

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 7, Division of Environmental Planning
100 South Main Street, Suite 100
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3606
PHONE (213) 897-0703
FAX (213) 897-0685
TTY (213) 897-4937



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Be Energy efficient!*

August 15, 2008

Mark Cohen
United States Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division, Los Angeles District
911 Wilshire Boulevard
P.O. Box 2711
Los Angeles, CA 90053

Re: Invitation to Become Cooperating and Participating Agency on the I-710 Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Effective July 1, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assigned, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) assumed, all the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to Section 6005 of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), codified at 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) 327(a)(2)(A). Caltrans assumed all of FHWA's responsibilities under NEPA for projects on California's State Highway System (SHS) and for federal-aid local streets and roads projects under FHWA's Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program pursuant to 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 773. Caltrans also assumed all of FHWA's responsibilities for environmental coordination and consultation under other federal environmental laws pertaining to the review or approval of projects under the Pilot Program. For purposes of carrying out the responsibilities assumed under the Pilot Program, Caltrans is deemed to be acting as the FHWA with respect to the environmental review, consultation, and other actions required under those responsibilities.

Caltrans, in cooperation with Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Interstate 710 (I-710) Corridor Project in Los Angeles County, California. Your agency has been identified as an agency that may have interest in the project related to your agency's legislative or regulatory jurisdiction. With this letter, we extend our agency's invitation to be a cooperating agency with Caltrans in the development of the EIS for the proposed I-710 Corridor Project. The cooperating agency designation does not imply that your agency supports the proposal or has any special expertise with respect to the evaluation of the project.

The proposed project area includes the I-710 freeway from Ocean Boulevard to the State Route 60 (SR-60) freeway (Figure 1). The north end of the project area includes the northbound and southbound connectors between I-710 and SR-60. The current proposed limit along the I-710 freeway for the project area is approximately 18 miles in length. The project also includes freeway-to-freeway interchanges between the I-710 freeway with the I-405, SR-91, I-105, and I-5. The proposed project area also

currently includes the major arterial north/south and east/west highways from Wilmington Avenue on the west to Lakeview Boulevard on the east.

The purpose of the proposed project is to:

- Improve air quality and public health;
- Improve traffic safety;
- Address design deficiencies of the existing I-710 freeway;
- Address projected traffic volumes forecast for 2035; and
- Address projected growth in population, employment, and economic activities related to goods movement within the I-710 corridor.

Potential environmental impacts include air quality/health risk, displacements/relocations, land use changes, utilities, visual/aesthetics, cultural resources, water quality, hydrology/floodplains, hazardous waste/materials, noise, and biological resources.

As a participating agency under Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU and a cooperating agency pursuant to NEPA, the following activities will occur:

1. Invite and designate participating agencies and cooperating agencies;
2. Invite you to coordination meetings;
3. Develop coordination plan, which may include schedule;
4. Caltrans will provide your agency with an opportunity to comment on purpose and need and range of alternatives as early as practicable;
5. Caltrans will make available environmental and socioeconomic resources located within the project area and general location of alternatives to your agency as early as practicable;
6. Your agency shall identify as early as practicable any issues regarding the project's environmental and socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent the granting of a permit or other approval;
7. Consult with you on any relevant technical studies that will be required for the project;
8. Include information in the project environmental documents that cooperating agencies need to discharge their NEPA responsibilities and any other requirements regarding jurisdictional permits and/or other approvals.

You have the right to expect that the EIS will enable you to discharge your jurisdictional responsibilities. Likewise, you have the obligation to tell us if, at any point in the process, your needs are not being met. We expect that at the end of the process the EIS will satisfy your NEPA requirements, including those related to project alternatives, environmental consequences, and mitigation. Further, we intend to utilize

the EIS and our subsequent record of decision as our decision-making documents and as the basis for the permit application. We expect the permit application to proceed subsequent to the EIS approval process.

Under Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, if your agency is a federal agency and declines to be a participating agency, your agency must do so in writing by stating:

1. Your agency has no jurisdiction or authority;
2. Your agency has no expertise or information relevant to the project; and
3. Your agency does not intend to comment on the project.

Please respond to Caltrans in writing with the acceptance or denial of this invitation prior to September 15, 2008. We look forward to your response to our request for your agency to be a cooperating agency and a participating agency and to working with you on this transportation project. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS in more detail, please contact Garrett Damrath at (213) 897-9016.

Sincerely,

Ron Kosinski
Deputy District Director

Enclosure: Project Location Map

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August 15, 2008

Ed Pert, Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Game
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency on the I-710 Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Pert:

Effective July 1, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assigned, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) assumed, all the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to Section 6005 of Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act-A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), codified at 23 United States Code (U.S.C.) 327(a)(2)(A). Caltrans assumed all of FHWA's responsibilities under NEPA for projects on California's State Highway System (SHS) and for federal-aid local streets and roads projects under FHWA's Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program pursuant to 23 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 773. Caltrans also assumed all of FHWA's responsibilities for environmental coordination and consultation under other federal environmental laws pertaining to the review or approval of projects under the Pilot Program. For purposes of carrying out the responsibilities assumed under the Pilot Program, Caltrans is deemed to be acting as the FHWA with respect to the environmental review, consultation, and other actions required under those responsibilities.

Caltrans, in cooperation with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Interstate 710 (I-710) Corridor Project in Los Angeles County, California. We are requesting your agency to be a participating agency because we believe that your agency will have an interest in this transportation project. This designation does not imply that your agency supports the proposed project.

The proposed project area includes the I-710 freeway from Ocean Boulevard to the State Route 60 (SR-60) freeway (Figure 1). The north end of the project area includes the northbound and southbound connectors between I-710 and SR-60. The current proposed limit along the I-710 freeway for the project area is approximately 18 miles in length. The project also includes freeway-to-freeway interchanges between the I-710 freeway with the I-405, SR-91, I-105, and I-5. The proposed project area also currently includes the major arterial north/south and east/west highways from Wilmington Avenue on the west to Lakeview Boulevard on the east.

The purpose of the proposed project is to:

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Your agency's involvement should entail those areas under its interest. As a participating agency under Section 6002 of SAFETEA-LU, the following activities will occur:

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Jorge Rifa, City Administrator
City of Commerce
2535 Commerce Way
Commerce, CA 90040

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency on the I-710 Corridor Project

Dear Mr. Rifa:

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