



Association of Rural Town Councils Meeting October 30, 2013 7:00 pm Sign-in Sheet



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805-338-435	213-974-6476		947.2796	661-944-1351	661-877-9952	661-764.0542	<i>CGI-</i> 816-8286	TELEPHONE #
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Association of Rural Town Councils Meeting October 30, 2013 7:00 pm Sign-in Sheet



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Oso Town Council Meeting November 7, 2013 6:30 pm



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Oso Town Council Meeting November 7, 2013 6:30 pm



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Antelope Acres (Elect) Town Council Meeting November 20, 2013 7:00 pm Sign-in Sheet



PAIRMONTE ANTELECOM			will Town Coursel	FAIRMONT TOWN COUNCIL
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ipascal Chotmail. Com	(318) 422-2999	45153 110 Street west		Irwin Pascul
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TIWM-3	TELEPHONE #	ADDRESS	AFFILIATION	NAME

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8241 west Ave D-8

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dearmarante hotmail. com

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Anthony Codelo

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661-433-0446



### Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project

Antelope Acres (Elect) Town Council Meeting November 20, 2013 7:00 pm







Fairmont Town Council Meeting November 21, 2013 6:30 pm Sign-in Sheet



	BARRARA ROBERS	PAT CHLODO	BENNIE MODRIE	NAME
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	114	661 945 8887	661 2292453 661 724 661 350-7301	TELEPHONE #
	Housemonnus @ YAHOO. LOWN	PATRANTREEFARM. COM	B. Mes Tenters@ADL	E-MAIL





Fairmont Town Council Meeting November 21, 2013 6:30 pm Sign-in Sheet



				Robert G. Shen	MARRY DVININORTH	Greg Blue	Gerald Rutch	NAME
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Los Angeles County Department of Public Works Aviation Division

\*December 12, 2013 9:00 AM\*

		TARLA DIERRICA	BOB BLUME	Nesesa Wong	Richard Smith	JASON MORGAN	CHESTES EXIT	NAME
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### Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project



Agency Coordination Meeting
December 16, 2014
Sign-in Sheet

NAME	AFFILIATION	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE #	E-MAIL:
REZA FATEH	CT-PPM	100 S. MAUST. LA	213-897-8316	RITHTOH @ DOT. OA. GOV
Natalie Hill	CT-Env. Planning	100. S. Main St, Los Angeles	213-897-084	natalie_hill@dot.ca.gov
MARN PIERVING	netho			
BOB BWMF	KIMUEY-HORN	1 HAX		
Will Lamborn	Metro			
EDENAR GUIVERE	ARELLAND Assa	IAFES		
KEITH LAY	LSA	To Executive Park, Irvine	949-553-066	KERH. LAY @ LSA-ASSOC. WA
Nicole West	LSA	11	6	N.COLE WEST @ LSA ASSUC. COM
CHESTER BRETT	ATZELIAND ASSOC	5851 PINE DU SOUTELL	909.627.2974	CBRITICIAL ELEVANORS COM
Elisabeth Suh	CHZMHII/HETO	1000 Wilshire Blud. Suite 2100 LA CA	310.730-9972	elisabeth, suh (e chzar. com

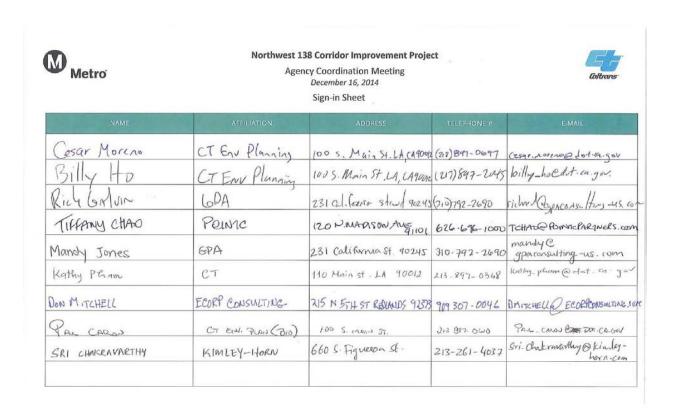


### Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project



Agency Coordination Meeting December 16, 2014 Sign-in Sheet

NAME	AFFILIATION	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE #	
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Roger Mason	ECORP	1801 Park Court Pl	714.644.0630	Tonason@ecorprousulting, rou
ALEX KIRKISH	CALTRANS - DEP	100 5 MAIN 5T LA 90012	213-897-2795	ALEX. NIRKISH Q DOT. M. GOV
DANIEL TRANS	SCAG	818 W. 714 ST., LA 90017	313-536- (867	tran Oscag.ca.gov
AME HTOON	coltrans Noise.	1005. Main St. cagioge	213-897-7410	Ayo. Hoon@ Ook.ca.gov.
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### Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project

Three Points / Liebre Mountain Town Council Meeting

January 11, 2014

Sign-in Sheet



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Three Points / Liebre Mountain Town Council Meeting

January 11, 2014



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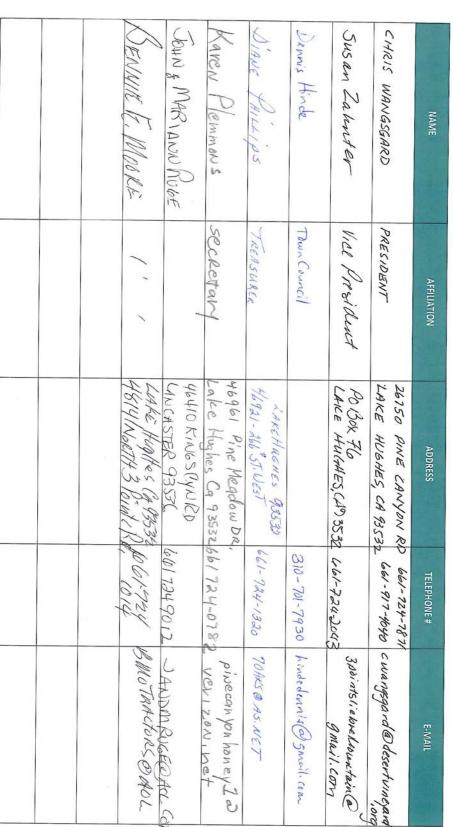


Three Points / Liebre Mountain Town Council Meeting January 11, 2014













Antelope Acres (Original) Town Council Meeting

January 15, 2014



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Antelope Acres (Original) Town Council Meeting

January 15, 2014



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Edwards Air Force Base Briefing January 15, 2014

Sign-in Sheet



NAME	AFFILIATION	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE #	E-MAIL
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Tami Podesta	Caltrans Ehr. Plan	LOS Angello CA 90012	213 897-0309	213 897-0309 tami.padstaledot.ca.sov

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### Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project

Antelope Valley Board of Trade (AVBOT) Board of Directors Breakfast Meeting January 21, 2014

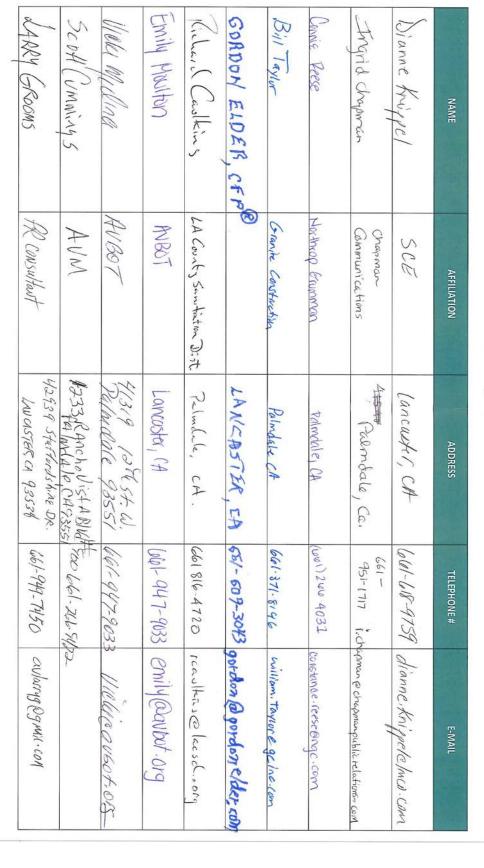






Antelope Valley Board of Trade (AVBOT) Board of Directors Breakfast Meeting
January 21, 2014









Antelope Valley Board of Trade (AVBOT) Board of Directors Breakfast Meeting January 21, 2014

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### Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project

Antelope Valley Board of Trade (AVBOT) Board of Directors Breakfast Meeting January 21, 2014

AFFILIATION	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE #	E-MAIL
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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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



Flex your power! Be Energy efficient!

November 1, 2013

Mr. Josue Yambo FHWA CALSOUTH Office 888 S. Figueroa, Ste. 750 Los Angeles, CA. 90017

Dear Mr. Yambo:

Subject: State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project Notice of Intent

Effective July 1, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assigned, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) assumed, environmental responsibilities for this project pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327. Caltrans, as the assigned National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) agency, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal for State Route 138 (SR-138) Northwest Corridor Improvement project in Los Angeles County, California.

We are forwarding the enclosed Notice of Intent (NOI) for this project to you to be published in the Federal Register as the next step in the environmental process.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this important transportation project. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at 213-897-5446.

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Sincerell

Mine Struhl
Associate Environmental Planner
Division of Environmental Planning

Caltrans, District 7



Federal Register/Vol. 78, No. 219/Wednesday, November 13, 2013/Notices

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rights made available to European Union carriers in the future.

### Barbara J. Hairston,

Supervisory Dockets Officer, Docket Operations, Federal Register Liaison. [FR Doc. 2013–27103 Filed 11–12–13; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4910–9X-P

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### Federal Aviation Administration [Summary Notice No. PE-2013-39]

### Petition for Exemption; Summary of Petition Received

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), DOT. ACTION: Notice of petition for exemption received.

SUMMARY: This notice contains a summary of a petition seeking relief from specified requirements of 14 CFR. The purpose of this notice is to improve the public's awareness of, and participation in, this aspect of FAA's regulatory activities. Neither publication of this notice nor the inclusion or omission of information in the summary is intended to affect the legal status of the petition or its final disposition.

DATES: Comments on this petition must identify the petition docket number and must be received on or before December 3, 2013.

ADDRESSES: You may send comments identified by Docket Number FAA—2013—0710 using any of the following methods:

- Government-wide rulemaking Web site: Go to http://www.regulations.gov and follow the instructions for sending your comments electronically.
- Mail: Send comments to the Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building Ground Floor, Room W12–140, Washington, DC 20590.
- Fax: Fax comments to the Docket Management Facility at 202–493–2251.
- Hand Delivery: Bring comments to the Docket Management Facility in Room W12-140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

Friday, except Federal holidays.

Privacy: We will post all comments we receive, without change, to http://www.regulations.gov, including any personal information you provide.

Using the search function of our docket Web site, anyone can find and read the comments received into any of our dockets, including the name of the

individual sending the comment (or signing the comment for an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement in the Federal Register published on April 11, 2000 (65 FR 19477–78).

Docket: To read background documents or comments received, go to http://www.regulations.gov at any time or to the Docket Management Facility in Room W12–140 of the West Building Ground Floor at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Keira Jones (202) 267–4024, Office of Rulemaking, Federal Aviation Administration, 800 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20591.

This notice is published pursuant to 14 CFR 11.85.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 4,

### Brenda D. Courtney,

Acting Director, Office of Rulemaking.

### **Petition For Exemption**

Docket No.: FAA-2013-0710. Petitioner: Atlas Air, Inc. Section of 14 CFR Affected: 14 CFR § 121.1005.

Description of Relief Sought: Atlas Air seeks relief to have the ability to provide training on any pre-transportation functions related to handling hazmat (including but not limited to acceptance, rejection, handling, storage incidental to transport, packaging, or loading, or any function listed under § 121.1001(a)) for individuals used by Atlas and received hazmat training from a foreign air carrier issued operations specifications under 14 CFR part 129. Atlas has determined this training is substantially similar to Atlas's FAAapproved training and satisfies international hazardous materials training standards provided by Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) or the International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions (ICAO TI), and all other 14 CFR requirements.

[FR Doc. 2013–27032 Filed 11–12–13; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4910–13–P

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement: Los Angeles County, California

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT. ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA, on behalf of the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is issuing this notice to advise the public that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared for a proposed highway project in Los Angeles County, California.

DATES: Public Scoping meetings will be held in early part of 2014.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tami Podesta, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), 100 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012, telephone (213) 897–0309 and tami\_ podesta@dot.ca.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Effective July 1, 2007, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assigned, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) assumed, environmental responsibilities fOr this project pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327. Caltrans as the assigned National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) agency will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on a proposal for State Route 138 (SR-138) Northwest Corridor Improvement project in Los Angeles County, California. This project is located in northern Los Angeles County, three miles south of the Kern County ine and passing within one-half mile of the northernmost limits of the City of Lancaster. The project extends from Interstate 5 (1-5) on the west to State Route 14 (SR-14) on the east, a distance of approximately 36 miles. It is currently a two-lane rural highway with no access control. SR-138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project proposes to improve the highway as a freeway expressway with access control and/or traffic system/multi-modal facility. The SR-138 currently supports the regional transportation needs of the local community, and serves as an alternate route for east-west traffic in northern Los Angeles County.

Four alternatives are identified for the project corridor. Alternative 1 is an expressway facility throughout the entire corridor. Alternative 2 is a freeway/expressway facility throughout the entire corridor. Alternative 3 is a traffic system/multi-modal facility throughout the entire corridor. Alternative 4 is the No-Build Alternative.

These alternatives may be refined, combined with various different alternatives, or be removed from further consideration, as more analysis is conducted on the project alternatives. Analysis supporting the EIS will determine the type of facility necessary to meet the existing and future

68136

transportation needs in the corridor. Section 404 Permit may be required from U.S. Army Corp of Engineers under the Clean Water Act. In addition, Caltrans will coordinate with U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act and request and receive species lists, prepare the biological assessment, and conduct the formal consultation.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, Participating Agencies, local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. Public Scoping meetings will be held in the early part of 2014. The public outreach/ information program will continue throughout the environmental document phase for the proposed project. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the hearing. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments, and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to Caltrans at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

### Matt Schmitz.

Director, Project Delivery, Federal Highway Administration, Sacramento, California [FR Doc. 2013-26948 Filed 11-12-13; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

[Docket No. FMCSA-2013-0348]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Revision of an Approved Information Collection: Practices of **Household Goods Brokers** 

AGENCY: Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), DOT ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995,

FMCSA announces its plan to submit the Information Collection Request (ICR) described below to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for its review and approval and invites public comment. FMCSA requests approval to revise an ICR titled "Practices of Household Brokers" to no longer include one-time costs previously incurred by brokers to come into compliance with 49 CFR part 371, and to update other wage related costs that have changed since the last approval. This ICR is necessary to support the requirements of subpart B of 49 CFR part 371 and FMCSA's responsibility to ensure consumer protection in the transportation of household goods (HHG)

DATES: We must receive your comments on or before January 13, 2014.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments identified by Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) Docket Number FMCSA-2013-0348 using any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: http:// www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
  - Fax: 1-202-493-2251.
- Mail: Docket Management Facility; U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140, 20590-
- · Hand Delivery or Courier: West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday, except

Federal holidays.
Instructions: All submissions must include the Agency name and docket number. For detailed instructions on submitting comments and additional information on the exemption process, see the Public Participation heading below. Note that all comments received will be posted without change to http:// www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided. Please

see the Privacy Act heading below.

Docket: For access to the docket to read background documents or comments received, go to http:// www.regulations.gov, and follow the online instructions for accessing the dockets, or go to the street address listed

Privacy Act: Anyone is able to search the electronic form of all comments received into any of our dockets by the name of the individual submitting the comment (or signing the comment, if submitted on behalf of an association, business, labor union, etc.). You may review DOT's complete Privacy Act Statement for the Federal Docket

Management System published in the Federal Register on January 17, 2008 (73 FR 3316), or you may visit http:// edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdfE8-794.pdf.

Public Participation: The Federal eRulemaking Portal is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. You can obtain electronic submission and retrieval help and guidelines under the "help" section of the Federal eRulemaking Portal Web site. If you want us to notify you that we received your comments, please include a selfaddressed, stamped envelope or postcard, or print the acknowledgement page that appears after submitting

comments online. Comments received

after the comment closing date will be

included in the docket and will be

considered to the extent practicable.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Brodie Mack, Commercial Enforcement and Investigations Division, Household Goods Team Leader, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, West Building 6th Floor, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590–0001. Telephone: 202–366–8045; email brodie.mack@dot.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:
Background: FMCSA, in response to
Title IV, Subtitle B of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) (Pub. L. 109–59) and a petition for rulemaking from the American Moving and Storage Association (AMSA), amended 49 CFR part 371, existing regulations for brokers, with a Final Rule titled, "Brokers of Household Goods Transportation by Motor Vehicles" (75 FR 72987), November 29, 2010, providing additional consumer protection responsibilities for brokers of

Section 4212 of SAFETEA-LU directs the Secretary to require HHG brokers to provide individual shippers with the following information whenever a broker has contact with a shipper or potential shipper:

1. The broker's USDOT number.

- 2. The FMCSA booklet titled "Your Rights and Responsibilities When You
- 3. A list of all authorized motor carriers providing transportation of HHG used by the broker and a statement that the broker is not a motor carrier providing transportation of HHG.

FMCSA, as the result of a rulemaking that took effect November 29, 2010, amended 49 CFR part 371 by adding subpart B, specific consumer protection requirements for HHG brokers. The

Podesta, Tami L@DOT From:

Ann Kerman; Brian Lin; Chester Britt; Edgar Guiterrez; Ghate, Ravi B@DOT; Mark Dierking; Struhl, Mine@DOT; Tony Harris; William Lambom; Yesenia Arias; Robert Blume; Teresa Wong To:

Subject: FW: Environmental Impact Statement Los Angeles County SR-138 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 11:44:03 AM Date:

### Hi 138 NW Team:

Per the attached email please add Jason Cowin P.E. from Edwards Air Force Base to the stakeholders

Also, the 138 NW Corridor Improvement Project NOI was published in the Federal Register on 11/12/13, please see the following link:

http://www.apo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-11-13/pdf/2013-26948.pdf

Thank you,

Tami Podesta Senior Environmental Planner 213-897-0309

Department of Transportation Division of Environmental Planning 100 South Main Street, Ste. 100 Los Angeles, CA 90012

----Original Message-----

From: Cowin, Jason W CIV (US) [mailto:jason.w.cowin.civ@mail.mil]

Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2013 5:41 AM

To: Podesta, Tami L@DOT

Subject: RE: Environmental Impact Statement\_Los Angeles County SR-138 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Ma'am,

I am the Highways for National Defense program manager for the Department of Defense. Part of my mission is to ensure

the needs of the DOD are incorporated into civilian highway plans and programs. CALTRANS has always been a valuable and receptive partner to the DOD.

I am writing in regards to a recent posting in the Federal Register for a proposed EIS for Los Angeles County for

SR-138. I would just like to request coordination with Edwards Air Force Base. This facility does not appear to have a

direct impact to the base but as Edwards is a major economic generator and traffic generator for that area, this project

could have implications to the base. If you have already begun this coordination, I apologize.

If you need assistance in finding the correct POC for the base, I can be of assistance in that area.

Thank you.

Jason

Jason W. Cowin, P.E. Senior Engineer/HND-SDDCTEA 618-220-5229 DSN 770-5229

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE



### UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION IX 75 Hawthorne Street San Francisco, CA 94105

December 12, 2013

Ronald Kosinski Deputy District Director Division of Environmental Planning Caltrans, District 7 100 South Main Street, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3606

Subject:

Scoping Comments for the Environmental Impact Statement for State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Federal Register Notice published on November 13, 2013, requesting comments on the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) decision to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project. Our comments are provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

As stated in my voicemail message to Tami Podesta on December 2, we accept Caltrans' invitation to become a "Participating Agency" (as defined in 23 USC 139) and a "Cooperating Agency" (as defined in NEPA). We look forward to working with Caltrans to ensure that early coordination procedures assist both our agencies in meeting our statutory missions.

As a Participating and Cooperating Agency, we define EPA's role in the development of the project to include the following as they relate to our jurisdiction by law or areas of expertise:

- Provide meaningful and early input on defining purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in alternatives analysis.
- Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate and as resources allow.
- 3) Review and comment on the pre-draft or pre-final environmental documents (including technical reports and/or plans related to traffic analysis, air quality, wetlands/waters, biological resources, cumulative impacts assessment, and conceptual mitigation) as resources allow to reflect the views and concerns of EPA on the adequacy of the documents, alternatives considered, anticipated impacts, and avoidance, minimization, and mitigation strategies.

This project may meet the criteria for coordination under the April 2006 National Environmental Policy Act and Clean Water Action Section 404 Integration Process for Federal Aid Surface Transportation Projects in California Memorandum of Understanding (NEPA/404 MOU). The NEPA/404 MOU includes specific agreement points to assist in developing the DEIS and involves active participation in meetings and document reviews. It applies to transportation projects that have five or more acres of permanent impacts to waters of the United States and require EIS preparation. We encourage Caltrans to contact the NEPA/404 signatory agencies once more information about potential impacts to waters of the United States is available in order to initiate coordination under the NEPA/404 MOU, if applicable.

EPA appreciates the opportunity to comment on preparation of the DEIS. Once the DEIS is released for public review, please send one hard copy and one electronic copy to me at the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (415) 947-3554 or <a href="mailto:mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov">mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov</a>.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Mulihila

Environmental Review Office

Enclosures: EPA's Detailed Comments

EPA SCOPING COMMENTS ON THE STATE ROUTE 138 NORTHWEST CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, DECEMBER 12, 2013

### Water and Wetlands Resources

The proposed project will likely involve impacts to water bodies and wetlands. Potential impacts may be direct, from construction and use of the facility, or indirect and cumulative. The assessment of impacts to waters should be of an appropriate scope and detail to identify sensitive areas or aquatic systems with functions highly susceptible to change. EPA recommends that the following information be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the assessment of existing conditions and environmental consequences of each proposed alternative.

### Recommendations:

- Include a classification of waters and the geographic extent of waters and any adjacent riparian areas in the project area.
- Characterize the functional condition of waters and any adjacent riparian areas.
- Describe the extent and nature of stream channel alteration, riverine corridor continuity, and buffered tributaries.
- Identify all protected resources with special designations and all special aquatic sites<sup>1</sup> and
  waters within state, local, and federal protected lands. Additional steps should be taken to
  avoid and minimize impacts to these areas.
- Include wildlife species that could reasonably be expected to use waters or associated riparian habitat and sensitive plant taxa that are associated with waters or associated riparian habitat.
- Characterize the hydrologic linkage to any impaired water bodies and identify what Clean Water Act 303(d) listed impaired water bodies exist in the project area.
- Address potential direct and indirect, or secondary, impacts and identify specifically how
  each of the following impacts will be minimized or avoided:
  - changes in hydrology and sediment transport capacity;
  - increases in impervious surfaces and the corresponding increases in the volume and velocity of polluted stormwater;
  - decreases in water quality from the impairment of floodplain and ecosystem functions including water filtration, groundwater recharge, and flood attenuation;
  - o disruption of hydrological and ecological connectivity; and
  - decreases in biodiversity and ecosystem stability.

### On-site Avoidance and Minimization Strategies

Caltrans should explore on-site alternatives to avoid or minimize impacts to waters. Typically, transportation projects can accomplish this by: (1) using spanned crossings, arch crossings, or oversized buried box culverts over drainages to encourage continuity of sediment transport and hydrological processes, and wildlife passage; (2) moving alignments to avoid impacts to wetlands and waterways; and (3) establishing and maintaining adequate buffers away from

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Special aquatic sites are defined at 40 CFR 230.40 - 230.45 and include wetlands, mud flats, vegetated shallows, coral reefs, and riffle and pool complexes.

aquatic resources. The DEIS should identify on-site measures and modifications for all alternatives to further reduce impacts to waters and wetland resources.

### Impacts to CWA Section 404 Waters

Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States require authorization by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404. The Federal Guidelines at 40 CFR Part 230 promulgated under CWA Section 404 (b)(1) provide substantive environmental criteria that must be met to permit such discharges into waters of the United States. These criteria require a permitted discharge to: (1) be the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA); (2) avoid causing or contributing to a violation of a state water quality standard; (3) avoid jeopardizing a federally listed species or adversely modifying designated critical habitat for a federally listed species; (4) avoid causing or contributing to significant degradation of the waters of the United States; and (5) mitigate for unavoidable impacts to waters. A fully integrated DEIS that adequately addresses these criteria would facilitate the CWA Section 404 permit review process. EPA recommends integrating NEPA and CWA Section 404 requirements in the development of the DEIS.

This project may meet the criteria for coordination under the April 2006 National Environmental Policy Act and Clean Water Action Section 404 Integration Process for Federal Aid Surface Transportation Projects in California Memorandum of Understanding (NEPA/404 MOU). The NEPA/404 MOU includes specific agreement points to assist in developing the DEIS and involves active participation in meetings and document reviews. It applies to transportation projects that have five or more acres of permanent impacts to waters of the United States and require EIS preparation. We encourage Caltrans to contact the NEPA/404 signatory agencies once more information about potential impacts to waters of the United States is available in order to initiate coordination under the NEPA/404 MOU, if applicable.

### **Biological Resources**

The proposed project may have direct and indirect impacts on federal- and state-listed threatened and endangered species and other biological resources in the project vicinity.

### Recommendations:

- Identify all petitioned and listed threatened and endangered species and critical habitat
  within the project area and assess which species and critical habitats might be directly or
  indirectly affected by each alternative.
- Discuss the status of any Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation process.
- Describe efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to species and their associated habitats.
- In accordance with Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species, identify proposed
  methods to minimize the spread of invasive species and use native plant and tree species
  where revegetation is planned. Commit to saving removed native soils for use in
  revegetation projects.
- Clearly demonstrate compliance with Section 4(f) (49 U.S.C. 303).

### Air Quality

The DEIS should discuss the potential air quality impacts of this project, resulting from both potential construction activities and operation. The proposed project would be located in an area of the Mojave Desert Air Basin regulated by the Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District. The area is designated severe nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). Because of the project area's nonattainment status, it is important to reduce emissions resulting from the project.

### Recommendations:

- Provide a detailed discussion of ambient air conditions (baseline or existing conditions), NAAQS, criteria pollutant nonattainment areas, and potential air quality impacts of the project (including cumulative and indirect impacts) for each alternative.
- Include a thorough analysis of impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed alternatives. Include monitoring data, any anticipated exceedances of NAAQS, and estimates of all criteria pollutant emissions.
- Discuss potential air quality impacts in the context of conformity requirements and associated state implementation plans.
- Disclose available information about the health risks associated with emissions, sensitive
  receptors in the vicinity of the project area, and how the proposed project will affect
  current emission levels. Include a comparison table showing current emissions along with
  anticipated emissions at interim and full build phases of the proposed improvements.
- Describe specific commitments to mitigate emissions that will prevent further degradation of air quality and reduce health impacts. Include an estimate of the air quality benefits and reduced health effects that result from each mitigation measure proposed in the DEIS.
- Identify any specific mitigation measures considered for sensitive populations (including schools, daycare facilities, hospitals, elderly care facilities, etc.).

### Construction

The DEIS should include a Construction Emissions Mitigation Plan for fugitive dust and diesel particulate matter (DPM) and this plan should be adopted in the Record of Decision (ROD). EPA recommends that the best available control measures (BACM) for all pollutants be implemented, including those listed below.

### Fugitive Dust Source Controls:

- Stabilize open storage piles and disturbed areas by covering and/or applying water
  or chemical/organic dust palliative where appropriate. This applies to both
  inactive and active sites, during workdays, weekends, holidays, and windy
  conditions.
- Install wind fencing and phase grading operations where appropriate, to reduce air quality impacts. Operate water trucks or consider other options for stabilization of soil and disturbed surfaces under windy conditions.

 When hauling material and operating non-earthmoving equipment, prevent spillage and limit speeds to 15 miles per hour (mph). Limit speed of earth-moving equipment to 10 mph.

### Mobile and Stationary Source Controls:

- Reduce use, trips, and unnecessary idling from heavy equipment.
- Maintain and tune engines per manufacturer's specifications to perform at EPA certification, where applicable, levels and to perform at verified standards applicable to retrofit technologies. Employ periodic, unscheduled inspections to limit unnecessary idling and to ensure that construction equipment is properly maintained, tuned, and modified consistent with established specifications. The California Air Resources Board has a number of mobile source anti-idling requirements which could be employed. See their website at: http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/truck-idling/truck-idling.htm.
- Prohibit any tampering with engines and require continuing adherence to manufacturer's recommendations.
- If practicable, lease new, clean equipment meeting the most stringent of applicable federal or state standards and commit to using the best available emissions control technologies on all equipment.
- Utilize EPA-registered particulate traps and other appropriate controls where suitable to reduce emissions of DPM and other pollutants at the construction site.

### Administrative controls:

- Identify all commitments to reduce construction emissions and update the air quality analysis to reflect additional air quality improvements that would result from adopting specific air quality measures.
- Identify where implementation of mitigation measures is rejected based on economic infeasibility.
- Prepare an inventory of all equipment prior to construction and identify the suitability of add-on emission controls for each piece of equipment before groundbreaking. (Suitability of control devices is based on: whether there is reduced normal availability of the construction equipment due to increased downtime and/or power output, whether there may be significant damage caused to the construction equipment engine, or whether there may be a significant risk to nearby workers or the public.) Meet EPA diesel fuel requirements for off-road and on-highway, and where appropriate use alternative fuels such as natural gas and electric.
- Develop a construction traffic and parking management plan that minimizes traffic interference and maintains traffic flow.
- Identify sensitive receptors in the project area, such as children, elderly, and
  infirm, and specify the means by which you will minimize impacts to these
  populations. For example, locate construction equipment and staging zones away
  from sensitive receptors and fresh air intakes to buildings and air conditioners.

### **Environmental Justice**

Executive Order 12898 addresses Environmental Justice in minority and low-income populations, and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has developed guidance concerning how to address Environmental Justice in the environmental review process (<a href="http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ej/justice.pdf">http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/regs/ej/justice.pdf</a>). The DEIS should include a description of the area of potential impact used for the environmental justice impact analysis and provide the source of demographic information.

### Recommendations:

- Define potential environmental justice concerns, including any environmental justice
  issues raised during scoping meetings. Discuss the key issues where environmental
  justice is potentially a concern, such as relocation, air quality, noise, vibration, access to
  property, pedestrian safety, etc.
- Define the reference community and the affected community. The definitions are used to analyze whether there are disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts by comparing the impacts to the affected community with the impacts to the reference community.
- Disclose whether the project will result in a disproportionate and adverse impact on minority or low-income populations. Ensure this conclusion is reported consistently throughout the DEIS. This statement should be supported by sufficient information for the public to understand the rationale for the conclusion.
- Propose appropriate mitigation if disproportionately high and adverse impacts on minority or low-income populations are likely to result from the proposed action and any alternatives.

### Protection of Historic and Cultural Resources

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties, which include buildings, structures, objects, sites, districts, and archaeological resources.

### Recommendations:

- In the DEIS, assess potential impacts to historical, archaeological, and cultural resources and coordinate with affected Tribes and other interested parties.
- Clearly document the methodology used for determining the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources.
- Address what mitigation techniques will be used should sensitive resources be discovered, including recording or removal of materials, and/or changes in project design.
- Identify the status of any Memorandum of Understanding with the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the project.

### Relationship to Other Proposed Projects

EPA has been coordinating with Caltrans on the environmental review process for the High Desert Corridor project. The DEIS should discuss the relationship between these two projects, and whether the implementation of the High Desert Corridor project would impact traffic or other aspects of this project. Specifically, we recommend that traffic analysis, including truck traffic, performed for High Desert Corridor planning be used to inform planning and environmental review for this project.

### **Cumulative Impact Analysis**

Cumulative impacts are defined in the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) NEPA regulations as the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to the other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such actions (40 CFR 1508.7). These actions include both transportation and non-transportation activities. The cumulative impact analysis should consider non-transportation projects such as large-scale developments and approved urban planning projects that are reasonably foreseeable and are identified within city and county planning documents. These types of projects, identified within and around the project corridor, should be included in the cumulative impacts analysis.

The cumulative impact analysis for the project provides an opportunity to identify potential large, landscape-level regional impacts, as well as potential large-scale mitigation measures. The analysis should examine landscape-level impacts to all sensitive resources on a regional scale and guide potential avoidance and minimization measures, while focusing design and mitigation efforts.

### Recommendations:

- Conduct a thorough cumulative impact assessment, including a complete list of reasonably foreseeable actions, including non-transportation projects. EPA recommends use of Caltrans' cumulative impacts guidance at <a href="http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/cumulative\_guidance/purpose.htm">http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/cumulative\_guidance/purpose.htm</a>.
- For each resource analyzed:
  - Identify the current condition of the resource as a measure of past impacts. For example, the percentage of wetlands lost to date.
  - Identify the trend in the condition of the resource as a measure of present impacts.
     For example, the health of the resource is improving, declining, or stasis.
  - Identify the future condition of the resource based on an analysis of the cumulative impacts of reasonably foreseeable projects or actions added to existing conditions and current trends.
  - Assess with specific measures, the contribution of the impact from each alternative to the long term health of the resource.
  - Disclose the parties that would be responsible for avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating those adverse impacts.

 Identify landscape-level opportunities to avoid and minimize impacts, including working with other entities.

### **Growth-Related Impacts**

EPA is concerned about the potential indirect impacts (40 CFR Part 1508.8(b)) of this project. Improved access to undeveloped areas may induce growth on surrounding lands. The project would benefit from analysis of growth-related impacts early in project development. A growth-related impact analysis assists with compliance requirements of NEPA and CEQA by considering environmental consequences as early as possible and providing a well-documented and sound basis for decision making.

The May 2006 Guidance for Preparers of Growth-related, Indirect Impact Analyses (Guidance) (http://www.dot.ca.gov/ser/Growth-related\_IndirectImpactAnalysis/gri\_guidance.htm) developed jointly by Caltrans, the Federal Highway Administration, and EPA, provides an approach to developing a growth-related impact analysis. After the potential for growth is identified for each alternative, the Guidance recommends assessing if growth-related impacts affect resources of concern.

#### Recommendations:

- Identify the types of resources that are likely to occur in geographic areas that may be
  affected by growth. If it is determined that there will be no or insignificant impacts to
  resources of concern, then document the process and report the results. EPA recommends
  following the Step-by-Step Approach for Conducting the Analysis in Chapter 6 of the
  Guidance.
- Include a discussion of mitigation strategies to reduce impacts if adverse impacts cannot be avoided or minimized. Section 6.3 Mitigation of the Guidance provides an approach to address mitigation for growth-related impacts.

#### Climate Change

The State of California has increased its focus on potential climate change and impacts of increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Specifically, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 and Executive Order S-3-05 recognize the impact that climate change can have within California and provide direction for future reductions of greenhouse gases.

The DEIS should include a discussion of the potential impacts of climate change on the proposed project and identify adaptive management strategies to protect the project area from those impacts. EPA also recommends that the DEIS identify the cumulative contributions to and reductions of greenhouse gas emissions that would result from implementation of the project.



# STATE OF CALIFORNIA Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



#### Notice of Preparation

November 6, 2013

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project

SCH# 2013111016

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Garrett Damrath California Department of Transportation, District 7 100 South Main Street, MS-16A Los Angeles, CA 90012

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan

Director, State Clearinghouse

Attachments cc: Lead Agency

1400 TENTH STREET P.O. BOX 3044 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-3044 TEL (916) 445-0613 FAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov

### **Document Details Report** State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2013111016

Project Title State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project

Lead Agency Caltrans #7

Type NOP Notice of Preparation

Description

The project is located in northern Los Angeles County, and extends from Interstate 5 (I-5) on the west to State 14 (SR-14) on the east. SR-138 Northwest Corridor Improvement project proposes to improve the highway as a freeway, expressway with access control and/or traffic system/multi-modal facility. Four alternatives are identified for the project corridor. Alternative 1 is an expressway facility throughout the entire corridor. Alternative 2 is a freeway/expressway facility throughout the entire corridor. Alternative 3 is a traffic system/multi-modal facility throughout the entire corridor. Alternative 4 is the No-Build Alternative. These alternatives may be refined, combined with various different alternatives, or be removed from further consideration, as more analysis is conducted on the project alternatives

Lead Agency Contact

Garrett Damrath

California Department of Transportation, District 7 Agency

(213) 897-9016 Phone

email

100 South Main Street, MS-16A Address

City Los Angeles

State CA Zip 90012

Fax

**Project Location** 

County Los Angeles Lancaster City

Region

Cross Streets I-5/SR-14

Lat/Long

Parcel No. Various

Township

Range

Section

Base

Proximity to:

Highways 1-5, SR-14

Airports

Railways

Quail Lake Waterways

Schools

Land Use Open Space, Rural

Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Project Issues

Drainage/Absorption; Economics/Jobs; Flood Plain/Flooding; Forest Land/Fire Hazard;

Geologic/Seismic; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Soll Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Cumulative

Effects

Reviewing Agencies

Resources Agency; Cal Fire; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 5; Native American Heritage Commission; California Highway Patrol; Air Resources Board; Air Resources Board, Transportation Projects; Regional Water Quality

Control Board, Region 4; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 6 (Victorville)

Date Received 11/06/2013

Start of Review 11/06/2013

End of Review 12/05/2013

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

NOP Distribution List		Scounty: UBS A	Los Angeles SCH#	2013111016
lesources Agency	Laurie Hamsberger	Mative American Heritage Comm. Debbie Treadway	Caltrans, District 8 Dan Kopulsky	Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)
Resources Agency Nadell Gayou Dept. of Boating &	Jeff Drongesen  Fish & Wildlife Region 3  Charles Armor	Public Utilities Commission Leo Wong	Gayle Rosander  Caltans, District 9  Carlans, District 10	RWQCB 1
Waterways Nicole Wong	Fish & Wildlife Region 4	Santa Monica Bay Restoration Guangyu Wang	Caltrans, District 11	North Coast Region (1)  Revoce 2  Environmental Document
California Coastal Commission Elizabeth A. Fuchs	Fish & Wildlife Region 5 Lestie Newton-Reed	State Lands Commission Jennifer Deleong	Caltrans, District 12 Maureen El Harake	Coordinator San Francisco Bay Region (2)
Colorado River Board Tamya Trujillo	Habitat Conservation Program  Fish & Wildlife Region 6 Gabrina Gatchel	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) Cherry Jacques	CalEPA	Central Coast Region (3)
Elizabeth Carpenter	Habitat Conservation Program	Business, Trans & Housing	Air Resources Board	Teresa Rodgers Los Angeles Region (4)
Commission Eric Koloht	Heidi Sickler Inyo/Mono, Habitat Conservation	Aeronautics	MI All Projects CEQA Coordinator	RWQCB 5S Central Valley Region (5)
Cal Fire Dan Foster	Program  Dept. of Fish & Wildlife M George leans	Caltrans - Planning Terri Pencovic	Jon Taylor	Central Valley Region (5)
Central Valley Flood	Marine Region	California Highway Patrol	Mike Tollstrup	RWOCB 5R
Protection Board James Herota	Other Departments	Suzann Ikeuchi Office of Special Projects	State Water Resources Confrol	Central Valley Region (5) Redding Branch Office
Office of Historic Preservation Ron Parsons	Sandra Schubert Dent of Food and Acrientiums	Development CEOA Coordinator	Board Regional Programs Unit Division of Financial Assistance	RWQCB 6 Lahontan Region (6)
B Dept of Parks & Recreation Environmental Stewardship	Depart, of General	Housing Policy Division	State Water Resources Control	RWQCB 6V Lahontan Region (6)
Section  California Denortment of	Public C	Dept. of Transportation	Board Student Intern, 401 Water Quality	Wictorwille Branch Office
Resources, Recycling & Recovery	ΙŹШ	Caltrans, District 1	Division of Water Quality	Colorado River Basin Region (7)
Sue O'Leary	Dept. of Public Health	Rex Jackman	State Water Resouces Control Board	Santa Ana Region (8)
Dev't. Comm.	Jeffery Worth Dept. of Health/Drinking Water	Marcelino Gonzalez	Phil Crader Division of Water Rights	San Diego Region (9)
Dept. of Water	Delta Stewardship	Gary Amold	Dept. of Toxic Substances Control	
Resources Resources Agency Nadell Carren	Council Kevan Samsam	Caltrans, District 4 Erik Alm	CEOA Tracking Center  Denorthment of Positicide	
ish and Game	Independent Commissions, Boards	Caltrans, District 5 David Murray	Regulation CEQA Coordinator	Other Charles
Depart. of Fish & Wildlife Scott Flint	Delta Protection	Caltrans, District 6	54	
Environmental Services Division	Mich	Caltrans, District 7		
Donald Koch	Management Agency Dennis Castrillo	Dianna Watson		Conservancy
	Comis Cassillo		50	Last Updated 9724/2013

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Edmund G. Brown, Jr. Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
1550 Harbor Boulevard, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
(916) 373-3715
Fax (916) 373-3715
Fax (916) 373-3471
Web Site www.nahe.ca.gov
Ds. nahc@pacbell.net
e-mail: ds. nahc@pacbell.net



November 19, 2013

Mr. Garrett Damrath, Environmental Planner

# California Department of Transportation - District 7

100 South Main Street, MS-16A Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: SCH#2013111016 CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the "State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project;" located from Interstate 5 on the west to State Route 14; Los Angeles County,, California

Dear Mr. Damrath:

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) has reviewed the above-referenced environmental document.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that any project which includes archeological resources, is a significant effect requiring the preparation of an EIR (CEQA guidelines 15064.5(b). To adequately comply with this provision and mitigate project-related impacts on archaeological resources, the Commission recommends the following actions be required:

Contact the appropriate Information Center for a record search to determine: If a part or all of the area of project effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural places(s), The NAHC recommends that known traditional cultural resources recorded on or adjacent to the APE be listed in the draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR).

If an additional archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey. We suggest that this be coordinated with the NAHC, if possible. The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measurers should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for pubic disclosure pursuant to California Government Code Section 6254.10.

A list of appropriate Native American Contacts for consultation concerning the project site has been provided and is attached to this letter to determine if the

proposed active might impinge on any cultural resources. Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.

Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5(f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities. Also, California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 require documentation and analysis of archaeological items that meet the standard in Section 15064.5 (a)(b)(f).

Lead agencies should consider first, avoidance for sacred and/or historical sites, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15370(a). Then if the project goes ahead then, lead agencies include in their mitigation plan provisions for the analysis and disposition of recovered artifacts, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.

Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Sincerely,

Dave Singleton Program Analyst

CC: State Clearinghouse

Attachment: Native American Contacts list

Native American Contacts Los Angeles County, California November 19, 2013

Beverly Salazar Folkes

1931 Shadybrook Drive Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Chumash Tataviam Ferrnandeño

folkes9@msn.com 805 492-7255 (805) 558-1154 - cell folkes9@msn.com

Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians

Larry Ortega, Chairperson 1019 - 2nd Street, Suite #1 San Fernando CA 91340

Fernandeno Tataviam

Kitanemuk

(818) 837-0794 Office

(818) 837-0796 Fax

LA City/County Native American Indian Comm Ron Andrade, Director 3175 West 6th St, Rm. 403 Los Angeles , CA 90020 randrade@css.lacounty.gov (213) 351-5324

(213) 351-5324 (213) 386-3995 FAX

Kitanemuk & Yowlumne Tejon Indians Delia Dominguez, Chairperson 115 Radio Street Yowlumne

Bakersfield , CA 93305 deedominguez@juno.com

(626) 339-6785

San Fernando Band of Mission Indians John Valenzuela, Chairperson

P.O. Box 221838

1222

Newhall , CA 91322 tsen2u@hotmail.com Tataviam Serrano

Fernandeño

(661) 753-9833 Office (760) 885-0955 Cell Vanyume Kitanemuk

(760) 949-1604 Fax

Randy Guzman - Folkes 4676 Walnut Avenue

Chumash Fernandeño

Simi Valley , CA 93063 ndnRandy@yahoo.com

Tataviam Shoshone Paiute

(805) 905-1675 - cell (805) 520-5915-FAX

Yaqui

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
Daniel McCarthy, M.S.., Director-CRM Dept.
26569 Community Center. Drive Serrano

Highland , CA 92346 (909) 864-8933, Ext 3248

dmccarthy@sanmanuel-nsn.

(909) 862-5152 Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of the statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

his list s only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH#2013111016; CEQA Notice of Preparation (NOP); draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Stte Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project; Los Angeles County, california.





**Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board** 

#### MEMORANDUM

TO:

Garrett Damrath, Chief Environmental Planner California Department of Transportation, District 7

100 South Main Street, MS-16A Los Angeles, CA 90012-3606

FROM:

Jan M. Zimmerman, Engineering Geologist

LAHONTAN REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD

DATE:

December 3, 2013

SUBJECT:

COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE STATE ROUTE 138 NORTHWEST CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, LOS ANGELES

COUNTY, STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER 2013111016

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region (Water Board) staff received the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the above-referenced project (Project) on November 12, 2013. The NOP was prepared by the California Department of Transportation, District 7 (Caltrans) and submitted in compliance with provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Water Board staff, acting as a responsible agency, is providing these comments to specify the scope and content of the environmental information germane to our statutory responsibilities pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15096. Based on our review of the NOP, (1) design alternatives that avoid and minimize impacts to surface water resources, including wetlands, should be considered, 2) natural drainage channels should be maintained to ensure that no net loss of function and value (i.e. groundwater recharge, habitat, flood attenuation, and water quality enhancement) will occur as a result of Project implementation, and (2) best management practices (BMPs) that effectively treat post-construction storm water runoff should be included in the Project's design. Our comments on the NOP are provided below.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed Project is to improve a 36-mile long segment of State Route (SR) 138 from Interstate 5 on the west to State Route 14 on the east. The Project alternatives to be evaluated in the DEIR include various combinations of freeway, expressway, access control, and multi-modal facility improvements.

PETER C. PUMPHOREY, CHAIR | PATTY Z. KOUYDUMOJANI, EXECUTIVE OFFICER 14440 CIVIC Drive, Suite 200, Victorylle, CA 92392 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/fahorzan

O RECYCLES PAPER

Mr. Damrath

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December 3, 2013

#### WATER BOARD'S AUTHORITY

All groundwater and surface waters are considered waters of the State. Surface waters include streams, lakes, ponds, and wetlands, and may be ephemeral, intermittent, or perennial. All waters of the State are protected under California law. State law assigns responsibility for protection of water quality in the Lahontan Region to the Lahontan Water Board. Some waters of the State are also waters of the U.S. The Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) provides additional protection for those waters of the State that are also waters of the U.S.

The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) contains policies that the Water Board uses with other laws and regulations to protect the quality of waters of the State within the Lahontan Region. The Basin Plan sets forth water quality standards for surface water and groundwater of the Region, which include designated beneficial uses as well as narrative and numerical objectives which must be maintained or attained to protect those uses. The Basin Plan can be accessed via the Water Board's web site at <a href="http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\_issues/programs/basin\_plan/references.shtml">http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/water\_issues/programs/basin\_plan/references.shtml</a>.

#### SPECIFIC COMMENTS FOR THE ENVIRONMENAL REVIEW

Please consider our comments, as outlined below, in preparation of the DEIR.

- 1. Los Angeles County falls within the jurisdiction of two Regional Water Boards, the Lahontan and Los Angeles Water Boards. The Project site appears to straddle the regional boundary between both Regional Water Board jurisdictions. While the majority of the Project site is in an area under the jurisdiction of the Lahontan Water Board, the western portion of the site appears to be located in an area under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles Water Board. We request that the DEIR recognize that the Project site is located under the jurisdiction of both the Lahontan and Los Angeles Water Boards and that a copy of the DEIR is made available to both Regional Water Boards and the State Water Resources Control Board for review and comment.
- 2. All surface waters are waters of the State. Some waters of the State are "isolated" from waters of the U.S. Determinations of the jurisdictional extent of the waters of the United States are made by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on a project-by-project basis. We request that the Project proponent consult with the USACE and the Water Board and perform the necessary jurisdictional determinations for surface waters within the Project area to ensure that the full extent of both State and federal jurisdictional areas are accurately documented. The discharge of waste<sup>1</sup> to waters of the State, either onsite or offsite, is subject to regulation by the Water Board.
- The DEIR should identify the water quality standards that could potentially be violated by the Project and use these standards when evaluating thresholds of significance for Project impacts. Water quality objectives and standards, both

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Waste" is defined in the Basin Plan to include sewage and any waste substance or deleterious material including, but not limited to, waste earthen materials (such as soil, silt, sand, clay, rock, or other organic or mineral material) and any other waste associated with human habitation, or of human or animal origin, or from any producing, manufacturing, or processing operation as defined in the California Water Code, section 13050(d).

Mr. Damrath

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December 3, 2013

- 4. numerical and narrative, for <u>all</u> waters of the State within the Lahontan Region, including surface waters and groundwater, are outlined in Chapter 3 of the Basin Plan. Water quality objectives and standards are intended to protect the public health and welfare, and to maintain or enhance water quality in relation to the existing and/or potential beneficial uses of the water.
- 5. The Project area is located within the Neenach and Lancaster Hydrologic Areas of the Antelope Hydrologic Unit 626.00 and overlies the Antelope Valley Groundwater Basin No. 6-44. The beneficial uses of these water resources are listed in Chapter 2 of the Basin Plan. We request that the DEIR identify and list the beneficial uses of the water resources within the Project area, and include an analysis of the potential impacts to water quality and hydrology with respect to those beneficial uses.
- 6. The SR-138 alignment crosses a hierarchy of surface water features. Project implementation has the potential to truncate these surface water systems and isolate headwaters from downstream reaches. The consequences of such activities may be a near total loss of beneficial uses downstream of the corridor, including a significant reduction in or loss of groundwater recharge, a reduction in wetland and other habitat due to reduced or diverted surface flows, and a reduced ability for natural drainage systems and floodplains to attenuate flood flows. Alternatives to avoid these impacts should be considered in the DEIR. Specific mitigation measures must be identified that, when implemented, minimize unavoidable impacts to a less than significant level to ensure that no net loss of function and value will occur as a result of Project implementation. We request that natural patterns be maintained and stream channels be clear-spanned to the extent practical to avoid and minimize these impacts.
- 7. The Project site is located along the San Andreas Fault Zone. Shallow groundwater occurring along the fault zone is known to support numerous perennial springs and associated wetlands. In an otherwise arid-desert environment, these perennial surface waters can be critical habitat for a variety of native plant and animal species. There are several known wetland areas adjacent to and within the vicinity of the Project alignment, and implementation of the Project would pose potential impacts to wetland hydrology and water quality: 1) direct impacts and loss of wetland area attributed to fill and excavation discharges; 2) indirect impacts to vegetation attributed to shading from overhead structures (i.e. bridges); 3) indirect impacts to hydrology as a result of reduced spring/stream flows; and 4) direct and indirect water quality concerns associated with untreated storm water runoff. We request that alternatives that avoid wetland impacts be considered with higher priority over others.
- The DEIR should summarize the measures taken to avoid and minimize
  environmental impacts, both permanent and temporary, for each Project alternative
  evaluated.
- 9. Compensatory mitigation will be required for all unavoidable permanent impacts to surface water resources. Water Board staff coordinate all mitigation requirements with staff from other federal and state regulatory agencies, including the USACE and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. In determining appropriate mitigation ratios for impacts to waters of the State, Water Board staff considers Basin Plan requirements (minimum 1.5:1 mitigation ratio for impacts to wetlands) and utilizes

Mr. Damrath - 4 - December 3, 2013

12501-SPD Regulatory Program Standard Operating Procedure for Determination of Mitigation Ratios, published December 2012 by the USACE, South Pacific Division.

- 10. All temporary impacts to upland and water resource areas should be restored (recontoured and revegetated) to match pre-Project conditions.
- 11. Post-construction storm water management must be considered a significant Project component, and BMPs that effectively treat post-construction storm water runoff should be included as part of the Project. Of particular concern is the collection of onsite storm water runoff and the concentrated discharge of that storm water to stream channels. Design alternatives that are compatible with low impact development (LID) should be considered. LID components include: maintaining natural drainage paths and landscape features to slow and filter runoff and maximize groundwater recharge; managing runoff as close to the source as possible; and maintaining vegetated areas for storm water management and onsite infiltration.
- 12. Vegetation clearing should be kept to a minimum. Where feasible, existing vegetation should be mowed so that after construction the vegetation could reestablish and help mitigate for potential storm water impacts.
- 13. Construction staging areas should be sited in upland areas outside stream channels and other surface waters on or around the Project site. Buffer areas should be identified and exclusion fencing used to protect the water resource and prevent unauthorized vehicles or equipment from entering or otherwise disturbing the surface waters. Construction equipment should use existing roadways to the extent feasible.
- 14. Obtaining a permit and conducting monitoring does not constitute adequate mitigation. Development and implementation of acceptable mitigation is required. The DEIR must specifically describe the BMPs and other measures used to mitigate Project impacts.

### **Permitting Requirements**

A number of activities associated with the proposed Project appear to have the potential to impact waters of the State and, therefore, may require permits issued by either the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) or Lahontan Water Board. The required permits may include:

- 15. Land disturbance of more than 1 acre may require CWA, section 402(p) stormwater permits, including a NPDES General Construction Stormwater Permit, Water Quality Order (WQO) 2009-0009-DWQ, obtained from the State Water Board, or individual stormwater permit obtained from the Lahontan Water Board;
- 16. Water diversion and/or dewatering activities may be subject to discharge and monitoring requirements under either NPDES General Permit, Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Waters, Board Order R6T-2008-0023, or General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Land with a Low Threat To Water Quality, WQO-2003-0003, both issued by the Lahontan Water Board; and

Mr. Damrath

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December 3, 2013

17. Streambed alteration and/or discharge of fill material to a surface water may require a CWA, section 401 water quality certification for impacts to federal waters (waters of the U.S.), or dredge and fill waste discharge requirements for impacts to nonfederal waters, both issued by the Lahontan Water Board.

Please be advised of the permits that may be required for the proposed Project, as outlined above. The specific Project activities that may trigger these permitting actions should be identified in the appropriate sections of the DEIR. Should Project implementation result in activities that trigger these permitting actions, the Project proponent must consult with Water Board staff. Information regarding these permits, including application forms, can be downloaded from our web site at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the NOP. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (760) 241-7376 (jan.zimmerman@waterboards.ca.gov) or Patrice Copeland, Senior Engineering Geologist, at (760) 241-7404 (patrice.copeland@waterboards.ca.gov).

cc: State Clearinghouse (SCH 2013111016)

(state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov)

Veronica Chan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

(Veronica.C.Chan@usace.army.mil)

Paul Amato, Wetlands Regulatory Office (WTR-8), USEPA, Region 9

(Amato.Paul@epamail.epa.gov)

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

(AskR5@wildlife.ca.gov)

Tammy Podesta, California Department of Transportation, District 7

(tami.podesta@dot.ca.gov)

LB Nye, Los Angeles Regional Water Board

(lb.nye@waterboards.ca.gov)

Bob Solecki, State Water Resources Control Board

(robert.solecki@waterboards.ca.gov)

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA - CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

#### **DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836 SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001 (916) 653-5791



December 4, 2013

Mr. Garrett Damrath California Department of Transportation, District 7 100 S Main Street, MS-16A Los Angeles, California 90012

Notice of Preparation, Draft Environmental Impact Report, California Department of Transportation, District 7, Los Angeles County, California Aqueduct, Southern Field Division, SCH 2013111016

#### Dear Mr. Damrath:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Notice of Preparation for the proposed widening of State Route 138 (SR-138), Northwest Corridor Improvement Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in Los Angeles County. In the study, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes four Alternatives to improve the existing traffic conditions on SR-138. The proposed new road section for SR-138 will include the length of highway between Interstate 5 on the west, to SR-14 on the east. The proposed work will cross the Department of Water Resources (DWR) California Aqueduct East Branch near 245<sup>th</sup> Street W, and the West Branch near Quail Lake.

The proposed project will cross DWR's ROW; therefore, Caltrans will be required to obtain an Encroachment Permit/Review from DWR prior to the start of any construction. Additionally, any modifications to DWR's bridge and access roads shall be reviewed and approved by DWR prior to construction. Information on obtaining an Encroachment Permit from DWRIcan be viewed at:

http://www.water.ca.gov/engineering/Services/Real\_Estate/Encroach\_Rel/

Please provide DWR with a copy of any subsequent environmental documentation when it becomes available for public review. Any future correspondence relating to this project should be sent to:

Leroy Ellinghouse, Chief SWP Encroachments Section Division of Operations and Maintenance Department of Water Resources 1416 Ninth Street, Room 641-1 Sacramento, California 95814

In addition, please continue to keep DWR informed of any future actions with respect to your

Mr. Garrett Damrath December 4, 2013 Page 2

project.

If you have any questions, please contact Leroy Ellinghouse, Chief of DWR's SWP Encroachments Section, at (916) 653-7168 or Mike Anderson at (916) 653-6664.

Sincerely,

David M. Samson, Chief

State Water Project Operations Support Office Division of Operations and Maintenance

cc: State Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research

1400 Tenth Street, Room 121 Sacramento, California 95814





### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

DARYL L. OSBY FIRE CHIEF FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

December 10, 2013

Garrett Damrath, Planner California Department of Transportation District Seven 100 S. Main Street, Ms-16a Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Damrath:

PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, SCH# 2013111016, "STATE ROUTE 138 NORTHWEST CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROEJCT", PROPOSES TO IMPROVE THE HIGHWAY AS A FREEWAY, EXPRESSWAY WITH ACCESS CONTROL AND/OR TRAFFIC SYSTEM/MULTI-MODAL FACILITY, ITS ALONG SR-138 BETWEEN INTERSTATE 5 AND STATE ROUTE 14, LANCASTER (FFER #201300200)

The Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, Forestry Division, and Health Hazardous Materials Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. The following are their comments:

### PLANNING DIVISION:

 Any highway project that includes road and ramp closures and/or detours has the potential to impede upon emergency response times, especially during high peak traffic hours. All road and ramp closures and detours should be approved and acceptable to the Fire Department so as not to adversely impact emergency responses.

### LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:

 The proposed development may necessitate multiple ingress/egress access for the circulation of traffic, and emergency response issues.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS ARTESIA AZUSA BALDWIN PARK BELL BELL GARDENS BELLFLOWER BRADBURY CALABASAS CARSON CERRITOS CLAREMONT COMMERCE COVINA CUDAHY

DIAMOND BAR DUARTE EL MONTE GARDENA GLENDORA HAWAIIAN GARDENS HAWHIAN GARDENS HIDDEN HILLS HUNTINGTON PARK INDUSTRY INGLEWOOD IRWINDALE LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE LA HABRA LA MIRADA LA PUENTE LAKEWOOD LANCASTER LAWNDALE LOMITA LYNWOOD MALIBUJ MAYWOOD NORWALK PALMDALE PALOS VERDES ESTATES PARAMOUNT PICO RIVERA

POMONA RANCHO PALOS VERDES ROLLING HILLS ROLLING HILLS ESTATES ROSEMEAD SAN DIMAS SANTA CLARITA SIGNAL HILL SOUTH EL MONTE SOUTH GATE TEMPLE CITY WALNUT WEST HOLLYWOOD WESTLAKE VILLAGE WHITTIER

Garrett Damrath, Planner December 10, 2013 Page 2

- The development of this project must comply with all applicable code and ordinance requirements for construction, access, water mains, fire flows and fire hydrants.
- Specific fire and life safety requirements for the construction phase will be addressed at the building fire plan check. There may be additional fire and life safety requirements during this time.
- 4. When a bridge is required to be used as part of a fire access road, it shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with nationally recognized standards and designed for a live load sufficient to carry a minimum of 75,000 pounds. All water crossing designs are required to be approved by the public works department prior to installation.
- 5. The maximum allowable grade shall not exceed 15% except where topography makes it impractical to keep within such grade. In such cases, an absolute maximum of 20% will be allowed for up to 150 feet in distance. The average maximum allowed grade, including topographical difficulties, shall be no more than 17%. Grade breaks shall not exceed 10% in ten feet.
- Provide three sets of alternate route (detour) plans, with a tentative schedule of planned closures, prior to the beginning of construction. Complete architectural/ structural plans are not necessary.
- Temporary bridges shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to support a live load of at least 70,000 pounds. A minimum vertical clearance of 13 feet 6 inches will be required throughout construction.
- Disruptions to water service shall be coordinated with the County of Los Angeles Fire
  Department and alternate water sources shall be provided for fire protection during such
  disruptions.
- The County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Land Development Unit's comments are only general requirements. Specific fire and life safety requirements will be addressed at the building and fire plan check phase. There may be additional requirements during this time.
- The County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Land Development Unit, appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project.

### FORESTRY DIVISION - OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

The statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division include erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or Fire Zone 4, archeological and cultural resources, and the County Oak Tree Ordinance. Potential impacts in these areas should be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Garrett Damrath, Planner December 10, 2013 Page 3

### HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION:

The Health Hazardous Materials Division has no objection to the proposed project.

If you have any additional questions, please contact this office at (323) 890-4330.

Very truly yours,

FRANK VIDALES, CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

Frank Nudle

FV:jl



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



www.wildlife.ca.gov January 15, 2014

Mr. Ron Kosinski
California Department of Transportation, District 7 (Caltrans)
100 South Main Street, MS-16A
Los Angeles, California 90012
Phone (213) 897-1839
Fax (213) 897-0685

Subject: Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project (State Route 138) in Los Angeles County (SCH # 2013111016).

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has reviewed the above-referenced Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Northwest Corridor Improvement (NWCI) project relative to impacts to biological resources. The NOP was submitted by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) acting as the Lead Agency under CEQA (§ 15367). If approved, the project would allow for the improvement to a 36-mile long segment of State Route (SR)-138 from Interstate 5 (I-5) on the west to SR-14 on the east in Los Angeles County.

The following statements and comments have been prepared pursuant to the Department's authority as Trustee Agency with jurisdiction over natural resources affected by the project (California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] Guidelines § 15386) and pursuant to our authority as a Responsible Agency under CEQA Guidelines section 15381 over those aspects of the proposed project that come under the purview of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA; Fish and Game Code § 2050 et seq.) and/or Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq.

Additionally, Caltrans has requested the Department be a Participating Agency for purposes of evaluating the SR-138 NWCI project (Title 23 United States Code § 139, CEQA Guidelines §§ 15220-15229). The Department accepts this request; however, a Memorandum of Understanding will need to be signed by the Department and Caltrans to define each agency's role and relationship during the project evaluation process.

To enable the Department to adequately review and comment on the proposed project, from the standpoint of the protection of plants, fish and wildlife, we recommend the following information be included in the draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

1. Proposed Alternatives. The NOP provides a range of four feasible alternatives. The NOP states only Alternative 4, the "No-Build" Alternative would result in a reduction of impacts to sensitive species. To ensure that alternatives to the proposed project are fully considered and evaluated, the alternatives should avoid or otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources, with particular attention to wetlands and wildlife dispersal. Specific alternative locations should be evaluated in areas with lower resource sensitivity where appropriate. To allow the Department to better evaluate the full range of

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

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alternatives we recommend Caltrans provide an analysis of each Alternative and how it affects the significance of the impacts sensitive regional plant and animal resources.

- 2. Increased Barriers to Wildlife Dispersal. The traffic congestion in urban areas of Los Angeles is a direct consequence of the large population inhabiting the area. Existing traffic infrastructure excludes the movement of wildlife within the urban areas. Although the current SR-138 between I-5 and SR-14 is a barrier, it can be arguably stated it is less of a barrier than the already existing I-5, I-210, or SR-134. Creating a larger barrier in the project area will further increase the fragmentation of high quality habitat and further decrease the available movement corridors left available for wildlife. The DEIR should fully evaluate the cumulative impacts of increasing the barriers within this high quality habitat area immediately west of the I-5 and along the route immediately adjacent Los Padres National Forest (LPNF), Quail Lake, the Antelope Valley Poppy Reserve, and unpopulated areas within the Antelope Valley along the proposed project corridor. The DEIR should fully evaluate how this increased barrier may impact wildlife resources as a result of wildlife and vehicle collisions, wildlife dispersal, and wildlife access to water and food resources.
- 3. Wildlife Movement Corridor Studies. The DEIR should incorporate a thorough wildlife movement study within the project area. Mule deer (Odocoileus hemionus), pronghorn antelope (Antilocapra americana) and ungulate skeletal remains have been observed in the project corridor, confirming that the project corridor is utilized by ungulates. In addition, mountain lions (Puma concolor), black bear (Ursus americanus) and a myriad other small carnivores have also been detected.
- 4. Human Influences on Previously Undisturbed Areas. Much of the existing Fort Tejon, Lake Hughes, and Antelope Valley, has been zoned as open space, dedicated as National Parks, Ecological Study Areas or otherwise protected from general access by the public. Due to the low public use these areas may be considered as a significant resource for wildlife. The DEIR should fully describe how implementation of this high-use roadway could potentially directly and/or indirectly affect existing habitat and wildlife species along the proposed project route.
- 5. Shoulder Requirement. Each project alternative should include impacts associated with the requirements of an 8-foot wide road shoulder in each direction. This section should include the vegetation that would be impacted as a result of this requirement associated with 36-miles of the newly improved highway for both the east and west shoulders. Additionally, the Department recommends alternatives that would eliminate the requirement of the 8-foot wide shoulder at specific locations due to the project's close proximity to undeveloped open space and the increased chances of wildlife and vehicle encounters. The Department recommends the use of fencing, or another means to detour wildlife from crossing the highway.
- 6. Ephemeral Washes, Creeks, and Rivers. Quail Lake, a multitude of ephemeral tributaries, perennial springs and associated wetlands, occur within the proposed project footprint. These serve as wildlife corridors and important water and food resources for both plants and wildlife, which may become interrupted by the proposed improvements to SR-138 through implementation of the NWCI project. This interruption may severely limit wildlife access to food resources, water resources, create genetic isolation, and access to

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other distinct populations of species. Potential negative impacts could result in the loss of vital resources for many species and could potentially result in direct and indirect species mortality through the loss of wildlife movement and access to water and food resources.

- 7. <u>Biological Resources within the Project's Area</u>. The DEIR should include the following information to provide a complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the project area, with particular emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, sensitive, and locally unique species and sensitive habitats:
- a. <u>Regional Emphasis</u>. Per CEQA Guidelines, section 15125(c), information on the regional setting that is critical to an assessment of environmental impacts, with special emphasis should be placed on resources that are rare or unique to the region.
  - Rare Natural Communities. A thorough assessment of rare plants and rare natural communities, following Department's Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (see: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/plant/) (hard copy available on request).
  - c. <u>Biological Inventory</u>. A current inventory of the biological resources associated with each habitat type on-site and within the area of potential effect. The Department's California Natural Diversity Data Base in Sacramento should be contacted at (916) 322-2493 or www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/ to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12 of the Fish and Game Code.
  - 8. <u>Listed Species Impacts.</u> The DEIR should describe several Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize adverse effects to CESA- and Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species. In addition, any ESA-listed species included in any Biological Opinion issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) pursuant to the ESA, should be included in the DEIR. Furthermore, in addition to any proposed BMPs, the Department recommends the following items be addressed so the project to be fully evaluated regarding potential impacts to CESA-listed species:
    - a. <u>California Endangered Species Act.</u> The Department considers adverse impacts to a species protected by the CESA, for the purposes of CEQA, to be significant without mitigation. As to CESA, take of any endangered, threatened, or candidate species that results from the project is prohibited, except as authorized by State law (Fish and Game Code, §§ 2080, 2085.) Consequently, if the project, project construction, or any project-related activity during the life of the project results in take of a species designated as endangered or threatened, or a candidate for listing under CESA, the Department recommends that the project proponent seek appropriate take authorization under CESA prior to implementing the project. Appropriate authorization from the Department may include an incidental take permit (ITP) or a consistency determination in certain circumstances, among other options (Fish and Game Code §§ 2080.1, 2081, subds. (b),(c)). Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to a project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit. Revisions to the Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, may require that the Department issue a

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separate CEQA document for the issuance of an ITP unless the project CEQA document addresses all project impacts to CESA-listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of an ITP. For these reasons, biological mitigation monitoring and reporting proposals should be of sufficient detail, resolution and enforceability to satisfy the requirements for a CESA ITP. The DEIR should fully address potential impacts to the following species:

- Swainson's Hawk (Buteo swainsoni). The CESA-listed Swainson's hawk is known to occur within multiple regions of the Antelope Valley and active nests are known to occur within 5 miles of the project. The Department considers any nest to be active if it has been used by Swainson's hawk within the past 5 years. Swainson's hawks forage in agriculture, nonnative annual grassland, and other desert scrub habitats that support a suitable prey base present within the proposed NWCI footprint. The Department would conclude that the NWCI project site supports suitable foraging habitat for Swainson's hawk and recommends protocol surveys be conducted to fully analyze the potential for impacts prior to the circulation of the DEIR. The Department has drafted modified protocol surveys for the Antelope Valley population of Swainson's hawk included in the Best Management Practices and Guidance Manual for Desert Renewable Energy Projects that can be located at (http://www.energy.ca.gov/2010publications/REAT-1000-2010-009/REAT-1000-2010-009-F.PDF). The results of the surveys may influence the mitigation measures ultimately adopted within the final CEQA document. As described in the Department protocols for the species revised in 2010 for the Antelope Valley, a 5-mile survey radius of all potential nest trees, towers or other potential nest sites should be surveyed by a Department qualified raptor biologist. The Department recommends consultation with the Department prior to initiation of surveys, to ensure that the latest Department-approved protocol is used. Given the near proximity of known active nests and forage areas of the species, the Department would consider potential impacts to the species significant absent suitable mitigation.
- ii. Riparian Bird Species. Three CESA-listed bird species, (i.e., least Bell's vireo [Vireo bellii pusillus], southwestern willow flycatcher [Empidonax traillii extimus], and yellow-billed cuckoo [Coccyzus americanus]) are known to use marginal habitat throughout Los Angeles County. The Department recommends protocol level surveys be conducted in areas where marginal willow and mulefat scrub habitat is proposed for permanent or temporary project impacts. The DEIR should fully evaluate the potential to impact these species as a result of implementation of the NWCI project. The Department recommends that surveys are performed prior to the circulation of the DEIR. Caltrans should work with the Department to draft protocols and timing of surveys and to allow adequate time to propose species-specific mitigation measures as appropriate.

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- iii. <u>CESA-listed Endangered Fish Species.</u> The DEIR should identify areas along the proposed alignment where project impacts could directly or indirectly negatively impact any extant southern steelhead, three-spine stickleback, Santa Ana sucker, or any other CESA-threatened, endangered or California Species of Special Concern native fish species, within the NWCI project.
- 9. Survey Methodologies. An inventory of rare, threatened, and endangered, and other sensitive species on site and within the area of potential effect, should be included in the DEIR. Species to be addressed should include all those which meet the CEQA definition (CEQA Guidelines, § 15380). This should include sensitive fish, wildlife, reptile, and amphibian species. Seasonal variations in use of the project area should also be addressed. Focused species-specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable, are required. Acceptable species-specific survey procedures should be developed in consultation with Department and the Service. Please see the following for survey methodologies recommended by the Department at http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife /nongame/survey\_monitor.html
- 10. <u>Fully Protected Species.</u> The Department has jurisdiction over Fully Protected Species (FPS) of birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and fish, pursuant to Fish and Game Code sections 3511, 4700, 5050, and 5515. The Department considers impacts to FPS, for the purposes of CEQA, to be significant without mitigation. Except as provided in the Fish and Game Code (e.g., for necessary scientific research), take of any FPS is prohibited, and cannot be authorized by the Department.
  - a. Golden Eagle. The golden eagle is a FPS. Golden eagle is known to forage on the valley floor throughout many parts of northwest and northeast Los Angeles County. The DEIR should evaluate and address potential impacts to any Fully Protected Species that may occur on-site and propose appropriate species-specific avoidance and minimization measures for the project, project construction, and any project-related activity during the life of the project. Please be advised that the golden eagle is also protected pursuant to the federal Bald Eagle Protection Act, and is regulated by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- 11. <u>California Species of Special Concern.</u> The DEIR should describe several BMPs to minimize adverse effects to species that are described as Species of Special Concern (SSC). A complete list of these species may be found at <a href="http://wwwdfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/ssc/">http://wwwdfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/ssc/</a>. To fully evaluate impacts to sensitive desert species the Department recommends the following species also be specifically addressed in the DEIR:
  - a. <u>Burrowing Owls (Athene cunicularia)</u>. Burrowing owls, a SSC, have a high potential to occur within the proposed alignment. Burrowing owls have been known to use highly degraded and marginal habitat where existing burrows or stem pipes are available. The Department recommends Caltrans utilize the three-tiered approach detailed in the Department's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (March 7, 2012 [Burrowing Owl Staff Report]) to analyze the potential for impacts to the species. The three components to evaluating species

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impacts are: 1) habitat assessment, 2) surveys, and 3) impact assessments. Using this methodology would result in a more robust analysis that could be made to accurately identify potential impacts to the species during the CEQA process instead of deferring the analysis to consultation with the Department after and outside the CEQA process. In addition, the Department recommends that a qualified biologist conduct a focused survey no more than 30 days before the onset of any ground-disturbing activities. Another survey should be conducted no sooner than 7 days prior to the start of vegetation clearing activities. If burrowing owls occupy the site during the non-breeding season (February 1st through August 31st), a passive relocation effort may be instituted. Otherwise, the Department recommends that the project avoids occupied burrows with a minimum 250-foot no-construction or access buffer zone until a Department-approved biologist verifies through non-invasive methods that either: 1) the birds are not nesting; or 2) that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival. Failure to implement buffer zones could cause adult burrowing owls to abandon the nest, cause eggs or young to be directly impacted (crushed), and/or result in reproductive failure. Impacts of this nature violate Fish and Game Code sections 3503, 3503.5, 3513, and the International Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Department requests the results of any surveys, regardless of their results, be submitted to the Department's regional staff, prior to ground disturbance for Department concurrence and verification that no mitigation for burrowing owls would be required.

- b. <u>Sensitive Bird Species.</u> The Department is aware of several occurrences of the following additional sensitive avian species within the proposed alignment of NWCI project in the Antelope Valley. The DEIR should fully evaluate the potential to impact these species as a result of the implementation of the project: long-eared owl (*Asio otus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), vermilion flycatcher (*Pyrocephalus rubinus*), summer tanager (*Piranga rubra*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*) and Vaux's swift (*Chaetura vauxi*). The Department recommends that surveys for the above mentioned species are performed prior to the circulation of the DEIR document. The Department is available for consultation on survey protocols and timing of the surveys to allow adequate time to adopt species specific mitigation measures as appropriate.
- c. <u>Coast horned lizard (Phrynosoma blainvilli)</u>. The Department recommends that surveys for coast horned lizard are performed prior to the circulation of the DEIR. The results of the surveys may influence the mitigation measures ultimately adopted within the final CEQA document. The Department is aware of at least one known occurrence of coast horned lizard within the proposed alignment.
- 12. Other Raptor Species. Over 40 raptor species are known to winter and forage within the portion of the LPNF and Antelope Valley bisected by the project. Raptors are protected under Section 3503.5 of the Fish and Game Code. The Department recommends completing surveys for other raptor species to better inform the project's potential impacts to the species prior to the circulation of the DEIR. The results of the surveys may influence the mitigation measures ultimately adopted within the final CEQA document.

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The Department is available for consultation on raptor survey protocols and timing of the surveys to allow adequate time to adopt species specific mitigation measures as appropriate.

- a. Ferruginous Hawk (Buteo regalis). Ferruginous hawk are known to forage and winter within the vicinity of the NWCI project. Several data points for ferruginous hawk exist within the region. The Department recommends completing surveys for ferruginous hawk to better inform the project's potential impacts to the species prior to the circulation of the DEIR. The results of the surveys may influence the mitigation measures ultimately adopted within the final CEQA document. The Department is available for consultation on raptor survey protocols and timing of the surveys to allow adequate time to adopt species specific mitigation measures as appropriate.
- 13. Impacts to Bats. Project work near, around, in, and under existing structures along the proposed alignment should be fully evaluated for disturbances to bats. Also, bats commonly are found associated with snags and broken tress. Many broken and snagged Joshua trees have been identified for removal under the current proposed alignment.
- a. <u>Status of Bats in California.</u> Bats are considered non-game mammals and are afforded protection by state law from take and/or harassment (Fish and Game Code § 4150, California Code of Regulations, Section 251.1). Several bat species are also considered SSC and meet the CEQA definition of rare, threatened or endangered species (CEQA Guidelines § 15065). Again, take of SSC could require a mandatory finding of significance by Caltrans (CEQA Guidelines 15065).
- b. <u>Bat Species of Concern.</u> The DEIR should discuss impacts to Townsend's big ear bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*), western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*), western yellow bat (*Lasiurus xanthinus*), hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), and pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*). The Department recommends additional measures to minimize impacts and to protect these biological resources. The DEIR should fully identify and evaluate potential impacts to any of these SSC species described as potentially occurring or where appropriate habitat is described as existing on or adjacent to the project impact area.
  - c. <u>Bat Avoidance.</u> The Department recommends avoiding disturbances to bridge structures between March 1<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> to avoid the breeding season for bats unless preconstruction surveys are conducted by a qualified biologist and no bat roosts or nurseries are found within the project area.
- d. Replacement of Structures. The Department recommends the DEIR evaluate the construction or replacement of bridges be specifically designed with the bridge deck (4-inch gaps between the abutments) to be acceptable for use by local bat populations as roosting and nursery habitat. Also, the Department recommends the placement of bat houses in areas where appropriate habitat exists within the Caltrans right-of-way.

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- 14. Rare and Threatened Desert Habitat and Plant Communities. CEQA provides protection not only for CESA-listed species, but for any species which can be shown to meet the criteria for CESA-listing (CEQA Section 15380). The Department recognizes that Lists 1A, 1B and 2 of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California consist of plants that, in a majority of cases, would qualify for listing. Alkali mariposa lily (Calochortus striatus) and short-joint beaver tail cactus (Opuntia basilaris var. brachyclada) are considered 1B listed plants, rare throughout their range. Please see Attachment A for a complete list of desert plants to be fully considered during the planning of botanical surveys. In addition, desert dunes, alkali meadows, and dry lakebeds are sensitive habitat types and should be avoided. If dry lakebeds are likely to be impacted fairy shrimp (Branchinecta lynchi) surveys should be completed.
- a. Special Status Desert Plants. The Department recommends focused surveys for all special status plants listed as 1A, 1B and 2 which have a low to high potential for occurring on the project site. Additionally, plants listed as 4 on the CNPS list should be surveyed for and noted, as very little information is known about plant species occurrence and distribution in this area of Los Angeles County. Please keep in mind that the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) has limited data for this area of the desert, and that lack of plant occurrences nearby, do not negate the potential for plants to occur on the project site. The Department recommends using a 12 USGS quadrangle search anytime the CNDDB is consulted for species information, and that all species identified in that search be considered for the project. The focused surveys should occur during the time of year to maximize detection which is normally during the flowering season for many species. Because flowering times may vary from year to year within the known flowering season window documented for a particular species depending on weather and precipitation, visits to a known reference population in the project vicinity are recommended to avoid missing special status plant species. Visiting known reference populations is important as some plants are only detectable for a few weeks and are easily missed when the site is visited only once or twice during the spring months. The blooming period listed for most plants usually encompasses the earliest possible time of the year, to the latest part of the year they have been observed in flower (i.e., April through June). Within this large window, the plants may only be flowering for a week or two, which is why it is important when conducting botanical surveys to visit local reference populations to see when the true flowering time for that species will occur that year. Additionally, visiting a known reference site ensures that the biologist will have a visual reference for this plant and be better equipped to find it during surveys.
  - b. <u>Plant Surveys.</u> Many sensitive species, including pygmy-poppy (*Eschscholzia minutiflora*) and alkali mariposa lily are very small (1 inch to 6 inches) and would be missed using transect methodology. A thorough assessment of rare plants and rare natural communities, following Department's Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (see: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/plant/) (hard copy available on request). The Department typically does not consider biological assessments over 1 year old and botanical assessment over 2 years old as valid for the

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purposes of impact analysis and for the development of avoidance and mitigation measures under CEQA.

- c. Special Status Botanical Species. Occupied habitat for special status botanical species such as alkali mariposa lily should be avoided and preserved in perpetuity from further development (see Attachment A for a complete list of species). If avoidance is not feasible, off-site occupied habitat should be acquired within remaining habitat in the LPNF and Antelope Valley to avoid local extirpation within the County. All mitigation lands preserved on-site or acquired off-site should be deeded to a local land conservancy and protected in perpetuity under a conservation easement to prohibit incompatible uses on the site. Furthermore, the DEIR should analyze the cumulative effect of habitat loss for alkali mariposa lily, and any other rare resource as defined by CEQA, to ensure the cumulative loss is mitigated below a level of significance.
- d. Revegetation. Plans for restoration and revegetation should be prepared by persons with expertise in southern California ecosystems and native plant revegetation techniques. Each plan should include, at a minimum: (a) the location of the mitigation site; (b) the plant species to be used, container sizes, and seeding rates; (c) a schematic depicting the mitigation area; (d) planting schedule; (e) a description of the irrigation methodology; (f) measures to control exotic vegetation on site; (g) specific success criteria; (h) a detailed monitoring program; (i) contingency measures should the success criteria not be met; and (j) identification of the party responsible for meeting the success criteria and providing for conservation of the mitigation site in perpetuity.
- e. <u>Joshua Tree (Yucca brevifolia)</u>. The Department considers Joshua tree woodland a threatened vegetative community. The continual loss of Joshua tree woodland is a concern to the Department as this vegetative community supports a high biological diversity including nesting habitat for native birds and a food source for Mohave ground squirrels. Joshua tree woodland continues to decline throughout the state as the result of direct removal, fragmentation, and exposure to increased wildfire from the result of continuing urbanization and agricultural expansion. The loss of Joshua tree woodland as the result of the proposed project should be recognized by Caltrans as a local/regional cumulative significant impact under CEQA unless mitigated below a significant level.
- f. Avoidance Measures for Joshua Tree Woodland. Joshua trees on the project site should be avoided to the maximum extent practical and preserved in perpetuity from further development. If avoidance is not feasible, off-site Joshua tree woodland of equal or superior quality, with similar densities, age classes and recruitment of Joshua trees, should be acquired within remaining Joshua tree woodland in the Antelope Valley to avoid local extirpation. Acquired habitat should be adjacent to large tracts of existing Joshua tree woodlands which have been identified by resource agencies as having a high priority for acquisition for conservation. All mitigation lands preserved onsite or acquired offsite should be deeded to a local land conservancy and protected in perpetuity under a conservation easement to prohibit incompatible uses on the site. Digging up Joshua trees and transplanting into other areas should not be considered

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appropriate mitigation for loss of Joshua tree woodland vegetative communities as these methods are experimental and there are no assurances of their success

- 15. Impact to Streams and Wetlands. The DEIR should identify the sites which have the potential to support streams under the regulatory authority of the Department. The Department has regulatory authority over activities in streams and/or lakes that will divert or obstruct the natural flow, or change the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of a river or stream, or use material from a streambed. For any such activities, the project applicant (or "entity") must provide written notification to the Department pursuant to section 1600 et seq. of the Fish and Game Code. Based on this notification and other information, The Department determines whether a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSA) with the applicant is required prior to conducting the proposed activities. The Department's issuance of a LSA for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by the Department as a Responsible Agency. The Department as a Responsible Agency under CEQA may consider Caltrans' EIR for the project. To minimize additional requirements by the Department pursuant to section 1600 et seq. and/or under CEQA, the document should fully identify the potential impacts to the stream or riparian resources and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring and reporting commitments for issuance of the LSA.
  - a. Episodic Streams. The Department may take jurisdiction on episodic streams, including alluvial fan streams even where flow occurs as sheet flooding. The paper recently published by the Department, A Review of Steam Processes and Forms in Dryland Watersheds, discusses the alluvial process and the significance to water resources (Vyverberg, Kris. California Department of Fish and Game, Review of Stream Processes and Forms in Dryland Watersheds. October, 2010, California Department of Fish and Game, California Wildlife Habitat Relationships website: (http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata). The Department recommends Caltrans utilize a hydrogeomorphologiest, familiar with assessments in dryland watersheds, conduct a jurisdictional delineation of the creeks to be included in the DEIR. The delineation should be conducted pursuant to the Service wetland definition adopted by The Department¹. Please note that some wetland and riparian habitats subject to The Department's authority may extend beyond the jurisdictional limits of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
  - In Stream Structures. The Department recommends the current project exclude
    the placement of check dams, new culverts, or other flow restriction devices within
    LPNF, Quail Lake, Lake Hughes, Lake Elizabeth, ephemeral streams, and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cowardin, Lewis M., et al. 1979. <u>Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States</u>. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service.

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washes to retain the barrier-free status of this stretch of the stream and utilize open-span bridges in these critical habitat areas.

- c. Salvage of Native Aquatic Vertebrates. The Department recommends the project proponent include BMPs in the DEIR that all native aquatic vertebrates be moved out of harm's way. Salvaged species should be relocated to appropriate habitat within the same watershed as determined by a qualified aquatic biologist. If relocation is to occur, Caltrans should work with the Department to prepare a relocation plan to address relocation of native aquatic vertebrates.
- d. Other Downstream Sensitive Species. The DEIR should include a thorough study of the hydrological impact to downstream resources at all installed culvert undercrossings within Quail Lake, Lake Hughes, Lake Elizabeth, ephemeral streams, and washes.
- 16. Breeding and/or Nesting Birds. If active nest or nesting behavior is observed during preproject biological surveys a nesting bird avoidance and minimization plan shall be established by a qualified biologist and submitted to the Department for review. The plan shall be based on, but not limited to, site lines from the nest to the work site and observations of the nesting bird's reaction to project activities. Breeding habitat/nest site fenced and/or flagged in accordance with state and federal nesting bird guidelines shall not be disturbed until the nest becomes inactive, the young have fledged, the young are no longer being fed by the parents, the young have left the area, and the young will no longer be impacted by the project¹. Continuous monitoring of the nest site by a qualified biologist shall occur during disturbance activities, and a nest observation log shall be updated once per hour during construction activities. If the monitoring biologist determines nesting activities may fail as a result of work activities, all work shall cease within the recommended avoidance area until the biologist determines the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site.
- 17. <u>Cumulative Impacts.</u> The DEIR should consider the cumulative impacts of other mobility-related projects within the area as a result of the implementation of the proposed project. Many currently unrealized projects will be proposed for development as a direct result of the implementation of the NWCI project and have similar habitat values for the species addressed in the DEIR. There is currently no estimate for how many acres of combined potential habitat for the above mentioned species, as well as a suite of other native vertebrate and invertebrate species, will be lost as a result of the development of this project given either the known use of the general area and/or the near proximity of other currently undisturbed areas, the Department would consider potential cumulative impacts to the above mentioned species significant absent suitable mitigation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> NOTE: Buffer area shall increase to 300 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors if any endangered, threatened, or Department species of special concern are identified during protocol or pre-construction presence/absence surveys or until a nesting bird avoidance and minimization plan has been submitted by the Permittee.

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#### General Comments

- 18. <u>Analyses of the Potential Project-Related Impacts on the Biological Resources.</u> To provide a thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts, the following should be addressed in the DEIR.
  - a. A discussion of potential adverse impacts from lighting, noise, human activity, exotic species, and drainages should also be included. The latter subject should address: project-related changes on drainage patterns on and downstream of the project site; the volume, velocity, and frequency of existing and post-project surface flows; polluted runoff; soil erosion and/or sedimentation in streams and water bodies; and post-project fate of runoff from the project site. The discussions should also address the proximity of the extraction activities to the water table, whether dewatering would be necessary, and the potential resulting impacts on the habitat, if any, supported by the groundwater. Mitigation measures proposed to alleviate such impacts should be included.
- b. Discussions regarding indirect project impacts on biological resources, including resources in nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats, riparian ecosystems, and any designated and/or proposed or existing reserve lands (e.g., preserve lands associated with a Natural Community Conservation Plan). Impacts on, and maintenance of, wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitats in adjacent areas, should be fully evaluated in the DEIR.
- c. The zoning of areas for development projects or other uses that are nearby or adjacent to natural areas may inadvertently contribute to wildlife-human interactions. A discussion of possible conflicts and mitigation measures to reduce these conflicts should be included in the DEIR.
- d. A cumulative effects analysis should be developed as described under CEQA Guidelines, section 15130. General and specific plans, as well as past, present, and anticipated future projects, should be analyzed relative to their impacts on similar plant communities and wildlife habitats.

# 19. Mitigation for the Project-Related Biological Impacts.

- a. The DEIR should include measures to fully avoid and otherwise protect Rare Natural Communities from project-related impacts. The Department considers these communities as threatened habitats having both regional and local significance.
- b. The DEIR should include mitigation measures for adverse project-related impacts to sensitive plants, animals, and habitats. Mitigation measures should emphasize avoidance and reduction of project impacts. For unavoidable impacts, on-site habitat restoration or enhancement should be discussed in detail. If on-site mitigation is not feasible or would not be biologically viable and therefore not adequately mitigate the loss of biological functions and values, off-

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site mitigation through habitat creation and/or acquisition and preservation in perpetuity should be addressed

- c. For proposed preservation and/or restoration, the DEIR should include measures to perpetually protect the targeted habitat values from direct and indirect negative impacts. The objective should be to offset the project-induced qualitative and quantitative losses of wildlife habitat values. Issues that should be addressed include restrictions on access, proposed land dedications, monitoring and management programs, control of illegal dumping, water pollution, increased human intrusion, etc.
- d. The Department generally does not support the use of relocation, salvage, and/or transplantation as mitigation for impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. Studies have shown that these efforts are experimental in nature and largely unsuccessful.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. Please contact Ms. Jamie Jackson, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) at (805) 382-6906 if you should have any questions and for further coordination on the proposed project.

Sincerely.

Edmund Pert Regional Manager South Coast Region

ec: Ms. Jamie Jackson, CDFW, Oxnard Ms. Betty Courtney, CDFW, Santa Clarita Ms. Erinn Wilson, CDFW, Los Alamitos Mr. Ali Aghili, CDFW, Los Alamitos Ms. Kelly Schmoker, CDFW, Mission Viejo Ms. Mary Meyer, CDFW, Carpinteria Mr. Scott Harris, CDFW, Pasadena State Clearinghouse, Sacramento

cc: Current Service Caltrans Liaison U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office 2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250 Carlsbad, California 92008.

Attachment A: Desert plants to be considered during botanical surveys

Scientific Name	Common Name
Abronia villosa var. aurita	chaparral sand-verbena
Acanthomintha obovata ssp. cordata	heart-leaved thorn-mint
Allium howellii var. clokeyi	Mt. Pinos onion
Amaranthus watsonii	Watson's amaranth
Androsace elongata ssp. acuta	California androsace
Boechera dispar	pinyon rockcress
Boechera lincolnensis	Lincoln rockcress
California macrophylla	round-leaved filaree
Calochortus striatus	alkali mariposa lily
Canbya candida	white pygmy-poppy
Castilleja gleasoni	Mt. Gleason paintbrush
Castilleja plagiotoma	Mojave paintbrush
Chorizanthe spinosa	Mojave spineflower
Chorizanthe xanti var. leucotheca	white-bracted spineflower
Cryptantha clokeyi	Clokey's cryptantha
Cymopterus deserticola	desert cymopterus
riastrum hooveri	Hoover's eriastrum
Eriophyllum mohavense	Barstow woolly sunflower
Euphorbia misera	cliff spurge
	pine green-gentian
Frasera neglecta	TO SECURITION OF THE PARTY OF T
Fritillaria pinetorum	pine fritillary
Galium johnstonii	Johnston's bedstraw
Gilia latiflora ssp. cuyamensis	Cuyama gilia
Goodmania luteola	golden goodmania
Harpagonella palmeri	Palmer's grapplinghook
Hulsea vestita ssp. parryi	Parry's sunflower
Imperata brevifolia	California satintail
ayia heterotricha	pale-yellow layia
Linanthus orcuttii	Orcutt's linanthus
Loeflingia squarrosa var. artemisiarum	sagebrush loeflingia
Lupinus peirsonii	Peirson's lupine
Microseris sylvatica	sylvan microseris
Muhlenbergia appressa	appressed muhly
Muilla coronata	crowned muilla
	Baja navarretia
Navarretia peninsularis	
Navarretia setiloba	Piute Mountains navarretia
Opuntia basilaris var. brachyclada	short-joint beavertail
Orobanche valida ssp. valida	Rock Creek broomrape
Perideridia pringlei	adobe yampah
Phacelia mohavensis	Mojave phacelia
Plagiobothrys parishii	Parish's popcorn-flower
Selaginella asprella	bluish spike-moss
Sidalcea neomexicana	salt spring checkerbloom
Stylocline masonii	Mason's neststraw
Syntrichopappus lemmonii	Lemmon's syntrichopappus
Thermopsis californica var. argentata	silvery false lupine
Thysanocarpus rigidus	rigid fringepod
Viola purpurea ssp. aurea	golden violet
	Bakersfield cactus

STATE OF CALIFORNIA-CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN, Governor

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) 897-0885 TTY (213) 897-4937



Flex your power Be Energy efficient

November 8, 2013

Asoka Herath, Planning Director City of Palmdale, Planning Department 38250 Sierra Highway Palmdale, CA 93550

Dear Mr. Herath:

Subject: Invitation to Become Participating Agency on State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in coordination with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), is initiating an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed State Route 138 (SR-138) Northwest Corridor Improvement Project located in Los Angeles County, California.

Effective October 1, 2012, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) assigned, and Caltrans assumed, all the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary's responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) pursuant to 23 USC 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 Program. 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 NEPA Assignment. For the purposes of carrying out the responsibilities assumed under NEPA Assignment, Caltrans is deemed to be acting as FHWA with respect to the environmental review, consultation, and other actions required under those responsibilities.

The SR-138 Corridor Improvement Project (Project) is located in northern Los Angeles County, three miles south of the Kern County Line and passing within one-half mile of the northernmost limits of the City of Lancaster. This segment of SR-138 is between Interstate 5 (I-5) and State Route 14 (SR-14) and is approximately 36 miles long. It is currently a two-lane rural highway with no access control. The project location and limits are shown on the attached map. The Project proposes to improve the highway as a freeway, expressway and / or traffic system / multi-modal facility. The SR-138 currently supports the regional transportation needs of the local community, and serves as an alternate route for east-west traffic in northern Los Angeles County. Northern Los Angeles County geographically functions as a strategic gateway between the Los Angeles Basin and central and northern California. As a result, the I-5, and to a lesser extent the SR-14 must carry a substantial number of interregional traffic and truck trips. A key objective of the proposed

project is to improve the integrated I-5/SR-14/SR-138 network travel pattern. Another key objective pertaining to truck traffic is to provide a safer/high capacity facility that can function as an urban bypass around northern Los Angeles County communities and the Los Angeles basin.

Four alternatives are identified for the project corridor. Alternative 1 is an expressway facility throughout the entire corridor. Alternative 2 is a freeway/expressway facility throughout the entire corridor. Alternative 3 is a traffic system / multi-modal facility throughout the entire corridor. Alternative 4 is the No-Build Alternative.

These alternatives may be refined, combined with various different alternatives, or be removed from further consideration, as more analysis is conducted on the project alternatives. Analysis supporting the EIS will determine the type of facility necessary to meet the existing and future transportation needs in the corridor.

"Caltrans improves mobility across California"

needs in the corridor.

Potential impacts associated with the three Build Alternatives include the following: Property acquisition, displacements, and relocations; farmland; Section 4(f) resources; visual resources; hydrology and floodplains; short-term/long-term water quality; short-term/long-term noise; short-term/long-term air quality; cultural resources; paleontological resources; hazardous materials; biological resources; and wetlands.

In accordance with the Efficient Environmental Review Process codified at 23 USC 139, we are requesting your agency to be a participating agency because we believe that your agency will have an interest in this transportation project. Participating agencies are responsible for identifying, as early as practicable, any issues of concern regarding the project's potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts that could substantially delay or prevent an agency from granting a permit or other approval that is needed for the project. We suggest that your agency's role in the development of the above project should include the following as they relate to your area of expertise:

- Provide meaningful and early input on defining the purpose and need, determining the range of alternatives to be considered, and the methodologies and level of detail required in the alternatives analysis.
- 2. Participate in coordination meetings and joint field reviews as appropriate.
- Timely review and comment on early project information to reflect the views and concerns of your agency on the adequacy of the document, alternatives considered, and the anticipated impacts and mitigation.

Under the Efficient Environmental Review Process, 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.

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. Neither of these designations implies that your agency supports the proposed project. The favor of a reply is requested by Monday, December 2, 2013. If you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail the project or our agencies' respective roles and responsibilities during the preparation of this EIS, please contact Tami Podesta at 213-897-0309.

Sincerely yours,

RONALD KOSINSKI Deputy District Director

Division of Environmental Planning

Caltrans, District 7

Attachments: Project Map

"Calirans improves mobility across California"



November 19, 2013

JAMES C. LEDFORD, JR.

TOM LACKEY

Mayor Pro Tem

LAURA BETTENCOURT
Councilmember

MIKE DISPENZA

Councilmember

STEVEN D. HOFBAUER Councilmember

38300 Sierra Highway

Palmdale, CA 93550-4798

Tel: 661/267-5100

Fax: 661/267-5122

TDD: 661/267-5167

Ms. Tami Podesta
Department of Transportation
District 7, Division of Environmental Planning
100 South Main Street, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3606

Re: Invitation to Become a Participating Agency on State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Podesta:

Thank you for your letter of November 8, 2013, inviting the City of Palmdale to participate in the Environmental Impact Statement process for the above referenced project. The City appreciates the offer to be a participating agency and looks forward to working with Caltrans on this project.

Please note, the November 8, 2013, letter to the City was addressed to Mr. Asoka Herath, Director of Planning. Mr. Herath is no longer with the City of Palmdale and I will be your best point of contact for Planning related matters.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (661) 267-5200.

Sincerely,

Susan Koleda, AICP Senior Planner

Auxiliary aids provided for

communication accessibility

upon 72 hours notice and request.

www.cityofpalmdale.org



R. Rex Parris
Maryin E. Crist
Vice Mayor
Vice Mayor
Ronald D. Smith
Ken Manin
Council Member
Sandra Johnson
Council Member
Council Member
Council Member
Council Member

November 21, 2013

State of California Department of Transportation Attn: Mr. Ronald Kosinski, Deputy District Director District 7, Division of Environmental Planning 100 South Main Street, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3606

RE: Participating Agency Request State Route 138 Northwest Corridor

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

This letter is to confirm that the City of Lancaster wishes to be a participating agency in the Environmental Impact Statement process for the above-referenced project, as requested in your letter of November 8, 2013. We appreciate the opportunity to be a part of this effort. The contact point for the City of Lancaster is as follows:

Mr. Brian S. Ludicke
Planning Director
City of Lancaster
44933 Fern Avenue, Lancaster, CA 93534
661-723-6105
bludicke@cityoflancasterca.org

We look forward to working with you on this project.

Sincerely,

Brian S. Ludicke Planning Director

BL/jr

cc:

Mark Bozigian, City Manager Jason Caudle, Deputy City Manager Robert Neal, Director of Public Works

44933 Fern Avenue • Lancaster, CA 93534 • 661,723,6000 www.cityoflancasterca.org

State of California—Business, Transportation and Housing Agency

EDMUND G. BROWN Jr., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

2041 West Avenue I Lancaster, CA 93536 (661) 948-8541 (800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD) (800) 735-2922 (Voice)

November 22, 2013

File No.: 545.12757.14310

Department of Transportation
Mr. Ronald Kosinski
100 South Main Street, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3606

Mr. Kosinski:

I received your invitation to become a participating agency on the SR-138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project dated November 8, 2013. I accept your invitation and am looking forward to working alongside the Department of Transportation to ensure the success of this improvement project.

If you wish to contact me regarding our participation in this project, please feel free to contact me at (661) 948-8541.

Sincerely,

G. M. JACOBS, Captain

Commander

Antelope Valley Area

Safety, Service, and Security

An Internationally Accredited Agency



## Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



November 25, 2013

Ronald Kosinski, Deputy District Director Division of Environmental Planning
Caltrans, District 7
100 S. Main Street, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3606

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

#### STATE ROUTE 138 NORTHWEST CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

I am in receipt of your recent letter inviting the Department of Regional Planning (Department) to be a participating agency for the proposed State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project in the Antelope Valley. The Department accepts this invitation. As you may be aware, the Department is preparing an update to the County's Antelope Valley Area Plan and appreciates this opportunity to ensure proper coordination between land use planning and transportation planning.

Carl Nadela of the Department's Community Studies North Section will be the primary contact for this effort. He may be reached at (213) 974-6476 or cnadela@planning.lacounty.gov between 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

Sincerely

Richard J. Bruckner

Director

RJB:MC:MWG:ems

K\_AP\_112113\_L\_CALTRANS KOSINSKI

320 West Temple Street \* Los Angeles, CA 90012 \* 213-974-6411 \* Fax: 213-626-0434 \* TDD: 213-617-2292



## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

"Parks Make Life Better!"

Russ Guiney, Director

John Wicker, Chief Deputy Director

November 26, 2013

sent via e-mail: ron kosinski@dot.ca.gov

Mr. Ronald Kosinski Deputy District Director Division of Environmental Planning Caltrans- District 7 100 South Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

## INVITATION TO BECOME A PARTICIPATING AGNECY ON THE STATE ROUTE 138 NORTHWEST CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The above invitation has been reviewed and this Department accepts the invitation to become a participating agency in this combined State/Federal project. We began working with your staff in 2011 on this project and to date, we have provided information on Jackrabbit Flats Wildlife Sanctuary for Section 4(f) recreational analysis and County Trails data in the project area.

Thank you for including us in the invitation process. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Julie Yom at (213) 351-5127 or jyom@parks.lacounty.gov..

Sincerely.

Kathline J. King Chief of Planning Planning Division

JY: JR/ Caltrans High Desert Corridor/ SR- 138 Project

c: Parks and Recreation (N. E. Garcia, J. Rupert, J. Yom)

Planning and Development Agency • 510 South Vermont Ave • Los Angeles, CA 90020-1975 • (213) 351-5198



# County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Headquarters



4700 Ramona Boulevard Monterey Park, California 91754-2169

December 4, 2013

Mr. Ronald Kosinski
Deputy District Director
District 7, Division of Environmental Planning
State of California Department of Transportation
100 South Main Street, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90012-3606

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

# RESPONSE INVITATION TO BECOME PARTICIPATING AGENCY STATE ROUTE 138 NORTHWEST CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) is in receipt of your notice, dated November 8, 2013, regarding future participation in the environmental review process for the State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project (Project). The proposed Project is located between Interstate 5 and State Route 14, and will improve State Route 138 as a freeway, expressway, and/or traffic system/multi-modal facility.

Please include the Department as a participating agency on the proposed Project. The Department will provide timely review and comment on early Project information, documentation, and anticipated impacts and mitigation. The Department's designation as a participating agency does not imply our approval or support for the proposed Project.

Please direct all Project-related information and documentation to my attention at the following address:

Gary T.K. Tse, Director Facilities Planning Bureau Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department 1000 South Fremont Avenue Building A9-East, Fifth Floor, Unit 47 Alhambra, California 91803

Should you have any questions of the Department regarding this matter, please contact Lester Miyoshi, of my staff, at (626) 300-3012, and refer to Facilities Planning Bureau Tracking No. E13-077. You may also contact Mr. Miyoshi, via e-mail, at Lhmiyosh@lasd.org.

A Tradition of Service Since 1850

Mr. Kosinski

-2-

December 4, 2013

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

Gary T.K. Tse, Director Facilities Planning Bureau

Mr. Kosinski

-3-

December 4, 2013

#### GTKT:LM:lm/jh

#### Attachments

c: Paul Becker, Captain, Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) Station Robert Jonsen, Captain, Lancaster (LAN) Station Brenda Cambra, Lieutenant, SCV Station Donna Thompson, Lieutenant, Facilities Planning Bureau (FPB) Lance Jordan, Deputy, LAN Station Meghan Wang, Supervising Project Manager, FPB Lester Miyoshi, Departmental Facilities Planner, FPB Chrono (EIR-StateRoute138 NorthwestCorridorImprovement)



#### ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS

#### Main Office

818 West Seventh Street

12th Floor

Los Angeles, California

90017-3435

t (213) 236-1800

f (213) 236-1825

www.scag.ca.gov

#### Officers

Greg Pettis, Cathedral City

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Second Vice President Cheryl Viegas-Walker, El Centro

nmediate Past President Glen Becerra, Simi Valley

#### Executive/Administration

Greg Pettis, Cathedral City

#### Policy Committee Chairs

Community, Economic and Margaret Finlay, Duarte

Energy & Environment James Johnson, Long Beach

Transportation Keith Milhouse, Ventura County Transportation Commission

December 4, 2013

Ronald Kosinski DL Deputy District Director Division of Environmental Planning California Department of Transportation—District 7 100 South Main Street, Suite 100 Los Angeles, CA 90012-3606

Acceptance of Invitation to become a Participating Agency on State Route 138 RE: Northwest Corridor Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

Thank you for your letter dated November 8, 2013 inviting the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) to be a participating agency on the State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project.

We gladly accept your invitation to be a participating agency. I will serve as SCAG's representative in this effort, and Margaret Lin as our alternate. Below please find our contact information:

Ryan Kuo Program Manager 213-236-1813 kuo@scag.ca.gov

Margaret Lin Associate Regional Planner 213-236-1866 lin@scag.ca.gov

We looking forward to working with you on this endeavor as it relates to our regional planning efforts, including the Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Sincerely,

Ryan Kuo Program Manager

The Regional Council consists of 86 elected officials representing 191 cities, six counties, six County Transportation Commissions, one representative from the Transportation Corridor Agencies, one Tribal Government representative and one representative for the Air Districts within Southern California.



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



December 12, 2013

Mr. Ronald Kosinski LLC
California Department of Transportation
District 7; Division of Environmental Planning
SR-138 NCI Project
100 South Main Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Subject: State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement (SR-138 NCI) Project

Request for Participating Agency Status

Dear Mr. Ronald Kosinski:

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) has jurisdictional authority relevant to streams (Fish and Game Code Section 1600 et seq.) and California Endangered Species Act (CESA-Fish and Game Code Section 2080 et seq.) for the State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement (SR-138 NCI) Project. The SR-138 NCI project may have substantial adverse effects on fish and wildlife resources; it is likely the project may require a Streambed Alteration Agreement (Agreement) and/or take authorization under CESA.

Federally funded projects administered by a federal agency or their state counterpart are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act. When a project is subject to both CEQA and NEPA, State and local agencies are encouraged to cooperate with federal agencies, to the fullest extent possible, through such measures as joint planning, research, hearings, and preparation of environmental documents (CEQA Guidelines, Sections 15220-15229).

The Department is interested in the role of a participating agency in the environmental review process for the SR-138 NCI project (23 U.S.C. 139(d). As further described in 23 U.S.C. 139 (g)(1)(A), the Department is interested to review the coordination plan and will need to sign a memorandum of understanding with Caltrans that defines each agency's role during the environmental review process.

The Department has staff with the expertise to assist with drafting the MOU and to participate in the environmental review process for the SR-138 NCI project. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding this matter. For impacts associated with the SR-138 NCI project in Los Angeles County please contact Ms. Jamie Jackson at jamie.jackson@wildlife.ca.gov or at (805) 382-6906.

Sincerely,

Edmund Pert Regional Manager South Coast Region

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870



#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Los Angeles District, Corps of Engineers P.O. Box 532711 Los Angeles, California 90053-2325

December 19, 2013

ATTENTIONOROffice of the Chief
Regulatory Division

Ronald Kosinski

Deputy District Director, Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation, District 7
100 S. Main Street, Suite 100
Los Angeles, California 90012-3606

Subject: Invitation to Become Cooperating and/or Participating Agency on the State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project.

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

I am responding to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 7, November 8, 2013 written request for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") to participate as a cooperating and/or participating agency in the State Route (SR) 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project, Los Angeles County, California.

The Corps understands that the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) has delegated its responsibilities for environmental consultation and coordination under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all or part of FHWA's responsibilities for environmental review, consultation, or other actions required under other Federal environmental laws to Caltrans for the proposed project pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327, as amended by section 1313 of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21). Accordingly, as the federal lead agency, Caltrans will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project and alternatives, following the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) "Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act" of November 29, 1978. In addition, under your NEPA lead agency responsibilities, Caltrans requests that our agency be a cooperating and/or a participating agency, as defined in 23 U.S.C. 139, in the development of the EIS.

The Corps accepts Caltrans' offer to become a cooperating agency. The Corps also understands that our views, as well as those of other cooperating and/or participating agencies, will be sought through all stages of the EIS development. It is understood that this coordination is intended to preclude any subsequent and duplicative reviews by cooperating and/or participating agencies. This coordination is also designed to aid in identifying all reasonable project alternatives, environmental impacts, and measures to mitigate adverse impacts for the project. The Corps expects our participation will ensure the environmental review progresses in a mutually acceptable way to streamline the eventual application processes for required state and Federal permits. Further, because of our section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) administrative responsibilities, we have a particular concern in seeing the project comply with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230), which is fundamental to supporting our eventual determination of the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA).

The Corps has reviewed the FHWA "Guidance on Cooperating Agencies," which outlines the responsibilities of the federal lead agency and those of the cooperating agencies. However, staff resource constraints will limit Corps participation to the following:

- Assist in identifying interest groups.
- · Attend coordination meetings and joint field reviews.
- · Provide meaningful and early input on issues of concern.
- · Review pre-draft and pre-final environmental documents.
- Provide input on the evaluation of practicable alternatives, which will ultimately support the Corps' determination of the LEDPA.
- Assist the lead agency in determining appropriate and practicable mitigation, including
   "all practicable measures to minimize harm." These measures should reflect avoidance,
   minimization, and compensation.
- Cooperate in the application of principles for integration of NEPA and the section 404
  permits contained in Chapter 11 of <u>Applying the Section 404 Permit Process to Federal-aid Highway Projects</u>.
- Adopt the final environmental document, if after an independent review, the Corps
  concludes that the document satisfies NEPA and other requirements for our approval
  and for our permit decision regarding the proposed action.

-3-

The Corps looks forward to continued dialogue and coordination with Caltrans on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Crystal L.M Huerta of my staff at 805-585-2143 or via e-mail at Crystal.Huerta@usace.army.mil. Please refer to this letter and Corps File Number SPL-2013-00867-CLH in your reply.

Sincerely,

David J. Castanon Chief, Regulatory Division Los Angeles District

CC

Jonathan Snyder, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Carlsbad, CA
Paul Amato, Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX, San Francisco, CA
L.B. Nye, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region
ED Pert, Department of Fish and Wildlife, San Diego, CA



January 8, 2014

Ronald Kosinski RL
Deputy District Director
Caltrans - District 7
Division of Environmental Planning
100 South Main Street, Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3606

Ref: Invitation to become a Cooperating and Participating Agency on the Proposed State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project Los Angeles County, California

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

On November 13, 2013, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) received your invitation to participate in the environmental review process for the referenced undertaking in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations. The ACHP accepts your invitation to become a cooperating and participating agency. However, we do not at this time anticipate attending meetings or providing formal comments at environmental review milestones. We would appreciate your keeping us informed of progress, as we may decide to become more actively involved in the future, if warranted. We would also be pleased to provide the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) with technical assistance related to historic preservation and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as you fulfill your compliance responsibilities.

The ACHP encourages your agency to coordinate the Section 106 process with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance by notifying, at your earliest convenience, the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), Indian tribes, and other consulting parties pursuant to our regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). Through early consultation, your agency will be able to determine the appropriate strategy to ensure Section 106 compliance is completed in a timely manner for this undertaking.

Likewise, Caltrans should continue consultation with the appropriate SHPO/THPO, Indian tribes, and other consulting parties to identify and evaluate historic properties and to assess any potential adverse effects on those historic properties. If Caltrans determines through consultation with the consulting parties that the undertaking will adversely affect historic properties, or that the development of a programmatic agreement is necessary, the agency must notify the ACHP and provide the documentation detailed at 36 CFR §800.11(e).

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 803 • Washington, DC 20004
Phone: 202-606-8503 • Fax: 202-606-8647 • achp@achp.gov • www.achp.gov

2

Thank you for inviting our participation in the development of this project. Should you have any questions as to how your agency should comply with the requirements of Section 106, please contact Najah Duvall-Gabriel at (202) 606-8585 or via e-mail at ngabriel@achp.gov

Sincerely,

Charlene Dwin Vaughn, AICP

Assistant Director

Federal Permitting, Licensing, and Assistance Section

Office of Federal Agency Programs

#### Podesta, Tami L@DOT

From:

Watmore, Nilan@EPA

Sent: To: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 10:52 AM Podesta, Tami L@DOT

To: Subject: Follow-up on SR-138

Hi Tami,

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you with a decision on whether or not CalEPA will a participatory agency in the improvement of SR-138. Our Secretary feels that we, at the agency level, don't need to be directly involved. From our conversation last week, it seems like the proper boards, departments and/or offices within CalEPA are involved, and they will be able to provide the needed expertise.

Let me know if we can be of any further assistance.

Best,

#### Nilan Watmore

Special Assistant
Office of the Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency
(916) 445-2006
Nilan.Watmore@calepa.ca.gov



Please consider the environment before printing this small

#### Podesta, Tami L@DOT

Debra Gillis (debragillis@sbcglobal.net)
Wednesday, January 22, 2014 7:50 PM
Podesta, Taml L@DOT
RE: SR 138 NW Corridor Improvement Project, Participating Agency Invitation From: Sent:

To: Subject:

Hi Tani,

We would like to be involved in this process. Please send meeting information to this email when you have it.

Thank you! Debra Gillis-Bradley 661-305-3405

----Original Message----

From: Podesta, Tami L@DOT [mailto:tami.podesta@dot.ca.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2014 2:27 PM
To: Debragillis@sbcglobal.net
Subject: SR 138 NW Corridor Improvement Project, Participating Agency Invitation

Hi Debra:

Nice talking to you today.

I've attached the participating agency invitation for your review.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thank you,

Tami Podesta Senior Environmental Planner 213-897-0309

Department of Transportation Division of Environmental Planning 100 South Main Street, Ste. 100 Los Angeles, CA 90012

#### Hill, Natalie C@DOT

From: Sent: Schmlerer, Alan [alan\_schmlerer@nps.gov] Thursday, February 13, 2014 6:29 AM

Sent: To:

Hill, Natalie C@DOT

Cc: Subject: martha\_crusius@nps.gov; Justin DeSantis Re: Participating Agency Invitation Follow-up

Greetings Natalie, as you may know, there are no units of the NP System in or near the APE of this proposed project.

Nevertheless based on quick consult with regional planning staff here, and also with our Regional Transportation Program Manager, our conclusion is that there are no reasons of authority or expertise necessitating that we join your team as Participating Agency.

Alan Schmierer

PWR REC

(415) 623-2315

Th

is year on Sept.3rd w

e

celebrate the

50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act of 1964. How are you celebrating this historic event? Check out the 50th Anniversary Website for an events list and the Toolbox for event planning ideas and resources.

On Wed, Feb 5, 2014 at 3:16 PM, Hill, Natalie C@DOT <natalie.hill@dot.ca.gov> wrote:

Hi Alan,

I spoke with Martha earlier today and she informed me that you would be the one to contact on these environmental related issues. Caltrans has invited the National Park Service to become a participating agency as detailed in 23 CFR 139 for the Northwest State Route 138 (SR-138) Corridor Improvement Project. The project is located in Los Angeles County, on SR-138 between Interstate 5 and Route 14. We are currently in the scoping phase and looking to finalize our cooperating and participating agency list. I've attached the initial letters that were sent for your reference. If you have any questions on the role of a participating agency or any project questions please contact me, otherwise please fill out and sign the letter with your response. Thank you so much.

Natalie Hill

Associate Environmental Planner

Phone: (213) 897-0841

Location: 04-101

California Department of Transportation

District 7, Division of Environmental Planning

100 S. Main Street, MS-16A

Los Angeles, CA 90012

From: Moreno, Cesar I@DOT

Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 1:13 PM
To: Hill, Natalie C@DOT; Podesta, Tami L@DOT
Subject: FW: Participating Agency Invitation Follow-up

From: Moreno, Cesar I@DOT

Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2013 5:09 PM

To: 'chris lehnertz@nps.gov'

Subject: Participating Agency Invitation Follow-up

The attached November 8, 2013 letter was sent to your agency for the purpose of extending an invitation to become a participating agency in the development of the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed State Route 138 Northwest Corridor Improvement Project. We have not received a response from your agency. According to 23 U.S.C. § 139, a federal agency invited to participate shall be designated as a participating agency unless the agency declines the invitation by the specified deadline. A deadline of January 2, 2014 is specified in the attached December 19, 2014 follow-up letter. You may use the checklist at the bottom of the follow-up letter to indicate whether you accept or decline the invitation. Thank you for your attention this matter.

Cesar Moreno

Associate Environmental Planner

Division of Environmental Planning

Caltrans, District 7

213-897-0697

# ANTELOPE ACRES TOWN COUNCIL

# Community Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, November 20th, 2013 7:00 PM Antelope Acres Community Center \* 8812 W Avenue E-8 (Behind the Fire Station)

	e try to refrain from public displays or outbursts such as unsolicited applause, Any disruptive activities that substantially interfere with the ability of the nd offenders will be requested to leave the meeting.		
1. Meeting Called to Order # in A	Attendance Meeting adjourned at		
2. Flag Salute	984 10 MM		
3. Roll Call of Officers/Presentation of Officers			
President - Tiffany Mercer: Vice Preside	ent – Anthony Godde: Secretary – Michael Mercy:		
Treasurer - Dannon Shaughnessy: Member at I	ent – Anthony Godde: Secretary – Michael Mercy: Large –		
4. Agenda: Approved	Agenda: Approved Approved with corrections		
5. Minutes of last meeting: Approved	Approved with corrections		
6. Treasurer's report: Approved	Approved with corrections		
7. Community Leaders/Services Reports / Up	odates		
A. Los Angeles County Supervisor's Office	B. Representatives of State & Local Elected Officials		
C. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department	D. Neighborhood Watch		
E. Community Center	F. Antelope Acres Queens		
9. Public Comment Period.  Any member of the public may address the Council relating to any  10. Old Business  A. Election results.  B. Select a lunch meeting for the town council to me Paulette L Rush  Community Relations Specialist  Mid American Solar	•		
11. Presentations			
	litan Transportation Authority providing update on study re: SR-138 from		
the I-5 to the SR-14.	and at 110th St W/Asia I		
B. Greg Blue from Canadian Solar updating on project lo	cated at 110th St W/Ave J.		
12. Standing Committee Reports A. CSD & Land Use Committee			
B. Animal Task Force Committee			
13. Special Committees			
A. None			
14. New Business			
A. Christmas meeting			
15. Upcoming Events			
A.			
H			

## **Fairmont Town Council Meeting Agenda**

Date - Thursday, November 21, 2013 at 6:30 P.m.

Location - Fairmont Market 22847 West Avenue D, Lancaster Ca

A member of the public may address the Board of the Fairmont Town Council regarding any scheduled agenda item at the end of the board discussion and prior to a vote on the item. Any person wishing to address the Board should first complete and delver to the Board a "Request to Speak" form prior to the meeting starting. This will then be public information. A two-minute time limit will be imposed on all speakers other than board members.

Please turn off or silence cell phones. Please refrain from public displays of outbursts such as unsolicited applause, comments, cheering, foul language or obscenities or disruptive activities that substantially interfere with the ability of the Council to carry out its meeting will not be permitted and the offenders will be requested to leave the meeting.

1.	. Meeting Called to Order	
2.	. Flag Salute.	
3.	. Roll Call: Pres. B. Rogers V Pres D Hyatt D. Kerr M. Sar	itana
4.	Agenda: Corrections Approved	L
5.	Minutes: Corrections Approved	<b></b>
6.	<ol> <li>Officers Reports: Dave Kerr wants to thank AVSR1 for their prompt debris.</li> </ol>	clean-up of frontage
7.	. Community Leaders:	
	<ul> <li>Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Los Angeles County Supervisors Office</li> </ul>	
8.	8. Community Announcements:	
9.	New Business: Purchase of Emergency Radio Communication	
10.	0. Old Business: Water adjudication lawsuit	
11.	1. Presentations:	

- Mark Dierking Metro- Customer Relations Manager Study regarding the widening/improvement of Highway 138 between I-5 and I-14. Bring your questions and/or comments for Mark and his team.
- Greg Blue of Canadian Solar new owners of the Tusso solar project

**Public comment period**: any member of the public may address the Council relating to any matter of concern to Fairmont residents. This need not be related to any items on the agenda. Presentations will be limited to two minutes. No formal action by the Council will be taken on these matters at this meeting. Speakers must present a completed speaker's card to the council before the meeting starts to be able to speak.

- 12. Our next meeting date will be Thursday, December, 19, 2013 at 6:30 pm.
- 13. Motion to adjourn.
- 14. Fairmonttowncouncil.com

Three Points / Liebre Mt. Town Council
January 11, 2014 9:30 AM
Regular Bimonthly Meeting
Location: Grace Chapel Church Neenach, 25649 West Ave C-15
Agenda

Council Members: Chris Wangsgard, President; Sue Zahnter, Vice President, Diane Phillips, Treasurer; Karen Plemmons, Secretary; Dennis Hinde, Member at Large

Call to Order Flag Salute

Guest Speaker: Mark Dieking, Community Relations Manager for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will provide information on Highway 138 West, and listen to concerns of the community. Widening of the highway may require the purchase of properties by eminent domain.

Minutes: Karen

Treasurer's Report: Diane

#### **Old Business**

- A. CERT AM Emergency Radio Communications Check Ian Coster
- B. Fundraising Superbowl Sunday Feb. 2 Report Chris
- C. Status on Road Signs and Tree Removal, Regional Planning Mapping Sue

#### **New Business**

- A. New Information Regarding Any Meetings Attended by Sue Zahnter Sue
- B. Resigning Board Member Chris
- C. Volunteers for Yearly Audit
- D. New Post Office Box (76) acquired to save Council Funds Chris

**Public Comment** 

Adjourn meeting

NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 8, 2014 9:30 AM
Grace Chapel Church Neenach,
25649 West Ave C-15 (Between Three Points Road and 245th St West, on Hwy 138)

Dates for upcoming 2014 General Mtgs (Second Saturday of Odd Months) March 8, May 10, July 12, September 13, November 8.

Thursday, January 16th, 2014 9:30 a.m.

## Agenda

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Streets and Freeways Subcommittee

## → Mulholland Conference Room, 15th Floor

1. Call to Order 1 min

2. Approval of Minutes

Attachment 1: November 21, 2013 Minutes Attachment 2: Sign-in Sheet/Attendance Sheet Attachment 3: 90-Day Rolling Agenda 1 min

3. Chair Report

Discuss potential meeting date change 5 min

 Election of Chair and Vice Chair 5 min

5. Metro Report 5 min

6. Caltrans Report 5 min

7. State and Federal Legislative Update 5 min

8. 2014 Short Range Transportation Plan 5 min

Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority



Metro

Action (Bahman Janka)

Action (Subcommittee)

Information (Bahman Janka)

Action (Subcommittee)

Information (Fulgene Asuncion)

Information (David Sosa)

Information (Raffi Hamparian/ Marisa Yeager/ Michael Turner)

Information (Rena Lum)

9. 2013 Call for Projects 5 min

Information (Patricia Chen)

Information (Rena Lum)

10. CTC Update 5 min

11. Potential Ballot Measure 10 min

Information (Patricia Chen)

12. Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project *10 min* 

Information (Teresa Wong)

13. TOD Grant Program, Round 4 10 min

Information (Nick Saponara)

14. Open Streets Program & Workshop Update 10 min

Information (Avital Shavit)

15. New Business

Action (Subcommittee)

5 min

Action (Subcommittee)

16. Adjournment 1 min

The next meeting for the Streets and Freeways Subcommittee will be held on February  $20^{th}$  at 9:30 a.m. on the  $15^{th}$  floor, Mulholland Conference Room. Please contact Fulgene Asuncion at (213) 922 - 3025 should you have any questions or comments regarding this or future agendas.

Agendas can be accessed online at: http://www.metro.net/about/sfs/







#### DWR FIELD COORDINATION MEETING MEETING NOTES

SR138, I-5 to SR 14 PA&ED 07-LA-138, PM 0.0/36.8 - EA 265100 Metro Contract PS4730-2932

DATE - November 19, 2013

TIME - 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

PLACE: SR138 @ California Aqueduct (West Branch) Crossing

#### Attendees:

- Jamie DeSantiago, DWR jdes@water.ca.gov Department of Water Resources Southern Field Division 34534 116th Street East Pearblossom, CA 93553 O: 661.944.8574 C: 661.916.3047l
- Robert Blume, KHA
- Frank Hoffmann, KHA
- Chris Nelson, CNA

#### **DWR Contacts:**

Jamie DeSantiago is DWR's Southern Field Division representative for the segment of the California Aqueduct from Castaic Lake to Silver Lake Perris.

All work and improvements within DWR's ROW require an encroachment permit. Contact for the encroachment permit application is Angelica Aguilera (916 653 5782) with the DWR Division of Engineering Real Estate Branch, located in Sacramento, CA. Working with the local representative (Mr. DeSantiago).

#### System Overview:

The California Aqueduct begins at the San Joaquin-Sacramento River Delta and flows through the Central Valley to the Edmonston Pumping station where it is pumped across the Tehachapi's. Water flows through the aqueduct in a series of abrupt rises and gradual falls. The water flows down a long segment, built at a slight grade, and arrives at a pumping station. The pumping station raises the water, where it again gradually flows downhill to the next station. However, where there are substantial drops, the water's potential energy is recaptured by hydroelectric. A typical section has a concrete-lined channel 40 feet at the base and an average water depth of about 30 ft. The widest section of the aqueduct is 110 feet and the deepest is 32 feet.

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Once reaching the crest of the Tehachapis, the aqueduct runs through a series of tunnels to the Tehachapi Afterbay, where its flow is partitioned between West and East Branches.

West Branch: From the Tehachapi Afterbay, the West Branch carries water to a second reservoir, Quail Lake, via the Oso Pumping Plant. At the Quail Lake outfall 2 box culverts cross SR138. The water then runs south by gravity to the 78 MW William E. Warne Powerplant, located on the Pyramid Lake reservoir. From Pyramid Lake the aqueduct continues to the terminus of the West Branch at the Castaic Lake LADWP Hydro Powerplant.



William E. Warne Powerplan

East Branch: The East Branch supplies Lake Palmdale and terminates at Lake Perris, in the area of the San Gorgonio Pass. SR138 crosses the East Branch east of Neenach. The Neenach bridge across the California Aqueduct (Bridge No. 53-2047) was built 1966, and is 135' long, 43' wide CIP Box Girder structure.

#### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)

FERC is the United States federal agency with jurisdiction over interstate electricity sales, wholesale electric rates, hydroelectric licensing, oversees the operation of the aqueduct and its hydroelectricity component.

The following FERC responsibilities are potentially making them a stakeholder and will require coordination.

- Licenses and inspects private, municipal, and state hydroelectric projects
- Oversees environmental matters related to natural gas and hydroelectricity projects and major electricity policy initiatives

#### As-builts:

KHA requested as-builts for the west branch facilities at the Quail Lake outfall crossing SR138 and of the east branch section of the aqueduct crossing SR138.

Mr. DeSantiago will research archives and provide copies to KHA.

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#### Additional Survey:

Surveys of aqueduct, especially below waterline, might be required. CNA has experience with similar surveys on the LA River using boats. All activities have to be coordinated with DWR and the flow in the aqueduct has to be controlled for the time of the surveys.

#### Constructability

The section of the aqueduct south of Quail Lake including the crossing of SR-138, was improved in the 1980s. Building on the original trapezoidal section of the aqueduct taller and flatter slopes were added and the size of the culvers crossing SR138 was increased North of the SR138 ROW a building housing control facilities for the aqueduct and the gates regulating the flows which would make it significantly more difficult to widen SR138 to the north than to the south.

Widening to the south would require extending the dual box culverts, reconstruction of the outflow structure, modification of the aqueduct, and relocation of the access road. Also the weather data collection station has to be relocated, which is manually operated.

Construction impacting the operation of the aqueduct has to be done in the low demand period (December to January) During all phases of the construction, flows in the aqueduct have to be maintained.

#### Access

DWR has driveways on both sides of SR138 at the Aqueduct crossing. The gate on the north side provides access to the Northside of Quail Lake and Aqueduct. The gate is automated and can be opened remotely. During the field visit multiple vehicles were observed entering and departing through the gate. Mr. DeSantiago indicated they were entering to access the pumping station upstream of Quail Lake. There is another dirt road immediately to the west of the gated access for the aqueduct that appears to provide access to the property along the fence line of the aqueduct facility. The gate on the south side is pad looked and seems to be used less frequent, but provides access to the service road along the top of both sides of the aqueduct.

#### **Future Meetings**

Mr. DeSantiago indicated that we should also meet with DWR operations staff and he can help to facilitate a meeting...

Prepared 2013-11-20 FH

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NORTHWEST 138 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT Agency Coordination Meeting December 16, 2014

#### **Meeting Participants**

#### Agency Representatives

- Raymond Vizgirdas, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- · Jamie Jackson, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- · Michelle Boehm, California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA)
- Karl Fielding, CHSRA
- Juan Carlos Velazquez, CHSRA
- Daniel Tran, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG)
- Jan Zimmerman, Lahontan Regional Water Board
- · Brian Ludicke, City of Lancaster
- Mike Behen, City of Palmdale
- Veronica Li, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Bob Solecki, State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)
- Debra Gillis, Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District
- Carl Nadela, Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
- Clifton Meek, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Hudson Minshew, Natural Resource Conservation Service

#### **Caltrans**

- Reza Fateh, Project Manager
- · Tami Podesta, Environmental Planning
- Natalie Hill, Environmental Planning
- Alex Kirkish, Cultural
- Aye Htoon, Noise and Vibration
- · Arnold Parmar, Noise and Vibration
- Cesar Moreno, Environmental Planning
- Andrew Yoon, Air Quality and Hazardous Waste
- Kathy Pham, Design
- Dahlia Persoff, Landscape Architecture
- Paul Caron, Biological / Environmental
- Bily Ho, Environmental Planning

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#### Metro

- · Will Lamborn, Project Manager
- Aziz Elattar, Planning
- Mark Dierking, Public Outreach

#### Other Project Team Representatives

- · Bob Blume, Kimley-Horn and Associates (KHA)
- · Sri Chakravarthy, Kimley-Horn and Associates (KHA)
- Elisabeth Suh, CH2M Hill
- · Don Mitchell, ECORP Consulting
- Roger Mason, ECORP Consulting
- Rich Galvin, GPA Consulting
- Mandy Jones, GPA Consulting
- Nicole West, LSA
- Keith Lay, LSA
- · Tiffany Chao, Point C
- Chester Britt, Arellano Associates
- · Edgar Gutierrez, Arellano Associates

#### **Meeting Notes**

#### **Presenters**

- Tami Podesta, Caltrans, provided an overview of the project and the environmental process.
- Mark Dierking, Metro, provided an update on the outreach efforts that have been performed since Fall 2013.
- Bob Blume, Kimley-Horn and Associates, provided an overview of the alternatives that are being considered for the NW 138 Corridor.
- Caltrans and other environmental technical experts presented individual reports on the technical studies that are being developed for the environmental document.

#### **Questions and Comments**

Participant	Question/ Comment	Response
Aziz Elattar, Metro	Does every alternative address the project's purpose and need? The TSM alternative is being considered to address the current needs, but does not meet the projected long term traffic needs. Do you have the existing traffic counts for that corridor?	Alternatives 1 and 2 meet the purpose and need; Alternative 3 does not meet the long term need.  Yes, the current traffic counts have been conducted and have been validated and calibrated within the model. This is then used to generate the projected traffic counts. (KHA)
Jamie Jackson, CDFW	Regarding the "swing out" at the northern undeveloped part of the Antelope Acres – what type of homes would be impacted by	The existing housing units represent all types of structures, including newer and older homes. The direct route would

the direct route? How many would be impacted? Of those that are impacted, what type of structures are they?  The City mentioned the rail component in the very beginning of the environmental process. Is there enough right-of-way available within	impact a total of six units. These units that may be impacted are newer structures that are in good standing condition. (KHA) Yes, Alternative 1 provides for an 86'
very beginning of the environmental process.	Yes, Alternative 1 provides for an 86'
the median to accommodate a rail system through this corridor?	median from SR-14 through 300 <sup>th</sup> Street. There are constraints after that point; the hillside to the south and Quail Lake to the north.
How is the possibility of future rail through this corridor going to be mentioned in the environmental document? What agencies have Metro and Caltrans spoken to? Did any of the agencies support the concept?  Although the rail is not shown as a current need, there should be the acknowledgement that this corridor could accommodate a rail component in the future. Is there a current alternative that provides a rail component?	Through scoping, the City's comment regarding rail was taken into consideration. After further review, it was concluded that the rail component is not a need that needs to be addressed. This conclusion was reached after having discussions with Metro, Metrolink, Metro rail, Southern California Regional Rail, and CHSRA. There were no plans for rail expansion identified by any of these agencies. There is also a longer range transportation being prepared concurrently – North County Multimodal Integrated Transportation Study (NCMITS) – to identify and address long term rail needs.
	There is not an alternative that currently includes a rail component. (KHA and Metro)
Further consideration should be taken for the rail component. CHSRA is looking at a substantial intermodal center in Palmdale with Express_West, HSR, and Metrolink, and CHSRA is looking into potentially having construction in the Southern California section by the end of the decade. Although I understand that the NCMITS is underway, this corridor should be considered for rail as it could serve as a very important rail connection, probably not as a HSR corridor but as a commuter rail, and I think it would be very important to consider a future rail corridor and to certainly set aside right-of-	The environmental study will ensure that one of the alternatives provides enough right-of-way for future rail expansion. But a rail component as part of the environmental study is not shown as a need at this point and for that reason that will not be considered as an alternative option and taken into consideration at this time. (KHA and Metro)
t Hteho Antoa FrsvCosutiiobbo	How is the possibility of future rail through this corridor going to be mentioned in the environmental document? What agencies have Metro and Caltrans spoken to? Did any of the agencies support the concept?  Although the rail is not shown as a current need, there should be the acknowledgement that this corridor could accommodate a rail component in the future. Is there a current alternative that provides a rail component?  Further consideration should be taken for the ail component. CHSRA is looking at a substantial intermodal center in Palmdale with Express_West, HSR, and Metrolink, and CHSRA is looking into potentially having construction in the Southern California section by the end of the decade. Although I understand that the NCMITS is underway, this corridor should be considered for rail as to could serve as a very important rail connection, probably not as a HSR corridor out as a commuter rail, and I think it would

Participant	Question/ Comment	Response
	the rail component to be left in the study for consideration?	
Mike Behen, City of Palmdale	We're on record with the rail request for over 2 years; this project is a swing and a miss when it comes to considering rail. This is unfortunate.	No response.
Michelle Boehm, CHSRA	What would be the impact to your project if you increased the environmental footprint to accommodate a future where rail might be layered in as a result of the conclusion of the NCMITS study?	It would significantly impact the project schedule and costs. It would be like starting the environmental process all over again. (KHA)
Mike Behen, City of Palmdale	Wasn't there an existing 500 – 600 foot swath that was identified as a study area? We have given our comments through scoping and have been on record for 2 years regarding the rail option. But we're being told tough luck. There should be a better process to handle these types of requests.	The area initially identified was 600 ft. wide so that the team could start the environmental resource studies. This area was centered throughout the corridor, with 300 feet on each side of the center of the corridor. Now as we look at impacts the team will only be assessing the impact that the proposed alternatives would generate. (KHA)
Jamie Jackson, CDFW	Biological: Were the prong horn spotting surveys conducted near the California aqueduct or Quail Lake? We included this in our scoping request.	No, these have not been conducted but can be performed if requested. (Caltrans Biology)
Bob Solecki, (SWRCB)	Biological: Do you anticipate that the delineated wetlands will they be in state or federal jurisdiction?	It is anticipated that the wetlands on the Tehachapi side will be federal jurisdiction. However, it's harder on the Antelope Valley side due to jurisdictional issues; it may be federal or state. (Caltrans Biology)
Jamie Jackson, CDFW	<u>Cultural</u> : Which federally recognized Native American tribes are represented along the corridor?	There are about ten different tribes that are represented along the corridor. It's hard to clearly identify all due to jurisdictional conflicts amongst the tribes. (Caltrans Cultural Resources)
Carl Nadela, L.A. County Department of Regional Planning	Noise: Do you look at population and housing projections, including future development? Does the study take into account SCAG's population projections by areas? SCAG has population growth projections for specific areas in the Antelope Valley. Would this study look at the future need for additional mitigation (e.g. sound walls)?	The designer noise data is added into the assessment model which also incorporates other data, including population increase, which increases the noise frequencies. Caltrans takes into consideration any and all future development which already has a building permit issued. Future development without a permit is typically not considered for mitigation

Participant	Question/ Comment	Response
		as developers would be required to provide abatement as part of future development permits. (Caltrans Noise)
Jamie Jackson, CDFW	Noise: How do you identify noise sensitive areas? Are environmentally sensitive areas considered as part of the noise assessment?	Caltrans identifies noise sensitive areas following FHWA's definition. This typically includes public facilities, housing, and other activities that may be interrupted by noise. In this instance, it's primarily residential impacts. Bioaccoustics are typically not considered as part of this assessment. Impacts to humans are the focus of the noise study. (Caltrans Noise)
Jamie Jackson, CDFW	Geotech: How is hydrology going to be incorporated into the reports? Into water quality?	There will be a Drainage Report, Stormwater Data Report, and Water Quality Assessment completed for the project. (LSA)
Bob Solecki, SWRCB	Water Quality: What category are you following for the study?	Caltrans Water Quality Assessment Guidelines (LSA)
Jamie Jackson, CDFW	<u>Utilities</u> : will the existing utilities be relocated? Is that process being covered by the environmental document?	Some of the alternatives will require the relocation of the utility lines at certain points along the corridor. (KHA)
Jamie Jackson, CDFW	<u>Cumulative</u> : Is analysis for habitat under crossings being considered?	There is a Wildlife Corridor Study being prepared that will indicate wildlife movement and any potential crossings. (Caltrans)
Daniel Tran, SCAG	<u>Cumulative</u> : Is there going to be growth impacts as a result of this project?	Growth will be evaluated. (Caltrans)
Carl Nadela, L.A. County Department of Regional Planning	<u>Cumulative</u> : Will the Centennial project be considered or captured by this study? Will the application for a specific plan trigger the need to be considered in the environmental analysis?	Yes, the Centennial Development will be included in the Cumulative Analysis. (Caltrans)
Jamie Jackson, CDFW	Cumulative: Why isn't Centennial being considered in the Noise analysis? How can cumulative impacts from Centennial be included in this environmental document?	The developer must have an approved building permit for future developments to be considered in the noise analysis.  Noise abatement measures for future developments not captured in the noise analysis would be the responsibility of the developer. (Caltrans Noise)

State of California—Transportation Agency

EDMUND G. BROWN Jr., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

2041 West Avenue I Lancaster, CA 93536 (661) 948-8541 (800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD) (800) 735-2922 (Voice)

March 19, 2014

File No.: 545.12757.15138

Mr. Ronald Kosinski A. California Department of Transportation, District 7 100 South Main Street, MS-16A Los Angeles, CA 90012-3606

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

This is in response to the Northwest SR-138 Corridor Improvement Project document which outlines the proposed project. The proposed project includes a 36 mile-long east-west improvement to SR-138 between I-5 and SR-14. Approximately 20 miles of SR-138 is the responsibility of the Antelope Valley Area of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) and approximately 16 miles is the responsibility of the Newhall Area CHP. Traffic enforcement, accident investigation and response for service will be the responsibility of our agency.

Upon reviewing this project, it is anticipated traffic flow will be restricted, congestion will be worsened and calls for service will likely increase during the construction phase of the project. As a result, emergency response times may be affected. It is suggested the contractors for this project work closely with the Antelope Valley and Newhall CHP Areas to determine the best times for closures and best alternate routes if necessary. Utilizing CHP officers for traffic control (COZEEP) would also help to prevent traffic collisions. A temporary reduction in the current 55 mph speed limit and proper signage should also be considered.

Once construction is completed, it is reasonable to assume a greater number of motorists will utilize the widened roadway, thus creating a greater need for traffic law enforcement. Calls for service are also likely to increase as a result of the additional motorists using this route. In order to reduce the number of serious injury and fatal traffic collisions, it is recommended a concrete center divider be incorporated into the plans. Wide shoulders on each side of the roadway also enhance the safety of our officers and the motoring public.



Safety, Service, and Security

An Internationally Accredited Agency

Lieutenant Eric Broneer will be our Area's contact person for the project. If you have any questions or concerns, he may be reached at the above address or telephone number.

Sincerely,

J. M. JACOBS, Captain

Commander

Antelope Valley Area

cc: Southern Division

Office of Special Projects

State Clearinghouse Office of Planning and Research



#### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

DARYL L. OSBY FIRE CHIEF FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

RECEIVED APR 0 1 2014

March 25, 2014

Ronald J. Kosinski, Deputy District Director Department of Transportation
Division of Environmental Planning
100 South Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

NOTICE OF SCOPING AND INITIATION OF STUDIES, "NORTHWEST SR-138 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT," TO IMPROVE STATE ROUTE 138 FROM THE INTERSTATE 5 INTERCHANGE TO THE STATE ROUTE 14, APPROXIMATELY 36 MILES, ANTELOPE VALLEY (FFER #201400040)

The Notice of Scoping and Initiation of Studies has been reviewed by the Planning Division, Land Development Unit, Forestry Division, and Health Hazardous Materials Division of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. The following are their comments:

#### PLANNING DIVISION:

 Any highway project that includes road closures and/or detours has the potential to impede upon emergency response times, especially during high peak traffic hours. All road closures and detours should be approved and acceptable to the Fire Department so as not to adversely impact emergency responses.

#### LAND DEVELOPMENT UNIT:

 Provide three sets of alternate route (detour) plans, with a tentative schedule of planned closures, prior to the beginning of construction. Complete architectural/structural plans are not necessary.

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS ARTESIA AZUSA BALDWIN PARK BELL BELL GARDENS BELLFLOWER BRADBURY CALABASAS CARSON CERRITOS CLAREMONT COMMERCE COVINA CUDAHY DIAMOND BAR DUARTE EL MONTE GARDENA GLENDORA HAWAIIAN GARDENS HAWTHORNE

HIDDEN HILLS HUNTINGTON PARK INDUSTRY INGLEWOOD IRWINDALE LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE LA HABRA LA MIRADA LA PUENTE LAKEWOOD LANCASTER LAWNDALE LOMITA LYNWOOD

MAYWOOD NORWALK PALMDALE PALOS VERDES ESTATES PARAMOUNT PICO RIVERA POMONA RANCHO PALOS VERDES ROLLING HILLS ROLLING HILLS ESTATES ROSEMEAD SAN DIMAS SANTA CLARITA SIGNAL HILL SOUTH EL MONTE SOUTH GATE TEMPLE CITY WALNUT WEST HOLLYWOOD WESTLAKE VILLAGE WHITTIER Ronald J. Kosinski, Deputy District Director March 25, 2014 Page 2

- All proposals for traffic calming measures (speed humps/bumps/cushions, traffic circles, roundabouts, etc.) shall be submitted to the Fire Department for review, prior to implementation.
- Notify the County of Los Angeles Fire Department Fire Stations, at least three days in advance of any street closures that may affect Fire/Paramedic responses in the area.
- Disruptions to water service shall be coordinated with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department and alternate water sources shall be provided for fire protection during such disruptions.
- The County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Land Development Unit's comments are only general requirements. Specific fire and life safety requirements will be addressed at the building and fire plan check phase. There may be additional requirements during this time.

#### FORESTRY DIVISION - OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS:

 The statutory responsibilities of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division include erosion control, watershed management, rare and endangered species, vegetation, fuel modification for Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones or Fire Zone 4, archeological and cultural resources, and the County Oak Tree Ordinance. Potential impacts in these areas should be addressed.

#### HEALTH HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION:

The Health Hazardous Materials Division has no objection to the proposed project.

If you have any additional questions, please contact this office at (323) 890-4330.

Very truly yours,

Frank Nudd

FRANK VIDALES, CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

FV:iI

4761551NF5A-SH-AD39A (2/72) -PS9-95

#### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

"A Tradition of Service"

DATE: April 4, 2014 FILE NO:

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FROM:

ROOSEYELT JOHNSON, CAPTAIN TO: GARY T. K. TSE, DIRECTOR SANTA CLARITA VALLEY STATION FACILITIES PLANNING BUREAU

SUBJECT: REVIEW COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OF SCOPING/INITIATION OF STUDIES FOR THE NORTHWEST SR-138 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FILE 07-LA-138)

> The Santa Clarita Valley Station reviewed the Notice of Scoping/Initiation of Studies (NOS/IOS), dated February 28, 2014, for the Northwest SR-138 Corridor Improvement Project (Project). The proposed Project will improve a 36-mile segment of SR-138, from I-5 to SR-14, in the Antelope Valley.

> The proposed Project appears to be in the preliminary planning stage. As such, specific information regarding the proposed Project is limited at this time. However, according to general statements contained in the NOS/IOS and the January 2014 Overview Fact Sheet prepared by the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the proposed Project is intended to accommodate anticipated population/economic growth in the Antelope Valley by increasing roadway sight distances, upgrading various roadway features to meet current roadway standards, improving connections to properties along the corridor, and improving emergency access throughout.

Based on such generalized information available at this time, the Santa Clarita Valley Station has no palpable concern and is generally supportive of the proposed Project. However, the Santa Clarita Valley Station reserves the right to revise our assessment of the proposed Project as subsequent environmental documents are available for review and comment, and/or the following detailed information is determined by Caltrans:

#### SR-138 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT

-2-

April 4, 2014

- Ultimate type of facility (freeway and/or expressway);
- Right-of-way requirements;
- Guidelines for improvements;
- · Requirements for technical studies; and,
- Identification of potential post-Project roadway improvements.

Lastly, be advised the proposed Project is partially located within the service area of Lancaster Station (LAN). As such, LAN should be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Project.

Thank you for including the Santa Clarita Valley Station in the environmental review process for the proposed Project. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Operations Lieutenant Robert Lewis at (661) 799-5102.

RJ:RL:rl

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN JR, Governor

#### **DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836 SACRAMENTO, CA 942360001 [916] 653-5791

April 10, 2014

Ron Kosinski, Deputy District Director California Department of Transportation Division of Environmental Planning (NW SR-138)
100 South Main St
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Tami Podesta



Dear Ms. Podesta,

This letter is in reference to the planned Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project. The project is situated in the northwest corner of Los Angeles County, just south of the Kern County Boarder. The proposed project crosses the Department of Water Resources (DWR) California Aqueduct in various locations, as well as bordering Quail Lake, both part of the State Water Project. Based on information obtained at your March 18<sup>th</sup> Scoping meeting in Lancaster, it is apparent that multiple crossings of the California Aqueduct and various aspects of DWR right of way will be impacted by segments of your project.

Please be aware that any improvements that alter the California Aqueduct or its associated facilities will require an encroachment permit, or other form of agreement with DWR prior to the beginning of construction. In addition to potential impacts to DWR facilities, it should be noted that there are multiple drainage features that may be impacted by your project. Therefore, any alteration to existing drainage patterns that would have an effect on DWR right of way will have to be addressed in your study.

Please provide DWR with a copy of any subsequent documentation as it becomes available for public review. Any future correspondence relating to this project should be sent to:

Leroy Ellinghouse, Chief SWP Encroachment Section Division of Operations and0020Maintenance Department of Water Resources 1416 Ninth Street, Room 641-1 Sacramento, California 95814



Mr. Ron Kosinski April 10, 2014 Page 2

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 653-7168.

Sincerely,

Leroy Ellinghouse, Chief

SWP Encroachment Section

Division of Operations and Maintenance



BOARD MEMBERS

April 18, 2014

Dan Richard

**Thomas Richards** 

VICE CHAIR Jim Hartnett VICE CHAIR

**Richard Frank** 

**Patrick** W. Henning, Sr.

Katherine Perez-Estolano

Michael Rossi

Lynn Schenk

Thea Selby

Jeff Morales CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr. Ron Kosinski, Deputy District Director Division of Environmental Planning California Department of Transportation Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project 100 South Main Street (Mail Stop 16A) Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

The California High-Speed Rail Authority (Authority) thanks the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) for the opportunity to submit scoping comments on the Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project. The Authority has been coordinating with Caltrans and Metro on a number of projects in the Antelope Valley, and appreciates the efforts of both agencies to make safety and mobility improvements to the Northwest 138 Corridor.

The Northwest 138 Corridor is a key linkage between Interstate 5 and State Route 14 in the Antelope Valley, providing important connectivity and access across the region. The Authority encourages Caltrans and Metro to pursue a range of alternatives that gives residents and stakeholders a variety of options and benefits to consider. The Authority has been working for many years to plan a high-speed rail station in Palmdale, and appreciates the potential for additional access to the planned station that an improved Northwest 138 Corridor could provide. The Authority encourages both agencies to consider current high-speed rail planning documents for the Bakersfield to Palmdale and Palmdale to Los Angeles project sections in their work. Details about both project sections available are http://www.hsr.ca.gov/Programs/Statewide Rail Modernization/Project Sections/index.html.

EDMUND G. BROWN JR. GOVERNOR



770 L Street, Suite 800 Sacramento, CA 95814 • T: (916) 324-1541 • F: (916) 322-0827 • www.hsr.ca.gov

Mr. Ron Kosinski Page 2

The Authority looks forward to continuing to work with Caltrans and Metro in the Antelope Valley as alternatives develop for the Northwest 138 Corridor and high-speed rail planning continues to advance. Authority staff stands ready to further coordinate with Caltrans and Metro staffs as additional project details are developed. Please contact me at <a href="mark.mcloughlin@hsr.ca.gov">mark.mcloughlin@hsr.ca.gov</a> or (916) 324-1541 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mark A. McLoughlin

Director of Environmental Services

Michelle Boehm

Southern California Regional Director

Michelle Boehn

cc: Jeff Morales, Chief Executive Officer, California High-Speed Rail Authority
Teresa Wong, Project Manager, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority



# COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998 Telephone: (562) 699-7411, FAX: (562) 699-5422 www.locsd.org

GRACE ROBINSON HYDE Chief Engineer and General Manager

April 21, 2014

Ref File No.: 2903466

Mr. Ronald J. Kosinski, L.K.
Deputy District Director
Division of Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation
District 7
100 South Main Street – Mail Stop 16A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

#### Northwest 138 Corridor Improvement Project

This is in reply to your notice, which was received by the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts) on February 26, 2014. We offer the following comments:

• The proposed project may impact existing and/or proposed Districts' trunk sewers over which it will be constructed. Existing and proposed Districts' trunk sewers are located directly under and/or cross directly beneath the proposed project alignment. The Districts cannot issue a detailed response to or permit construction of the proposed project until project plans and specification that incorporate Districts' sewer lines are submitted. In order to prepare these plans, you will need to submit a map of the proposed project alignment, when available, to the attention of Mr. Jon Ganz of the Districts' Sewer Design Section at the address shown above. The Districts will then provide you with the plans for all Districts' facilities that will be impacted by the proposed project. Then, when revised plans that incorporate our sewers have been prepared, please submit copies of the same for our review and comment.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (562) 908-4288, extension 2717.

Very truly yours,

Grace Robinson Hyde

Adriana Raza

Customer Service Specialist Facilities Planning Department

AR:ar

cc:

J. Ganz

DOC: #2950608,D99

Recycled Paper



# County of Los Angeles Sheriff's Department Headquarters



4700 Ramona Boulevard Monterey Park, California 91754-2169

April 28, 2014

Ronald Kosinski, Deputy District Director pt/ Division of Environmental Planning California Department of Transportation, District 7 100 South Main Street, Mail Stop 16A Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

# REVIEW COMMENTS NOTICE OF SCOPING/INITIATION OF STUDIES NORTHWEST SR-138 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (FILE 07-LA-138)

Thank you for inviting the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) to review and comment on the Notice of Scoping/Initiation of Studies (NOS/IOS), dated February 28, 2014, for the Northwest State Route 138 Corridor Improvement Project (Project). The proposed Project will improve a 36-mile segment of State Route 138 (SR-138) from Interstate 5 to State Route 14 in the Antelope Valley.

The NOS/IOS was reviewed by the Department's Santa Clarita Valley Station (Station). The Station's review comments are attached hereto (see correspondence from Captain Roosevelt Johnson, dated April 4, 2014).

In summary, the Department is generally supportive of the proposed Project as described in the NOS/IOS, because it is expected to enhance patrol and emergency operations. However, the Department's assessment is subject to change as more Project-related information becomes available for review and comment.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Lester Miyoshi, of my staff, at (626) 300-3012, and refer to Facilities Planning Bureau Project No. E14-015. You may also contact Mr. Miyoshi, via e-mail, at <a href="mailto:Lhmiyosh@lasd.org">Lhmiyosh@lasd.org</a>.

A Tradition of Service Since 1850

Mr. Kosinski -2- April 28, 2014

Sincerely,

JOHN L. SCOTT, SHERIFF

Gary T.K. Tse, Director Facilities Planning Bureau

Mr. Kosinski -3- April 28, 2014

GTKT:LM:lm/jh

Attachments

Roosevelt Johnson, Captain, Santa Clarita Valley (SCV) Station
David Culver, Assistant Director, Facilities Planning Bureau (FPB)
Robert Lewis, Operations Lieutenant, SCV Station
Lance Jordan, Deputy, LAN Station
Meghan Wang, Principal Facilities Project Manager, FPB
Lester Miyoshi, Departmental Facilities Planner, FPB
Chrono
(EIR-Northwest SR-138 Corridor)



## COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998 Telephone: (562) 699-7411, FAX: (562) 699-5422 www.lacsd.org

GRACE ROBINSON HYDE Chief Engineer and General Manager

May 5, 2014

Ref File No.: 2903466

Mr. Ronald J. Kosinski AC
Division of Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation
District 7
100 South Main Street – Mail Stop 16A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Kosinski:

#### Northwest State Route 138 Corridor Improvement Project

The County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts) received and provided comments to a Notice of Scoping for the subject project on April 21, 2014. Upon further review of potential impacts the subject project may impose, please take the following under consideration:

• The Lancaster Water Reclamation Plant (LWRP) is physically located on the northeast corner of State Route 14 and State Route 138 interchange (the east end of the subject project). Because the entryway for personnel and chemical deliveries into the LWRP is the main gate, located at 1865 West Avenue, the Districts will require truck access during construction, Monday through Sunday, 6:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (562) 908-4288, extension 2717.

Very truly yours,

Grace Robinson Hyde

Adriana Raza

Customer Service Specialist Facilities Planning Department

AR:ar

cc:

J. Ganz

D. Pierce

DOC: #2963225.D99