



Notice of Preparation

Date: 8/1/25

To: Reviewing Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the North Madera 6 Lane, 06-0Y360

Caltrans will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are described below. A copy of the Initial Study (☐ is ☒ is not) attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to Caltrans at the address or email shown below. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title

North Madera 6 Lane

Project Applicant (if any)

Caltrans, District 6

Project Description

The proposed project would improve State Route 99 from 4 lanes to 6 lanes from post mile 15.1 to post mile 19.9 in Madera County. The project limits extend from 0.5 mile north of the Avenue 17 Overcrossing to 1 mile south of the Avenue 21½ Overcrossing. There is a build alternative (Alternative 1) and a no-build alternative under consideration.

Alternative 1 would construct two lanes within the existing median. The existing lanes and shoulders would be reconstructed using a rehab strategy and upgraded to the standard widths, where feasible. All ramps within the project limits would be overlaid with Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA), as required.

The Berenda Creek Bridge would be improved to accommodate the additional lane and standard shoulder widths. Dry Creek Bridge would be decked in the median to become one structure. New abutments and piers would be constructed for both bridges.

There will be median barriers installed throughout the project limits. Concrete barriers will be constructed in non-floodplain locations. Thrie-beam barriers will be constructed in flood-plain locations. Flare-end sections and drainage systems will be upgraded to current standards. Drainage may need to be upgraded. No new drainage basins are anticipated. Overhead signs and gore areas will also be upgraded to current standards. Complete streets elements, such as sidewalks and crosswalks, will be implemented at the Avenue 18 ½ Overcrossing, where feasible.

No new right-of-way is anticipated. No temporary construction easements are anticipated. The existing median will be used as a staging area. Existing utilities may need relocation. Geotechnical investigations will be conducted at the bridges and at potential light pole and overhead sign locations. These investigations will be conducted at a depth of 25 feet or more. General excavation of ditches could occur throughout the project limits and would be 2 to 3 feet in depth. All existing vegetation within the median will be removed. Existing trees and vegetation near the bridges may be removed to accommodate the bridge improvements.

Project Location

The project would be on State Route (SR) 99 from post miles 15.1 to 19.9 in Madera County. The project limits extend from 0.5 mile north of the Avenue 17 Overcrossing to 1 mile south of the Avenue 21½ Overcrossing. See Attachment A for the Vicinity Map and Attachment B for the Location Map of the project area.

Probable Environmental Effects of the Project

Based on preliminary surveys and information, Caltrans has identified the following subject areas for analysis in the Environmental Impact Report:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazardous Waste and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Noise
- Transportation
- Vehicle Miles Traveled
- Utilities and Service Systems

- Cumulative Effects

Public Scoping Meeting

In addition to distributing this Notice of Preparation, Caltrans will conduct two public scoping meetings for the project. One meeting will be held virtually and one will be held in person. The public is encouraged to attend the public scoping meeting and submit comments on the proposed project. Comments will be accepted until September 2, 2025.

Virtual Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Where: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-6/district-6-projects/06-0Y360>

In-Person Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 21, 2025

Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Fairmead Elementary School, Cafeteria


19421 Avenue 22 ³/₄

Chowchilla, California 93610

Contact Information

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Signature:

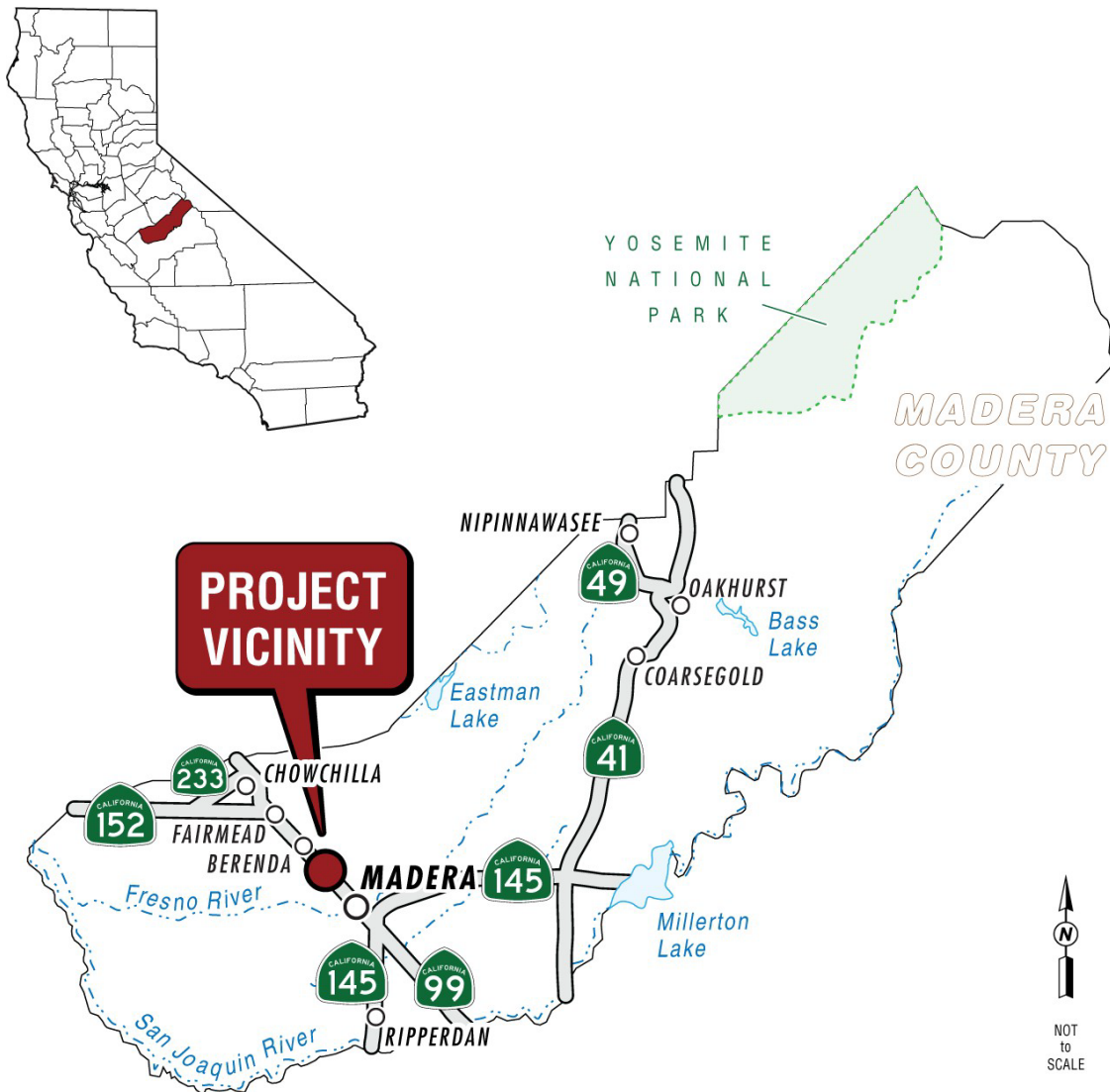

Title: Environmental Office Chief

Attachments:

- A. Vicinity Map
- B. Location Map

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

Attachment A: Vicinity Map



Attachment B: Location Map

