excluída de participar, ni se le negarán los beneficios, o será objeto de discriminación, en ningún programa o actividad que reciba ayuda financiera federal.”*

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Los estatutos federales relacionados, los remedios, y la ley estatal refuerzan estas protecciones para incluir el sexo, la discapacidad, la religión, la orientación sexual y la edad.

Para información u orientación sobre cómo presentar una queja o para obtener más información relacionada con el Título VI, por favor comuníquese con el Gerente del Título VI al teléfono (916) 324-8379 o visite la siguiente página de Internet: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/civil-rights/title-vi>.



# Meeting Purpose



- Provide updates of the latest project development since the last Scoping Meeting in November 2021.
- Introduce the revised project alternatives
- Initiate a second public scoping comment period and obtain community input
- To provide and solicit information about the environmental resources that would be analyzed during the environmental process.

Public Scoping  
Comment Period is  
**December 14, 2022,  
through January 13, 2023**

Public comments will be  
accepted until 5 p.m. on  
January 13, 2023



# Meeting Protocol



- Please hold comments and questions until the end of the presentation.
- Type questions in the chat box during the presentation or raise your hand to provide verbal comments during the Questions and Comments session.
- There is a two-minute time limit per verbal comment.
- Be respectful of other community members' concerns and input.



# Meeting Agenda



1. Background, Purpose and Need,
2. Proposed Project Alternatives
3. Environmental Process
4. Scoping Considerations
5. Project Schedule
6. Review/Comment Instructions
7. Questions & Comments



# Project Background

1. Caltrans received 26 comments during the November 2021 scoping public review period.
2. One of the key themes of the comments was to build a causeway instead of an embankment.
3. A separate Caltrans planning study, SR 37 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (PEL Study), identified the existing SR 37 corridor for long term development and a causeway as a solution to address projected sea level rise.
4. Based on the comments received during the first scoping public review period and the SR 37 PEL Study, Caltrans has decided to revise the proposed project from an embankment to a causeway.

# Project Purpose and Need



## PURPOSE

The purpose of the proposed Project is to address recurring flooding issues that occur in low lying areas on SR 37 and accommodate projected 2130 sea level rise.

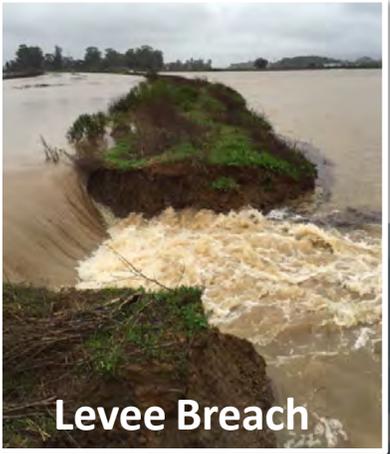
## NEED

Highway flooding occurs during winter rain and high tide events, causing delays and closures. The roadway within the project limits is relatively low-lying, about 2 to 6 feet.

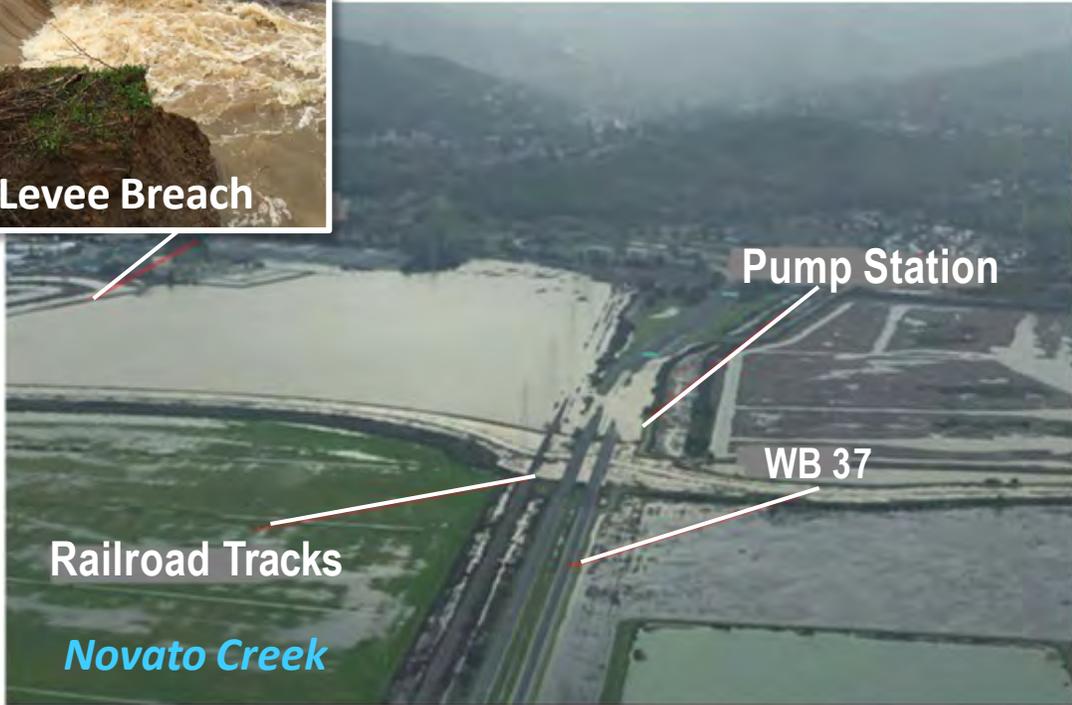
# Existing Profile and Levees



# Deficiencies: 2017 Flooding



Levee Breach

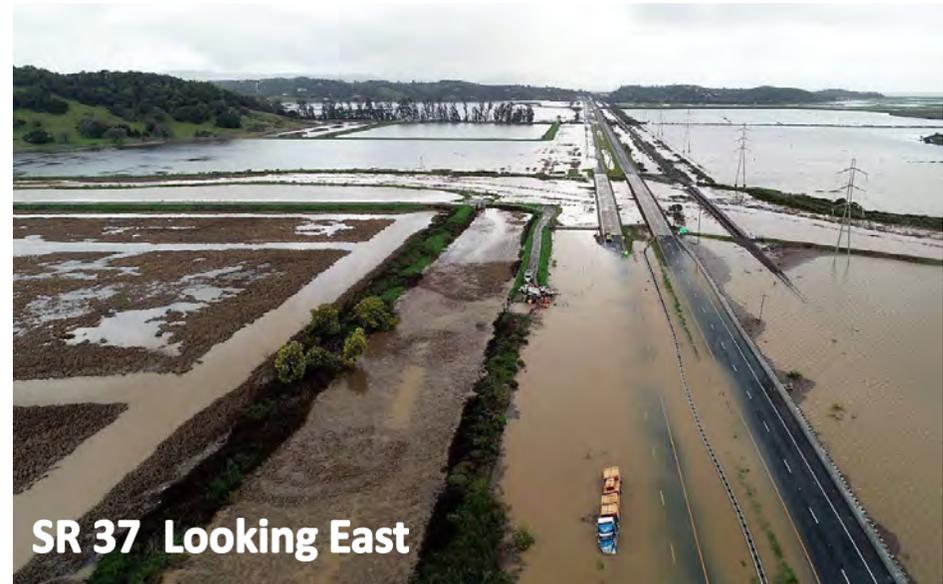


SR 37 Looking East



SR 37 Looking West

# Deficiencies: 2019 Flooding





# Revisions to Proposed Project



## BEFORE

November 2021

### PROJECT LIMITS

U.S. 101 in Marin County to SR 121  
in Sonoma County

### PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project would raise SR 37 on an embankment, replace Novato Creek Bridge, and modify Simonds Slough, Atherton Avenue Undercrossing, and Petaluma River Bridge.

## AFTER

December 2022

### PROJECT LIMITS

U.S. 101 to Atherton Avenue  
Undercrossing, Marin County

### PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project would raise SR 37 on a causeway and replace the Novato Creek Bridge.



# Alternatives

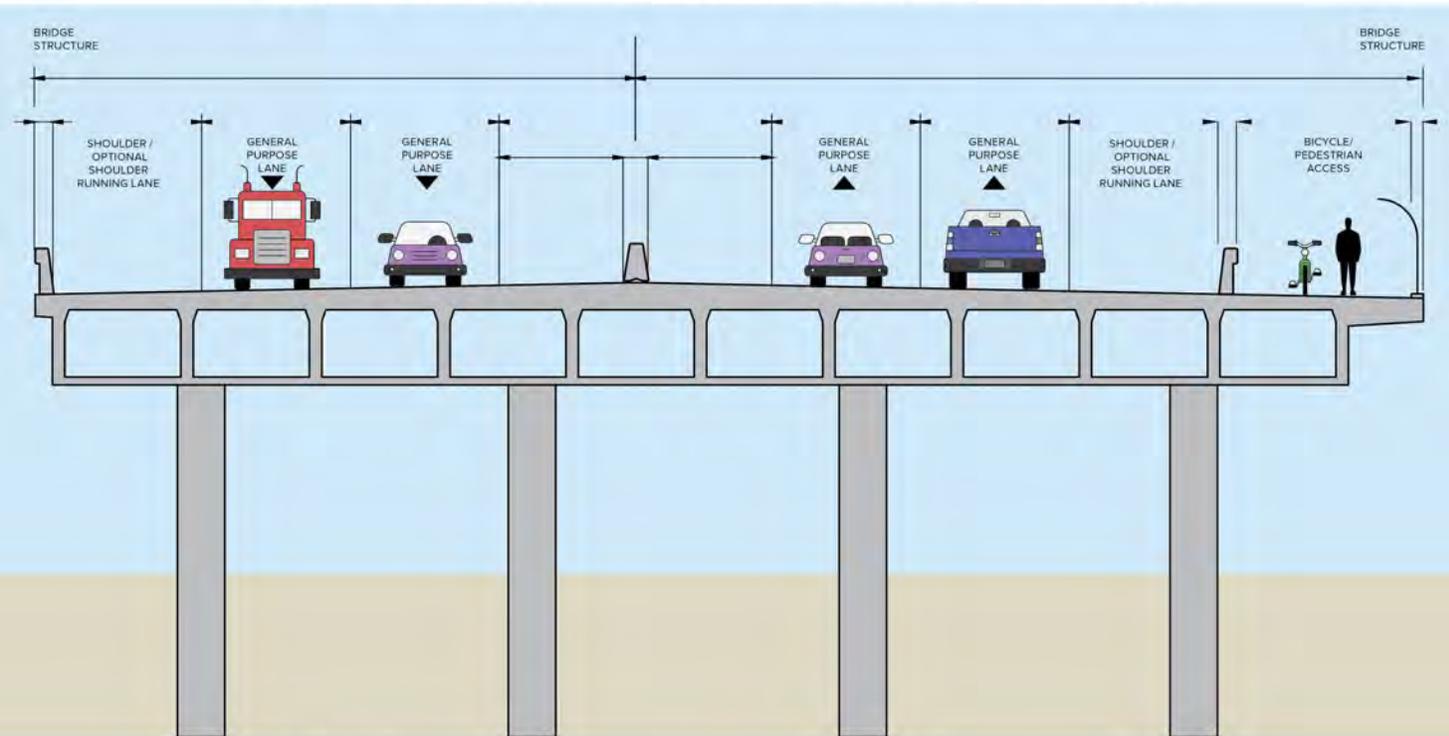


Two Alternatives would be analyzed in the environmental document.

- Build Alternative
- No-Build Alternative

# Build Alternative

4-LANES (2GP/2GP) WITH BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN ACCESS - CAUSEWAY



R/W = RIGHT-OF-WAY  
ES = EDGE OF SHOULDER  
ETW = EDGE OF TRAVEL WAY

- This project proposes to accommodate projected 2130 sea level rise and recurring flooding on SR 37 from U.S. Highway 101 to Atherton Avenue (PM 11.2-13.8) in Marin County.
- The Build Alternative would elevate 2.5 miles of roadway on a causeway consisting of four lanes, a median, a median barrier, inside shoulders and outside shoulders, a bike/pedestrian path with a 2-foot-wide outside barrier.

# Build Alternative: Phase 1

- First fundable package.
- **Phase 1:** Replace Novato Creek Bridge with a causeway to projected year 2130 SLR elevation.



Visual simulation above: Novato Creek Bridge

# Build Alternative – Phase 1



# Build Alternative: Phase 2



- **Phase 2:** Build the remaining portions of the causeway to accommodate the projected 2130 Sea Level Rise (SLR) elevation.
- Build the causeway east of the Novato Creek Bridge towards the Atherton Avenue undercrossing and west of the Novato Creek Bridge to the US 101 interchange.

# Build Alternative – Phase 2



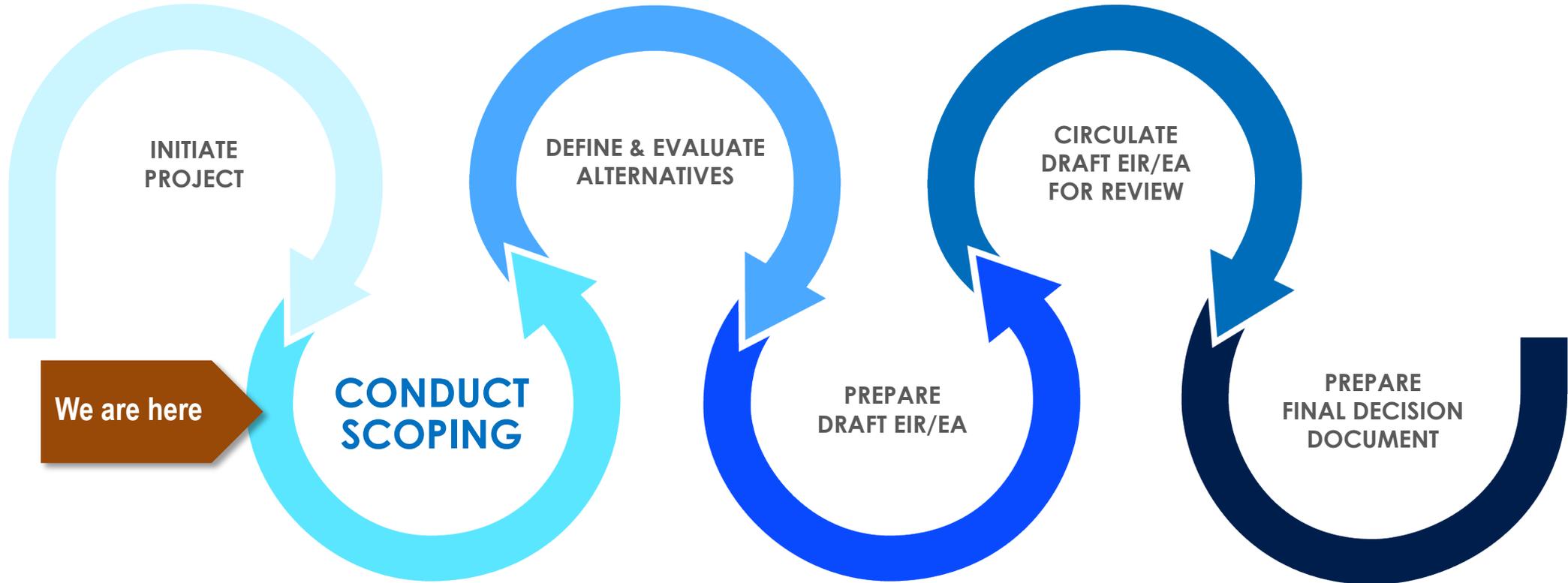


# No-Build Alternative



- No improvements to SR 37 would be made.
- This alternative would not address sea level rise and flooding.

# Environmental Process



We are here

INITIATE  
PROJECT

CONDUCT  
SCOPING

DEFINE & EVALUATE  
ALTERNATIVES

PREPARE  
DRAFT EIR/EA

CIRCULATE  
DRAFT EIR/EA  
FOR REVIEW

PREPARE  
FINAL DECISION  
DOCUMENT

- Continue to collect environmental data
- Conduct outreach with public and agencies
- Identify issues and concerns
- Refine project purpose and need



# Purpose of an Environmental Document

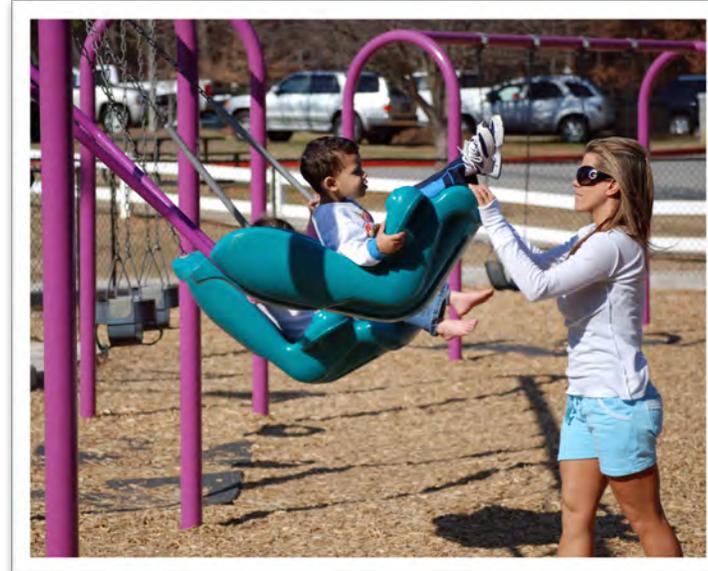
- Assesses the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project on the physical, human, and natural environment.
- Discusses feasible alternatives that the project is considering.
- Identifies measures to avoid, reduce, and mitigate any potential impacts as a result of the project.



# Level of Environmental Document

- An Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) is required for this project.
  - EIR – California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
  - EA – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Caltrans is the lead agency under NEPA and CEQA and will prepare and approve the joint environmental document.

# Human Environment



<p><b>Existing and Future Land Use</b></p>	<p><b>Consistency with State, Regional and Local Plans and Programs</b></p>	<p><b>Parks and Recreational Facilities</b></p>
<p><b>Community Character and Cohesion</b></p>	<p><b>Environmental Justice</b></p>	<p><b>Utilities/Emergency Services</b></p>
<p><b>Traffic and Transportation/ Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities</b></p>	<p><b>Visual/Aesthetics</b></p>	<p><b>Cultural Resources</b> <i>(Archaeology and Historic Structures)</i></p>

# Physical Environment



**Hydrology and Floodplain**

**Water Quality and  
Stormwater Runoff**

**Geology/Soils/Seismic  
Topography**

**Hazardous Waste/  
Materials**

**Air Quality**

**Noise**

# Biological Environment



**Natural Communities**

**Wetlands**

**Plant Species**

**Animal Species**

**Threatened and Endangered  
Species**

**Invasive Species**



# Project Schedule



<b>Draft Environmental Document</b>	<b>Spring 2023</b>
<b>Public Meeting</b>	<b>Summer 2023</b>
<b>Complete Environmental Phase</b>	<b>Fall 2023</b>
<b>Complete Design</b>	<b>Spring 2026*</b>
<b>Begin Construction</b>	<b>Summer 2027*</b>

*\* Target dates and pending funding availability.*



# Your thoughts are important to us



**What other resources or issues should we study?  
What other solutions should we consider?**

**Comment period ends: 1/13/2023 @ 5pm**

***Please submit your comments using one of the two ways listed:***

**Email: [SR37FloodProject@dot.ca.gov](mailto:SR37FloodProject@dot.ca.gov)**

**Postal mail:  
Caltrans District 4  
Cody Ericksen  
P.O. Box 23660, MS 8B  
Oakland, CA 94623**



# Project Website



**Link to project website:**

**<http://www.sr37corridorprojects.com/>**



# Questions and Comments



# Thank You!

