US 101/PALO COMADO CANYON ROAD
INTERCHANGE PROJECT

Los Angeles County
District 7 US 101 PM 33.0/34.4
EA 257200

Mitigated Negative Declaration/
Finding of No Significant Impact

Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation

The environmental review, consultation, and any other action required in accordance with
applicable federal laws for this project is being, or has been, carried out by the State of California
Department of Transportation under its assumption of responsibility pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327.

October 2012
The State of California Department of Transportation is proposing to improve the existing US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange (PM 33.0/34.4) in the City of Agoura Hills, Los Angeles County.

INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, Public Resources Code (Federal) 42 USC 4332(2)(C), 23 USC 327

The environmental review, consultation, and any other action required in accordance with applicable federal laws for this project is being, or has been, carried out by the State of California Department of Transportation under its assumption of responsibility pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327.

The City of Agoura Hills
and
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

1/9/12
Date of Approval

Nathan Hamburger
Assistant City Manager
City of Agoura Hills

Jan 12, 2012
Date of Approval

Ronald Kosinski
Deputy District Director
Division of Environmental Planning, District 7
California Department of Transportation
Mitigated Negative Declaration
Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description
The State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to improve the existing US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange in the city of Agoura Hills, Los Angeles County. The project would include widening the Palo Comado Canyon Road and Palo Comado Canyon overcrossing over the US 101 and modification of the interchange ramps in order to improve traffic circulation, safety, and bicycle/pedestrian access.

Determination
The Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project and after public review, has determined from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

The proposed project would have no effect on Wild and Scenic Rivers, Coastal Zone, Timberlands, farmlands, Floodplain or Threatened and Endangered Species.

In addition, the proposed project would have no significant effect on topography, seismic exposure water quality, land use, public facilities, community or other socio-economic features, cultural resources, open space or parklands.

The proposed project would not significantly impact any sensitive plant or animal species, other wildlife, riparian habitat, wetlands.

The proposed project would result in increased noise levels along its route, but with the addition of soundwalls, these effects would be reduced to acceptable levels.

The proposed project would promote improved regional air quality.

Ronald Kosinski  Nov 14, 2012
RONALD KOSINSKI
Deputy District Director
District 7 Division of Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR

US 101/PALO COMADO CANYON ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of Agoura Hills has determined that the Build Alternative (Alternative 2) will have no significant impact on the human environment. This FONSI is based on the attached EA which has been independently evaluated by Caltrans and determined to adequately and accurately discuss the need, environmental issues, and impacts of the proposed project and appropriate mitigation measures. It provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an EIS is not required. Caltrans takes full responsibility for the accuracy, scope, and content of the attached EA.

The environmental review, consultation, and any other action required in accordance with applicable Federal laws for this project is being, or has been, carried-out by Caltrans under its assumption of responsibility pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327.

Michael Miles
District Director
California Department of Transportation, District 7

1/15/2012
Date
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<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Property Survey Report</td>
<td>March 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydraulic Study</td>
<td>April 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Site Assessment</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Environment Study (Minimal Impact)</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noise Study Report</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary Foundation Report</td>
<td>February 2009</td>
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<td>Project Study Report</td>
<td>February 2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scoping Summary Report</td>
<td>December 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traffic Analysis Report (with Memorandum)</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visual Impact Assessment (Memorandum)</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
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CHAPTER 1  PROPOSED PROJECT

1.1  Introduction

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and The City of Agoura Hills (City) propose to construct improvements at the U.S. Highway 101 (US 101)/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange (PM 33.0/34.4), in Los Angeles County within in the City of Agoura Hills (see Figure 1.1). The project would include widening the Palo Comado Canyon Road and Palo Comado Canyon Road Overcrossing over US 101 and modification of the interchange ramps in order to improve traffic circulation, safety, and bicycle/pedestrian access.

Caltrans and the City have completed studies for the proposed project. Caltrans is acting as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead agency under the provisions 23 USC 327, NEPA Assignment. California participated in the “Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program” (Pilot Program) pursuant to 23 USC 327, for more than five years, beginning July 1, 2007 and ending September 30, 2012. MAP-21 (P.L. 112-141), signed by President Obama on July 6th, 2012, amended 23 USC 327 to establish a revised and permanent Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program. As a result, Caltrans entered into a memorandum of understanding pursuant to 23 USC 327 (NEPA Assignment MOU) with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The NEPA Assignment MOU became effective October 1, 2012 and terminates eighteen months from the effective date of FHWA regulations developed to clarify amendments to 23 USC 327 or on January 1, 2017. The NEPA Assignment MOU incorporates by reference the terms and conditions of the Pilot Program MOU. In summary, Caltrans continues to assume FHWA responsibilities under NEPA and other federal environmental laws in the same manner as was assigned under the Pilot Program, with minor changes. With NEPA Assignment, FHWA assigned and Caltrans assumed all of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Secretary's responsibilities under NEPA. Caltrans is also the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for this project.
Figure 1.1: Project Vicinity & Location Maps

Source: Kimley-Horn Associates
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Background

The need for this project was first identified by the City in their 1992 General Plan. The Plan’s Circulation Element discusses the need for widening of the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road overcrossing due to congested freeway access and poor circulation. Discussion of the need for this project was carried forth to the City’s 2010 General Plan.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) included the project in Addendum #3 to their 2008 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Draft Amendment #08-34 to the 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). On February 17, 2010, the Transportation Committee authorized SCAG to release Draft Amendment #3 (RTP) and Draft Amendment #08-34 (RTIP). The project will receive funding from Measure R, a measure committing $40 billion in traffic relief and transportation upgrades throughout Los Angeles County.

Existing Facility

Figure 1.2 outlines the current existing facilities and all intersections discussed below. The US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Overcrossing structure was built in 1963. It provides two 12-foot lanes and 4-foot shoulders in each direction. A 5-foot sidewalk is provided on the west side of the overcrossing. The minimum vertical clearance is 15.1 feet, which is located in the northeast corner of the structure over the northbound US 101 number four lane. The interchange is configured with tight diamond ramps on the northbound side and hook ramps on the southbound side.

The southbound hook ramps connect with Dorothy Drive and Chesebro Road at a four-point intersection south of US 101 (Intersection 3 (#3)). A short section of Chesebro Road directly opposite the hook ramps provides access from the ramps to Palo Comado Canyon Road (#4). The southbound off-ramp is a one-lane exit that widens to two lanes at its termini. The southbound on-ramp is a one-lane ramp throughout.

The northbound ramps connect directly to Palo Comado Road (#2). The northbound on-ramp has two lanes starting from the Palo Comado Road intersection and tapers to a one-lane on-ramp before joining the freeway. The northbound off-ramp begins as one lane and widens to two lanes at its termini.

The interchange does not currently have any signalized intersections. Palo Comado Canyon Road is a free-flowing street from Agoura Road in the south (#5) to Driver Avenue in the north (#1), where the intersection is four-way "stop" controlled. The Chesebro Road/Palo Comado Canyon Road Intersection (#4) and Dorothy Drive/Palo Comado Canyon Road Intersection (#3), both south of the freeway, and the US 101 northbound off-ramp intersection with Palo Comado Road (#2), are all two-way stop-controlled. The intersection of Dorothy Drive/Chesebro Road (#3) is four-way stop-controlled.
1.2 Purpose and Need

1.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the project is to:

- Reduce existing and forecasted traffic congestion within the project limits;
- Improve circulation at the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange and adjacent roadway network;
- Improve safety at the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange; and
- Accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic along Palo Comado Canyon Road.
1.2.2 Need

Traffic
The quality of traffic flow can be identified in terms of level of service (LOS). There are six LOS, ranging from LOS A to LOS F, as defined in Table 1.1. The City’s most recent General Plan update (March 2010) has identified the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange as deficient under existing as well as future forecast conditions. The General Plan identifies LOS C as the typical minimum acceptable standard for roadways within the city. LOS Criteria for intersections, as defined by the 2000 Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) are included in Table 1.2.

Table 1.1: Level of Service – General Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Service</th>
<th>General Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Free flow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Stable flow (slight delays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Stable flow (acceptable delays)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Approaching unstable flow (tolerable delay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Unstable flow (intolerable delay)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Forced flow (jammed)</td>
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Table 1.2: Level of Service Criteria for Intersections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unsignalized Intersection Delay (sec/veh)</th>
<th>Signalized Intersection Delay (sec/veh)</th>
<th>Level of Service (LOS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤10.0</td>
<td>≤10.0</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;10.0 and ≤15.0</td>
<td>&gt;10.0 and ≤20.0</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;15.0 and ≤25.0</td>
<td>&gt;20.0 and ≤35.0</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;25.0 and ≤35.0</td>
<td>&gt;35.0 and ≤55.0</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;35.0 and ≤50.0</td>
<td>&gt;55.0 and ≤80.0</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50.0</td>
<td>&gt;80.0</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Currently, the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road northbound off-ramp intersection (two-way stop sign) operates at a LOS D in the AM peak period with a delay of 33.3 seconds (see Table 1.3) and at LOS E during the PM peak period with a delay of 37.6 seconds. The all-way stop located at the Driver Avenue/Chesebro Road intersection operates at a LOS of F in the AM period with a delay of 50.9, and LOS E in the PM peak period with a delay of 36.5. The City’s minimum acceptable standard (LOS C) is not achievable under current existing conditions for the northbound off-ramp intersection or Driver Avenue/Chesebro Road intersection.
### Table 1.3: Intersection LOS Summary for Existing (2010) Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intersection Number</th>
<th>Intersection</th>
<th>Intersection Control</th>
<th>Existing AM</th>
<th>Existing PM</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Delay*</td>
<td>LOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Driver @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>50.9</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ 101 NB Ramps</td>
<td>Two-way stop (stop sign on ramp)</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dorothy @ 101 SB Ramps</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ Chesebro</td>
<td>Two-way stop</td>
<td>17.6</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Agoura @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Delay refers to the average delay for the entire intersection. At a two-way stop, delay refers to the worst approach delay.

Source: Kimley-Horn Associates

Under the buildout year (2035) without improvements, existing conditions would worsen (see Table 1.4). The Driver Avenue/Chesebro Road intersection would operate at LOS F in the AM peak period with a delay of 128.1 seconds and LOS F in the PM peak period with a delay of 99.3 seconds. The Palo Comado/101 NB Ramps intersection would operate at LOS F the AM peak period with a delay of 290.3 seconds and LOS F in the PM peak period with a delay of 218.2 seconds. The Dorothy Drive/SB Ramps intersection would operate at LOS E in the AM peak period with a delay of 41.7 seconds and LOS D in the PM peak period with a delay of 26.3 seconds. The Palo Comado/Chesebro Road intersection would operate at LOS F in the AM peak period with a delay of 63.2 seconds and LOS E in the PM peak period with a delay of 36.0 seconds.

Under 2035 no-build conditions, the Agoura Road/Chesebro Road intersection would operate at an acceptable LOS (LOS B) in the AM peak period and LOS D in the PM peak period with a delay of 26.3 seconds. The City’s minimum acceptable standard (LOS C) is not achievable under 2035 conditions without improvements for any of the intersections within the proposed project limits, with the exception of the Agoura Road/Chesebro Road intersection in the AM peak period.

### Table 1.4: Intersection LOS Summary for Buildout (2035) Conditions without Improvements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intersection Number</th>
<th>Intersection</th>
<th>Intersection Control</th>
<th>Existing AM</th>
<th>Existing PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Delay*</td>
<td>LOS</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Driver @ Chesebro</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ 101 NB Ramps</td>
<td>Two-way stop (stop sign on ramp)</td>
<td>290.3</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dorothy @ 101 SB Ramps</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ Chesebro</td>
<td>Two-way stop</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Agoura @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Delay refers to the average delay for the entire intersection. At a two-way stop, delay refers to the worst approach delay.

Under the buildout year (2035) with improvements, overall traffic conditions would improve from no-project conditions (see Table 1.5). The Palo Comado/101 NB Ramps intersection would improve from LOS F to
LOS A in the AM peak period and from LOS F to LOS B in the PM peak period. The Dorothy Drive/SB Ramps intersection would improve from LOS E to LOS D in the AM peak period and from LOS D to LOS C in the PM peak period. All other intersections within the project limits would operate at the same LOS as they would under 2035 no-project conditions.

Table 1.5: Intersection LOS Summary for Buildout Year (2035) with Improvements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intersection Number</th>
<th>Intersection</th>
<th>Intersection Control</th>
<th>AM Delay*</th>
<th>AM LOS</th>
<th>PM Delay*</th>
<th>PM LOS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Driver @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>128.1</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>99.3</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ 101 NB Ramps</td>
<td>Two-way stop (stop sign on ramp)</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dorothy @ 101 SB Ramps</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ Chesebro</td>
<td>Two-way stop</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Agoura @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Kimley-Horn Associates

* Delay refers to the average delay for the entire intersection. At a two-way stop, delay refers to the worst approach delay. Delay values for intersections that are not subject to improvements were obtained from “without improvements” conditions.

Palo Comado Canyon Road is considered to be a Class II suburban minor arterial. The service volume thresholds and correlated LOS established by the Transportation Research Board for Class II arterials are provided in Table 1.6.

Table 1.6: Level of Service Criteria for Class II Arterials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lanes</th>
<th>Service Volumes (veh/h)</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>LOS C</td>
<td>LOS D</td>
<td>LOS E</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>670</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>890</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 1.7 indicates that Palo Comado Canyon Road currently operates at LOS F or worse during both the AM and PM peak hours under existing conditions. The widening of Palo Comado Canyon Road overpass from two to four lanes would improve the operation to the City’s minimum acceptable standard (LOS C) or better during both the AM and PM peak periods under build-out (2035) year conditions.
Table 1.7: Palo Comado Canyon Road Service Volumes (veh/h)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Peak Period</th>
<th>Service Volumes (veh/h)</th>
<th>LOS (with 1 lane)</th>
<th>LOS (with 2 lanes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Conditions (2010)</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>1,013</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>936</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buildout Year (2035)</td>
<td>AM</td>
<td>1,203</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PM</td>
<td>1,112</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Kimley-Horn Associates

Freeway ramp LOS is expressed in terms of density, which measures the number of passenger cars per lane mile (pc/mi/ln) on the freeway mainline, as outlined in Table 1.8.

Table 1.8: Level of Service Criteria for Freeway Ramps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ramps Maximum Density (pc/mi/ln)</th>
<th>Level of Service (LOS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤10</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;20</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;28</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤35</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;35</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceeds Capacity</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Table 1.9 indicates that all ramps for the Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange operate at a LOS D, with the exception of the northbound off-ramp (LOS C).

Table 1.9: Freeway Ramp Operations for Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Route Segment</th>
<th>Existing Conditions (2010)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Density</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northbound on-ramp</td>
<td>29.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northbound off-ramp</td>
<td>27.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southbound on-ramp</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southbound off-ramp</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Kimley-Horn Associates

Safety

Accident data based on Caltrans Transportation Systems Network Traffic Accident Surveillance and Analysis System (TSN TASAS) for the three-year period ending December 31, 2009 shows that the total rate of accidents at the Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange is generally lower than the statewide average. There are two exceptions to this: the northbound off-ramp total accident rate is 50% higher than the statewide average and 71% higher than the statewide average for fatality plus injury. The TSN TASAS data is summarized in Table 1.10.
Table 1.10: Accident Rates for US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange Ramps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Segment Actual Accident Rate*</th>
<th>Statewide Average Accident Rate*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fatalities</td>
<td>Injuries &amp; Fatalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 101/ Palo Comado Canyon Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interchange</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northbound off-ramp</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northbound on-ramp</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southbound off-ramp</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southbound on-ramp</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: California Department of Transportation
* Accident rates per million vehicle miles traveled

The primary collision factor for the northbound off-ramp accidents is failure to yield, which accounts for 50% of the accidents. The location of the accidents for this off-ramp are clustered around the ramp intersection and ramp area preceding the intersection, which account for 70% and 20% of the accidents, respectively. The primary collision factor for accidents that occurred on the southbound on-ramp was speeding. The primary collision factor for the accidents that occurred on the southbound off-ramp was influence of alcohol.

Operational Deficiencies
The existing bridge has non-standard stopping sight distance at the northbound off-ramp intersection. Additional non-standard features include a sidewalk on only one side (west side) of the bridge, and no bicycle lanes on the bridge.

1.2.3 Independent Utility and Logical Termini

Logical termini for project development are defined as (1) rational end points for a transportation improvement, and (2) rational end points for a review of the environmental impact. The environmental impact end points frequently cover a broader geographic area than the strict limits of proposed transportation improvements. Independent utility means that the project improvements have independent significance, or that the improvements are usable at a reasonable expenditure even if no additional transportation improvements are made in the area.

The objective of the project is to reduce traffic congestion and improve circulation at the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange. This would require widening the Palo Comado overcrossing from 2 to 4 lanes to facilitate improved traffic circulation at the interchange.

This project has independent utility because it would address the traffic congestion of the interchange associated with the narrow overcrossing as well as the design and geometric deficiencies and its adjoining approach roadways. It would also improve pedestrian and bicycle travel-ways. Based on the project features to meet the purpose and need, logical termini would extend from the Driver Avenue/Cheseboro Road intersection to the north, and the Agoura Road/Cheseboro Road intersection to the south.
1.3 Project Description

Project Alternatives

Alternative 1: No Build Alternative

The No Build Alternative would maintain the existing configuration of the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange, and the Palo Comado Canyon Overcrossing above US 101 would remain as a two-lane facility with a sidewalk on the west side. This alternative would not alleviate existing and anticipated traffic congestion or provide bicycle access, and would not be consistent with the project purpose and need.

Alternative 2: Build Alternative

The Build Alternative would include widening Palo Comado Canyon Road from two to four lanes between Driver Avenue and Chesebro Road (see Figure 1.3). Just north of the overcrossing, Driver Avenue becomes Palo Comado Canyon Road; just south of the overcrossing, Palo Comado Canyon Road becomes Chesebro Road. The Palo Comado Canyon Road Overcrossing would be widened from one lane in each direction to provide two twelve-foot lanes in each direction, along with a dedicated twelve-foot left turn lane, for a total of five striped lanes. The twelve-foot lanes transition to eleven-foot lanes north of the bridge to match existing lanes widths. A Class II bike lane and sidewalks would be provided on both sides of the overcrossing. The shoulders would be striped as bike lanes on the overcrossing. The bike lane would be eight feet wide across the bridge and transitions to six feet south of the bridge and five feet north of the bridge. The sidewalk would be six feet across the bridge and transitions to five feet minimum at the approaches. For a typical cross-section of Build Alternative, refer to Figure 1.4.

The Build Alternative would maintain the existing layout of the interchange ramps; however, the northbound on- and off-ramps would be slightly re-configured, with an additional twelve-foot lane being provided on the northbound off-ramp at the Palo Comado Canyon Road intersection. The ramps will provide twelve-foot lanes and standard eight to ten-foot shoulders. At the intersection, the northbound off-ramp would provide one left turn lane, one through-right-left lane, and one right turn lane. The northbound on-ramp would provide two lanes that transition to one lane onto the freeway. The intersection of the northbound ramps and Palo Comado Road would be signalized; the remaining intersections would remain un-signalized.

Several utilities exist within the areas of potential construction, including sewer, overhead electrical, overhead and underground telephone, storm drains, Caltrans communications, and street lighting. Overhead electric and telephone lines would need to be relocated or undergrounded in some areas to accommodate the build alternative, and portions of the street light systems would be relocated along Palo Comado Canyon Road.

Existing drainage consists of pipe culverts, inlets, and ditches. The existing storm drain systems would remain in place. New inlets would be installed along the modified northbound off-ramp, as well as the northbound on-ramp. A new inlet system would be added to accommodate the widening of Palo Comado Canyon Road south of the bridge. As of November 2011, total project costs were estimated at $22,500,000.

Construction staging areas have been identified south of the bridge in the southwest quadrant of the interchange between Chesebro Road and Dorothy Road. The time of constructed is estimated to be approximately twenty-four months. The Build Alternative would include widening Palo Comado Canyon...
Road from two to four lanes between Driver Avenue and Chesebro Road (see Figure 1.3). Just north of the overcrossing, Driver Avenue becomes Palo Comado Canyon Road; just south of the overcrossing, Palo Comado Canyon Road becomes Chesebro Road. The Palo Comado Canyon Road Overcrossing would be widened from one lane in each direction to provide two lanes in each direction, along with a dedicated left-hand turn lane, for a total of five striped lanes. A Class II bike lane and sidewalks would be provided on both sides of the overcrossing. For a typical cross-section of Build Alternative, refer to Figure 1.4.

The Build Alternative would maintain the existing layout of the interchange ramps; however, the northbound on- and off-ramps would be slightly re-configured, with an additional lane being provided on the northbound off-ramp at the Palo Comado Canyon Road intersection. The intersection of the northbound ramps and Palo Comado Road would be signalized; the remaining intersections would remain un-signalized.

Several utilities exist within the areas of potential construction, including sewer, overhead electrical, overhead and underground telephone, storm drains, Caltrans communications, and street lighting. Overhead electric and telephone lines would need to be relocated or undergrounded in some areas to accommodate the build alternative, and portions of the street light systems would be relocated along Palo Comado Canyon Road.

Existing drainage consists of pipe culverts, inlets, and ditches. The existing storm drain systems would remain in place. New inlets would be installed along the modified northbound off-ramp, as well as the northbound on-ramp. A new inlet system would be added to accommodate the widening of Palo Comado Canyon Road south of the bridge. As of November 2011, total project costs were estimated at $22,500,000.

Comparison of Alternatives

After the public circulation period, all comments will be considered and Caltrans will select a preferred alternative and make the final determination of the project’s effect on the environment. In accordance with CEQA, if no unmitigable significant adverse impacts are identified, Caltrans will prepare a Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated ND. Similarly, if Caltrans determines the action does not significantly impact the environment, Caltrans, as assigned by the FHWA, will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in accordance with NEPA.
Figure 1.3: Build Alternative
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Figure 1.4: Typical Cross-Section

Source: Kimley-Horn Associates
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1.4 Identification of a Preferred Alternative

After the public circulation period, all comments were considered and Caltrans identified a Preferred Alternative and made the final determination of the project’s effect on the environment. In accordance with CEQA, no significant adverse impacts were identified; therefore, Caltrans prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). Similarly, Caltrans, as assigned by FHWA, has determined that the project does not significantly affect the environment; therefore, Caltrans issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in accordance with NEPA. The selection of Alternative 2 as the final recommended alternative was made after consideration of public comments, and the MND/FONSI was subsequently approved.

With the widening of Palo Comado Canyon Road between Driver Avenue and Chesebro Road and the improvement of northbound on- and off-ramps, Alternative 2 would better manage traffic flow by reducing overall vehicle delay through the project terminus. The widening of Palo Comado Canyon Road, as proposed in Alternative 2, would also address the operational deficiencies of the overcrossing by providing sidewalks and a Class II bike lane in both the northbound and southbound direction. Finally, the improvements proposed in Alternative 2 would enhance safety by addressing line-of-sight limitations at the northbound off-ramp intersection. These improvements are consistent with the Circulation Element of the City’s General Plan and other regional transportation plans.

Based on the results of the alternative evaluation, a Build Alternative and No Build Alternative were identified as the most reasonable and feasible. A brief description of each alternative is described in Section 1.3.

1.5 Alternatives Considered and Eliminated

The City studied several additional alternatives as part of the preliminary planning process. These alternatives included such elements as a local access road to the parcel northeast of the project site (APN 2052-009-901), local access road connection to the northbound off-ramp, a 5-way traffic signal at the northbound off-ramp, and a roundabout at the northbound off-ramp intersection. These alternatives were considered, but ultimately rejected due to Right-of-Way (ROW) impacts that were not acceptable to the City.

A Transportation System Management (TSM) alternative was also considered, but ultimately rejected due to the fact that TSM measures alone could not satisfy the purpose and need of the project. Although these measures alone could not satisfy the purpose and need, the following TSM measures have been incorporated into the build alternative for this project: ramp metering, a pull-out area for CHP enforcement, and a bypass HOV lane designated for future use.
1.6 Permits and Approvals Needed

The following permits, reviews, and approvals would be required for project construction:

Table 1.11: Permits and Approvals Required

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Permit/Approval</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California Department of</td>
<td>NEPA and CEQA Certifications</td>
<td>Anticipated Approval in 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>(Approval)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GPA Environmental
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CHAPTER 2  AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES, AND AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION AND/OR MITIGATION MEASURES

This chapter outlines the impacts that the project would have on the human, physical, and biological environments within the project area and surrounding vicinities. It describes the existing environment that could be affected by the project, potential impacts from each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

As part of the scoping and environmental analysis conducted, the following environmental issues were considered but no adverse impacts were identified. Consequently, there is no further discussion regarding these issues in the document.

- **Wild and Scenic Rivers.** The project site contains no Wild and Scenic Rivers. The nearest such river is Sespe Creek, located approximately 23 miles to the northwest of the project site.
- **Coastal Zone.** The project is not located within a Coastal Zone.
- **Timberlands.** The project site contains no Timberlands.
- **Farmlands.** The project site is not located within designated agricultural land; therefore, no impacts to farmland would occur.
- **Floodplain.** The project site is included on the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map Number 06037C1263F, effective September 26, 2008 (see Figure 2.1). The map shows two levels of Zone X, shaded and unshaded. The blue shaded portion of the map is an area of 0.2% annual chance flood; the proposed project is located entirely outside of this zone. All other areas of the map labeled Zone X (unshaded) are outside of the 0.2% annual chance flood (outside of the 500-year flood). The project site is located entirely within this unshaded area. Because the project site is located outside of the 0.2% annual chance floodplain, no flood flows would be impeded or redirected.
- **Threatened and Endangered Species.** There are no threatened and endangered species with potential to occur in the biological study area; therefore, no impacts to threatened and endangered species would occur.

Environmental impacts and mitigation measures reported in this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment were based on technical studies conducted for this project. The studies are listed on Page vii and are available for review at:

- The State of California Department of Transportation, District 7, 100 South Main Street, Los Angeles, California, 90012.
- The City of Agoura Hills City Hall, 30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA 91301.
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Figure 2.1: FEMA Flood Map

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency website (www.fema.gov)
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2.1 Human Environment

2.1.1 Existing and Future Land Use

Regulatory Setting

City of Agoura Hills General Plan

The City adopted an updated General Plan on March 24, 2010. The current General Plan includes goals and policies related to land use, and focuses on sustainability and the enhancement of existing neighborhoods and infrastructure. Many of the revised goals and policies communicate the City’s desire to retain the community’s small town look and feel by preserving neighborhoods and targeting underutilized or infill areas for development.

Likewise, General Plan policies reflect a strong desire to protect the resources associated with its surrounding mountains and hills, which is primarily accomplished through Open Space designations, particularly along the Santa Monica Mountains at the City’s northern boundary and the Los Angeles County line at the City’s southern boundary.

Affected Environment

Existing land uses adjacent to the project area include residential, commercial, and school properties. The neighborhood along Agoura Road (south of the interchange) mostly consists of residential single-family homes, while the properties in the immediate area of the interchange are primarily commercial, including business parks, light industrial, retail, and gas stations (see Figure 2.2).

Figure 2.2: Existing Land Use Map
A large portion of land in the northeast quadrant of the interchange is vacant, except for an equestrian community located near the intersection of Palo Comado Canyon Road and Driver Avenue. Several multi-family residential properties, Agoura Park, and Agoura High School are located northwest of the interchange. The immediate area also contains scattered vacant lots zoned commercial and residential that are planned for development.

A number of commercial and residential developments are either planned or proposed within the vicinity of the US 101/Palo Comado Road Interchange. A commercial office center is under construction at the northeast corner of Chesebro Road and Agoura Road, immediately south of the interchange. On the north side of the freeway a new office center and a furniture sales center are planned. On the south side of the freeway a drive-through fast food restaurant, a tire retail store, a carpeting store, and an office center are planned.

Additionally there are several developers seeking approval from the City to construct commercial and residential developments in the immediate vicinity of the interchange (see Table 2.1). These developments will use the US-101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange, as well as adjacent roadways, to access US 101.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Jurisdiction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Commercial and Mixed-Use Projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Elias Ben Hazany      | Remodel existing gas station and remove service bay facilities in order to build a food mart | 5226 Palo Comado Canyon Road       | Site: 19,602 Square Feet  
Use: 1454.7 Square Feet | Approved     | City          |
| Agoura Medical Partners, LLC | Medical Office Building                                                        | Northwest Corner of Agoura Road and Chesebro Road | Site: 79,194 Square Feet  
Use: 40,733 Square Feet | Approved     | City          |
| **Residential Projects**                                                                                                                         |
| Abudalu, Joseph       | Two story single-family dwelling with detached garage.                        | 28303 Laura La Plante Drive        | Site: 29,090 Square Feet  
Use: 3630 Square Feet | Under Review | City          |
| Avi and Lisa Siboni   | Single-family residence                                                        | 5446 Lewis Road                    | Site: 27,485 Square Feet  
Use: 5,088 Square Feet | Under Review | City          |
| Ashnoor Piruti        | Two story single-family residence                                              | 28454 Renee Drive                  | Site: 5,040 Square Feet  
Use: 1,874 Square Feet  
with 616 Square Foot Garage | Under Review | City          |
| Ashnoor Piruti        | Two story single-family residence                                              | 28458 Renee Drive                  | Site: 6,452 Square Feet  
Use: 2,431 Square Feet  
with 568 Square Foot garage | Under Review | City          |
| Ginsburg, Moty and Margo | Single Family Residence                                                        | 5643 Colody Drive                  | Site: 18840 Square Feet  
Use: 6,752 Square Feet | Under Review | City          |
| Riopharn USA Corp.    | 24 Single Family Residences                                                   | 27650 Agoura Road                  | Site: 460,864 Square Feet  
Use: 84,945 Square Feet | Approved     | City          |
| Thomas Brewer and Ana Cullen | Single Family Residence                                                        | 4833 Canyon Way                    | Site: 16,360 Square Feet  
Use: 6,533 Square Feet | Approved     | City          |
| Keith Blinkinsoph     | Single Family Residence                                                        | 28441 Lewis Place                  | Site: 23,108 Square Feet  
Use: 4226 Square Feet | Approved     | City          |
Environmental Consequences

No Build Alternative

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts to land use would occur. However, improvements to circulation at the interchange to accommodate planned land uses would not occur.

Build Alternative

The Build Alternative would include improvements to an existing interchange facility, and would be constructed within the existing transportation corridor; therefore, no changes to the existing or planned land uses would occur.

Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

No changes to existing and/or planned land uses in the project vicinity would result from the project; therefore, no avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures are required.

2.1.2 Consistency with State, Regional, and Local Plans and Programs

Regulatory Setting

Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP)

The FTIP/FSTIP contain all capital and non-capital transportation projects or identified phases of transportation projects in California that are proposed for federal funding under the Federal Transit Act and Title 23 of the United States Code (Caltrans 2007). In addition, all projects that are deemed regionally significant, regardless of the funding source, are included in the FSTIP. Federally funded transportation projects must conform to the FTIP/FSTIP prior to being approved.

State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

The STIP is a multi-year capital improvement program of transportation projects on and off the State Highway System, funded with revenues from the Transportation Investment Fund and other funding sources (Caltrans 2009). Projects receiving STIP funding must be programmed prior to moving forward with implementation.

Southern California Association of Governments Regional Transportation Plan (RTIP)

The RTIP is prepared by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and presents the transportation vision for six counties in the Southern California region, including Los Angeles County, Orange County, San Bernardino County, Imperial County, Riverside County, and Ventura County. The RTIP is prepared to implement projects and programs listed in each county’s Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and is developed in compliance with state and federal requirements.
The plan identifies priorities for transportation planning within this region, sets out goals and policies, and identifies performance measures for transportation improvements to ensure that future projects are consistent with other planning goals for the area. The locally prioritized lists of projects are forwarded to SCAG for review. From this list, SCAG develops the RTIP based on consistency with the current RTP, inter-county connectivity, financial constraint and conformity satisfaction. Projects being constructed within the SCAG region must be listed in the RTP.

**Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Long Range Transportation Plan**

The 2009 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Long Range Transportation Plan, adopted by Metro in October of 2009, includes transportation improvements proposed to address transportation needs within Los Angeles County. In recognizing that continued growth in the region will require improvements are a change in transportation habits and funding methods, the plan includes projects to improve mobility through improvements to carpool lanes, rail and bus service, arterial roadways and freeways, and improvements to bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The plan serves to guide policy and funding decisions regarding transportation improvements in this area.

**Los Angeles County General Plan**

The existing General Plan was adopted in 1980; subsequently, the County has begun a General Plan Update Program and prepared a Draft General Plan Update. The County’s Updated General Plan provides more updated policy and guidance for future growth within unincorporated areas of the county (Los Angeles County, 2008). The plan also provides a foundation on which detailed plans, such as community plans or specific plans, may be based. Projects that are within unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County or impact county resources must be consistent with County’s General Plan Policies.

**City of Agoura Hills General Plan**

The City adopted an updated General Plan on March 24, 2010. The General Plan contains a series of goals and policies to guide the future development of Agoura Hills, and to ensure that it continues to grow is a way that will provide the necessary resources and quality of life to its residents and visitors alike. The General Plan includes a series of land use and mobility goals that aim to provide physical, economic, and social development while preserving the natural and cultural environment (City, 2009). Projects constructed within the city or that may impacts city resources must be consistent with the City’s General Plan policies.

The General Plan identifies Palo Comado Canyon Road as a secondary arterial roadway, and includes the widening of this roadway from 2 to 4 lanes between Canwood Street and Chesebro Road. The General Plan also identifies this roadway as a Class II bikeway, to be constructed in conjunction with the interchange improvements. The LOS objective along this section of Palo Comado Canyon Road is LOS C or better.

**Affected Environment**

The project is located within an area that is designated for transportation use, and is identified in the City’s General Plan as a 4-lane overcrossing facility with Class II bike lanes. The project is identified as Project ID #LA0G230 and was included in the regional emissions analysis conducted SCAG for the conforming 2008 RTP, Amendment #4, the RTIP, Amendment #08-34; and the 2011 FTIP. SCAG adopted the 2008 RTP Amendment #4 and the corresponding conformity determinations on November 4, 2010. Federal approval of the RTP Amendment #4 conformity determination was issued on December 8,
The proposed project is included in the 2011 FTIP, which was adopted by SCAG on September 2, 2010. Federal approval of the 2011 FTIP was issued on December 14, 2010.

**Environmental Consequences**

**No Build Alternative**

The No Build Alternative would maintain the existing conditions at the interchange. This alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the project, which is to accommodate anticipated traffic levels and thereby improve circulation and safety at the interchange. Additionally, this alternative would not be consistent with the land use and mobility goals outlined in the City’s General Plan.

**Build Alternative**

The project would improve circulation at the interchange and the adjacent roadways, and would be consistent with local and regional plans and policy for this area. The City’s General Plan includes the widening of US 101/ Palo Comado Canyon Road Overcrossing from 2 to 4 lanes, as well as the reconfiguration of the interchange to improve circulation and safety. The project would also be consistent with the Mobility Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan, and other regional plans for this area.

**Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures**

**Build Alternative**

The project would be consistent with existing goals and policies regarding transportation and planning in the project area and region; therefore, no avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures are required.

2.1.3 ** Parks and Recreation**

**Regulatory Setting**

**Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act**

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Act of 1966 requires that the use of publicly owned land of a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge of national, state, or local significance, or land of an historic site of national, state, or local significance may only occur if there is no prudent and feasible alternative to using that land; and the project must include all feasible measures to minimize harm to the park, recreation area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or historic site resulting from the use.

**Affected Environment**

The Agoura Hills Citywide Trails & Pathways Master Plan (October 2008) discusses a number of regional recreational facilities that surround Agoura Hills. According to the Master plan, the majority of these resources are situated within the Santa Monica National Recreation Area, which borders Agoura Hills on the south and east. The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area is the world’s largest urban national park and is comprised of 153,075 acres and 500 miles of public trails.

None of the National Recreation Area lands are located inside of or directly adjacent to the project site; however, Palo Comado Canyon Road provides a direct link to the Chesebro/Palo Comado Canyons. Hiking, biking, and equestrian routes are available in this area, and the trails join the Upper Las Virgenes Canyon Open Space Preserve in Ventura County which consists of 2,983 acres of open space.
In addition to the publicly owned open space surrounding the City, Agoura Hills has approximately 772 acres of protected open space (deed restricted) within its boundaries, and 44 acres of local parks. Though none of these lands are located inside of or adjacent to the project site, Old Agoura Park is situated approximately 1.3 miles northeast of the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange. This park offers active recreational opportunities such as baseball fields, a playground, and an equestrian arena.

There are several equestrian trails in Agoura Hills, including one that is in the vicinity of the project site. This trail runs along Driver Avenue and connects to Old Agoura Park, which includes a horse arena. The trail traverses the perimeter of Old Agoura Park, just north of the project site, and provides equestrian access from the park along a flood channel (Chesebro Creek) and continuing under US 101 to near the Regency Theaters (City, 2009).

Environmental Consequences

No Build Alternative

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts to parks and recreational facilities would occur. However, improvements to circulation at the interchange, including those accessing portions of the Santa Monica National Recreation Area, would not occur.

Build Alternative

As discussed, the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange serves as a direct link to portions of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Under the Build Alternative, access to these facilities could be temporarily affected during construction; however, with a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) in place adverse impacts would not be expected to occur.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) would be developed to maintain access to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. The open space, equestrian trails, and other recreational areas would not be directly affected by the proposed project and no "use" as directed under 4(f) would occur.

2.1.4 Growth

Regulatory Setting

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, which implements NEPA, requires evaluation of the potential environmental consequences of all proposed federal activities and programs. This provision includes a requirement to examine indirect consequences, which may occur in areas beyond the immediate influence of a proposed action and at some time in the future. The CEQ regulations, 40 CFR 1508.8, refer to these consequences as secondary impacts. Secondary impacts may include changes in land use, economic vitality, and population density, which are all elements of growth.

CEQA also requires the analysis of a project’s potential to induce growth. CEQA guidelines, Section 15126.2(d), require that environmental documents “…discuss the ways in which the proposed project could foster economic or population growth, or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment…”
**Los Angeles County General Plan**

In addition to spatial constraints and environmental concerns, transportation limitations are presenting ever increasing challenges to the continued growth in the area. These, among other factors, are leading to changing growth policy throughout the Los Angeles area, where growth is now being focused inward and toward a sustainable future. According to the County’s General Plan, General Plan policy is based on building a sustainable future through “smart growth” practices (County of Los Angeles, 2008). Because future growth will deal more with redevelopment of existing urban areas, the County’s General Plan includes a range of strategies to deal with existing growth challenges such as infrastructure, economic development, public health and safety, and natural resources.

**City of Agoura Hills General Plan**

The City adopted an updated General Plan on March 24, 2010. The current General Plan includes goals related to growth and change within the city, which focus on allowing for sustainable growth through well-planned development that provides for the needs of existing and future residents and businesses, maintains effective and equal public services to residents, and uses land and infrastructure facilities in an efficient manner (City, 2009). These goals are to be carried out using a series of policies that direct building densities, location of certain types of land use, development phasing, and shared cost of public services.

**Affected Environment**

**Growth Trends**

According to the SCAG’s population forecasts, the population of Los Angeles County was approximately 10,329,000 in 2005 and will increase to approximately 12,249,000 in 2020, representing a 19 percent growth. According to SCAG’s latest RTP (SCAG, 2008), the Southern California region is running out of room for low-density developments, and geographical features such as the Pacific Ocean to the west and mountains to the east present natural borders to continued urban spread.

According to the City’s General Plan Housing Element, the city’s population increased by only 1 percent between 1990 and 2000, from 20,390 persons to 20,537 persons. According to the U.S. Department of Finance 2007 Population and Housing Estimates, by 2007 the city’s population had grown by approximately 14 percent, for a total population of 23,340 persons. SCAG forecasts predict that the population will continue to grow at a rate of 6.7 percent (2003 through 2035). Geographic and planning constraints, such as hillsides and open space designations, limit the potential for growth to occur within the city.

Within and adjacent to the project area, most of the available vacant land within the city and county is made up of scattered residential and commercial lots located between previously developed residential and commercial parcels. The remaining land is designated for open space or public uses, such as neighborhood parks, schools, and larger recreational areas (Santa Monica Mountains National recreation Area). As a result, most of the proposed or planned projects in the area are for smaller scale residential and commercial projects or renovations, rather than large-scale new developments.
Environmental Consequences

No Build Alternative

The No Build Alternative would maintain the existing conditions at the interchange, and no growth-related impacts would occur. However, this alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the project, which is to accommodate anticipated traffic levels and thereby improve circulation and safety at the interchange.

Build Alternative

Growth inducement is not necessarily considered detrimental, beneficial, or environmentally significant. Typically, the growth-inducing potential of a project is considered substantial if it fosters growth or a concentration of population in excess of what is assumed in relevant master plans, land use plans, or in projections made by regional planning agencies.

The Build Alternative would provide capacity for existing and anticipated traffic levels resulting from planned and proposed development within and adjacent to the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange, and would not be expected to directly or indirectly induce growth. The interchange provides access to areas that are either currently developed or designated for specific land uses, and implementation of the project would not open any new areas for development, or increase the level of planned development.

The project would be consistent with the Infrastructure and Community Services Element of the City’s updated General Plan, which includes the widening of US 101/ Palo Comado Canyon Road overcrossing from 2 to 4 lanes, as well as the reconfiguration of the interchange to improve circulation and safety. The project would also be consistent with the Transportation Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan in regards to land use and growth. Therefore, the project would not be expected to result in growth above and beyond that which is currently planned for this area.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

Implementation of the project would not result in growth inducement; therefore, no avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures are required.

2.1.5 Community Impacts – Community Character and Cohesion

Regulatory Setting

NEPA established that the federal government use all practicable means to ensure that all Americans have safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings (42 U.S.C. 4331[b][2]). The FHWA in its implementation of NEPA (23 U.S.C. 109[h]) directs that final decisions regarding projects are to be made in the best overall public interest. This requires taking into account adverse environmental impacts, such as destruction or disruption of human-made resources, community cohesion, and the availability of public facilities and services.

Under CEQA, an economic or social change by itself is not to be considered a significant effect on the environment. However, if a social or economic change is related to a physical change, then social or economic change may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant. Since this project would result in physical change to the environment, it is appropriate to consider changes to community character and cohesion in assessing the significance of the project’s effects.
**Affected Environment**

For the purpose of this report, Los Angeles County, the city of Agoura Hills, and a more focused Study Area were analyzed to compare population demographics. The Study Area discussed refers to all persons, lands, buildings, and environment located within the Study Area boundaries. Where US Census information is used for the analysis, the study area includes information for portions of Census Tract 8003.02 (Block Group 3 and Block Group 4) and Census Tract 8003.3 (Block Group 2).

Census data in this section has been obtained from the US Census 2000, provided by the US Census Bureau. Whereas some data sets used in this analysis have been updated since the year 2000, more complete and detailed information is available from the 2000 data sets. Therefore, for the purpose of maintaining consistency throughout the data sets, the 2000 census data has been used throughout.

**Community Demographics**

**Race**

As shown in Table 2.2, the total population of Los Angeles County is 9,519,338, is 20,537 in Agoura Hills, and is 4,747 in the Study Area. Within Los Angeles County approximately 45 percent of the population is Hispanic or Latino, whereas within Agoura Hills this percentage is much lower at 7 percent, and 9 percent within the Study Area. Of those people who are not Hispanic or Latino, most people are of one race within these areas. Within Los Angeles County, 59 percent of people that are one race are White, which is much lower than the 91 percent within both the city of Agoura Hills and the Study Area.

Within Los Angeles County, the percentage of Black or African Americans is also higher, at 22 percent as compared to 7 percent in Agoura Hills and 6 percent in the Study Area. The Asian population is also much higher in Los Angeles County, at 22 percent as compared to 7 percent in Agoura Hills and 6 percent in the Study Area. Percentages are similar within all the areas for American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islanders, those of some other race, and people of two or more races.
Table 2.2: Racial Characteristics of Region, Community, and Study Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Los Angeles County</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>City of Agoura Hills</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Study Area</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population:</strong></td>
<td>9,519,338</td>
<td></td>
<td>20,537</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,747</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>4,242,213</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>1,407</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>5,277,125</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>19,130</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>4,338</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Los Angeles County</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>City of Agoura Hills</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Study Area</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population (not Hispanic or Latino)</strong></td>
<td>5,277,125</td>
<td></td>
<td>19,130</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,338</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population of one race:</strong></td>
<td>5,054,464</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>18,673</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>4,188</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White alone</td>
<td>2,959,614</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>16,993</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>3,831</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American alone</td>
<td>901,472</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaska</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native alone</td>
<td>25,609</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian alone</td>
<td>1,124,569</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1,325</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone</td>
<td>23,265</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race alone</td>
<td>19,935</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population of two or more races:</strong></td>
<td>222,661</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: US Census 2000*

**Age**

As shown in Table 2.3, the age range is very similar within Los Angeles County as a whole, Agoura Hills, and the Study Area. The largest portion of the population, ranging from 63 percent to 66 percent, is between the ages of 16 and 64. Children and teens between the ages of 6 and 17 are the next largest portion of the population, making up between 19 and 24 percent of the population.
Table 2.3: Age Characteristics Breakdown of Region and Study Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Los Angeles County</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Agoura Hills</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Study Area</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>9,349,771</td>
<td></td>
<td>20,286</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,825</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 5 years</td>
<td>710,842</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,052</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>273</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>155,178</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 to 11 years</td>
<td>938,817</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2,346</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 to 17 years</td>
<td>800,819</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2,507</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>543</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 64 years</td>
<td>5,850,903</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>12,810</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>3,185</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 to 74 years</td>
<td>491,486</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 years and over</td>
<td>401,726</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>490</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census 2000

**Housing**

As shown in Table 2.4, housing vacancy rates are similar within Agoura Hills and the study area to rates within Los Angeles County as a whole. Vacancy rates are fairly low in all of these areas, as low as 2 percent in the city as a whole.

Table 2.4: Housing Vacancy Rate of Region and Study Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Los Angeles County</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Agoura Hills</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Study Area</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>3,270,909</td>
<td></td>
<td>6,993</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,780</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied</td>
<td>3,133,774</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>6,874</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1,735</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>137,135</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census 2000

**Mobility**

For the most part, commute methods in the Study Area are similar to those in Agoura Hills and Los Angeles County as a whole; however, there are several areas where they differ. As shown in Table 2.5, the percentages of people working from home within Agoura Hills and the Study Area are slightly higher than in Los Angeles County as a whole. Those people in the Study Area and Agoura Hills commuting to work are more likely to drive a car to work than commuters in Los Angeles County as a whole; these drivers are also more likely to drive alone than drivers countywide. Of those that take public transportation to work, the largest percentage of people takes the bus, including 100 percent of people within the Study Area.
Table 2.5: Commute Methods for Region and Study Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Los Angeles County</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Agoura Hills</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Study Area</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td>3,858,750</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,166</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>2,593</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Car, truck, or van:</strong></td>
<td>3,296,964</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>9,247</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>2,290</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drove alone</td>
<td>2,714,944</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>8,454</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>2,059</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpooleld</td>
<td>582,020</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>793</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>231</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public transportation:</strong></td>
<td>254,091</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus or trolley bus</td>
<td>234,662</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streetcar or trolley car</td>
<td>1,946</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subway or elevated</td>
<td>6,200</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Railroad</td>
<td>7,660</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferryboat</td>
<td>366</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxicab</td>
<td>3,257</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motorcycle</td>
<td>6,758</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bicycle</td>
<td>24,015</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walked</td>
<td>113,004</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other means</td>
<td>29,275</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worked at home</td>
<td>134,643</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>671</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census 2000

As shown in Table 2.6, commute times are similar within the Study Area and Agoura Hills to those within Los Angeles County as a whole. The times range from fewer than 5 minutes to more than 90 minutes, although most people have a commute that is in the middle of this range, with the highest percentages falling between 10 minutes and 24 minutes.
### Table 2.6: Commute Times for Region and Study Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Range</th>
<th>Los Angeles County</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Agoura Hills</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Study Area</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>3,858,750</td>
<td></td>
<td>10,166</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,593</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Number of Commuters</td>
<td>3,724,107</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>9,495</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>2,376</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer than 5 minutes</td>
<td>57,417</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 to 9 minutes</td>
<td>265,372</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 to 14 minutes</td>
<td>447,538</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1,335</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 to 19 minutes</td>
<td>547,333</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 to 24 minutes</td>
<td>532,606</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1,235</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>263</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 29 minutes</td>
<td>210,383</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 to 34 minutes</td>
<td>624,474</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>999</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 to 39 minutes</td>
<td>106,670</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40 to 44 minutes</td>
<td>165,115</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 59 minutes</td>
<td>360,152</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1,106</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 to 89 minutes</td>
<td>283,292</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,084</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 or more minutes</td>
<td>123,755</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: US Census 2000*

**Economic Conditions**

*Regional Economy*

Los Angeles County has a diverse economic base. According to the California Employment Development Department (EDD) (2007), the leading industries are tourism and hospitality with 456,000 workers, professional and business services with 288,000 workers, direct international trade with 281,000 workers, entertainment (motion picture/TV production) with 244,000 workers, and wholesale trade and logistics with 199,000 workers.

*Employment and Income*

According to the EDD and US Census, Los Angeles County experienced an increase in their unemployment rate from 8.2 percent in 2000 to 11.0 percent in 2009. Nonfarm employment had job reductions totaling 167,900 between April 2008 and April 2009. Year over year employment losses were evident in nearly all of the major employment sectors, health services being the only exception.

*Business Activities*

The area adjacent to the interchange is primarily a commercial area, and there are currently a number of businesses located here, including two gas stations, several insurance agencies, a car merchandise company, a solar panel installer, a clothing store, and a furniture outlet. As discussed earlier, several new businesses are also planned in the vicinity of the project area, including a new office center and furniture
sales center on the north side of the freeway, as well as a drive-through restaurant, tire retail store, carpeting store, and an office center on the south side of the freeway. Additionally there are several developers seeking approval from the City to construct commercial development in the immediate vicinity of the interchange.

**Fiscal Conditions**

Construction and operation of the proposed project would not displace any populations, residences, or businesses. Therefore, there would be no direct loss of tax revenue generation to the City or County.

**Old Agoura Community**

The Old Agoura community is a semi-rural residential neighborhood located just north of the project site. The City Municipal Code and General Plan allow Old Agoura residents to own and keep horses and other livestock. Additionally, the Old Agoura and Equestrian Overlays protect the low-density semi-rural residential neighborhood by retaining the ranching character of the community. There are no curbs, gutters, or street lights within the residential neighborhood.

**Environmental Consequences**

**No Build Alternative**

The No Build Alternative would maintain the existing conditions at the interchange, and no impacts to the community would occur.

**Build Alternative**

The Build Alternative would include improvements to an existing interchange facility, and would be constructed within the existing transportation corridor; therefore, the project would not be expected to result in substantial changes to the character of the community. Additionally, the project would incorporate context sensitive solutions wherever possible in order to preserve the semi-rural character of the Old Agoura neighborhood. The project would not create any new access points to adjacent communities; however, it would improve circulation along the existing roadways in the project area, including bicycle and pedestrian traffic, and would therefore be expected to result in improved travel within this area of Agoura Hills.

**Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

The project would incorporate context sensitive solutions, particularly within the Old Agoura neighborhood, in order to protect the semi-rural character of the community. The project would not result in any impacts to community character or cohesion, and would likely improve bicycle and pedestrian connections, in addition to vehicle connections, in the area. Therefore, no avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures are required.

**2.1.6 Community Impacts - Environmental Justice**

**Regulatory Setting**

All projects involving a federal action (funding, permit, or land) must comply with Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, signed by President Clinton on February 11, 1994. This Executive Order directs federal agencies to take the appropriate and necessary steps to identify and address disproportionately high and
adverse effects of federal projects on the health or environment of minority and low-income populations to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law. Low income is defined based on the Department of Health and Human Services poverty guidelines. For 1999, this was $17,029 for a family of four.

All considerations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes have also been included in this project. The Department’s commitment to upholding the mandates of Title VI is evidenced by its Title VI Policy Statement, signed by the Director, which can be found in Appendix B of this document.

**Affected Environment**

**Minority Populations**

As discussed in Section 2.1.5, the population in Agoura Hills is approximately 91 percent White, as compared to 31 percent in Los Angeles County. As shown in Table 2.7, within the Study Area the White population is approximately 79 percent. The Asian population is approximately 6 percent, and population of two or more races is 3 percent. All other races make up 1 percent or less of the population. Both within the Study Area and Agoura Hills, the percentage of minority groups is much lower than in Los Angeles County as a whole.

**Table 2.7: Race Characteristics within Study Area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Number of People</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Population</td>
<td>14,778</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>11,792</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaska Native</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some other race</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>&gt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or more races*</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: US Census 2000*

**Income and Poverty Levels**

As shown in Table 2.8, 18 percent of the population within Los Angeles County had an income below the poverty threshold in 1999, and the median household income at this time was $42,189. During this same time, only 3 percent of the population within Agoura Hills had an income below the poverty level, and the median income was $87,008, or more than twice that of Los Angeles County. The median income within the Study Area was slightly lower than within Agoura Hills, at $72,269; however, this was still much higher than that of Los Angeles County as a whole, and in 1999, 96 percent of the population had an income above the poverty level.
Table 2.8: Income and Poverty Levels for Region and Study Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Los Angeles County</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Agoura Hills</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Study Area</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population in 1999:</strong></td>
<td>9,349,771</td>
<td>20,286</td>
<td>4,825</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population with Income below poverty level:</td>
<td>1,674,599</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>704</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population with Income at or above poverty level:</td>
<td>7,675,172</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>19,582</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>4,637</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median household income in 1999</td>
<td>$42,189</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$87,008</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$72,269</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census 2000

Disabilities

As show in Table 2.9, the percentage of disabled people within Los Angeles County as a whole is 33 percent, which is higher than the 18 percent within Agoura Hills and 20 percent within the Study Area. Of the different types of disabilities, employments disabilities represent the highest percentage of disabilities within all of the areas, and the remaining disability types have similar percentages within the Study Area, Agoura Hills, and Los Angeles County as a whole.

Table 2.9: Disabilities within Region and Study Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Los Angeles County</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Agoura Hills</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Study Area</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population:</strong></td>
<td>9,519,338</td>
<td>20537</td>
<td>4,747</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Disabilities:</strong></td>
<td>3,173,943</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>3,631</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensory disability</td>
<td>260,291</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
<td>583,967</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>640</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Disability</td>
<td>382,012</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-care disability</td>
<td>232,484</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go Outside the Home Disability</td>
<td>840,874</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment disability</td>
<td>874,315</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: US Census 2000

No minority or low-income populations that would be adversely affected by the proposed project have been identified as determined above. Therefore, this project is not subject to the provisions of EO 12898.

Environmental Consequences

No Build Alternative

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts to the community would occur.
**Build Alternative**

As illustrated above, no minority or low-income populations exist within the study area; therefore, this project is not subject to the provisions of EO 12898.

**Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

Implementation of the project would not result in any adverse or disproportionate impacts to a minority or low-income population; therefore, no avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures are required.

### 2.1.7 Utilities/Emergency Services

#### Affected Environment

**Water and Sewer**

According to the City’s General Plan, the local sewer lines are owned by the City, and operated and maintained by the County, while the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD) owns, operates, and maintains the trunk lines and associated manholes. All of the wastewater collected from the City of Agoura Hills is treated at the Tapia Water Reclamation Facility, located south of Agoura Hills along Malibu Canyon Road in unincorporated Los Angeles County (City, 2009).

**Solid Waste**

According to the City’s General Plan, the City contracts with independent haulers to pick-up and dispose of waste throughout the City. Residents are provided with one bin for refuse, one bin for recycling, and one bin for green waste. This waste is disposed of at Calabasas Sanitary Landfill, Simi Valley Landfill & Recycling Center, and Burbank Landfill Site No. 3 (City, 2009). Most commercial and industrial waste is hauled by a single vendor to the Calabasas Sanitary Landfill.

**Gas & Electric**

According to the City’s General Plan, Southern California Edison provides electricity to Agoura Hills. Electricity is generated in several places within the state, and then transmitted to the city through high-transmission power lines. Southern California Gas Company provides natural gas to the city.

**Emergency Services**

Fire protection and emergency response services in Agoura Hills are provided by the Los Angeles County Fire Department. There are 3 fire stations within the city, with Station 65, located at 4206 North Cornell Road, being the nearest to the project site. This station is equipped with 1 fire engine. According to the City’s General Plan, the average emergency response time in Agoura Hills is approximately 5 minutes and 15 seconds.

Law enforcement services are provided through a contract with the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. There are no police stations in Agoura Hills, the nearest Sheriff’s office being in the City of Calabasas, just over 1 mile from the project site. According to the City’s General Plan, the average emergency response time is 4.8 minutes, which is considered to be within the acceptable range.

**Schools**

Agoura Hills is served by the Las Virgenes Unified School District (LVUSD), which also served Calabasas, Westlake Village, and the portion of unincorporated Los Angeles County south of Agoura.
Hills. According to the City’s General Plan, the total K-12 enrollment in the district is 11,627, with schools in Agoura Hills serving 4,745 students. There are 3 schools located within 2 miles of the project site, including Agoura High School/Indian Hills High School, Willow Elementary School, and Sumac Elementary School/Mariposa Elementary School of Global Education.

Other Community Facilities

The Agoura Hills Library is located at 29901 Ladyface Court, and is part of the City Hall Civic Center. The Agoura Hills Recreation Center, located at 30610 Thousand Oaks Boulevard, provides a variety of events throughout the year and can also be rented out for private parties. The Agoura Hills/Calabasas Community Center, located at 27040 Malibu Hills Road in Calabasas, is a shared community center that offers recreational, social, cultural, and educational services.

Environmental Consequences

No Build Alternative

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts to utilities or community services would occur. However, improvements to circulation at the interchange would not be accomplished.

Build Alternative

The Build Alternative would include improvements to an existing interchange facility, and would not impact any community services. Utilities, including overhead electric and telephone lines, would be relocated or undergrounded. These facilities would be protected in place during construction, and interruption in service is not anticipated. Temporary impacts to emergency services could result during construction activities due to traffic impacts; however, a traffic management plan would be in place to reduce any delays. Therefore, no adverse impacts would be anticipated to result.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

No impacts to community services in the project vicinity would result from the project, and any temporary impacts to services would be avoided and/or minimized through a traffic management plan; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

2.1.8 Traffic and Transportation/Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities

Regulatory Setting

Caltrans, as assigned by FHWA, directs that full consideration should be given to the safe accommodation of pedestrians and bicyclists during the development of federal-aid highway projects (see 23 CFR 652). It further directs that the special needs of the elderly and the disabled must be considered in all federal-aid projects that include pedestrian facilities. When current or anticipated pedestrian and/or bicycle traffic presents a potential conflict with motor vehicle traffic, every effort must be made to minimize the detrimental effects on all highway users who share the facility.

Caltrans is committed to carrying out the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) by building transportation facilities that provide equal access for all persons. The same degree of convenience, accessibility, and safety available to the general public will be provided to persons with disabilities.
Los Angeles County General Plan

The 1980 General Plan focused on creating a balanced transportation system that would maximize efficiency along existing roadways, while encouraging alternative methods or transportation and discouraging long commute distances (City, 1980). Likewise, the Mobility Element of the 2008 General Plan Update includes policies for the development of a multi-modal transportation system that will move people, goods, and services in an environmentally and socially responsible way (County of Los Angeles, 2008).

City of Agoura Hills General Plan

The Infrastructure and Community Services Element of the City’s General Plan includes LOS objectives and roadway designations for the city. These objectives and policies are identified to accommodate traffic needs within the city, provide quality of life in neighborhoods, and to promote alternative methods of transportation.

Affected Environment

A Traffic Impact Analysis was completed for the project in May 2011. As part of the analysis, weekday AM and PM peak period LOS analyses were completed for the following scenarios:

- Existing (2010) Conditions
- Opening Year (2015) Conditions
- Opening Year (2015) Conditions with Improvements
- Build-out Year (2035) Conditions
- Build-out Year (2035) Conditions with Improvements

Existing Facilities

Highways

US 101 is typically a north-south principal arterial on the US Highway System; however, it runs east-west through the project area. The freeway is classified as an urban principal arterial freeway which provides international, interstate, interregional, and intra-regional travel and goods movement. It is part of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) route network, the Interregional Road System (IRRS), a designated Lifeline route, and a Federal Aid Primary (FAP) system, which is a subset of the National Highway System (NHS).

Within the project limits, approaching the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange from the east, the freeway typical section is on a curved horizontal alignment that varies from 2 feet to 40 feet. West of the interchange, the freeway typical section is on a tangent alignment that is on embankment fill that varies from 2 feet to 6 feet. The freeway is on an upgrade of 2.8 percent from the east, then crests at the existing overcrossing and continues on a downgrade of 0.8 percent to the west. The freeway has 4 mixed flow lanes in each direction and auxiliary lanes to and from the interchange ramps on both sides of the freeway.
Interchange Facility

The US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange is configured with tight ramps for the northbound side and hook ramps for the southbound side. The southbound hook ramps connect with Dorothy Drive and Chesebro Road at a four-point intersection south of US 101. Dorothy Drive intersects with Palo Comado Canyon Road approximately 550 feet east of the hook ramp; however, due to a grade difference between the two roadways, the westerly sides of Dorothy Drive and Palo Comado Canyon Road do not connect.

A short section of Chesebro Road directly opposite the hook ramps provides access from the ramps to Palo Comado Canyon Road. The southbound off-ramp is a 1-lane exit that widens to 2 lanes at its termini. The southbound on-ramp is a 1-lane ramp throughout. The northbound on-ramp has 2 lanes starting from the intersection and tapers to a 1-lane on-ramp before joining the freeway. The northbound off-ramp is also a 1-lane facility and widens to 2 lanes at its termini.

The existing freeway overcrossing structure was built in 1963. It provides 12-foot-wide travel ways and 4-foot-wide shoulders in each direction. A 5-foot wide sidewalk is provided on the west side of the structure. The bridge was repaired with one new concrete girder in 2006. The minimum vertical clearance is 15.1 feet, which is located in the northeast corner of the structure over the northbound US 101 outer lane.

The interchange does not have any signalized intersections. Palo Comado Canyon Road is a free-flowing street from Agoura Road to Driver Avenue, where the intersection is four-way "stop" controlled. Canwood Street at Palo Comado Canyon Road, the US 101 northbound off-ramp at Palo Comado Canyon Road, and Dorothy Drive at Palo Comado Canyon Road are all one-way "stop" controlled. The intersection at Dorothy Drive, Chesebro Road, and the southbound hook ramps is four-way stop-controlled.

Roadways

Palo Comado Canyon Road is a 2-lane facility connecting Chesebro Road north and south of the freeway. Palo Comado Canyon Road intersects Chesebro Road on both sides of the freeway and serves to transport traffic over the freeway. Agoura Road is a major east-west arterial approximately 0.2-mile south of the interchange running parallel to the freeway.

Canwood Street is a 2.5-mile east-west frontage road on the north side of US 101 that is discontinued between Chesebro Road and Palo Comado Canyon Road; it ends approximately 250 feet east of Palo Comado Canyon Road.

Driver Avenue is also an east-west road parallel to US 101 located approximately 0.4-mile north of the freeway. Driver Avenue is the main collector road for the community north of the freeway, including Agoura High School, which is located approximately 0.8-mile west of the project site. Driver Avenue feeds directly into Palo Comado Canyon Road at Chesebro Road north of the interchange.

Chesebro Road is a north-south arterial that begins at Agoura Road south of the freeway and ends north beyond the city limits. Chesebro Road does not cross the freeway and is discontinued from where it joins the southbound freeway ramps on the south side of the freeway and Canwood Street on the north side of the freeway.
Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities

There is currently a 5-foot sidewalk on the interchange facility. Within Agoura Hills, existing bike paths are Class II and Class III. There is currently a Class II bike path along Agoura Road, south of the freeway, but no other designated bikeways in the project vicinity. The portion of Palo Comado Canyon Road within the project site is designated in the City’s General Plan as a future Class II facility.

Public Transit

According to the City’s General Plan EIR, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the City of Los Angeles Transportation Department (LADOT) provide regional transit services within the city limits (City, 2009). Park and Ride lots are provided in the northwest and northeast quadrants of the US 101/Kanan Road Interchange, approximately 1 mile from the project area.

Metro operates Line 161, which operates along Agoura Road to Roadside Drive and Kanan Road to Thousand Oaks Boulevard, provides service between the Warner Center and Thousand Oaks. LADOT operates Commuter Express 422, which runs along US 101, Kanan Road, and Thousand Oaks Boulevard, and provides service from Downtown Los Angeles to Thousand Oaks. Commuter Express 423, also operates by LADOT, runs along US 101, Kanan Road, and Thousand Oaks Boulevard, and provides service from downtown Los Angeles to Newbury Park.

In addition to regional transit service, the City operates several local services, including a dial-a-ride service, a summer shuttle express to local venues, a summer beach shuttle to local beach communities, and the Ladyface Loop, a fixed-loop shuttle service from local schools to local community centers. There are currently no transit lines along Palo Comado Canyon Road, although the interchange is within the area serviced by the dial-a-ride system.

Traffic Data

Existing (2010) Conditions

Weekday AM and PM peak period intersection turning movement counts, average daily traffic (ADT), and vehicle classification counts were collected in November 2009 and May 2010. Currently, all study intersections operate at LOS C or better in both the AM and PM peak periods with the exception of the Driver Avenue/Chesebro Road intersection and the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road northbound ramps, which operate at LOS D, E, or F in both the AM and PM peak hours.

Opening Year (2015) Conditions without Improvements (No Build)

This scenario analyzed the expected opening year of the Palo Comado interchange, projected for the year 2015 (see Table 2.10). Existing traffic is expected to increase between years 2010 and 2015 as a result of general area-wide and regional growth and development. Based on a review of growth projections from SCAG, Regional Transportation Demand Forecasting Model (TDFM), the average annual growth rate in the Agoura Hills sub-area is estimated to be approximately 0.75% per year. Under this scenario, all study intersections would continue to operate at an LOS C or better in both the AM and PM peak period with the exception of the Driver Avenue/Chesebro Road and the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road northbound ramps, which would operate at a LOS F in the AM peak period and LOS E and F in the PM peak period.
Table 2.10: Intersection LOS Summary for Opening Year (2015) without Improvements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intersection Number</th>
<th>Intersection</th>
<th>Intersection Control</th>
<th>AM Delay*</th>
<th>AM LOS</th>
<th>PM Delay*</th>
<th>PM LOS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Driver @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>61.2</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ 101 NB Ramps</td>
<td>Two-way stop (stop sign on ramp)</td>
<td>52.3</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>69.1</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dorothy @ 101 SB Ramps</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ Chesebro</td>
<td>Two-way stop</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Agoura @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Kimley-Horn Associates

* Delay refers to the average delay for the entire intersection. At a two-way stop, delay refers to the worst approach delay.

Opening Year (2015) Conditions with Improvements (Build)

Based upon the same assumptions presented in the previous (2015 – No Build) discussion, improvements were identified for the Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange to improve the LOS for the opening year (2015) conditions (see Table 2.11). No improvements were identified at other intersections. The Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange improvements include widening the overpass to four lanes, installation of a traffic signal, adding turn lanes to the northbound off-ramp, and improving the southbound approach to one through lane and one shared through-right lane.

Under this scenario, the proposed improvements would improve the LOS at the intersection of the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road northbound ramps from LOS F to LOS A for both the AM and PM peak period. The remaining intersections would continue to operate at LOS C or better during both AM and PM peak periods with the exception of the Driver Avenue/Chesebro Road intersection, which would continue to operate at LOS F in the AM peak period and LOS E in the PM peak period.

Table 2.11: Intersection LOS Summary for Opening Year (2015) with Improvements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intersection Number</th>
<th>Intersection</th>
<th>Intersection Control</th>
<th>AM Delay*</th>
<th>AM LOS</th>
<th>PM Delay*</th>
<th>PM LOS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Driver @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>61.2</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ 101 NB Ramps</td>
<td>Two-way stop (stop sign on ramp)</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dorothy @ 101 SB Ramps</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ Chesebro</td>
<td>Two-way stop</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>19.8</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Agoura @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>12.0</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Kimley-Horn Associates

* Delay refers to the average delay for the entire intersection. At a two-way stop, delay refers to the worst approach delay. Delay values for intersections that are not subject to improvements were obtained from “without improvements” conditions.
**Build-out Year (2035) Conditions without Improvements (No Build)**

This scenario analyzed the build-out year conditions of the Palo Comado interchange, projected for the year 2035 (see Table 2.12). A growth rate of 0.75% per year was used to forecast the year 2035 traffic volumes. These future traffic forecasts include the effects of cumulative or related projects, expected to be implemented in the vicinity of the project. Under this scenario, all study intersections would operate at LOS D or worse with the exception of Agoura Road at Chesebro Road (LOS B in the AM peak period).

**Table 2.12: Intersection LOS Summary for Buildout Year (2035) without Improvements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intersection Number</th>
<th>Intersection</th>
<th>Intersection Control</th>
<th>AM</th>
<th>PM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Delay</td>
<td>LOS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Driver @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>128.1</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ 101 NB Ramps</td>
<td>Two-way stop (stop sign on ramp)</td>
<td>290.3</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dorothy @ 101 SB Ramps</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ Chesebro</td>
<td>Two-way stop</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Agoura @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Delay refers to the average delay for the entire intersection. At a two-way stop, delay refers to the worst approach delay.

**Build-out Year (2035) Conditions with Improvements (Build)**

Improvements that were identified in the 2015 Build scenario were analyzed for the build-out year (2035) conditions (see Table 2.13). In addition, improvements at the intersection of US 101/Dorothy Drive southbound ramps, as identified in the City’s 2010 General Plan, would be implemented. The proposed improvements would improve the LOS at the intersection of the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road northbound ramps from a LOS F to LOS A for the AM peak period and LOS F to LOS B for the PM peak period. The remaining intersections would continue to operate at LOS D or worse during both the AM and PM peak period, except the Agoura Road/Chesebro Road intersection, which would operate at LOS B during the AM peak period and the Dorothy Drive/SB 101 ramps, which would operate at LOS C in the PM peak period.
### Environmental Consequences

#### No Build Alternative

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no traffic impacts related to project construction would occur. However, improvements to circulation at the interchange would not be accomplished, and traffic circulation at the interchange and surrounding roadways would continue to deteriorate. In addition, bicycle facilities would not be provided on the interchange.

#### Build Alternative

The Build Alternative would result in overall improvements to existing (2010) and future (2035) traffic circulation at the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road northbound ramps and surrounding roadway facilities. In addition, the project would be designed in accordance with ADA requirements, and planned sidewalks and Class II bike lanes on both sides of the overcrossing would enhance bicycle and pedestrian access in the area.

The Driver Avenue/Cheseboro Road intersection currently operates at a LOS F during the am and LOS E during the PM peak period. Under future conditions (2035), the intersection is expected to operate at LOS F during the AM and LOS F during the PM peak period under no project conditions. As discussed previously, implementation of the project would improve overall traffic circulation within the project limits as compared to existing and future no project conditions. In addition, the improvements would be consistent with the General Plan roadway designation for Palo Comado Canyon Road, which calls for a 4-lane roadway with bike lanes and sidewalks.

Improvements that were identified to the Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange to improve the LOS were analyzed for the build out year (2035) conditions. The improvements include widening the overpass to four lanes, installation of a traffic signal, additional turn lanes to the northbound ramp (one left turn lane, a shared left-through lane and a right turn lane) and improving the southbound approach to one through lane and one shared through-right lane. In addition, LOS at the intersections of Dorothy Drive/101 southbound ramps and Palo Comodo Canyon Road/Chesebro would be improved to LOS D during the AM peak period and LOS C/D during the PM peak period with the re-striping of the

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**Table 2.13: Intersection LOS Summary for Buildout Year (2035) with Improvements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Intersection Number</th>
<th>Intersection</th>
<th>Intersection Control</th>
<th>AM Delay*</th>
<th>AM LOS</th>
<th>PM Delay*</th>
<th>PM LOS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Driver @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>128.1</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>99.3</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ 101 NB Ramps</td>
<td>Two-way stop (stop sign on ramp)</td>
<td>9.8</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Dorothy @ 101 SB Ramps</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Palo Comado @ Chesebro</td>
<td>Two-way stop</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>31.7</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Agoura @ Chesebro</td>
<td>All-way stop</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Delay refers to the average delay for the entire intersection. At a two-way stop, delay refers to the worst approach delay. Delay values for intersections that are not subject to improvements were obtained from “without improvements” conditions.

Source: Kimley-Horn Associates
northbound and eastbound movements to include exclusive left turn lanes and shared through-right lanes. No widening of the roadway would be required. These improvements would result in a 3-lane cross-section for the northbound and eastbound movements that have already been identified in the City General Plan update 2010.

While the project would improve traffic circulations and bicycle/pedestrian access, it would not achieve LOS C at the Driver Avenue/Cheseboro Road intersection. This intersection is located within the Old Agoura Overlay Zone. This zone requires context sensitive (semi-rural) design for all proposed improvements. During project design, installation of a traffic signal at this intersection was considered, and it was shown to improve the intersection LOS; however, it would not be consistent with the stated goals of the overlay zone because it would not maintain the semi-rural character of the area and would require undesirable ROW impacts. Therefore, it was determined not to be a feasible solution.

During construction, drivers, bicyclists, pedestrians, and potentially equestrian riders could experience delays on and in the immediate vicinity of the overcrossing; however, standard measures would be implemented to minimize these delays to the extent feasible, and no adverse impacts would be anticipated. Following construction, access would be restored or improved for all users.

**Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

A traffic management plan would be in place to reduce any delays and ensure vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian access during construction. Following construction of the project vehicle and bicycle/pedestrian circulation in the area would be improved; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

### 2.1.9 Visual/Aesthetics

**Regulatory Setting**

NEPA establishes that the federal government use all practicable means to ensure all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and *aesthetically* (emphasis added) and culturally pleasing surroundings (42 U.S.C. 4331[b][2]). To further emphasize this point, the FHWA in its implementation of NEPA (23 U.S.C. 109[h]) directs that final decisions regarding projects are to be made in the best overall public interest taking into account adverse environmental impacts, including among others, the destruction or disruption of aesthetic values.

Likewise, CEQA establishes that it is the policy of the state to take all action necessary to provide the people of the state “with…enjoyment of aesthetic, natural, scenic and historic environmental qualities.” (CA Public Resources Code Section 21001[b]).

**Affected Environment**

A Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) Memorandum was completed in September 2011. The VIA included the following three viewing locations (VL):

- **VL1** - US 101 northbound off-ramp: This viewpoint captures the proposed changes to the US 101 overcrossing and intersection improvements from a distance, and retaining walls on the north side of the US 101 off-ramp.
**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

- **VL2** - Southbound Palo Comado Canyon Road at the US 101 intersection: This viewpoint captures the proposed intersection improvements and widening of Palo Comado Canyon Road.

- **VL3** - Northbound Palo Comado Canyon Road at the Chesebro Road intersection: This viewpoint captures proposed roadway improvements, as well as the proposed retaining wall and noise barrier along Palo Comado Canyon Road.

The study area included views bounded by the Santa Monica Mountains to the north and Simi Hills to the south of the project site, and was limited to the boundaries of the project site to the east and west. Overall, landforms within the project vicinity are characterized by the Transverse Mountain range, an east/west trending range which includes the Santa Monica Mountains, adjacent canyons, rolling hills (such as the Simi Hills), and valleys. Undeveloped lands within the project vicinity contain oak woodlands, grasslands, scrub, and some limited riparian habitats. The majority of man-made development is situated within the low-lying hills and valleys, and includes residential and commercial land uses, as well as transportation facilities.

Vegetation within the built environment is limited to non-native ornamental landscaping associated with surface streets, residential and commercial development. Intermittent streams that drain adjacent canyons converge near the project site and are conveyed via an open concrete-lined box culvert. The project site is located within the Conejo Valley, where views are dominated by man-made development in the foreground; distant views of hillsides are also visible from the project site. Generally, land cover within the project site is not considered memorable, the landscape is not free from visual intrusion, and the built environment does not provide visual harmony with the natural landforms. Local residents using surface streets were determined to be the most sensitive to changes regarding visual resources within the project vicinity due to their familiarity with, and personal investment in, the area.

**Environmental Consequences**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts related to visual resources would occur.

**Build Alternative**

The Build Alternative would result in improvements to an existing built environment which would include (but is not limited to) the addition of paved surface, retaining walls, a noise barrier, and traffic lights. Minor changes in visual resources are expected to occur within the project limits as depicted in Figures 2.3 through 2.8 below; however, with implementation of minimization measures, no adverse impacts to visual resources would occur.
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Figure 2.3: VL1 – Existing Condition NB Off Ramp

Figure 2.4: VL1 – Proposed Condition NB Off Ramp
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Figure 2.5: VL2 – Existing Condition Looking South at the Overcrossing

Source: GPA Environmental

Figure 2.6: VL2 – Proposed Condition Looking South at the Overcrossing

Source: GPA Environmental
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Figure 2.7: VL3 – Existing Condition Looking North on Palo Comado Canyon Road

Source: GPA Environmental

Figure 2.8: VL3 – Proposed Condition North on Palo Comado Canyon Road

Source: GPA Environmental
Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

The following measures are proposed to minimize any impacts to visual quality:

- Grading activity would be performed in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the natural landscape and terrain by such design techniques as locating development in the least sloping areas of the site.

- Landscaping that is removed as a result of the noise barrier construction shall be replaced.

- Noise barrier and retaining wall aesthetic treatment will be approved by a Caltrans District Landscape Architect.

2.1.10 Cultural Resources

Regulatory Setting

“Cultural resources” as used in this document refers to all historical and archaeological resources, regardless of significance. Laws and regulations dealing with cultural resources include:

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (NHPA) sets forth national policy and procedures regarding historic properties, defined as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects included in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Section 106 of NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on such properties and to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the opportunity to comment on those undertakings, following regulations issued by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR 800). On January 1, 2004, a Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the Advisory Council, FHWA, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and Caltrans went into effect for Caltrans projects, both state and local, with FHWA involvement. The PA implements the Advisory Council’s regulations, 36 CFR 800, streamlining the Section 106 process and delegating certain responsibilities to Caltrans. The FHWA’s responsibilities under the PA have been assigned to Caltrans as part of the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program (23 CFR 773) (July 1, 2007).

Historic properties may also be covered under Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act, which regulates the “use” of land from historic properties. Historical resources are considered under CEQA, as well as California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5024.1, which established the California Register of Historical Resources. PRC Section 5024 requires state agencies to identify and protect state-owned resources that meet National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing criteria. It further specifically requires Caltrans to inventory state-owned structures in its rights-of-way. Sections 5024(f) and 5024.5 require state agencies to provide notice to and consult with SHPO before altering, transferring, relocating, or demolishing state-owned historical resources that are listed on or are eligible for inclusion in the National Register or are registered or eligible for registration as California Historical Landmarks.

Affected Environment

A Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) and Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) were completed in March 2011. As part of the ASR, an intensive-level pedestrian survey was performed on November 6,
2009. The survey was performed on the original APE, which is larger than the final APE. No cultural materials were identified or collected during the survey.

A search for archaeological and historic records was performed at the South Central Coastal Information Center on August 25, 2009. The search was performed for the Area of Potential Effect (APE) (see Figure 2.9), as well as a one-mile radius surrounding the APE. Sources consulted included the NRHP, California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), California Inventory of Historical Resources, California Historical Landmarks, and California Points of Historical Interest.

Additional research was performed using Historic United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps, Historic United States Department of Agriculture aerial photos, the California Historic Bridge Inventory, Local Historical Register Listings, and Bureau of Land Management General Land Office (GLO) records.

The record search determined there are no known cultural resources within the APE. Seventeen archaeological sites (15 prehistoric, 1 historic-era, and 1 unknown) have previously been recorded within one mile of the APE. No previous cultural resource studies occurred within the APE, although 60 prior studies have been completed within the one-mile radius.

A Sacred Lands File search was requested from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on August 24, 2009. On August 25, the NAHC replied that there were no known sacred lands within the APE or within a half-mile radius, and provided a list of six Native American tribes or individuals to contact for further information. Letters requesting information on any heritage sites were sent on August 26, 2009; no responses containing specific concerns were received. Subsequent information on sacred
lands was received during the scoping process from the NAHC on October 6, 2010 which indicated the presence of Native American cultural resources within a one-half mile radius of the APE; the ASR was revised to include this information.

The existing Palo Comado Canyon Road bridge (No. 53 1678) was built in 1963 and is a Category 5 bridge. According to Caltrans’ historical significance classification system (2007), Category 5 bridges were determined not eligible for listing on the NRHP.

**Environmental Consequences**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts related to cultural resources would occur.

**Build Alternative**

The APE is within an area considered to have a moderate to high sensitivity for discovery of cultural resources; however, there are no known cultural resources within or immediately adjacent to the project area. The NAHC reported Native American cultural resources within a one-half mile radius of the APE. While there is potential for cultural resources to be present on site, the discovery of cultural resources during construction is not anticipated due to the heavily disturbed nature of the project site. Avoidance and minimization measures are included in the event cultural resources are discovered during construction activities.

**Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

The project area would be monitored during all ground disturbances. If cultural materials are discovered during construction, all earth-moving activity within and around the immediate discovery area would be diverted until a qualified archaeologist assesses the nature and significance of the find.

If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities would cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County Coroner contacted. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At this time, the person who discovered the remains would contact the Caltrans District 7 Environmental Branch so that they may work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.
2.2 Physical Environment

2.2.1 Hydrology and Floodplain

Regulatory Setting

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) directs all federal agencies to refrain from conducting, supporting, or allowing actions in floodplains unless it is the only practicable alternative. The FHWA requirements for compliance are outlined in 23 CFR 650 Subpart A.

In order to comply, the following must be analyzed:

- The practicability of alternatives to any longitudinal encroachments
- Risks of the action
- Impacts on natural and beneficial floodplain values
- Support of incompatible floodplain development
- Measures to minimize floodplain impacts and to preserve/restore any beneficial floodplain values impacted by the project.

The base floodplain is defined as “the area subject to flooding by the flood or tide having a one percent chance of being exceeded in any given year.” An encroachment is defined as “an action within the limits of the base floodplain.”

Affected Environment

The following studies were completed for the project and include information related to this section:

- Water Quality Study, March 2011
- Storm Water Data Report

The project site is located within the upper reach of the Malibu Creek Watershed (MCW). The MCW is 109 square miles, and is one of the largest discrete watersheds draining into the Santa Monica Bay. Several tributaries, including Medea Creek, drain into Malibu Creek, eventually discharging into the Santa Monica Bay. Medea Creek is located adjacent to the project location.

The project site is included on the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community Panel Number 065072 0002B. The project site is located entirely in Zone C, which is outside the 100-year and 500-year floodplains (see Figure 2.1).

Environmental Consequences

No Build Alternative

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts related to hydrology and floodplain would occur.
**Build Alternative**

The Build Alternative would result in increased runoff flows due to the addition of 1.33 acres of paved surface; however, the increase would be minimal and existing hydrology would not be substantially altered. The project site is located outside of the 100-year and 500-year floodplains; thus, no flood flows would be impeded or redirected and no impact to floodplain would occur.

**Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures**

No adverse impacts related to hydrology or floodplain would occur as a result of the Build Alternative; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

2.2.2 **Water Quality and Storm Water Runoff**

**Regulatory Setting**

**Federal Requirements: Clean Water Act**

In 1972 Congress amended the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, making the addition of pollutants to the waters of the United States (US) from any point source unlawful unless the discharge is in compliance with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Known today as the Clean Water Act (CWA), Congress has amended it several times. In the 1987 amendments, Congress directed dischargers of storm water from municipal and industrial/construction point sources to comply with the NPDES permit scheme. Important CWA sections are:

- Sections 303 and 304 require states to promulgate water quality standards, criteria, and guidelines.
- Section 401 requires an applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity, which may result in a discharge to waters of the US to obtain certification from the State that the discharge will comply with other provisions of the act. (Most frequently required in tandem with a Section 404 permit request. See below.)
- Section 402 establishes the NPDES, a permitting system for the discharges (except for dredge or fill material) of any pollutant into waters of the US Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) administer this permitting program in California. Section 402(p) requires permits for discharges of storm water from industrial/construction and municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s).
- Section 404 establishes a permit program for the discharge of dredge or fill material into waters of the US. This permit program is administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

The objective of the CWA is “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.”

USACE issues two types of 404 permits: Standard and General permits. There are two types of General permits, Regional permits and Nationwide permits. Regional permits are issued for a general category of activities when they are similar in nature and cause minimal environmental effect. Nationwide permits are issued to authorize a variety of minor project activities with no more than minimal effects.

There are two types of Standard permits: Individual permits and Letters of Permission. Ordinarily, projects that do not meet the criteria for a Nationwide Permit may be permitted under one of USACE’s
Standard permits. For Standard permits, the USACE decision to approve is based on compliance with the US Environmental Protection Agency’s (US EPA) Section 404 (b)(1) Guidelines (US EPA CFR 40 Part 230), and whether permit approval is in the public interest. The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines were developed by the US EPA in conjunction with USACE, and allow the discharge of dredged or fill material into the aquatic system (waters of the US) only if there is no practicable alternative which would have less adverse effects. The Guidelines state that USACE may not issue a permit if there is a least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA), to the proposed discharge that would have lesser effects on waters of the US, and not have any other significant adverse environmental consequences. Per Guidelines, documentation is needed that a sequence of avoidance, minimization, and compensation measures has been followed, in that order. The Guidelines also restrict permitting activities that violate water quality or toxic effluent standards, jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, violate marine sanctuary protections, or cause “significant degradation” to waters of the US. In addition every permit from the USACE, even if not subject to the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, must meet general requirements. See 33 CFR 320.4.

State Requirements: Porter-Cologne Water Control Act

California’s Porter-Cologne Act, enacted in 1969, provides the legal basis for water quality regulation within California. This Act requires a “Report of Waste Discharge” for any discharge of waste (liquid, solid, or gaseous) to land or surface waters that may impair beneficial uses for surface and/or groundwater of the State. It predates the CWA and regulates discharges to Waters of the State. Waters of the State include more than just Waters of the US, like groundwater and surface waters not considered Waters of the US. Additionally, it prohibits discharges of “waste” as defined and this definition is broader than the CWA definition of “pollutant”. Discharges under the Porter-Cologne Act are permitted by Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) and may be required even when the discharge is already permitted or exempt under the CWA.

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and RWQCBs are responsible for establishing the water quality standards (objectives and beneficial uses) required by the CWA, and regulating discharges to ensure compliance with the water quality standards. Details regarding water quality standards in a project area are contained in the applicable RWQCB Basin Plan. States designate beneficial uses for all water body segments, and then set criteria necessary to protect these uses. Consequently, the water quality standards developed for particular water segments are based on the designated use and vary depending on such use. In addition, each state identifies waters failing to meet standards for specific pollutants, which are then state-listed in accordance with CWA Section 303(d). If a state determines that waters are impaired for one or more constituents and the standards cannot be met through point source controls, the CWA requires the establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). TMDLs specify allowable pollutant loads from all sources (point, non-point, and natural) for a given watershed.

State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Board

The SWRCB administers water rights, water pollution control, and water quality functions throughout the state. RWQCBs are responsible for protecting beneficial uses of water resources within their regional jurisdiction using planning, permitting, and enforcement authorities to meet this responsibility.

National pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program

Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems
Section 402(p) of the CWA requires the issuance of NPDES permits for five categories of storm water dischargers, including Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s). The US EPA defines an MS4 as any conveyance or system of conveyances (roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, human-made channels, and storm drains) owned or operated by a state, city, town, county, or other public body having jurisdiction over storm water, that are designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water. The SWRCB has identified Caltrans as an owner/operator of an MS4 by the SWRCB. This permit covers all Caltrans rights-of-way, properties, facilities, and activities in the state. The SWRCB or the RWQCB issues NPDES permits for five years, and permit requirements remain active until a new permit has been adopted.

The Department’s MS4 Permit, under revision at the time of this update, contains three basic requirements:

- Caltrans must comply with the requirements of the Construction General Permit (see below);
- Caltrans must implement a year-round program in all parts of the State to effectively control storm water and non-storm water discharges; and
- Caltrans storm water discharges must meet water quality standards through implementation of permanent and temporary (construction) Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other measures.

To comply with the permit, Caltrans developed the Statewide Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) to address storm water pollution controls related to highway planning, design, construction, and maintenance activities throughout California. The SWMP assigns responsibilities within Caltrans for implementing storm water management procedures and practices as well as training, public education and participation, monitoring and research, program evaluation, and reporting activities. The SWMP describes the minimum procedures and practices Caltrans uses to reduce pollutants in storm water and non-storm water discharges. It outlines procedures and responsibilities for protecting water quality, including the selection and implementation of BMPs. The proposed project will be programmed to follow the guidelines and procedures outlined in the latest SWMP to address storm water runoff.

Part of and appended to the SWMP is the Storm Water Data Report (SWDR) and its associated checklists. The SWDR documents the relevant storm water design decisions made regarding project compliance with the MS4 NPDES permit. The preliminary information in the SWDR prepared during the Project Initiation Document (PID) phase will be reviewed, updated, confirmed, and if required, revised in the SWDR prepared for the later phases of the project. The information contained in the SWDR may be used to make more informed decisions regarding the selection of BMPs and/or recommended avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures to address water quality impacts.

**General Construction Permit**

General Construction Permit (Order No. 2009-009-DWQ), adopted on September 2, 2009, became effective on July 1, 2010. The permit regulates storm water discharges from construction sites which result in a Disturbed Soil Area (DSA) of one acre or greater, and/or are smaller sites that are part of a larger common plan of development. By law, all storm water discharges associated with construction activity where clearing, grading, and excavation results in soil disturbance of at least one acre must comply with the provisions of the General Construction Permit. Construction activity that results in soil disturbances of less than one acre is subject to this General Construction Permit if there is potential for significant water quality impairment resulting from the activity as determined by the RWQCB. Operators
of regulated construction sites are required to develop storm water pollution prevention plans; to
implement sediment, erosion, and pollution prevention control measures; and to obtain coverage under the
General Construction Permit.

The 2009 General Construction Permit separates projects into Risk Levels 1, 2, or 3. Risk levels are
determined during the planning and design phases, and are based on potential erosion and transport to
receiving waters. Requirements apply according to the Risk Level determined. For example, a Risk Level
3 (highest risk) project would require compulsory storm water runoff pH and turbidity monitoring, and
before construction and after construction aquatic biological assessments during specified seasonal
windows. For all projects subject to the permit, applicants are required to develop and implement an
effective Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). In accordance with the Caltrans Standard
Specifications, a Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) is necessary for projects with DSA less than one
acre.

Section 401 Permitting

Under Section 401 of the CWA, any project requiring a federal license or permit that may result in a
discharge to a water body must obtain a 401 Certification, which certifies that the project will be in
compliance with State water quality standards. The most common federal permits triggering 401
Certification are CWA Section 404 permits issued by USACE. The 401 permit certifications are obtained
from the appropriate RWQCB, dependent on the project location, and are required before USACE issues a
404 permit.

In some cases the RWQCB may have specific concerns with discharges associated with a project. As a
result, the RWQCB may issue a set of requirements known as Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs)
under the State Water Code that define activities, such as the inclusion of specific features, effluent
limitations, monitoring, and plan submittals that are to be implemented for protecting or benefiting water
quality. WDRs can be issued to address both permanent and temporary discharges of a project.

Affected Environment

The following studies were completed for the project and include information related to this section:

- Preliminary Environmental Analysis Report, February 2009
- Water Quality Study, March 2011
- Storm Water Data Report

The nearest receiving water body is Cheseboro Creek, which is not 303(d) listed. Cheseboro Creek
discharges to Medea Creek, which is immediately adjacent to the project location. The Los Angeles
RWQCB (LARWQCB) has listed Medea Creek as impaired (under Section 303(d)) due to nonpoint
sources of algae, high coliform bacteria, sedimentation and siltation, selenium, and trash. There are two
established TMDLs established within the MCW:

Established TMDLs

- Malibu Creek Nutrients TMDL: On March 21, 2003, in the absence of State versions, the EPA issued
the Nutrients TMDL for the MCW. The TMDL requires a special monitoring program to evaluate
effectiveness of actions to reduce both dry and wet weather urban runoff.
Malibu Creek Watershed Bacteria TMDL: The Malibu Creek Watershed Bacteria TMDL became effective on January 24, 2006. Caltrans is currently working cooperatively with a group of responsible agencies to jointly comply with the TMDL. Projects located where dry weather diversion exists need only to consider infiltration devices for bacteria removal; however, all other projects are required to consider both dry weather flow diversion and infiltration devices.

Future TMDLs

Malibu Creek Trash TMDL: The Malibu Creek Trash TMDL was adopted by the LARWQCB on March 6, 2008. The TMDL requires the responsible agencies, including Caltrans, to reduce the amount of trash deposited in the creek and in the storm water discharges to “zero” in eight years. Responsible agencies may implement a Minimum Frequency of Assessment and Collection Program in or adjacent to the creek or place full capture devices at the drainage outfalls.

There are no substantial surface water resources within Agoura Hills or the Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD). Groundwater underlying the LVMWD’s service area is of poor quality and is not currently used for the potable water system; however, it is used to augment supplies for the recycled water system. There are several gas stations within 0.25 miles of the project vicinity with identified soil and groundwater contamination. Within the project area, two gas stations have been included on the SWRCB Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) database. They are located at 5221 and 5226 Palo Comado Canyon Road.

Environmental Consequences

No Build Alternative

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts related to water quality or storm runoff would occur.

Build Alternative

The Build Alternative would result in an increase in paved surface of 1.33 acres. The resulting total water quality volume anticipated would be 18,702 cubic feet. Although the project would result in increased runoff flows, the increase would be minimal. The project would discharge to unlined, vegetated roadway drainage swales that would tie into the existing drainage swales. Implementation of Design Pollution Prevention BMPs and Permanent Treatment BMPs would avoid or minimize the release of pollutants into the environment once construction is complete.

Construction activities associated with the project would include disturbances to the ground surface from earthwork, including grading and paving activities. Materials used during construction of the project could result in the discharge of chemicals into storm drain systems and/or watercourses. Additionally, oil and other petroleum products used to maintain and operate construction equipment could be accidentally released. Standard BMPs would be included in the project to avoid or minimize the release of pollutants, including sediments and chemical toxins, into the environment during construction. The project would be constructed in accordance with applicable water quality regulations, and would not be expected to result in substantial water quality impacts.
Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures

No adverse impacts related to water quality or storm runoff would occur as a result of the Build Alternative; therefore, no mitigation measures are required. A SWPPP would be prepared and implemented for the project. The following BMPs would be included as part of the project:

Construction BMPs

- **Scheduling:** A schedule would be developed that includes sequencing of construction activities with the implementation of construction site BMPs.

- **Preservation of Existing Vegetation:** Areas that would not be disturbed as part of construction activities would be clearly marked on plans and protected in the field with fencing prior to clearing and grubbing. Access limitations would also be shown on the plans and described in the Special Provisions.

- **Hydroseeding:** Disturbed soil would be hydroseeded to protect soils from erosion by raindrop impact or wind. The selection of plant materials to be included in the seed mixture would be based on the length of time temporary stabilization is required.

- **Soil Binders:** Soil binders (or soil stabilizers) would be applied to disturbed soil to protect from erosion by raindrop impact or wind.

- **Earth Dikes/Drainage Swales and Ditches:** Top, toe, and mid-slope diversion ditches, berms, dikes, and swales would be used to intercept runoff and direct it away from critical slopes without allowing it to reach the roadway.

- **Outlet Protection/Velocity Dissipation Devices:** Outlet protection/velocity dissipation devices of rock, riprap, or similar materials would be placed at pipe outlets to reduce flow velocity and the energy of exiting stormwater flows and to prevent scour.

- **Silt Fencing:** Silt fences would be placed below the toe of exposed and erodible slopes, down slope of exposed soil areas, around temporary stockpiles, and along streams and channels to intercept and slow the flow of sediment-laden sheet flow runoff.

- **Fiber Rolls:** Fiber rolls would be placed on the face of slopes at regular intervals and/or at the toe of slopes to intercept runoff, reduce its flow velocity, release the runoff as sheet flow, and provide some removal of sediment from the runoff.

- **Gravel Bag Berm:** Gravel bag berms would be installed across slopes to intercept runoff, reduce runoff velocity, release runoff as sheet flow, and provide some sediment removal.

- **Street Sweeping and Vacuuming:** Street sweeping and vacuuming would be implemented anywhere sediment is tracked from the project site onto paved roads to prevent the sediment from entering a storm drain or watercourse.

- **Sandbag Barriers:** Sand bag barriers would be used to intercept and slow the flow of sediment-laden sheet flow runoff.

- **Storm Drain Inlet Protection:** Storm drain inlet protection would be administered where necessary to reduce sediment from stormwater runoff discharging from the construction site prior to entering the storm drainage system.
• **Stabilized Construction Entrance/Exit:** A crushed aggregate layer would be installed over geotextile fabric (or steel plates with ribs) at all construction entrance/exit points to limit the migration of sediment from the construction site.

• **Entrance/Outlet Tire Wash:** Tire wash areas would be installed at stabilized construction access points to remove sediment from tires and undercarriages, preventing the migration of sediment onto adjacent roadways.

• **Water Conservation Practices:** Water conservation practices, including preventing water leaks, avoidance of vehicle washing on site, sweeping in lieu of hosing areas, and applying water for dust control and to minimize runoff, would be implemented during construction.

• **Paving and Grinding Operations:** Paving and grinding operations would be implemented in a manner that would minimize pollution of stormwater runoff during paving operations, including new paving and preparation of existing paved surfaces for overlay.

• **Illicit Connection/Illegal Discharge Detection and Reporting:** Procedures and practices would be implemented so that construction contractors would have the ability to recognize illicit connections or illegally dumped or discharged materials on a construction site and be required to report incidents to the Resident Engineer (RE).

• **Material Delivery and Storage:** Procedures and practices would be implemented for the proper handling and storage of materials, including secondary containment, spill prevention and control, product labeling, quantity reduction, proper storage, material covering, training, and inventory control.

• **Material Use:** Procedures and practices would be implemented for use of construction material in a manner that minimizes or eliminates the discharge of these materials to the storm drain system or watercourses, including proper waste disposal, product labeling, proper cleaning techniques, recycling materials, reducing quantities and application rates, spill prevention and control, training, and reduction of exposure to stormwater.

• **Stockpile Management:** Procedures and practices would be implemented to eliminate pollution of stormwater from stockpiles of soil and paving materials, including locating stockpiles away from drainages, providing perimeter sediment barriers, and wind erosion control measures.

• **Spill Prevention and Control:** Procedures and practices would be implemented to prevent and control spills in a manner that minimizes or prevents the discharge of spilled material to storm drain systems or watercourses.

• **Solid Waste Management:** Procedures and practices would be implemented to minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants to storm drain systems or watercourses as a result of the creation, stockpiling, or removal of construction site wastes.

• **Hazardous Waste Management:** Procedures and practices would be implemented to minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants from construction site hazardous waste to the storm drain system or watercourses.

• **Contaminated Soil Management:** Procedures and practices would be implemented to minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system or watercourses from contaminated soil.
• **Concrete Waste Management**: Procedures and practices would be implemented to minimize or eliminate the discharge of concrete waste materials to the storm drain system or to watercourses.

• **Sanitary/Septic Waste Management**: Procedures and practices would be implemented to minimize or eliminate the discharge of construction site toilet facilities to the storm drain system or watercourse.

• **Liquid Waste Management**: Procedures would be implemented to prevent pollutants related to non-hazardous liquid wastes from entering storm drains or receiving waters.

**Permanent Treatment BMPs**

• **Biofiltration Swales (Bioswales)**: Incremental discharge increases would be controlled through the incorporation of bioswales into the project.

The project also includes Media Filter, Biostrip, and GSRD. Further analysis of feasibility should be conducted at PS&E.

### 2.2.3 Geology/Soils/Seismic/Topography

#### Regulatory Setting

For geologic and topographic features, the key federal law is the Historic Sites Act of 1935, which establishes a national registry of natural landmarks and protects “outstanding examples of major geological features.” Topographic and geologic features are also protected under CEQA.

This section also discusses geology, soils, and seismic concerns as they relate to public safety and project design. Earthquakes are prime considerations in the design and retrofit of structures. Caltrans’ Office of Earthquake Engineering is responsible for assessing the seismic hazard for Caltrans projects. The current policy is to use the anticipated Maximum Credible Earthquake (MCE), from young faults in and near California. The MCE is defined as the largest earthquake that can be expected to occur on a fault over a particular period of time.

#### Affected Environment

A Preliminary Foundation Report was completed for the project on February 5, 2009. Natural site geology within the project site consists of relatively young shallow alluvial deposits originating from Palo Comado and Chesebro Canyons, overlying bedrock of the Calabasas Formation. The Calabasas Formation is generally interbedded clayey to silty sandstone and silty shale, containing local beds of sedimentary breccia clasts. Based on California Geological Survey Seismic Hazard Evaluation of the Calabasas 7.5-Minute Quadrangle, the highest historical groundwater at the project site is approximately 20 feet below surface level.

The project site is located in a seismically active area. The closest contributing faults include Chatsworth South (approximately 4 miles from project site), Chatsworth North (approximately 6 miles from project site), and Malibu Coast-Santa Monica-Hollywood-Raymond (approximately 7 miles from project site). No active faults are known to cross the site or project toward the site; the closest fault is at a distance of approximately 4 miles. Due to the distance from the closest faults ground rupture due to faulting is not anticipated at the site; however, ground shaking due to nearby and distant earthquakes could occur.
Liquefaction involves a sudden loss in strength of a saturated, cohesionless soil (sands, silty sands, and non-plastic silts) caused by cyclic loading such as an earthquake. This results in temporary transformation of the soil to a fluid mass. The site is located in a mapped liquefaction hazard zone in accordance with the California Geological Survey Seismic Hazard Zone Report for the Calabasas 7.5 Minute Quadrangle, due to its location in an alluvial canyon; however, earth materials below the highest recorded groundwater are shale bedrock, and the potential for liquefaction at the project site is low.

**Environmental Consequences**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts related to geology, soils, seismic activity, or topography would occur.

**Build Alternative**

Under the Build Alternative, construction would occur primarily within an area that is generally level, with embankment slopes up to approximately 25 feet high. These slopes were engineered during construction of the existing roadways, and the subsurface consists of materials not subject to liquefaction. Additionally, only limited grading is expected to occur within previously disturbed areas that are not subject to a great deal of erosion. Therefore, no substantial seismic slope instability is expected to occur as a result of the Build Alternative.

**Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures**

No adverse impacts related to geology, soils, seismic events, or topography would occur as a result of the Build Alternative; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

**2.2.4 Paleontology**

**Regulatory Setting**

Paleontology is the study of life in past geologic time based on fossil plants and animals. A number of federal statutes specifically address paleontological resources, their treatment, and funding for mitigation as a part of federally authorized or funded projects. (e.g., Antiquities Act of 1906 [16 USC 431-433], Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1960 [23 USC 305]), and the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 [16 USC 470aaa]). Under California law, paleontological resources are protected by the California Environmental Quality Act.

**Affected Environment**

Natural geology within the project site consists of relatively young shallow alluvial deposits originating from Palo Comado and Chesebro Canyons, overlying bedrock of the Calabasas Formation. A Preliminary Environmental Analysis Report (PEAR) was completed in February 2009, which included a paleontological resources records review at the project site and its vicinity (Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, November 2008). The records revealed several invertebrate fossil localities that lie within the project vicinity; however, invertebrate fossil localities within the project site are unlikely due to previous construction activities associated with the existing transportation facilities.
**Environmental Consequences**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts related to paleontological resources would occur.

**Build Alternative**

Under the Build Alternative, the majority of excavation would be only a few feet on disturbed fill material; however, where cast-in-drilled hole piles are required, a maximum vertical disturbance of 50 feet could occur. It is unlikely that significant invertebrate fossils would be disturbed due to surface grading or shallow excavations; however, deeper excavations that extend to older Quaternary Alluvial deposits may encounter significant invertebrate fossils. With implementation of the minimization measures listed below, no adverse impacts would occur to paleontological resources.

**Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures**

With the incorporation of the following avoidance and minimization measures, project implementation would not result in adverse impacts related to paleontological resources:

- Areas of deep excavation (deeper than 5 feet below surface grade) would be monitored by a qualified principal paleontologist (M.S. or PhD in paleontology or geology familiar with paleontological procedures and techniques) for any vertebrate fossils.
- If fossils are discovered, the paleontologist (or paleontological monitor) would recover them. Construction work in these areas would be halted or diverted to allow recovery of fossil remains in a timely manner.
- Fossil remains collected during monitoring would be cleaned, repaired, sorted, and cataloged.
- Prepared fossils, along with copies of all pertinent field notes, photographs, and maps, would be deposited in a scientific institution with paleontological collections.

**2.2.5 Hazardous Waste/Materials**

**Regulatory Setting**

Hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are regulated by many state and federal laws. These include not only specific statutes governing hazardous waste, but also a variety of laws regulating air and water quality, human health and land use.

The primary federal laws regulating hazardous wastes/materials are the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 (RCRA) and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA). The purpose of CERCLA, often referred to as Superfund, is to clean up contaminated sites so that public health and welfare are not compromised. RCRA provides for “cradle to grave” regulation of hazardous wastes. Other federal laws include:

- Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act (CERFA) of 1992
- Clean Water Act
- Clean Air Act
• Safe Drinking Water Act
• Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA)
• Atomic Energy Act
• Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)
• Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)

In addition to the acts listed above, Executive Order 12088, Federal Compliance with Pollution Control, mandates that necessary actions be taken to prevent and control environmental pollution when federal activities or federal facilities are involved.

Hazardous waste in California is regulated primarily under the authority of RCRA and the California Health and Safety Code. Other California laws that affect hazardous waste are specific to handling, storage, transportation, disposal, treatment, reduction, cleanup and emergency planning.

Worker health and safety and public safety are key issues when dealing with hazardous materials that may affect human health and the environment. Proper disposal of hazardous material is vital if it is disturbed during project construction.

**Affected Environment**

An Initial Site Assessment (ISA) was prepared for the project in February 2009; the ISA was updated in May 2011.

Prior investigations were performed at properties adjacent to the project site and properties that would be potentially affected by the project. Groundwater was measured in wells at 28203 Dorothy Drive at depths ranging from 13.01 feet to 16.27 feet below the top of the monitoring well casings and groundwater flow was reported to the west. During the Fourth Quarter 2009 groundwater monitoring event at 5226 Palo Comado Canyon Road, groundwater was measured at depths ranging from 8.57 feet to 28.14 feet below the top of the groundwater monitoring well casings and groundwater flow was reported to the southwest.

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies publish databases of businesses and properties that handle hazardous materials or hazardous waste, or ware the known location of a release of hazardous substances to soil and/or groundwater. The ISA included a search of these databases within 0.25 miles from the project site. The project site was not listed in regulatory agency databases; however, information regarding off-site facilities that concern the project site and its surroundings are included below.

5226 Palo Comado Canyon Road (Texaco service station) is at the northeast corner of Palo Comado Canyon Road and Canwood Street. This facility had two releases of petroleum hydrocarbons in 1986 and 2004 that affected groundwater beneath the property. Both cases were closed; however, it is possible that residual concentrations of chemicals may still be present in groundwater beneath the site.

5221 Palo Comado Canyon Road (Chevron service station) is at the northwest corner of Palo Comado Canyon Road and the US 101 northbound on-ramp. This facility had a gasoline release in 1987; however, the case was closed as of October 20, 2010. Though the case has been closed, it is possible that the residual concentrations of chemicals may still be present in groundwater beneath the site.

Gasoline stations located at 5116 Cheseboro Road and 28203 Dorothy Drive, located south of US 101 and west of Palo Comado Canyon Road, had reported releases of gasoline that affected soil and groundwater.
These facilities could negatively impact soil and/or groundwater conditions within the immediate area only due to the fact that these facilities are located down-slope from the proposed project.

Site reconnaissance was conducted as part of the ISA on April 20, 2011 and revealed the potential for aerially deposited lead (ADL) along the shoulders of US 101 and the on- and off-ramps to Palo Comado Canyon Road where heavy traffic use of the freeway is apparent. In addition, the landscape areas of the roadways may have been treated with pesticides for weed control as part of landscape maintenance activities; therefore, pesticide residues may be present in the soil. Pad-mounted and pole-mounted transformers with Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB)-containing liquids may be present within the project site, asbestos-containing material (ACM) may be in the joint compound used on the Palo Comado Canyon Road overcrossing, and roadway lane striping may contain lead-based paint.

**Environmental Consequences**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts related to hazardous materials would occur.

**Build Alternative**

Under the Build Alternative, grading activities, demolition, and excavation would occur within an area where contaminants may be present in the soil, groundwater, and existing structures. With implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures provided below, no adverse impacts related to hazardous materials is expected to occur.

**Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures**

With the incorporation of the following avoidance and minimization measures, project implementation would not result in adverse impacts related to hazardous materials:

- During the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) Phase, soil and groundwater should be tested at the locations where CIDH piles will be installed for the potential contaminants that have been identified in the Initial Site Investigation to determine the level of contamination and to identify proper handling and disposal methods. Prior to disposal of drilled soil and groundwater from the piling areas, sampling and analysis of the subject soil and groundwater would be conducted to determine the level of contamination to identify proper handling and disposal methods.

- Prior to the construction Phase, sampling and analysis of the liquids in the pole-top transformers would be conducted to determine if PCBs are present in the pole-top transformer fluid and to determine proper disposal methods if the transformers are to be relocated. checked with the utility company to determine if PCBs are present and to determine their potential hazardous waste impact on the project area.

- Prior to the construction Phase, sampling and analysis of the joint compound in the Palo Comado Canyon Road overcrossing would be conducted to determine whether or not ACM is present in the joint compound and to determine proper disposal methods if ACM is found.

- Prior to the PS&E Phase construction, based on recorded data of yellow striping on the roadway, sampling and analysis of the paint striping on the roadways would be conducted to
determine whether the lead-based paint is present in the lane striping paint and to determine proper disposal methods if lead is found, the striping will be handled appropriately according to the lead and chromium content which is based on the age of the striping. In the absence of this information, it will be necessary to dispose the thermoplastic striping at a Class 1 facility if the material is removed by itself.

- Prior to construction, sampling and analysis of surface soils from unpaved areas along the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road intersection that are subject to excavation would be conducted to determine the level of total soluble lead to allow proper excavated soil management, including onsite placement or offsite disposal. The exposed soil in the project area would be sampled and analyzed from the surface to the depth of excavation within the construction footprint of the project to determine its proper soil management, including on-site reuse or off-site disposal.

- Prior to construction, sampling and analysis of soils from landscaped areas along the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road intersection that are subject to excavation would be conducted to determine the level of pesticides/herbicides contamination to identify a proper handling method.

- During the PS&E Phase, the soil and groundwater will be tested to determine potential hazardous waste issues at 5306 Cheseboro Road where the noise barrier will be located, which will remain in the City of Agoura Hills ROW and a private property.

2.2.6 Air Quality

Regulatory Setting

Federal Standards

The Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) as amended in 1990 is the federal law that governs air quality. The California Clean Air Act of 1988 is its companion state law. These laws, and related regulations by the US EPA and California Air Resources Board (ARB), set standards for the quantity of pollutants that can be in the air. At the federal level, these standards are called National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), as shown in Table 2.14. NAAQS and State ambient air quality standards have been established for six transportation-related criteria pollutants that have been linked to potential health concerns. The criteria pollutants are: carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), ozone (O3), particulate matter (PM, broken down for regulatory purposes into particles of 10 micrometers or smaller – PM10 and particles of 2.5 micrometers and smaller – PM2.5), lead (Pb), and sulfur dioxide (SO2). In addition, State standards exist for visibility reducing particles, sulfates, hydrogen sulfide (H2S), and vinyl chloride. The NAAQS and State standards are set at a level that protects public health with a margin of safety, and are subject to periodic review and revision. Both state and federal regulatory schemes also cover toxic air contaminants (air toxics); some criteria pollutants are also air toxics or may include certain air toxics within their general definition.
### Table 2.14: Summary of Ambient Air Quality Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pollutant</th>
<th>Averaging Time</th>
<th>California Standards</th>
<th>National Standards</th>
<th>Source: CARB 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Primary (a)</td>
<td>Secondary (b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ozone (O3)</td>
<td>1-hour</td>
<td>0.09 ppm</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8-hour</td>
<td>0.070 ppm</td>
<td>0.075 ppm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Particulate Matter (PM10)</td>
<td>AAM</td>
<td>20 μg/m3</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24-hour</td>
<td>50 μg/m3</td>
<td>150 μg/m3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5)</td>
<td>AAM</td>
<td>12 μg/m3</td>
<td>15 μg/m3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24-hour</td>
<td>No Standard</td>
<td>35 μg/m3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Monoxide (CO)</td>
<td>1-hour</td>
<td>20 ppm</td>
<td>35 ppm</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8-hour</td>
<td>9 ppm</td>
<td>9 ppm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8-hour (Lake Tahoe)</td>
<td>6 ppm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)</td>
<td>AAM</td>
<td>0.030 ppm</td>
<td>0.053 ppm</td>
<td>Same as Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-hour</td>
<td>0.18 ppm</td>
<td>100 ppb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)</td>
<td>24-hour</td>
<td>0.04 ppm</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3-hour</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.5 ppm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-hour</td>
<td>0.25 ppm</td>
<td>75 ppb</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead</td>
<td>30-day Average</td>
<td>1.5 μg/m3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calendar Quarter</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.5 μg/m3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rolling 3-Month Average</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.15 μg/m3</td>
<td>Same as Primary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfates</td>
<td>24-hour</td>
<td>25 μg/m3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hydrogen Sulfide</td>
<td>1-hour</td>
<td>0.03 ppm</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Federal Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vinyl Chloride</td>
<td>24-hour</td>
<td>0.01 ppm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visibility-Reducing Particle Matter</td>
<td>8-hour</td>
<td>Extinction coefficient of 0.23 per kilometer—visibility of 10 miles or more (0.07—30 miles or more for Lake Tahoe) due to particles when the relative humidity is less than 70%</td>
<td>No Federal Standards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*a. Levels necessary to protect the public health.

b. Levels necessary to protect the public welfare from known or anticipated adverse effects.*

AAM = Annual Arithmetic Mean

μg/m³ = Micrograms per cubic meter

ppm = parts per million

ppb = parts per billion
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Transportation Conformity

Federal and State air quality standards and regulations provide the basic scheme for project-level air quality analysis under NEPA and CEQA. In addition to this type of environmental analysis, a parallel “Conformity” requirement under the FCAA also applies.

FCAA Section 176(c) prohibits the US Department of Transportation and other federal agencies from funding, authorizing, or approving plans, programs or projects that are not first found to conform to State Implementation Plan (SIP) for achieving the goals of Clean Air Act requirements related to the NAAQS. “Transportation Conformity” takes place on two levels: the regional, or planning and programming, level, and the project level. The proposed project must conform at both levels to be approved. Conformity requirements apply only in nonattainment and “maintenance” (former nonattainment) areas for the NAAQS, and only for the specific NAAQS that are or were violated. US EPA regulations at 40 CFR 93 govern the conformity process.

Regional conformity is concerned with how well the regional transportation system supports plans for attaining the standards set for carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), ozone (O3), particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), and in some areas sulfur dioxide (SO2). California has attainment or maintenance areas for all of these transportation-related “criteria pollutants” except SO2, and also has a nonattainment area for lead (Pb). However, lead is not currently required by the FCAA to be covered in transportation conformity analysis. Regional conformity is based on Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs) and Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (FTIPs) that include all of the transportation projects planned for a region over a period of at least 20 years for the RTP) and 4 years (for the FTIP). RTP and FTIP conformity is based on use of travel demand and air quality models to determine whether or not the implementation of those projects would conform to emission budgets or other tests showing that requirements of the Clean Air Act and the SIP are met. If the conformity analysis is successful, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), FHWA, and Federal Transit Administration (FTA), make determinations that the RTP and FTIP are in conformity with the SIP for achieving the goals of the FCAA. Otherwise, the projects in the RTP and/or FTIP must be modified until conformity is attained. If the design concept, scope, and “open to traffic” schedule of a proposed transportation project are the same as described in the RTP and FTIP, then the proposed project is deemed to meet regional conformity requirements for purposes of project-level analysis.

Conformity at the project-level also requires “hot spot” analysis if an area is “nonattainment” or “maintenance” for carbon monoxide (CO) and/or particulate matter (PM10 or PM2.5). A region is “nonattainment” if one or more of the monitoring stations in the region measures violation of the relevant standard and US EPA officially designates the area nonattainment. Areas that were previously designated as nonattainment areas but subsequently meet the standard may be officially redesignated to attainment by US EPA and are then called “maintenance” areas. “Hot spot” analysis is essentially the same, for technical purposes, as CO or particulate matter analysis performed for NEPA purposes. Conformity does include some specific procedural and documentation standards for projects that require a hot spot analysis. In general, projects must not cause the “hot spot”-related standard to be violated, and must not cause any increase in the number and severity of violations in nonattainment areas. If a known CO or particulate matter violation is located in the project vicinity, the project must include measures to reduce or eliminate the existing violation(s) as well.
**Affected Environment**

The following technical reports were reviewed in preparation of this document:

- *Transportation Conformity Guidance for Qualitative Hot-spot Analyses in PM2.5 and PM10 Nonattainment and Maintenance Areas*, Federal Highway Administration and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 2006;
- *Interim Guidance Update on Mobile-Source Air Toxic Analysis in NEPA Documents*, Federal Highway Administration 2009a; and

**Setting**

The project is located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which includes all of Orange County and the non-desert portions of Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties, and is subject to South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) guidelines and regulations. Primary factors known to influence air quality within the SCAB include topography and meteorology, which can affect pollutant transport and dispersion from sources located within and outside of the SCAB.

**Meteorology & Climate**

Average wind speeds in the project vicinity are light and primarily from the west. Mild sea breezes slowly carry pollutants inland. An inversion layer, which is a layer of warm air that lies over cooler, ocean-modified air, often acts as a lid, preventing air pollutants from escaping upward. In the summer, these temperature inversions are stronger than in winter and prevent (O3) and other pollutants from escaping upward and dispersing. In the winter, a ground-level or surface inversion commonly forms during the night. Annual average temperature varies little throughout the SCAB averaging approximately 62 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). Based on historical data for the Los Angeles area, average temperatures range from a January low of approximately 49 °F to an August high of approximately 84 °F.

**Topography**

The SCAB is surrounded by mountains on three sides and the Pacific Ocean on the remaining side. The mountains serve as a barrier, preventing the dispersion of pollutant concentrations. Prevailing wind patterns off the ocean carry pollutants eastward across the SCAB, enabling continual photochemical reactions to occur as new emissions are added to existing pollutant concentrations. Intense sunlight, present at the latitude of the SCAB, provides the ultraviolet light necessary to fuel the photochemical reactions that produce (O3).

**Air Quality Monitoring Data**

Air pollutant concentrations are measured at several monitoring stations in the SCAB. The nearest ambient air quality monitoring stations to the project site are the Reseda monitoring station (which measures ozone, PM2.5, CO, and NO2), and the Burbank-W. Palm Avenue monitoring station (which is the closest station that measures PM10). Monitoring station locations within the SCAB are depicted in Figure 2.10. Ambient air quality monitoring data were obtained for the last five years of available measurement data (i.e., 2005 through 2009) and are summarized in Table 2.15.
Figure 2.10: South Coast Air Basin Monitoring Stations – Los Angeles County

Source: ARB 2010
### Table 2.15: Summary of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ozone</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum concentration (1-hour/8-hour average)</td>
<td>0.138/0.113</td>
<td>0.158/0.109</td>
<td>0.129/0.105</td>
<td>0.123/0.103</td>
<td>0.135/0.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of days state 1-hour standard exceeded</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of days state/national 8-hour standard exceeded</td>
<td>43/26</td>
<td>55/34</td>
<td>43/28</td>
<td>39/25</td>
<td>31/19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carbon Monoxide (CO)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum concentration (1-hour/8-hour average)</td>
<td>5.1/3.46</td>
<td>4.8/3.48</td>
<td>3.7/2.76</td>
<td>3.4/2.88</td>
<td>NA/3.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of days state 1-hour/8-hour standard exceeded</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of days national 1-hour/8-hour standard exceeded</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum concentration (1-hour average)</td>
<td>0.086</td>
<td>0.073</td>
<td>0.081</td>
<td>0.091</td>
<td>0.070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual average</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>0.018</td>
<td>0.018</td>
<td>0.018</td>
<td>0.017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of days state standard exceeded</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Suspended Particulate Matter (PM10)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum concentration (state/national)</td>
<td>90/92</td>
<td>69/71</td>
<td>107.0/109.0</td>
<td>61.0/66.0</td>
<td>76.0/80.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of days state standard exceeded (measured/calculated$^{(3)}$)</td>
<td>5/29.6</td>
<td>10/NA</td>
<td>5/NA</td>
<td>5/N</td>
<td>10/60.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of days national standard exceeded (measured/calculated$^{(3)}$)</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
<td>0/0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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### Suspended Particulate Matter (PM2.5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum concentration (state/national)</th>
<th>39.5/39.5</th>
<th>44.0/44.0</th>
<th>43.3/43.3</th>
<th>50.5/50.5</th>
<th>54.4/39.9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of days national standard exceeded (measured/calculated)</td>
<td>4/ NA</td>
<td>1/ NA</td>
<td>1/NA</td>
<td>2/6.6</td>
<td>1/3.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Based on ambient concentrations obtained from the Reseda ambient air quality monitoring station. PM10 monitoring data obtained from the Burbank-W. Palm Avenue monitoring station.

2. Reported state and national monitoring values and statistics may differ for various reasons, including the monitor used, monitor location, and ambient/site conditions. Where variations in reported concentration values were noted, the higher value was identified in this table.

3. Measured days are those days that an actual measurement was greater than the level of the state daily standard or the national daily standard. Measurements are typically collected every six days. Calculated days are the estimated number of days that a measurement would have been greater than the level of the standard had measurements been collected every day. The number of days above the standard is not necessarily the number of violations of the standard for the year.

4. One-hour carbon monoxide concentrations obtained from the US EPA’s AirData website for Reseda ambient air quality monitoring station.

ppm = parts per million by volume; μg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter; NA = Insufficient or no data available to determine value

Sources: California Air Resources Board. Accessed: June 20, 2011 iADAM Air Quality Data Statistics. Top 4 Summary. Website url: http://www.arb.ca.gov/adam
=county&fld=stabbv&rpp=25.
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As depicted, the state and federal ozone standards were exceeded on numerous occasions during the past 5 years. The state and federal standards for suspended particulates (i.e., PM10 and PM2.5) have also been exceeded on various occasions during the past 5 years.

**Attainment Status**

Under the CCAA, the CARB is required to designate areas of the state as attainment, nonattainment, or unclassified with respect to applicable standards. An “attainment” designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations did not violate the applicable standard in that area. A “nonattainment” designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the applicable standard at least once, excluding those occasions when a violation was caused by an exceptional event, as defined in the criteria. Depending on the frequency and severity of pollutants exceeding applicable standards, the nonattainment designation can be further classified as serious nonattainment, severe nonattainment, or extreme nonattainment, with extreme nonattainment being the most severe of the classifications. An “unclassified” designation signifies that the data do not support either an attainment or nonattainment status. The CCAA divides districts into moderate, serious, and severe air pollution categories, with increasingly stringent control requirements mandated for each category.

The US EPA designates areas for ozone, CO, and NO2 as “does not meet the primary standards,” “cannot be classified,” or “better than national standards.” For SO2, areas are designated as “does not meet the primary standards,” “does not meet the secondary standards,” “cannot be classified,” or “better than national standards.” However, the CARB terminology of attainment, nonattainment, and unclassified is more frequently used. The US EPA uses the same sub-categories for nonattainment status: serious, severe, and extreme. In 1991, US EPA assigned new nonattainment designations to areas that had previously been classified as Group I, II, or III for PM10 based on the likelihood that they would violate national PM10 standards. All other areas are designated “unclassified.”

Ambient air quality standards, effects, typical sources, and the state and national attainment status designations pertaining to the SCAB are summarized in Table 2.16. The SCAB is currently designated as a nonattainment area with respect to the state and federal ozone, PM10, and PM2.5 standards. The SCAB is also designated nonattainment for the state NO2 standard. In addition, based on monitoring data obtained near a lead acid battery reclamation facility, Los Angeles County is currently designated nonattainment for the state and federal lead standards. With the exception of Los Angeles County, the remainder of the SCAB is designated attainment for the lead standards. The Basin is designated attainment or unclassified for the remaining State and federal standards (CARB 2011).
### Table 2.16: State & Federal Criteria Air Pollutant Standards, Effects, Sources & Attainment Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pollutant</th>
<th>Averaging Time</th>
<th>State Standard</th>
<th>Federal Standard</th>
<th>Principal Health and Atmospheric Effects</th>
<th>Typical Sources</th>
<th>Attainment Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ozone (O₃)⁺</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>0.09 ppm</td>
<td>0.075 ppm (4th highest in 3 years)</td>
<td>High concentrations irritate lungs. Long-term exposure may cause lung tissue damage and cancer. Long-term exposure damages plant materials and reduces crop productivity. Precursor organic compounds include many known toxic air contaminants. Biogenic VOC may also contribute.</td>
<td>Low-altitude ozone is almost entirely formed from reactive organic gases/volatile organic compounds (ROG or VOC) and nitrogen oxides (NOₓ) in the presence of sunlight and heat. Major sources include motor vehicles and other mobile sources, solvent evaporation, and industrial and other combustion processes.</td>
<td>Federal: Extreme nonattainment (8 hours) State: Extreme nonattainment (1 hour); Nonattainment (8 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Monoxide (CO)</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>20 ppm</td>
<td>35 ppm</td>
<td>CO interferes with the transfer of oxygen to the blood and deprives sensitive tissues of oxygen. CO also is a minor precursor for photochemical ozone.</td>
<td>Combustion sources, especially gasoline-powered engines and motor vehicles. CO is the traditional signature pollutant for on-road mobile sources at the local and neighborhood scale.</td>
<td>Federal: Attainment / Maintenance (1 hour and 8 hours) State: Attainment (1 hour and 8 hours)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respirable Particulate Matter (PM₁₀)²</td>
<td>24 hours Annual</td>
<td>50 µg/m³</td>
<td>150 µg/m³</td>
<td>Irritates eyes and respiratory tract. Decreases lung capacity. Associated with increased cancer and mortality. Contributes to haze and reduced visibility. Includes some toxic air contaminants. Many aerosol and solid compounds are part of PM₁₀.</td>
<td>Dust- and fume-producing industrial and agricultural operations; combustion smoke; atmospheric chemical reactions; construction and other dust-producing activities; unpaved road dust and re-entrained paved road dust; natural sources (wind-blown dust, ocean spray).</td>
<td>Federal: Serious nonattainment State: Nonattainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Particulate Matter (PM₂.₅)²</td>
<td>24 hours Annual (conformity process ³)</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>35 µg/m³ (4th highest in 3 years)</td>
<td>Increases respiratory disease, lung damage, cancer, and premature death. Reduces visibility and produces surface soiling. Most diesel exhaust particulate matter – a toxic air contaminant – is in the PM₂.₅ size range. Many aerosol and solid compounds are part of PM₂.₅.</td>
<td>Combustion including motor vehicles, other mobile sources, and industrial activities; residential and agricultural burning; also formed through atmospheric chemical (including photochemical) reactions involving other pollutants including NOₓ, sulfur oxides (SOₓ), ammonia, and ROG.</td>
<td>Federal: Nonattainment State: Nonattainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance</td>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>Federal:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Attainment-Maintenance (1 hour and annual)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>State: Nonattainment (1 hour and annual)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>State: Nonattainment (1 hour and annual)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Attainment (1 hour and annual)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td>State: Unclassified (1 hour)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 hours</td>
<td>State: Attainment (1 hour and annual)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>State: Nonattainment (monthly)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead (Pb)</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>Nonattainment (3-month average and quarter)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>State: Nonattainment (monthly)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rolling 3-month average</td>
<td>State: Nonattainment (monthly)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfate</td>
<td>24 hours</td>
<td>Attainment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S)</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>Unclassified</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂)**
- 1 hour: 0.18 ppm, 0.100 ppm (98th percentile over 3 years)
- Annual: 0.030 ppm
- Irritating to eyes and respiratory tract. Colors atmosphere reddish-brown. Contributes to acid rain. Part of the "NOx" group of ozone precursors.
- Motor vehicles and other mobile sources; refineries; industrial operations.

**Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂)**
- 1 hour: 0.25 ppm, 0.075 ppm (98th percentile over 3 years)
- 3 hours: 0.04 ppm
- 24 hours: 0.07 ppm, 0.04 ppm
- Irritates respiratory tract; injures lung tissue. Can yellow plant leaves. Destructive to marble, iron, steel. Contributes to acid rain. Limits visibility.
- Fuel combustion (especially coal and high-sulfur oil), chemical plants, sulfur recovery plants, metal processing; some natural sources like active volcanoes. Limited contribution possible from heavy-duty diesel vehicles if ultra-low sulfur fuel not used.

**Lead (Pb)**
- Monthly: 1.5 μg/m³, 0.15 μg/m³
- Quarterly: 1.5 μg/m³
- Rolling 3-month average: 1.0 μg/m³
- Disturbs gastrointestinal system. Causes anemia, kidney disease, and neuromuscular and neurological dysfunction. Also a toxic air contaminant and water pollutant.
- Lead-based industrial processes like battery production and smelters. Lead paint, leaded gasoline. Aerially deposited lead from gasoline may exist in soils along major roads.

**Sulfate**
- 24 hours: 25 μg/m³
- Premature mortality and respiratory effects. Contributes to acid rain. Some toxic air contaminants attach to sulfate aerosol particles.
- Industrial processes, refineries and oil fields, mines, natural sources like volcanic areas, salt-covered dry lakes, and large sulfide rock areas.

**Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S)**
- 1 hour: 0.03 ppm
- Industrial processes such as: refineries and oil fields, asphalt plants, livestock operations, sewage treatment plants, and mines. Some natural sources like volcanic areas and hot springs.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulate Matter (PM)</th>
<th>8 hours</th>
<th>Visibility of 10 miles or more (Tahoe: 30 miles) at relative humidity less than 70%</th>
<th>--</th>
<th>Reduces visibility. Produces haze. NOTE: not related to the Regional Haze program under the Federal Clean Air Act, which is oriented primarily toward visibility issues in National Parks and other “Class I” areas.</th>
<th>See particulate matter above.</th>
<th>State Only: No information available</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vinyl Chloride</td>
<td>24 hours</td>
<td>0.01 ppm</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>Neurological effects, liver damage, cancer. Also considered a toxic air contaminant.</td>
<td>Industrial processes</td>
<td>State Only: Unclassified</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the California ARB Air Quality Standards chart (http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/aaqs/aaqs2.pdf).

Notes: ppm = parts per million; μg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter; ppb = parts per billion (thousand million)

1. Rounding to an integer value is not allowed for the State 8-hour CO standard. Violation occurs at or above 9.05 ppm. Violation of the Federal standard occurs at 9.5 ppm due to integer rounding.
2. Annual PM\(_{10}\) NAAQS revoked October 2006; was 50 μg/m³. 24-hr. PM\(_{2.5}\) NAAQS tightened October 2006; was 65 μg/m³. In 9/09 U.S. EPA began reconsidering the PM\(_{2.5}\) NAAQS; the 2006 action was partially vacated by a court decision.
3. The ARB has identified vinyl chloride and the particulate matter fraction of diesel exhaust as toxic air contaminants. Diesel exhaust particulate matter is part of PM\(_{10}\) and, in larger proportion, PM\(_{2.5}\). Both the ARB and U.S. EPA have identified lead and various organic compounds that are precursors to ozone and PM\(_{2.5}\) as toxic air contaminants. There are no exposure criteria for adverse health effect due to toxic air contaminants, and control requirements may apply at ambient concentrations below any criteria levels specified above for these pollutants or the general categories of pollutants to which they belong. Lead NAAQS are not required to be considered in Transportation Conformity analysis. Federal nonattainment designation for the Los Angeles County portion of the South Coast Air Basin, effective December 31, 2011.
4. Prior to 6/2005, the 1-hour NAAQS was 0.12 ppm. The 1-hour NAAQS is still used only in 8-hour ozone early action compact areas, of which there are none in California. However, emission budgets for 1-hour ozone may still be in use in some areas where 8-hour ozone emission budgets have not been developed.
5. The 65 μg/m³ PM\(_{2.5}\) (24-hr) NAAQS was not revoked when the 35 μg/m³ NAAQS was promulgated in 2006. Conformity requirements apply for all NAAQS, including revoked NAAQS, until emission budgets for the newer NAAQS are found adequate or SIP amendments for the newer NAAQS are completed.
6. As of 9/16/09, U.S. EPA is reconsidering the 2008 8-hour ozone NAAQS (0.075 ppb). U.S. EPA is expected to tighten the primary NAAQS to somewhere in the range of 60-70 ppb and to add a secondary NAAQS. U.S. EPA plans to finalize reconsideration and promulgate a revised standard by August 2010.
9. State standards are “not to exceed” unless stated otherwise. Federal standards are “not to exceed more than once a year” or as noted above.
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**Sensitive Receptors**

One of the most important reasons for air quality standards is the protection of those members of the population who are most sensitive to the adverse health effects of air pollution, termed "sensitive receptors." The term sensitive receptors refer to specific population groups, as well as the land uses where individuals would reside for long periods. Commonly identified sensitive population groups are children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill. Commonly identified sensitive land uses would include facilities that house or attract children, the elderly, people with illnesses, or others who are especially sensitive to the effects of air pollutants. Residential dwellings, schools, parks, playgrounds, childcare centers, convalescent homes, and hospitals are examples of sensitive land uses.

Land uses in the immediate area of the interchange consist predominantly of commercial land uses, including business parks, light industrial, retail, and gas stations. Sensitive land uses in the vicinity of the proposed project include residential dwellings located along Agoura Road south of the interchange. Several multi-family residential properties, Agoura Park, and Agoura High School are located northwest of the interchange. A Montessori School and learning center is located approximately 500 feet northwest of the project area, near the intersection of Driver Avenue and Chesebro Road.

**Environmental Consequences**

**Regional Conformity**

The proposed project is identified as Project ID #LA0G230 and was included in the regional emissions analysis conducted by the South Coast Association of Governments (SCAG) for the conforming 2012-2035 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (RTP/SCS). SCAG adopted the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS on April 4, 2012. Federal approval of the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS conformity determination was issued on June 4, 2012. The proposed project was included in the recently approved 2011 FTIP, Amendment 11-24. The 2011 FTIP, Amendment 11-24 was found to be consistent with the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS, as currently amended, and Federal approval of 2011 FTIP Amendment 11-24 was issued on June 4, 2012. As described in the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and FTIP, the proposed project includes “widening of the bridge from 2 lanes to 4 lanes, construction of sidewalks and bike lanes, modification of on/off ramps, and modification of various intersections.”

The proposed project’s design concept and scope have not changed significantly from what was analyzed in the 2012-2035 RTP/SCS and FTIP. This analysis found that the plan and, therefore, the individual projects contained in the plan, are conforming projects, and will have air quality impacts consistent with those identified in the SIPs for achieving the NAAQS. Please refer to the Air Quality & Climate Change Study Report (AMBIENT Air Quality & Noise Consulting 2011) for additional information regarding regional conformity.
proposed project’s design concept and scope have not changed significantly from what was analyzed in the RTP and RTIP. This analysis found that the plan and, therefore, the individual projects contained in the plan, are conforming projects, and will have air quality impacts consistent with those identified in the SIPs for achieving the NAAQS. The U.S. Department of Transportation determined the RTP Amendment #4 and RTIP Amendment #08-34 to conform to the SIP on May 6, 2010 (SCAG 2010). The revised proposed project was included in the recently approved 2011 FTIP, Amendment 11-0624. The 2011 FTIP, Amendment 11-06 24 was found to be consistent with the 2008 RTP, as currently amended, and Federal approval of 2011 FTIP Amendment 11-06 24 was issued on May 12, 2011June 4, 2012. Please refer to the Air Quality & Climate Change Study Report (AMBIENT Air Quality & Noise Consulting 2011) for additional information regarding regional conformity.

**Project Level Conformity**

The project-level localized air quality impacts associated with mobile-source CO and PM are evaluated, as follows:
**Carbon Monoxide (CO) Analysis**

The *Transportation Project-Level Carbon Monoxide Protocol, UCD-ITS-97-21 (CO Protocol)*, University of California, Davis, December 1997, provides procedures and guidelines for use by agencies to evaluate the potential local level CO impacts of a transportation project. The CO Protocol provides decision flow charts designed to assist the lead agency in evaluating requirements that specifically apply to a proposed action. These flow charts provide a screening-level assessment, which can be used to determine if further analysis of CO impacts is warranted. These flow charts were used for the analysis of CO impacts attributable to the proposed project.

As previously noted, the proposed project is located in an attainment area for federal and state CO standards, and the existing CO concentrations in the project area are substantially below the ambient air quality standards. Additionally, the proposed project would result in overall decreases in vehicle congestion and delay, would not affect the percentages of vehicles operating in cold start mode, and would not affect vehicle fleet percentages on area roadways. For these reasons, further analysis of localized mobile-source CO concentrations is not required. Please refer to the *Air Quality & Climate Change Study Report* (AMBIENT Air Quality & Noise Consulting 2011) for additional information regarding project-level conformity.

**Particulate Matter Analysis**

For projects deemed to be projects of air quality concern (POAQC) a quantitative PM hot spot analysis is required under the US EPA Transportation Conformity rule for Projects of Air Quality Concern (POAQC), as described in the US EPA's Final Rule of December 2010. Projects that are not POAQC do not require detailed PM hot-spot analysis.

The proposed project was submitted to the January 25, 2011 Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG) meeting (see Appendix C). The TCWG determined that the proposed project is not considered a POAQC for PM because it does not meet the definition of a POAQC as defined in the US EPA’s Transportation Conformity Guidance. Therefore, a PM hot-spot analysis is not required. Please refer to the *Air Quality & Climate Change Study Report* (AMBIENT Air Quality & Noise Consulting 2011) for additional information regarding project-level conformity.

**Mobile Source Air Toxics**

The following discussion is based on the *FHWA Memorandum, Subject: INFORMATION: Interim Guidance Update on Mobile Source Air Toxic Analysis in NEPA*, dated September 30, 2009. The purpose of the guidance is to advise when and how to analyze MSATs in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for highways. This guidance is interim, given that MSAT science is still evolving. As the science progresses, FHWA will update the guidance.

MSATs are a subset of the 188 air toxics defined by the FCAA. The MSATs are compounds emitted from highway vehicles and non-road equipment. Some toxic compounds are present in fuel and are emitted to the air when the fuel evaporates or passes through the engine unburned. Other toxics are emitted from the incomplete combustion of fuels or as secondary combustion products. Metal air toxics also result from engine wear or from impurities in oil or gasoline.

Controlling air toxic emissions became a national priority with the passage of the FCAA Amendments (FCAAA) of 1990, whereby Congress mandated that the US EPA regulate 188 air toxics, also known as hazardous air pollutants. The US EPA has assessed this expansive list in their latest rule on the Control of
HAPs from Mobile Sources (Federal Register, Vol. 72, No. 37, page 8430, February 26, 2007) and identified a group of 93 compounds emitted from mobile sources that are listed in their Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) (http://www.epa.gov/ncea/iris/index.html). In addition, the US EPA identified seven compounds with significant contributions from mobile sources that are among the national and regional-scale cancer risk drivers from their 1999 National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) (http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/nata1999/). These are acrolein, benzene, 1,3-butadiene, diesel particulate matter plus diesel exhaust organic gases (diesel PM), formaldehyde, naphthalene, and polycyclic organic matter. While FHWA considers these the priority mobile source air toxics, the list is subject to change and may be adjusted in consideration of future EPA rules (FHWA 2009).

The 2007 US EPA rule mentioned above requires controls that will dramatically decrease MSAT emissions through cleaner fuels and cleaner engines. According to an FHWA analysis using US EPA's MOBILE6.2 model, even if vehicle activity (vehicle-miles travelled, VMT) increases by 145 percent as assumed, a combined reduction of 72 percent in the total annual emission rate for the priority MSAT is projected from 1999 to 2050, as shown in Figure 2.11 (FHWA 2009).
Figure 2.11: National MSAT Emission Trends 1999-2050
for Vehicles Operating on Roadways Using EPA’s Mobile 6.2 Model

Note: (1) Annual emissions of polycyclic organic matter are projected to be 561 tons/year for 1999, decreasing to 373 tons/year for 2050. (2) Trends for specific locations may be different, depending on locally derived information representing vehicle-miles travelled, vehicle speeds, vehicle mix, fuels, emission control programs, meteorology, and other factors.
Source: FHWA 2009.
Incomplete or Unavailable Information for Project-Specific MSAT Health Impacts Analysis

Air toxics analysis is a continuing area of research. While much work has been done to assess the overall health risk of air toxics, many questions remain unanswered. In particular, the tools and techniques for assessing project-specific health outcomes as a result of lifetime MSAT exposure remain limited. In FHWA's view, information is incomplete or unavailable to credibly predict the project-specific health impacts due to changes in MSAT emissions associated with a proposed set of highway alternatives. The outcome of such an assessment, adverse or not, would be influenced more by the uncertainty introduced into the process through assumption and speculation rather than any genuine insight into the actual health impacts directly attributable to MSAT exposure associated with a proposed action.

The US EPA is responsible for protecting the public health and welfare from any known or anticipated effect of an air pollutant. They are the lead authority for administering the FCAA and its amendments and have specific statutory obligations with respect to hazardous air pollutants and MSAT. The US EPA is in the continual process of assessing human health effects, exposures, and risks posed by air pollutants. They maintain the Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS), which is "a compilation of electronic reports on specific substances found in the environment and their potential to cause human health effects". Each report contains assessments of non-cancerous and cancerous effects for individual compounds and quantitative estimates of risk levels from lifetime oral and inhalation exposures with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude.

Other organizations are also active in the research and analyses of the human health effects of MSAT, including the Health Effects Institute (HEI). Among the adverse health effects linked to MSAT compounds at high exposures are cancer in humans in occupational settings; cancer in animals; and irritation to the respiratory tract, including the exacerbation of asthma. Less obvious is the adverse human health effects of MSAT compounds at current environmental concentrations or in the future as vehicle emissions substantially decrease. The FHWA, US EPA, the HEI, and others have funded and conducted research studies to try to more clearly define potential risks from MSAT emissions associated with highway projects. The FHWA will continue to monitor the developing research in this emerging field.

The methodologies for forecasting health impacts include emissions modeling; dispersion modeling; exposure modeling; and then final determination of health impacts - each step in the process building on the model predictions obtained in the previous step. All are encumbered by technical shortcomings or uncertain science that prevents a more complete differentiation of the MSAT health impacts among a set of project alternatives. These difficulties are magnified for lifetime (i.e., 70 year) assessments, particularly because unsupportable assumptions would have to be made regarding changes in travel patterns and vehicle technology (which affects emissions rates) over that time frame, since such information is unavailable. The results produced by the US EPA's MOBILE6.2 model, the California EPA's EMFAC2007 model, and the US EPA's DraftMOVES2009 model in forecasting MSAT emissions are highly inconsistent. Indications from the development of the MOVES model are that MOBILE6.2 significantly underestimates diesel particulate matter (PM) emissions and significantly overestimates benzene emissions.

Regarding air dispersion modeling, an extensive evaluation of US EPA's guideline CAL3QHC model was conducted in a National Cooperative Research Program (NCHRP) study, which documents poor model performance at ten sites across the country - three where intensive monitoring was conducted plus an additional seven with less intensive monitoring. The study indicates a bias of the CAL3QHC model to
overestimate concentrations near highly congested intersections and underestimate concentrations near uncongested intersections. The consequence of this is a tendency to overstate the air quality benefits of mitigating congestion at intersections. Such poor model performance is less difficult to manage for demonstrating compliance with NAAQS for relatively short time frames than it is for forecasting individual exposure over an entire lifetime, especially given that some information needed for estimating 70-year lifetime exposure is unavailable. It is particularly difficult to reliably forecast MSAT exposure near roadways, and to determine the portion of time that people are actually exposed at a specific location.

There are considerable uncertainties associated with the existing estimates of toxicity of the various MSAT, because of factors such as low-dose extrapolation and translation of occupational exposure data to the general population, a concern expressed by HEI. As a result, there is no national consensus on air dose-response values assumed to protect the public health and welfare for MSAT compounds, and in particular for diesel PM. The US EPA and the HEI have not established a basis for quantitative risk assessment of diesel PM in ambient settings.

There is also the lack of a national consensus on an acceptable level of risk. The current context is the process used by the US EPA, as provided by the FCAA, to determine whether more stringent controls are required in order to provide an ample margin of safety to protect public health or to prevent an adverse environmental effect for industrial sources subject to the maximum achievable control technology standards, such as benzene emissions from refineries. The decision framework is a two-step process. The first step requires the US EPA to determine a "safe" or "acceptable" level of risk due to emissions from a source, which is generally no greater than approximately 100 in a million. Additional factors are considered in the second step, the goal of which is to maximize the number of people with risks less than 1 in a million due to emissions from a source. The results of this statutory two-step process do not guarantee that cancer risks from exposure to air toxics are less than 1 in a million; in some cases, the residual risk determination could result in maximum individual cancer risks that are as high as approximately 100 in a million. In a June 2008 decision, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit upheld the US EPA's approach to addressing risk in its two step decision framework. Information is incomplete or unavailable to establish that even the largest of highway projects would result in levels of risk greater than safe or acceptable.

Because of the limitations in the methodologies for forecasting health impacts described, any predicted difference in health impacts between alternatives is likely to be much smaller than the uncertainties associated with predicting the impacts. Consequently, the results of such assessments would not be useful to decision makers, who would need to weigh this information against project benefits, such as reducing traffic congestion, accident rates, and fatalities plus improved access for emergency response, that are better suited for quantitative analysis.
**Analysis of MSATs**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no improvements to the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road intersection would occur.

**Build Alternative**

As discussed earlier in this report, the purpose of the proposed project is to reduce traffic congestion along Palo Comado Canyon Road. The proposed project is not projected to result in changes in traffic volumes, or meaningful changes in vehicle speeds along roadway segments, and would result in overall reductions in vehicle delay within the project study area. The proposed project would not affect vehicle mix or vehicle miles traveled relative to the no-build alternative. Based on this information, the proposed project is identified as a Category (2) project, that is, the project would have a low potential for MSAT effects. Please refer to the Air Quality & Climate Change Study Report (AMBIENT Air Quality & Noise Consulting 2011) for additional information regarding MSATs.

**Short-term Construction Emissions**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no improvements to the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road intersection would occur.

**Build Alternative**

During construction, short-term degradation of air quality may occur due to the release of particulate emissions (airborne dust) generated by excavation, grading, hauling, and other activities related to construction. Emissions from construction equipment also are anticipated and would include carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), directly-emitted particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), and toxic air contaminants such as diesel exhaust particulate matter. Ozone is a regional pollutant that is derived from NOx and VOCs in the presence of sunlight and heat.

Site preparation and roadway construction typically involves clearing, cut-and-fill activities, grading, removing or improving existing roadways, building bridges, and paving roadway surfaces. Construction-related effects on air quality from most highway projects would be greatest during the site preparation phase because most engine emissions are associated with the excavation, handling, and transport of soils to and from the site. These activities could temporarily generate enough PM10, PM2.5, and small amounts of CO, SO2, NOx, and VOCs to be of concern. Sources of fugitive dust would include disturbed soils at the construction site and trucks carrying uncovered loads of soils. Unless properly controlled, vehicles leaving the site could deposit mud on local streets, which could be an additional source of airborne dust after it dries. PM10 emissions would vary from day to day, depending on the nature and magnitude of construction activity and local weather conditions. PM10 emissions would depend on soil moisture, silt content of soil, wind speed, and the amount of equipment operating. Larger dust particles would settle near the source, while fine particles would be dispersed over greater distances from the construction site.
Construction activities for large development projects are estimated by the US EPA to add 1.09 tonne (1.2 tons) of fugitive dust per acre of soil disturbed per month of activity. If water or other soil stabilizers are used to control dust, the emissions can be reduced by up to 50 percent. Caltrans' Standard Specifications (Section 14-9.02) pertaining to dust minimization requirements requires use of water or dust palliative compounds and will reduce potential fugitive dust emissions during construction.

In addition to dust-related PM$_{10}$ emissions, heavy-duty trucks and construction equipment powered by gasoline and diesel engines would generate CO, SO$_2$, NOx, VOCs and some soot particulate (PM$_{10}$ and PM$_{2.5}$) in exhaust emissions. If construction activities were to increase traffic congestion in the area, CO and other emissions from traffic would increase slightly while those vehicles are delayed. These emissions would be temporary and limited to the immediate area surrounding the construction site.

SO$_2$ is generated by oxidation during combustion of organic sulfur compounds contained in diesel fuel. Off-road diesel fuel meeting Federal standards can contain 300 parts per million (ppm) or more of sulfur, whereas on-road diesel is restricted to less than 15 ppm of sulfur. However, under California law and ARB regulations, off-road diesel fuel used in California must meet the same sulfur and other standards as on-road diesel fuel (not more than 15 ppm), so SO$_2$-related issues due to diesel exhaust will be minimal. Some phases of construction, particularly asphalt paving, would result in short-term odors in the immediate area of each paving site(s). Such odors would be quickly dispersed below detectable thresholds as distance from the site(s) increases.

**Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures**

Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to commence in February 2013, and be completed and open for traffic in 2015. As a result, project construction would be considered temporary. Most of the construction impacts to air quality are short-term in duration and, therefore, will not result in long-term adverse conditions. Implementation of the following measures, some of which may also be required for other purposes such as storm water pollution control, will reduce any air quality impacts resulting from construction activities:

- The construction contractor shall comply with Caltrans’ Standard Specifications in Section 14 (2010).
  - Section 14-9.01 specifically requires compliance by the contractor with all applicable laws and regulations related to air quality, including air pollution control district and air quality management district regulations and local ordinances.
  - Section 14-9.02 is directed at controlling dust. If dust palliative materials other than water are to be used, material specifications are contained in Section 18.
- Apply water or dust palliative to the site and equipment as frequently as necessary to control fugitive dust emissions. Fugitive emissions generally must meet a “no visible dust” criterion either at the point of emission or at the right of way line depending on local regulations.
- Spread soil binder on any unpaved roads used for construction purposes, and all project construction parking areas.
- Wash off trucks as they leave the right-of-way as necessary to control fugitive dust emissions.
• Properly tune and maintain construction equipment and vehicles. Use low-sulfur fuel in all construction equipment as provided in California Code of Regulations Title 17, Section 93114.

• Develop a dust control plan documenting sprinkling, temporary paving, speed limits, and expedited revegetation of disturbed slopes as needed to minimize construction impacts to existing communities.

• Locate equipment and materials storage sites as far away from residential and park uses as practical. Keep construction areas clean and orderly.

• Establish Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) or their equivalent near sensitive air receptors within which construction activities involving extended idling of diesel equipment would be prohibited, to the extent feasible.

• Use track-out reduction measures such as gravel pads at project access points to minimize dust and mud deposits on roads affected by construction traffic.

• Cover all transported loads of soils and wet materials prior to transport, or provide adequate freeboard (space from the top of the material to the top of the truck) to minimize emission of dust (particulate matter) during transportation.

• Promptly and regularly remove dust and mud that are deposited on paved, public roads due to construction activity and traffic to decrease particulate matter.

• Route and schedule construction traffic to avoid peak travel times as much as possible, to reduce congestion and related air quality impacts caused by idling vehicles along local roads.

• Install mulch or plant vegetation as soon as practical after grading to reduce windblown particulate in the area. Be aware that certain methods of mulch placement, such as straw blowing, may themselves cause dust and visible emission issues and may need to use controls such as dampened straw.

**SCAQMD Rules & Regulations**

As noted above, Caltrans Standard Specifications, Section 14-9, specifically requires compliance with all applicable laws and regulations related to air quality, which would include applicable SMAQMD rules and regulations. This would include compliance with SCAQMD Rules 402 and 403. SCAQMD Rule 402 requires that air pollutant emissions not be a nuisance off-site. SCAQMD Rule 403 requires that fugitive dust be controlled with the best available control measures in order to reduce dust so that it does not remain visible in the atmosphere beyond the property line of the proposed project. Rule 403 requires that construction activities utilize the applicable best available control measures identified in Rule 403. The applicable control measures target various construction operations such as backfilling, clearing and grubbing, crushing, cut and fill, demolition, earth-moving activities, bulk material import and export, construction staging, stockpiles/bulk material handling, trenching, and loading. The proposed project would implement all applicable measures presented in Rule 403. The applicable measures from Table 1 of Rule 403 suggest methods such as covering stockpiles with tarps, and the application of water to stabilize materials. Rule 403 also prohibits projects from allowing track-outs to extend 25 feet or more in cumulative length from the point of origin from an active operation. All track-outs are required to be
removed at the conclusion of each workday or evening shift. Any projects with a disturbed surface area of five or more acres or with a daily import or export of 100 cubic yards or more of bulk materials must utilize at least one of the specified track-out control measures at each vehicle egress from the site to a paved public road. The specified track-out control measures consist of installation of washed gravel pads, paving project ingress/egress, wheel shakers, wheel washing systems, and any other approved control measures.

**Long-term Operational Emissions**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no improvements to the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road intersection would occur. Levels of service would be expected to decrease to LOS F by the year 2035; traffic congestion and overall vehicle delay would not be improved and reduction in mobile-source emissions would not occur.

**Build Alternative**

Under the Build Alternative, improvements to local traffic circulation would occur, thus relieving traffic congestion and overall vehicle delay at roadway intersections located within the project area. Reductions in overall vehicle delay are projected to result in a slight reduction in mobile-source emissions. Please refer to the *Air Quality & Climate Change Study Report* (AMBIENT Air Quality & Noise Consulting 2011) for additional information regarding project-generated operational emissions.

**Naturally Occurring Asbestos**

Los Angeles County is not among the counties listed as containing or likely to contain serpentine and ultramafic rock. Therefore, the discovery of naturally occurring asbestos during project construction would be unlikely.

### 2.2.7 Noise

**Regulatory Setting**

NEPA and CEQA provide the broad basis for analyzing and abating highway traffic noise effects. The intent of these laws is to promote the general welfare and to foster a healthy environment. The requirements for noise analysis and consideration of noise abatement and/or mitigation, however, differ between NEPA and CEQA.

*California Environmental Quality Act*

CEQA requires a strictly baseline (existing) versus build (with project) analysis to assess whether a proposed project will have a noise impact. If a proposed project is determined to have a significant noise impact under CEQA, then CEQA dictates that mitigation measures must be incorporated into the project unless such measures are not feasible.

*National Environmental Policy Act and 23 CFR 772*

For highway transportation projects with FHWA (and Caltrans, as assigned) involvement, the federal-Aid Highway Act of 1970 and the associated implementing regulations (23 CFR 772) govern the analysis and abatement of traffic noise impacts. The regulations require that potential noise impacts in areas of frequent human use be identified during the planning and design of a highway project. The regulations contain
noise abatement criteria (NAC) that are used to determine when a noise impact would occur. The NAC differ depending on the type of land use under analysis. For example, the NAC for residences (67 dBA) is lower than the NAC for commercial areas (72 dBA). Table 2.17 lists the noise abatement criteria for use in the NEPA-23 CFR 772 analysis.

**Table 2.17: Noise Abatement Criteria**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity Category</th>
<th>NAC, Hourly A-Weighted Noise Level, dBA $L_{eq}(h)$</th>
<th>Description of Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>57 (Exterior)</td>
<td>Lands on which serenity and quiet are of extraordinary significance and serve an important public need and where the preservation of those qualities is essential if the area is to continue to serve its intended purpose.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>67 (Exterior)</td>
<td>Picnic areas, recreation areas, playgrounds, active sport areas, parks, residences, motels, hotels, schools, churches, libraries, and hospitals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>72 (Exterior)</td>
<td>Developed lands, properties, or activities not included in Categories A or B above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>Undeveloped lands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>52 (Interior)</td>
<td>Residences, motels, hotels, public meeting rooms, schools, churches, libraries, hospitals, and auditoriums.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Caltrans 2006*

**Figure 2.12** lists the noise levels of common activities to enable readers to compare the actual and predicted highway noise-levels discussed in this section with common activities.
In accordance with Caltrans’ Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol for New Highway Construction and Reconstruction Projects, August 2006, a noise impact occurs when the future noise level with the project results in a substantial increase in noise level (defined as a 12 dBA or more increase) or when the future noise level with the project approaches or exceeds the NAC. Approaching the NAC is defined as coming within 1 dBA of the NAC.

If it is determined that the project will have noise impacts, then potential abatement measures must be considered. Noise abatement measures that are determined to be reasonable and feasible at the time of final design are incorporated into the project plans and specifications. This document discusses noise abatement measures that would likely be incorporated in the project.

The Caltrans’ Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol sets forth the criteria for determining when an abatement measure is reasonable and feasible. Feasibility of noise abatement is basically an engineering concern. A minimum 5 dBA reduction in the future noise level must be achieved for an abatement measure to be considered feasible. Other considerations include topography, access requirements, other noise sources

### Figure 2.12: Noise Levels of Common Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Outdoor Activities</th>
<th>Noise Level (dBA)</th>
<th>Common Indoor Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jet Fly-over at 300 m (1000 ft)</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>Rock Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas Lawn Mower at 1 m (3 ft)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diesel Truck at 15 m (50 ft), at 80 km (50 mph)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Food Blender at 1 m (3 ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noisy Urban Area, Daytime</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Garbage Disposal at 1 m (3 ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas Lawn Mower, 30 m (100 ft)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Vacuum Cleaner at 3 m (10 ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Area</td>
<td></td>
<td>Normal Speech at 1 m (3 ft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavy Traffic at 90 m (300 ft)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Large Business Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiet Urban Daytime</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Dishwasher Next Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiet Urban Nighttime</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Theater, Large Conference Room (Background)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiet Suburban Nighttime</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiet Rural Nighttime</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Bedroom at Night, Concert Hall (Background)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Threshold of Human Hearing</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Broadcast/Recording Studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowest Threshold of Human Hearing</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
and safety considerations. The reasonableness determination is basically a cost-benefit analysis. Factors used in determining whether a proposed noise abatement measure is reasonable include: residents' acceptance and the cost per benefited residence.

**Affected Environment**

Site reconnaissance visits were performed on January 13-14, 2010, January 18, 2010, January 28, 2010, October 13, 2010, and April 11-12, 2010 to identify noise-sensitive receptors within and adjacent to the project area and measure existing background noise levels. One long-term (LT) (24-hour) and one short-term (ST) (20-minute) measurement were conducted near the noise sensitive locations within the project vicinity. This information was incorporated into a Noise Study Report, which was completed in May 2011.

All developed land uses were evaluated; however locations of frequent human use that would benefit from a lowered noise level were the focus. Accordingly, locations with defined outdoor activity areas, such as residential backyards, were the focus of the Noise Study Report.

**Land Use and Sensitive Locations**

Existing land uses adjacent to the project site include single-family residential, office/commercial, and vacant properties. The area south of the interchange consists of commercial office buildings and vacant properties. The area adjacent to the interchange on the north includes two gas stations: one in the northeast quadrant and one in the northwest quadrant. North of the gas stations are one vacant parcel to the west and one single-family residential parcel to the east, the majority of which is unused. The primary area of outdoor use that could be affected by the proposed project is the side yard of the single-family residence located at 5306 Chesebro Road.

Beyond the limits of the project, the Old Agoura Park is adjacent to the intersection of Chesebro Road and Palo Comado Canyon Road/Driver Avenue to the northwest; a daycare facility is adjacent to this intersection to the southwest. Commercial office buildings are adjacent to the intersection of Chesebro Road and Agoura Road to the southwest; single-family residences are adjacent to this intersection to the southeast.

Per NEPA, noise abatement is only considered for areas of frequent human use that would benefit from a lowered noise level. Areas of frequent outdoor human use adjacent to the project site include the backyard and side yard of the single-family residence located at 5306 Chesebro Road (see Figure 2.13).
Figure 2.13: Proposed Noise Barrier Location

Source: Kimley-Horn Associates
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**Existing Traffic Noise**

The noise environment in the project vicinity is dominated by traffic traveling along US 101. There are no existing noise barriers within the project limits. The data compiled is depicted in Tables 2.18 and 2.19 (short-term data), and in **Table 2.20** (noise barrier analysis).

### Table 2.18: Summary of Short-Term (ST) Sound Level Measurements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Noise Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ST-1</td>
<td>5306 Chesebro Rd.</td>
<td>Single-Family Residential</td>
<td>04/12/2011 0800-0820</td>
<td>70dBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Kimley-Horn Associates*

### Table 2.19: Traffic Counts During Short-Term (ST) Sound Level Measurements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Roadway</th>
<th>Count Duration</th>
<th>Autos</th>
<th>Medium Trucks</th>
<th>Heavy Trucks</th>
<th>Buses</th>
<th>Motorcycles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ST-1</td>
<td>Palo Comado NB</td>
<td>20 min</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Palo Comado SB</td>
<td>20 min</td>
<td>197</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Kimley-Horn Associates*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Units Represented</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Total Number of Benefited Receivers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R1R1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adjusted Existing Traffic Noise Level</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>6969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Year with Project Traffic Noise Level</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>6969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Year with Project minus Existing Traffic Noise Level</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>+0+0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6-Foot Barrier</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Year with Project Traffic Noise Level</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>6369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Predicted Noise Reduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Benefited Receivers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8-Foot Barrier</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Year with Project Traffic Noise Level</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>6269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Predicted Noise Reduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Benefited Receivers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10-Foot Barrier</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Year with Project Traffic Noise Level</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>6069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Predicted Noise Reduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Benefited Receivers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12-Foot Barrier</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Year with Project Traffic Noise Level</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>6069</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Predicted Noise Reduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Benefited Receivers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14-Foot Barrier</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Year with Project Traffic Noise Level</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>5969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Predicted Noise Reduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Benefited Receivers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>16-Foot Barrier</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Year with Project Traffic Noise Level</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>5869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Predicted Noise Reduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Benefited Receivers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Traffic noise levels that approach or exceed 67 dBA Leq(h) are shown in bold.*

*b 12-foot-high barrier breaks the line of sight to an 11.5-foot-high truck stack.*

*Source: Kimley-Horn Associates*
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A summary of long-term measurements at LT1 show Leq(h) ranging from 53.4 dBA to 70.8 dBA, with an average of 64 dBA. The highest hourly Leq occurred between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.; however, this hour included one anomalous noise event, lasting for less than one minute, that generated an Lmax over 100 dB. This event, likely an ambulance or un-muffled vehicle, artificially raised the Leq to a level higher than standard traffic patterns would cause. As such, the peak-noise-hour-period was considered to occur between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m., at 69.5 Leq(h). At 69.5, the noise level exceeds the NAC for residences, which is 67 dBA; therefore, noise abatement must be considered.

**Noise Abatement**

In accordance with 23 CFR 772, potential noise abatement measures include avoiding the impact; constructing noise barriers; acquiring property to serve as a buffer zone; using traffic management measures to regulate vehicle types and speeds; and acoustically insulating public-use or non-profit institutional structures. Because of the configuration and location of the project, abatement in the form of a noise barrier is the only abatement that is considered to be feasible.

Noise barriers must be evaluated based on achievable noise reduction and reasonable cost. **Table 2.21** summarizes the calculated noise reductions and reasonable allowances for various barrier noise barrier heights (between 6 and 16 feet).

**Table 2.21: Preliminary Data for Reasonableness Calculation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Barrier I.D.: SW-1</th>
<th>Predicted Sound Level without Barrier</th>
<th>Critical Design Receiver: R1</th>
<th>Design Year Noise Level, dBA Leq(h): 69</th>
<th>Design Year Noise Level Minus Existing Noise Level: 0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-Foot Barrier</td>
<td>8-Foot Barrier</td>
<td>10-Foot Barrier</td>
<td>12-Foot Barrier</td>
<td>14-Foot Barrier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrier Noise Reduction (dB)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Benefited Residences</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Highway or More than 50% of Residences Predate 1978b</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reasonable Allowance per Benefitted Residence</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Reasonable Allowance</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>$45,000</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
<td>$47,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

a. A NADR will be prepared that will identify noise barrier construction cost information and the noise barriers that are reasonable from a cost perspective.

b. This adjustment increases the abatement allowance by $10,000 if the project is new highway construction or if most of the benefited residences (more than 50%) existed before January 1, 1978.

**Source:** Kimley-Horn Associates
**Environmental Consequences**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain. Measurement results indicate that existing peak hour traffic noise levels are approximately 69 dBA at the single-family residence at 5306 Chesebro Road, in the northeastern quadrant of the intersection of Palo Comado Canyon Road and Chesebro Road. Therefore, existing noise levels currently exceed the Caltrans and FHWA NAC at outdoor usable areas for the noise-sensitive land use.

**Build Alternative**

Under the Build Alternative, the predicted peak hour sound level at 5306 Chesebro Road would remain at the existing level of approximately 69 dBA Leq(h). Existing and future traffic noise level exceeds the NAC at the outdoor usable areas of the noise-sensitive land use; therefore, a noise barrier is proposed as part of the project.

During construction of the project, noise from construction activities may intermittently dominate the noise environment in the immediate area of construction; construction noise would be short-term intermittent, and overshadowed by local traffic noise. Construction equipment is expected to generate noise levels ranging from 70 to 90 dB at a distance of 50 feet. With the following measures, no adverse noise impacts as a result construction are anticipated.

**Avoidance, Minimization and/or Abatement Measures**

Construction of the project shall comply with Section 14-8.02: Noise Control of the 2006 Caltrans Standard Specifications Amendments, which states:

- Do not exceed 86 dBA Leq(h) at 50 feet from the job site activities from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Use an alternative warning method instead of a sound signal unless required by safety laws.

- Equip an internal combustion engine with the manufacturer-recommended muffler. Do not operate an internal combustion engine on the job site without the appropriate muffler.

Additionally, the project shall implement the following measures from Caltrans Special Provisions S5-310: Noise Control:

- All equipment will have sound-control devices that are no less effective than those provided on the original equipment. No equipment will have an un-muffled exhaust.

- As directed by Caltrans, the contractor will implement appropriate additional noise abatement measures, including changing the location of stationary construction equipment, turning off idling equipment, rescheduling construction activity, notifying adjacent residents in advance of construction work, and installing acoustic barriers around stationary construction noise sources.

Based on studies completed to date, and communication with the property owner (see Appendix E), Caltrans intends to incorporate noise abatement in the form of a barrier at: 5306 Cheseboro Road with an average height of 6 feet (proposed location depicted in Figure 2.13). Calculations based on preliminary design data indicate that the barrier will reduce noise levels by approximately 6 dBA for one residence at a cost of $46,000. If during final design conditions have substantially changed, noise abatement may not be necessary. The final decision of the noise abatement will be made upon completion of the project design and the public involvement process.
**CEQA Noise Analysis**

As previously discussed, the existing noise level at 5306 Cheseboro Road is 69 dBA Leq(h) and the predicted noise level under the Build Alternative is 69 dBA Leq(h). There would be no increase between existing noise levels and the Build Alternative; therefore, under CEQA, no impact would occur as a result of the project and no mitigation is required. However, under NEPA-23 CFR 772, because the noise levels at this receptor exceeds the noise abatement criteria of 67 dBA Leq(h), noise abatement would need to be considered.
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2.3 Biological Environment

A Natural Environment Study (Minimal Impact) (NES (MI)) was completed for the proposed project May 2011. The NES (MI) included results from focused botanical surveys performed by Forde Biological Consultants on May 28, 2010 and June 21, 2010. Study methods included a search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2010), a request for a list of federal endangered and threatened species from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), field reconnaissance surveys (November 13 and 14, 2009), and a review of past projects in the area.

The Biological Study Area (BSA) was determined based on the limits of disturbance required for construction activities and species dispersal and distribution patterns. The field reconnaissance surveys included an evaluation of existing drainages with culverts within the BSA in order to determine jurisdictional status in relation to the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the California Fish and Game Code. The focused botanical surveys for potential listed plant species were conducted during the appropriate blooming periods for species with potential to occur in the area.

The BSA includes a relatively narrow strip of commercial and residential development along US 101, adjacent to extensive open spaces and park lands. To the north are the Simi Hills, which are part of the Santa Monica National Recreation Area (SMNRA). To the south are the Santa Monica Mountains, which encompass the SMNRA and Malibu Creek State Park. The County of Los Angeles has designated 62 Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) within its jurisdiction. Lands designated as SEAs were selected based on the presence of special-status plant and animal species and plant communities. SEA #6 (Virgenes Unit) is located south of the BSA and SEA #12 (Palo Comado Canyon Unit) is located in the Simi Hills just north of the BSA.

2.3.1 Natural Communities

This section of the document discusses natural communities of concern. The focus of this section is on biological communities, not individual plant or animal species. The emphasis of the section is on the ecological function of the natural communities within the area. This section also includes information on wildlife corridors and habitat fragmentation. Wildlife corridors are areas of habitat used by wildlife for seasonal or daily migration. Habitat fragmentation involves the potential for dividing sensitive habitat and thereby lessening its biological value. Wetlands and other waters are discussed in Section 2.3.2.

Affected Environment

As discussed in the NES (MI), US 101 is the most obvious barrier between core reserves in the Santa Monica and Sierra Madre Mountains. Four major wildlife corridors were identified near the BSA; none were identified within the BSA. Liberty Canyon is located approximately one mile southeast of the BSA and allows contiguous passage under US 101 via the spanning bridge underpass. This allows species such as mountain lion, mule deer, badger, brush rabbit, desert woodrat, loggerhead shrike, California thrasher, western toad, California kingsnake, western whiptail, and harvester ant, as well as all Special Status Animal Species, to cross US 101.

A drainage culvert for the intermittent creek that flows through Liberty Canyon crosses the western end of the BSA; adjacent to this culvert is a trail that provides equestrian access under US 101. The concrete-lined drainage culvert structure is roughly 3 feet in diameter and allows raccoon, opossum, spotted skunk, and striped skunk to cross US 101. The equestrian trail allows for the crossing of medium sized to large wildlife species.
Las Virgenes Creek is located approximately two miles west of the BSA and offers the best connection for riparian-dependent species traveling between the Simi Hills and the Santa Monica Mountains by way of a multi-chambered concrete tunnel. Bobcat and raccoon have also been documented utilizing this passage. Crummer Canyon is the fourth wildlife corridor. It is located approximately two miles west of the BSA and consists of a concrete culvert, which allows for the crossing of medium sized to large wildlife species.

**Environmental Consequences**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain, and no impacts related to existing wildlife corridors would occur.

**Build Alternative**

The project consists of the widening of an existing road and a freeway overcrossing that is perpendicular to the US 101 freeway barrier, which proves no threat to the existing wildlife crossings. The corridors would continue to accommodate all major habitats in the area along with Special Status-Animal Species. Therefore, the Build Alternative is not likely to result in direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the major wildlife corridors. One corridor associated with the intermittent creek crosses the western end of the BSA; however, grading and paving activities would occur approximately 250 feet away from the corridor. In addition, nighttime construction activities would be limited to avoid any potential impacts. Due to the distance of the wildlife crossings to construction locations, the project would not cause impacts from construction noise, vibrations, hauling and/or staging.

**Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

Due to the distance of wildlife crossings to construction areas within the BSA, no impacts were identified; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

**2.3.2 Wetlands and other Waters**

**Regulatory Setting**

Wetlands and other waters are protected under a number of laws and regulations. At the federal level, the CWA is the primary law regulating wetlands and waters. The CWA regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (US), including wetlands. Waters of the US include navigable waters, interstate waters, territorial seas and other waters that may be used in interstate or foreign commerce. To classify wetlands for the purposes of the CWA, a three-parameter approach is used that includes the presence of hydrophytic (water-loving) vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils (soils subject to saturation/inundation). All three parameters must be present, under normal circumstances, for an area to be designated as a jurisdictional wetland under the CWA.

Section 404 of the CWA establishes a regulatory program that provides that no discharge of dredged or fill material can be permitted if a practicable alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment or if the nation’s waters would be significantly degraded. The Section 404 permit program is run by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) with oversight by the US EPA.
USACE issues two types of 404 permits: Standard and General permits. Nationwide permits, a type of General permit, are issued to authorize a variety of minor project activities with no more than minimal effects. Ordinarily, projects that do not meet the criteria for a Nationwide Permit may be permitted under one of ACOE’s Standard permits. For Standard permits, the ACOE’s decision to approve is based on compliance with U.S. EPA’s Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (U.S. EPA 40 CFR Part 230), and whether permit approval is in the public interest. The Section 404 (b)(1) Guidelines were developed by the US EPA in conjunction with ACOE, and allow the discharge of dredged or fill material into the aquatic system (waters of the US) only if there is no practicable alternative which would have less adverse effects. The Guidelines state that ACOE may not issue a permit if there is a least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (LEDPA) to the proposed discharge that would have lesser effects on waters of the US, and not have any other significant adverse environmental consequences.

The Executive Order for the Protection of Wetlands (E.O. 11990) also regulates the activities of federal agencies with regard to wetlands. Essentially, this executive order states that a federal agency, such as FHWA, cannot undertake or provide assistance for new construction located in wetlands unless the head of the agency finds: 1) that there is no practicable alternative to the construction and 2) the proposed project includes all practicable measures to minimize harm.

At the state level, wetlands and waters are regulated primarily by the Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the RWQCB. In certain circumstances, the Coastal Commission (or Bay Conservation and Development Commission) may also be involved. Sections 1600-1607 of the Fish and Game Code require any agency that proposes a project that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of or substantially change the bed or bank of a river, stream, or lake to notify CDFG before beginning construction.

If CDFG determines that the project may substantially and adversely affect fish or wildlife resources, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement will be required. CDFG jurisdictional limits are usually defined by the tops of the stream or lake banks, or the outer edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is wider. Wetlands under jurisdiction of the ACOE may or may not be included in the area covered by a Streambed Alteration Agreement obtained from the CDFG.

The RWQCBs were established under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act to oversee water quality. The RWQCB also issues water quality certifications in compliance with Section 401 of the CWA. Please see the Water Quality section (Section 2.2.1) for additional details.
**Affected Environment**

A natural surface tributary to Medea Creek crosses the western end of the BSA, passing beneath Chesebro Road, US 101, and the intersection of Dorothy Drive and Lewis Road (see Figure 2.14). This unnamed stream appears as a “blue line” stream on the 1967 USGS topographic map, and is considered to be a water of the US and a water of the State and falls under the jurisdiction of the ACOE, RWQCB, and the CDFG. Although there is extensive riparian habitat associated with this stream upstream of the BSA, within the BSA the channel consists of a concrete lined open-box culvert. No wetlands or riparian habitat are present within the project area.

*Figure 2.14: Locations of Waters of the US/Waters of the State*

**Environmental Consequences**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain, and no impacts related to wetlands or other waters would occur.

**Build Alternative**

Though the western edge of the BSA includes portions of the unnamed stream, no construction activity would occur within or near the concrete-lined channel. In addition, standard BMPs would be
implemented during project construction that would prevent any construction debris or runoff from reaching this waterway. Following construction of the project, operation of the improved interchange would not be expected to result in any impacts to this waterway; therefore, no impacts to wetlands or other waters would occur.

**Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

With the incorporation of the following standard avoidance and minimization measures, project implementation would not result in any impacts on water quality within Medea Creek; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.

- BMPs would be incorporated into construction operations to prevent the release of any contaminants (e.g., soil, silt, construction debris, raw cement, concrete, petroleum products, or any substance that could be hazardous to aquatic life, wildlife, or riparian habitat) into any creek, storm channel, or storm drain. All erosion control devices would be properly maintained and removed upon completion of construction activities.

- A spill prevention and control plan would be developed and implemented to prevent hazardous materials from entering the waterway during construction. All leaks, drips and spills of hydraulic fluid, oil, fuel, or paving material would be immediately cleaned up to prevent entry into waterways. All workers would be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate clean up and response measures.

**2.3.3 Plant Species**

**Regulatory Setting**

The USFWS and CDFG share regulatory responsibility for the protection of special-status plant species. Special-status species are selected for protection because they are rare and/or subject to population and habitat declines. “Special status” is a general term for species that are afforded varying levels of regulatory protection. The highest level of protection is given to threatened and endangered species; these are species that are formally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and/or the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Please see the Threatened and Endangered Species Section in this document for detailed information regarding these species.

This section of the document discusses all the other special-status plant species, including CDFG fully protected species and species of special concern, USFWS candidate species, and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) rare and endangered plants.

The regulatory requirements for FESA can be found at United States Code 16 (USC), Section 1531, et seq. See also 50 CFR Part 402. The regulatory requirements for CESA can be found at California Fish and Game Code, Section 2050, et seq. Caltrans projects are also subject to the Native Plant Protection Act, found at California Fish and Game Code, Section 1900-1913, and CEQA, Public Resources Code, Sections 2100-21177.
Affected Environment

No species listed under FESA or CESA are considered to have any potential to occur within the BSA. A majority of the BSA is paved or developed. The majority of the disturbance associated with this project would occur within or directly adjacent to the existing roadway and/or within City and Caltrans ROW. In non-paved areas, the predominant habitat is anthropogenic (plant species introduced and/or maintained by humans), occurring in developed and landscaped areas. Non-native annual grassland is also present on disturbed roadides and vacant lots.

Existing Plant Communities

Ornamental and screen plantings have been installed within the right of way along US 101, including oleander (Nerium oleander), copper tip photinia (Photinia fraseri), Peruvian peppertree (Schinus molle), toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia), laurel sumac (Malosma laurina), Fremont cottonwood (Populus fremontii), Siberian elm (Ulmus pumila) and valley oak (Quercus lobata). A cluster of the highly invasive tree-of-Heaven (Ailanthus altissima) is also present in the right of way between US 101 and Chesebro Road.

Outside of the highway right of way, but within the BSA, a variety of street tree and shrub plantings including Peruvian peppertree, America sweet gum (Liquidambar styraciflua), Canary Island pine (Pinus canariensis), London plane tree (Platanus acerifolia), Aleppo pine (Pinus halepensis), gum trees (Eucalyptus spp.), European white birch (Betula pendula), evergreen ash (Fraxinus uhdei), ornamental cherry (Prunus cerasifera), Indian Hawthorn (Rhaphiolepis indica), and others. Along the roadsides and vacant lots within the BSA, remnants of the native flora are also present in some areas, consisting of valley oaks, toyon, California coffeeberry (Rhamnus californica) and Southern California black walnut (Juglans californica), and red willow (Salix laevigata).

Several vacant lots within the BSA are disked or mowed or otherwise altered. Vegetation is characteristic of ruderal areas, comprised of native and non-native herbaceous annuals and perennials. Commonly encountered species non-native species include wild oats (Avena fatua), brome grasses (Bromus spp.), field mustard (Hirschfeldia incana), red-stemmed filaree (Erodium cicutarium), bristly ox-tongue (Picris echioides), bur-clover (Medicago polymorpha), wild lettuce (Lactuca serriola), among others. Native species also exist within these areas, including telegraph weed (Heterotheca grandiflora), doveweed (Croton setigerus), narrow-leaf milkweed (Asclepias fascicularis), fiddleneck (Amsinckia menziesii), and common California aster (Corethrogynne filaginifolia), among others.

Non-native annual grassland is generally found in open areas in valleys and foothills throughout coastal and interior California (Holland 1986). It typically occurs on soils consisting of fine-textured loams or clays that are somewhat poorly drained. This vegetation type is dominated by non-native annual grasses and weedy annual and perennial forbs, primarily of Mediterranean origin, that have replaced native perennial grasslands, scrub and woodland as a result of human disturbance. Scattered native wildflowers and grasses, representing remnants of the original vegetation may also be common. On site, non-native annual grassland intergrades with coastal terrace prairie, northern coastal scrub and all of the disturbed habitats dominated by non-native species.
As described by Los Angeles County (2005), non-native annual grassland comprises the majority of the open field north of US 101 and east of the Palo Comado Canyon Road Overcrossing. Characteristic non-native annual grasses that dominate this habitat on site include wild oats, brome grasses, Italian ryegrass (Lolium multiflorum), and wild barley (Hordeum spp.). Common non-native forbs include bur-clover, wild lettuce, field mustard, red-stemmed filaree, black mustard (Brassica nigra), tocalote (Centaurea melitensis), curly dock (Rumex crispus), field bindweed (Convovulus arvensis), horehound (Marrubium vulgare), and Italian thistle (Carduus pycnocephalus), among others. Native species also present in this plant community include narrow-leaf milkweed, fiddleneck, coast goldenbush (Isocoma menziesii var. menziesii), California poppy (Eschscholzia californica), creeping wildrye (Leymus triticoides), and giant wildrye (Leymus condensatus), among others.

Based on a review of special-status plant species recorded from the project region (CNDDB 2010, CNPS 2009), the potential for occurrence of 37 special-status plant species was evaluated. Based on the results of the botanical surveys, no federally or State-listed plant species or other special-status plant species are present within the BSA and none is considered to have a high potential for occurring on site.

Environmental Consequences

No Build Alternative

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts related to plant species would occur.

Build Alternative

Under the Build Alternative, there would be some temporary disturbance of vegetation along the existing roadway; however, plant communities within the BSA consist primarily of anthropogenic habitats, and there are no special status species present. Therefore the project would not result in direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on special-status plant species. All disturbed areas that would not be paved as part of the project would be re-vegetated or landscaped following construction.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

No adverse impacts related to plant species would result from the project; therefore, no avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures are required.

2.3.4 Animal Species

Regulatory Setting

Many state and federal laws regulate impacts to wildlife. USFWS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and the CDFG are responsible for implementing these laws. This section discusses potential impacts and permit requirements associated with wildlife not listed or proposed for listing under the FESA or CESA. All other special-status animal species are discussed here, including CDFG fully protected species and species of special concern, and USFWS or NOAA Fisheries candidate species.

- Federal laws and regulations pertaining to wildlife include the following:
• National Environmental Policy Act
• Migratory Bird Treaty Act
• Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

State laws and regulations pertaining to wildlife include the following:
• California Environmental Quality Act
• Sections 1600 – 1603 of the Fish and Game Code
• Section 4150 and 4152 of the Fish and Game Code

**Affected Environment**

The BSA is urban and developed and encompasses heavily travelled surface streets, residential and commercial development, and vacant lots. Biological resources in these areas are restricted due to limited habitat availability, noise and lighting associated with human activity. Based on a review of the CNDDB (2010), the potential for occurrence of 60 special-status animal species was evaluated. No special-status animal species were recorded within the BSA during the biological survey conducted in 2009. However, based on the presence of suitable habitat within the BSA and/or their recorded or observed presence in the project vicinity, 13 special-status species are considered to have the potential to occur within the BSA. These include the State fully protected species white-tailed kite and the special-status species coastal whiptail, coast horned lizard, Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, burrowing owl, California horned lark, loggerhead shrike, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, San Diego desert woodrat, pallid bat, western red bat, western mastiff bat, and pale big-eared bat.

No species listed under FESA or CESA are considered to have potential to occur within the BSA. The occurrence of the remaining 47 listed species is not anticipated due to a lack of suitable habitat on site, lack of likely transit corridors, and/or range limitations. These 47 species include Riverside fairy shrimp, Gertsch’s socalemmis spider, Santa Monica shieldback katydid, sandy beach tiger beetle, globose dune beetle, monarch butterfly, Santa Monica grasshopper, tidewater goby, arroyo chub, steelhead (south/central California coast ESU), southern steelhead (southern California ESU), arroyo toad, California red-legged frog, western spadefoot toad, Coast Range newt, southwestern pond turtle, silvery legless lizard, San Bernardino ring-necked snake, San Diego mountain kingsnake, coast patch-nosed snake, two-striped gartersnake, Cooper’s hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, tricolored blackbird, Bell’s sage sparrow, golden eagle, long-eared owl, ferruginous hawk, Swainson’s hawk, coastal cactus wren, northern harrier, southwestern willow flycatcher, merlin, prairie falcon, American peregrine falcon, coastal California gnatcatcher, bank swallow, least Bell’s vireo, spotted bat, hoary bat, California leaf-nosed bat, western small-footed myotis, long-eared myotis, fringed myotis, long-legged myotis, Yuma myotis, and American badger.
**State Fully Protected Species**

**White-Tailed Kite**

White-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*) is listed by the CDFG as a State fully protected bird species is protected under the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. Generally, white-tailed kites are observed in low elevation grasslands, agricultural, wetland, oak-woodland or savannah habitats (Dunk 1995). The majority of their diet is made up of small mammals. This species nests in a wide variety of trees up to 164 feet high, and, in some cases, shrubs as little as 9.8 feet above the ground. Nests usually consist of platforms of small sticks, leaves, weed stalks, and similar materials lined with grass, hay or leaves. This species nests from February through August, with a peak in breeding occurring from late March through July.

The CNDDB does not contain any records for the species for the Calabasas USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle or surrounding eight quadrangles; however, two white-tailed kites were observed foraging within the BSA during previous biological surveys (Los Angeles County 2005). Although there is no suitable nesting habitat for this species within the BSA, suitable nesting habitat is present nearby; therefore, there is potential for this species to occur within the BSA.

**Other Special-Status Wildlife Species**

Twelve non-listed special status animal species are considered to have potential for occurrence within the BSA.

**Coastal Whiptail**

The Coastal whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tigris stejnegeri*) is considered a special animal (CDFG 2009a). This species occurs in grasslands, scrublands and woodlands. This species has not been recorded within the Calabasas USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle, but there are multiple records for this species within the surrounding eight quadrangles (CNDDB 2010). This species has potential to occur within the BSA.

**San Diego Horned Lizard**

The San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*) is a State species of special concern. This species occurs within grasslands, scrublands and woodlands. Except for one older record of San Diego horned lizard, this species have not been recorded within the Calabasas USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle. There are multiple records of this species however within the surrounding eight quadrangles (CNDDB 2010). This species has potential to occur within the BSA.

**Southern California Rufous-Crowned Sparrow**

The Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*) is a State species of special concern. The subspecies is a resident in southwest California on coastal slopes of Transverse and Peninsular Ranges from northwest Los Angeles County south into northwest Baja California (Collins 1999). The species inhabits semiarid grassy shrub lands and open woodlands on moderate to steep grassy and rocky hillsides and canyons from sea level to almost 9840 feet. The species uses shrub or tree cover that is usually short, fairly open, consisting of mixed species, and interspersed with patches of grass,
rocky outcrops, or bare ground. This species prefers younger stands with more open aspect and avoids dense, continuous stands of single shrub or tree species (Collins 1999).

This species was detected within the BSA during previous biological surveys (Los Angeles County 2005). The species has also been recorded 7.3 miles northwest of the project area (CNDDB 2010).

**Burrowing Owl**

The burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is listed as a State species of special concern by the CDFG and is federally designated as a Bird of Conservation Concern. This species receives additional protection under the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code. Burrowing owls range throughout the Central Valley, the inner and outer coastal regions, portions of the San Francisco Bay Area, the southern California Coast from southern California to the Mexican Border, the Imperial Valley, and in portions of the desert and high desert habitats in southeastern and northeastern California. They require habitat with open, well drained terrain; short, sparse vegetation; and underground burrows or burrow facsimiles. Throughout their range burrowing owls occupy grasslands, deserts, sagebrush scrub, agricultural areas (including pastures and untilled margins of cropland), earthen levees and berms, coastal uplands, urban vacant lots, and the margins of airports, golf courses, and roads (Haug *et al.* 1993).

Burrowing owls rely on burrows excavated by fossorial mammals or reptiles, including prairie dogs, ground squirrels, badgers, skunks, armadillos, woodchucks, foxes, coyotes, and gopher tortoises (Karalus and Eckert 1987). Where the number and availability of natural burrows is limited (for example, where burrows have been destroyed or ground squirrels eradicated), owls will occupy drainage culverts, cavities under piles of rubble, discarded pipe, and other tunnel like structures (Haug *et al.* 1993). Like other owls, burrowing owls breed once each year in an extended reproductive period, during which most adults mate monogamously. Both sexes reach sexual maturity at 1 year of age. Clutch sizes vary, and the number of eggs laid is proportionate to prey abundance. The breeding season occurs from February 1 to August 31, but normally peaks between late April and July.

The species has been observed approximately 3.8 miles northeast of the project area (CNDDB 2010). Potential habitat is present for this species within the BSA where grasslands and disturbed roadside areas with rodent burrows are present.

**California Horned Lark**

The California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*) is considered a special animal (CDFG 2009a). The California horned lark prefers short, sparsely vegetated prairies, deserts, and agricultural lands for nesting and foraging. This species breeds in the Santa Monica Mountains, and has potential for occurrence within the BSA.

**Loggerhead Shrike**

The Loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*) is a State species of special concern. This species inhabits grasslands and other open habitats and feeds on a variety of invertebrate and vertebrate prey. The loggerhead shrike is a small avian predator that hunts from perches, such as taller shrubs or utility lines, and impales its prey on sharp objects such as thorns and barbed-wire fences. This species breeds in the Santa Monica Mountains, and could nest and forage within the BSA.
San Diego Black-Tailed Jackrabbit

The San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennetti*) is a State species of special concern. This species utilizes grasslands, chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitats, and therefore has potential for occurrence within the study area. One black-tailed jackrabbit was observed within the BSA during the biological survey in November 2009.

San Diego Desert Woodrat

The San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*) is a State species of special concern. This species utilizes chaparral and coastal sage scrub habitats, and therefore has potential for occurrence within the BSA. An unidentified and presumably active woodrat midden (nest) was observed on the south side of U.S. 101 near the eastern end of the BSA during the November 2009 survey. A second midden was observed just beyond the BSA to the south. Based on the presence of suitable habitat and the detection of an unidentified woodrat midden, the potential exists for this species to be present within the project area.
Special-Status Bats

Bats designated as State species of special concern that have potential to occur within the BSA include pallid bat (Antrozous pallidus), western red bat (Lasiurus blossevillii), western mastiff bat (Eumops perotis californicus) and pale big-eared bat (Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens). Each of these species has been recorded within 8 km (5 mi) of the project study area (CNDDB 2010). These species have potential to forage within the study area and while the presence of maternal roosting within the project area is unlikely, use of tree cavities or spaces in structures or bridges could support nocturnal roosting.

Environmental Consequences

No Build Alternative

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts related to animal species would occur.

Build Alternative

Under the Build Alternative, project implementation would be limited to areas on and adjacent to existing roadways. The study area supports suitable habitat for several species, as discussed above, and several species were observed onsite during biological surveys. If present, these species would be directly or indirectly impacted by construction activities. In addition, migratory birds could be impacted by construction if nesting onsite or adjacent to the project area. Avoidance and minimization measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to these species, and the project would not be expected to result in adverse impacts to these species.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

The following impact avoidance measures would be implemented to protect special-status species and migratory birds from being harmed during construction. Many of these measures, including pre-construction surveys, would be implemented simultaneously.

Pre-construction Training

- A biological resources awareness training would be presented to all construction personnel prior to the initiation of construction activities. The training would be provided as follows:
  - The training would be developed and provided by a qualified biologist familiar with the special-status species that may occur in the study area.
  - Training materials would be language-appropriate for construction personnel.
  - All personnel would be required to complete the training prior to conducting any work in the work area boundary, including tree trimming, demolition, vegetation clearing and grading.
  - The training would provide educational information on habitats and the natural history of the special-status species potentially occurring in the work area, a discussion of required impact avoidance measures, lines of communication and authority, and a discussion of penalties for noncompliance.
If new construction personnel are added to the project, the contractor would ensure that new personnel receive training before they start working. As an alternative to in-person training by a biologist, subsequent training of new personnel may include watching a videotape of the initial training and/or reviewing written materials approved by the project biologist.

**Burrowing Owl**

- Within 30 days of the initiation of any grading or land clearing, a survey for suitable ground burrows would be performed by a qualified biologist. The survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist and would cover all open habitats (grassland or similar low vegetation) in the construction limits and within 250 feet of the construction limits, access permitting. If no suitable ground burrows are observed, grading may proceed.

- If suitable ground burrows are present, a qualified biologist would conduct a pre-construction nesting burrowing owl survey following CDFG protocol.

- Any active nests would be protected until the young have fledged and potential need for habitat compensation would be determined in consultation with the CDFG.

- Areas of bare ground or with grasses less than six inches in height may attract burrowing owls during the winter season. If construction resumes after a period of construction inactivity following clearing, a habitat evaluation to determine burrowing owl occupancy of the site would be conducted prior to ground disturbance the following season.

- All burrows containing active nests would be marked by flagging, and would be protected by a no-disturbance buffer zone of 250 feet.

**White-tailed Kite and Other Raptors**

- If construction activity begins during the raptor breeding season (February 1 - August 31), a pre-construction survey for nests and nesting raptors would be conducted within two weeks of the initiation of construction activities. The survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist and would cover all vegetated areas within the project impact area and within 250 feet of the construction limits, access permitting. Because construction at different sites may occur at different times, surveys would be conducted in each individual construction area according to the schedule described above. Additionally, if there are any breaks in construction activity at any site for two weeks or more, surveys would need to be conducted again in adjacent habitats to ensure that no active nests or nesting raptors have taken residence adjacent to the project area.

- If no active nests are detected during surveys, then no additional measures are required. If any nests or nesting activity is observed, appropriate protective measures would be implemented. Appropriate avoidance measures would include the following (other equally effective measures may be developed in consultation with the USFWS and/or CDFG):
  - A no-disturbance buffer would be established around occupied nests to prevent destruction of the nest and to prevent disruption of breeding and rearing behavior.
The extent of no-disturbance buffers would be determined by a qualified wildlife biologist in consultation with the applicable resource agencies and would depend on the level of noise or disturbance, line of sight between the nest and the disturbance area, ambient levels of noise and other disturbances, and other topographic or artificial barriers.

No-disturbance buffers would be maintained until the end of the breeding season or until a qualified wildlife biologist has determined that the young birds have fledged.

**Migratory Birds**

- If construction activities are scheduled to occur between February 1 and September 1, pre-construction survey for active nests would be conducted in all vegetated areas to be impacted and within 150 feet of the work areas, access permitting.
- The breeding bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than one week prior to the start of construction.
- If work stops at the project site for more than three consecutive days during the nesting season, a nesting bird survey would need to be conducted prior to the continuation of work.
- If no nesting or breeding behavior is observed, construction may proceed.
- If an active nest is detected, a determination would be made by a qualified biologist as to whether construction work would affect the active nest. If it is determined that construction would not affect an active nest, work may proceed.
- If it is determined that construction activities are likely to impair the successful rearing of the young, a 500-foot no-disturbance buffer would be established around occupied nests to prevent destruction of the nest and to prevent disruption of breeding or rearing behavior.
- The extent of no-disturbance buffers would be determined by a qualified biologist in consultation with the applicable resource agencies and would depend on the level of noise or disturbance, line of sight between the nest and the disturbance area, ambient levels of noise and other disturbances, and other topographic or artificial barriers.
- No-disturbance buffers would be maintained until the end of the breeding season or until a qualified wildlife biologist as determined that the young birds have fledged.

**Coastal Whiptail and San Diego Horned Lizard**

- A pre-construction survey would be conducted in all vegetated areas that are to be impacted by the project, and within 50 feet of these work areas.
- The survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist within 48 hours of construction for coastal whiptail and San Diego horned lizard.
- If either of these species is encountered during pre-construction surveys, they would be allowed to disperse out of the construction zone.
If dispersal is not likely to occur, the animals would be captured by a qualified biologist in possession of a valid scientific collecting permit and moved outside of the construction zone to an appropriate habitat location based on the habitat requirements for each species, and where there is suitable cover to provide shelter from predators.

San Diego Black-tailed Jackrabbit and San Diego Desert Woodrat

- Pre-construction surveys would be conducted in all vegetated areas scheduled to be graded or cleared, and within 150 feet of these work areas.

- The survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist within 30 days of the initiation of construction activities. The survey would be conducted early enough prior to site clearing to address any woodrat middens requiring removal before construction.

- If no woodrat middens or jackrabbit dens are found, no further action is required.

- If woodrat middens and/or jackrabbit dens are found and can be avoided, the biologist would direct the contractor in placing orange barrier fencing between the proposed construction area and the midden or den, allowing as much room as possible to avoid indirect disturbance to the midden or den.

- If woodrat middens cannot be protected and/or avoided, a qualified biologist would disassemble middens or, if adjacent habitat is not suitable, trap and relocate desert woodrats out of the construction area (using live-traps) prior to the start of construction. In addition, the biologists would attempt to relocate the disassembled midden to the same area where the woodrats are released. Trapping and relocation of woodrats shall be performed in consultation with CDFG.

- If any active black-tailed jackrabbit dens are identified on site and cannot be avoided, CDFG would be consulted to determine appropriate mitigation measures.
Special Status Bats

- Prior to tree removal or the demolition or alteration of any structures, a qualified biologist (familiar with identification of bats and signs of bats) would survey the trees and/or structures for evidence of bat occupation.

- The pre-construction survey would be conducted within 30 days of the removal of any large tree or snag, or demolition of or construction at any structures. If construction is postponed for more than 30 days from the date of the initial bat survey, a qualified biologist would need to repeat the pre-construction survey. The biologist would thoroughly search trees or snags that provide appropriate roosting habitat (trees with foliage or cavities, or that are hollow) for bats or evidence of bats.

- If no potential for roosting bats is found, tree removal, demolition or construction activities may proceed.

- If a tree provides potentially suitable roosting habitat but bats are not present, exclusion of bats would be conducted by sealing cavities, pruning limbs, or removing the entire tree, in consultation with the qualified biologist.

- If roosting bats or evidence of use by bats are found, the biologist would determine the species and estimate the number of bats present. The CDFG would be contacted to determine appropriate measures to remove trees and structures without impacting roosting bats. Trees and snags with cavities or loose bark that exhibit evidence of use by bats would be scheduled for humane bat exclusion and eviction, conducted during appropriate seasons and supervised by the bat biologist.

- If it is determined that an active bat maternity roost is present (typically between April and August), bat removal would be prohibited. Humane exclusion would not be permitted until after the breeding season or until after the maternity roost is no longer active, as determined by a qualified biologist.

- If the biologist determines or presumes that roosting bats are present, they may be excluded by installing one-way exclusion devices. To avoid impacts on non-volant (i.e., non-flying) bats, the biologist would only conduct bat exclusion and eviction from February 15 through April 15 and from August 15 through October 30. After the bats vacate the cavities, the biologist would plug the cavities or remove the limbs. The construction contractor would only be authorized to remove trees after the bat biologist verifies that the exclusion methods have successfully prevented bats from returning, usually in seven to 10 days. After construction activities are complete, the bat biologist would remove the exclusion devices.

2.3.5 Invasive Species

Regulatory Setting

On February 3, 1999, President Clinton signed Executive Order 13112 requiring federal agencies to combat the introduction or spread of invasive species in the United States. The order defines invasive species as “any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem whose introduction does or is likely to cause
economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." FHWA guidance issued August 10, 1999 directs the use of the State’s invasive species list currently maintained by the California Invasive Species Council to define the invasive species that must be considered as part of the NEPA analysis for a proposed project.

**Affected Environment**

Vacant lots within the BSA have been disked, mowed, or otherwise altered. Vegetation within these areas is characteristic of ruderal landscapes, and is composed of both native and non-native herbaceous annuals and perennials. Several plant species were found within these areas that are on the California Invasive Plant Council List of Invasive Species, including the following tree-of-Heaven, wild oats, brome grasses, field mustard, red-stemmed filaree, bristly ox tongue, and burr clover.

**Environmental Consequences**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no impacts related to the spread of invasive species would occur.

**Build Alternative**

Under the Build Alternative, project implementation would occur within areas in and adjacent to existing roadways. Grading and other disturbance of the project area would have the potential to encourage the growth of weedy species, including invasive species; however, with the implementation of standard avoidance and minimization measures, the spread of invasive species would not be expected to occur.

**Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

In compliance with the Executive Order on Invasive Species, E.O. 13112, and subsequent guidance from the FHWA, the landscaping and erosion control included in the project would not use species listed as noxious weeds. In areas of particular sensitivity, extra precautions would be taken if invasive species are found in or adjacent to the construction areas. These include the inspection and cleaning of construction equipment and eradication strategies to be implemented should an invasion occur.
2.4 Cumulative Impacts

Regulatory Setting

Cumulative impacts are those that result from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, combined with the potential impacts of this project. A cumulative effect assessment looks at the collective impacts posed by individual land use plans and projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively substantial impacts taking place over a period of time.

Cumulative impacts to resources in the project vicinity may result from residential, commercial, industrial, and highway development, as well as from agricultural development and the conversion to more intensive types of agricultural cultivation. These land use activities can degrade habitat and species diversity through consequences such as displacement and fragmentation of habitats and populations, alteration of hydrology, contamination, erosion, sedimentation, disruption of migration corridors, changes in water quality, and introduction or promotion of predators. They can also contribute to potential community impacts identified for the project, such as changes in community character, traffic patterns, housing availability, and employment.

CEQA Guidelines, Section 15130, describes when a cumulative impact analysis is warranted and what elements are necessary for an adequate discussion of cumulative impacts. The definition of cumulative impacts, under CEQA, can be found in Section 15355 of the CEQA Guidelines. A definition of cumulative impacts, under NEPA, can be found in 40 CFR, Section 1508.7 of the CEQ Regulations.

Affected Environment

The project is located in Agoura Hills, which is in the eastern portion of the Conejo Valley, and is bordered on the north by an unincorporated area of Ventura County and on the south by an unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The City of Agoura Hills is located immediately to the east of the cities of Thousand Oaks and Westlake Village, and immediately west of Hidden Hills.

The area immediately surrounding the project site is a mix of developed and undeveloped parcels, with land uses including transportation, residential, commercial, industrial, educational, and recreational. Both north and south of the project area are extensive regional and national park systems, including the Malibu Creek State Park and the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area, which are home to many wildlife species and protected from development.

Methodology

The cumulative impacts analysis for the project was developed by following the eight-step process as set forth in the Caltrans Standard Environmental Reference (SER) and the FHWA Interim Guidance: Questions and Answers Regarding the Consideration of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts in the NEPA Process (2003). The eight-step process is as follows:

- Identify resources to be analyzed
- Define the study area for each resource
- Describe the current health and historical context for each resource
CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- Identify direct and indirect impacts of the proposed project
- Identify other reasonably foreseeable actions that affect each resource
- Assess potential cumulative impacts
- Report results
- Assess the need for mitigation

As specified in Caltrans/FHWA guidance, if the proposed project would not result in a direct or indirect impact to a resource, it would not contribute to a cumulative impact on that resource. Therefore, this cumulative impact analysis includes resources that are substantially affected by the project and resources that are currently in poor or declining health, or at risk even if project impacts would not be substantial.

**Cumulative Setting**

Table 2.22 summarizes the cumulative projects considered for this analysis. Projects which are considered relevant include transportation and non-transportation projects in the vicinity of the interchange project that could contribute to cumulative effects, including projects in areas of Agoura Hills and unincorporated Los Angeles County adjacent to the project site.

In general, examples of reasonably foreseeable actions include future development for which a General Plan or Specific Plan has been adopted that designates future land uses; projects for which the applicable jurisdiction has received an application for site development (pending or approved); or infrastructure improvement projects planned by the local jurisdiction or other public agency.

Non-transportation projects include educational facilities, commercial businesses, retail developments, and industrial projects which would potentially be constructed at the same time or otherwise contribute to cumulative impacts during project construction. Projects considered for this cumulative analysis are located within approximately one mile of the interchange project.

Transportation projects include projects on or adjacent to the US 101 in the vicinity of the Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange which would be constructed or finished within approximately five years of the beginning of construction of the interchange project. Table 2.20 is a list of cumulative projects was compiled with information in conjunction with Caltrans, the City’s Planning Department, and the Los Angeles County Department of Regional planning website.

As previously discussed, within and adjacent to the project area, most of the available vacant land within the city and county is made up of scattered residential and commercial lots located between previously developed residential and commercial parcels. The remaining land is designated for open space or public uses, such as neighborhood parks, schools, and larger recreational areas (Santa Monica Mountains National recreation Area). As a result, most of the proposed or planned projects in the area are for smaller scale residential and commercial projects or renovations, rather than large-scale new developments.
Table 2.22: Cumulative Project List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Project Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transportation Projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 101/Adobe Reyes Road Interchange</td>
<td>US 101 and Adobe Reyes Road</td>
<td>Widening of Reyes Adobe Overcrossing, addition of bike lanes and sidewalks</td>
<td>Construction through June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roundabout</td>
<td>Kanan Road and Agoura Road</td>
<td>Add a roundabout at the gateway to Agoura Village</td>
<td>None available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agoura Road Widening</td>
<td>Agoura Road between the western city limits and Cornell Road</td>
<td>Widen Agoura Road from two to four lanes in some areas, addition of a bike path, installation of landscaped medians, addition of sidewalks along some portions</td>
<td>Construction anticipated from February 2010 to February 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Beautification</td>
<td>US 101 at Kanan Road Interchange</td>
<td>Landscaping at interchange</td>
<td>Included in 2008 RTIP Project List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lindero Canyon Ramp Widening</td>
<td>Lindero Canyon Road from Agoura Road to Via Colinas</td>
<td>Ramp widening, ramp/bridge reconfiguration, construction of bike path, pavement restriping, intersection widening, signal coordination</td>
<td>Included in 2008 RTIP Project List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 101/Kanan Road Interchange Improvement</td>
<td>US 101/Kanan Road Interchange</td>
<td>Add one lane to northbound off-ramp</td>
<td>Included in 2008 RTIP Project List</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 101 Improvement Projects</td>
<td>Improvements to a 45-mile span between the City of Calabasas and Padre Juan Canyon Road</td>
<td>Pavement rehabilitation, ramp and median improvements, addition of guardrails in some areas</td>
<td>Construction expected through mid-2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Development Projects</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willy’s Smokin’ BBQ</td>
<td>28434 Roadside Drive</td>
<td>Add 273 sq. ft. of office space and kitchen storage</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elias Ben Hazani</td>
<td>5226 Palo Comado Road</td>
<td>1,454.7 sq. ft. gas station</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shirvanian Family Trust</td>
<td>Between 28700 and 2811 Canwood Street</td>
<td>103,000 sq. ft. industrial park with 7 buildings</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meridian for Verizon Wireless</td>
<td>28545 Driver Avenue</td>
<td>Wireless antenna and equipment building</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BBA Properties, LLC</td>
<td>28371 Agoura Road</td>
<td>9,400 sq. ft. office building and parking</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scheu Development Co.</td>
<td>Between 30200 and 30300</td>
<td>71,844 sq. ft. commercial development</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Luithy</td>
<td>28818 Agoura Road</td>
<td>1,062 commercial (conversion)</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danari Oak Creek LLC</td>
<td>5 commercial lots north of Canwood and east of Kanan</td>
<td>34,660 sq. ft. retail, restaurant, mixed-use; implement sign program</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27489 Agoura Road LLC</td>
<td>Northwest corner of Liberty Canyon Road and Agoura Rd.</td>
<td>30,000 sq. ft.(2 buildings)</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whizin Market Square, LLC, Tucker Investment Group, LLC</td>
<td>28888-28914 Roadside Drive</td>
<td>Renovate existing 3500 sq. ft. plus 300 sq. ft. plus 600 sq. ft. renovation and expansion</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danari Oak Creek LLC</td>
<td>28941 Canwood Street</td>
<td>15,000 sq. ft. grocery and restaurant</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This page intentionally left blank
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ware Malcomb for Agoura Business Center West LLC</td>
<td>Northwest corner of Canwood Street and Darry St</td>
<td>21,782 sq. ft. commercial development</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Street Communications, LLC</td>
<td>28001 Dorothy Drive</td>
<td>Antenna installation</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunbelt Enterprises</td>
<td>29541 and 29555 Canwood Street</td>
<td>25,200 sq. ft. medical and general office buildings</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agoura Medical Partners, LLC</td>
<td>NW Corner of Chesebro Road and Agoura Road</td>
<td>40,733 sq. ft. medical building</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.F. Moore &amp; Co.</td>
<td>NEC of Agoura Road and Kanan Road</td>
<td>Agoura Village Mixed Use Development - 48,500 sq. ft. of retail/office and 95 m² units on 18 acres</td>
<td>Pending (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornerstone</td>
<td>SEC of Agoura Road and Cornell Road</td>
<td>26,000 sq. ft. retail, 18,000 sq. ft. retail, 41,000 sq. ft. residential (35 units)</td>
<td>Pending (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildman Design, LLC</td>
<td>28340 Roadside Drive</td>
<td>21,590 sq. ft. commercial</td>
<td>Pending (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agoura-Kanan, LLC/The Martin Group</td>
<td>4995 Kanan Road</td>
<td>107 residential units of (?) sq. ft. and 167,000 sq. ft. of retail/commercial space</td>
<td>Pending (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agile Ventures, LLC</td>
<td>28870 Agoura Road</td>
<td>17,248 sq. ft. office condo</td>
<td>Pending (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sherlie Bermann</td>
<td>28900 Agoura Road</td>
<td>24,220 sq. ft. mixed-occupancy commercial/banquet hall/office/one dwelling unit/outdoor wedding terrace and wine cellar</td>
<td>Pending (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whizin Market Square, LLC, Tucker Investment Group, LLC</td>
<td>28888-28914 Roadside Drive</td>
<td>100,000 sq. ft. of existing floor area, 14,850 sq. ft. of new floor area, 5,800 sq. ft. of new outdoor dining area</td>
<td>Pending (3/10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Residential Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Location Details</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Triangle Ranch</td>
<td>Kanan Road and Cornell Road, south of US 101</td>
<td>327 acres, 60 single-family units</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astoria Estates</td>
<td>Kanan Road south of US 101</td>
<td>107.19 acres, 5 single-family lots</td>
<td>Approved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riopharm USA, Inc.</td>
<td>27650 Agoura Road</td>
<td>13 single family homes, three models from 2,777 sq. ft. to 3,235 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Waters</td>
<td>28031 Balkins Drive</td>
<td>5,096 sq. ft. single family home with 790 sq. ft. garage</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawson for Sharon</td>
<td>28243 Balkins Drive</td>
<td>5,678 sq. ft. single family home</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>Lot 18, Laura La Plant Drive</td>
<td>3,000 sq. ft single family home</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adivi</td>
<td>6029 Fairview</td>
<td>6,917 sq. ft. single family home</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Von Buck</td>
<td>27801 Blythedale Road</td>
<td>4,274 sq. ft. single family home with 1,272 sq. ft. garage</td>
<td>Approved (3/10)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Resources Excluded from Cumulative Analysis

The proposed project involves improving the existing interchange to facilitate traffic flow and increase safety. Based on the nature of the project and the technical analysis completed for the project IS/EA, the following resources would not be substantially affected by the proposed project and therefore are excluded from the cumulative analysis.

#### Land Use/Growth

The project would be consistent with existing land use plans, and would not result in direct or indirect growth beyond that which is currently planned. No 4(f) resources exist within the project area, nor is it...
within a ‘wild and scenic river’ zone; therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative impacts to these resources, and no further analysis is required.

**Farmlands/Timberlands**

There are no farmlands or timberland within the project area; therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative effects, and no further analysis is required.

**Utilities/Emergency Services**

Utilities/Emergency Services would only be affected temporarily during the construction period, and the project would not result in permanent impacts to utilities or emergency services. Construction impacts would be minimized through coordination with utility companies and emergency departments such as police and fire departments; therefore, the project would not contribute substantially to cumulative effects and no further analysis is required.

**Visual/Aesthetics**

Although the Palo Comado Overcrossing would be widened, the project would not involve any change to the existing height of the interchange and would therefore not result in substantial changes to existing views to or from the interchange. In addition, because the interchange is an existing structure, the other improvements proposed would not result in a change in visual character of the area; therefore, the project would not contribute substantially to cumulative impacts and no further analysis is required.

**Community Impacts**

The proposed project would improve an existing interchange, and would not be expected to result in any permanent impacts to the community or result in growth. Temporary impacts during construction would be minimized through traffic management and ongoing coordination with affected community members; therefore, the project would not contribute substantially to cumulative impacts and no further analysis is required.

**Cultural Resources/Paleontology**

There are no historical properties located within or directly adjacent to the project area. While there is the potential for archaeological and/or paleontological resources to exist within the project area, impacts to these resources would be minimized or avoided through monitoring and other standard measures, and impacts to these resources are not anticipated; therefore, the project would not contribute substantially to cumulative impacts and no further analysis is required.

**Hydrology and Floodplain**

The project is located outside of the 100- and 500-year floodplains, and following project construction existing drainage patterns would be maintained; therefore, the project would not impact existing floodplains. Temporary drainage impacts during construction would be managed through implementation of stormwater management measures required by the NPDES permits, and permanent drainage flows would be accommodated by drainage systems constructed as part of the project; therefore, the project would not contribute substantially to cumulative effects, and no further analysis is required.
Geology/Soils/Seismic/Topography

The project would be designed and constructed in a manner that provides geological and seismic stability. The project would not require substantial changes to the existing topography, and measures would be implemented during and following construction that would preserve soils onsite and prevent excessive soil erosion. Therefore, the project would not contribute substantially to cumulative effects, and no further analysis is required.

Hazardous Waste/Materials

Several areas of concern were identified in relation to hazardous materials, including ADL in soils, potential lead chromate in existing roadway paint, potential groundwater contamination from adjacent gas stations, and potential for asbestos and lead-based paint in the existing interchange structure. However, although these concerns exist, measures would be taken prior to and during construction to ensure that no release of hazardous materials would occur. Therefore, the project would not contribute substantially to cumulative effects, and no further analysis is required.

Hydrology and Water Quality

With the implementation of standard BMPS and project-level measures to avoid or reduce the amount of storm water runoff and/or polluted runoff into the drainage system, water quality impacts would be minimal, and would not contribute substantially to cumulative water quality effects, and no further analysis is required.

Energy

The use of energy for the project would primarily be related to the temporary need for construction-related fuels and worker trips. Operation of the project would involve traffic signals and overhead lighting, but this would not require large amounts of energy above that which is already being used on the existing interchange. Due to the temporary and minimal nature of energy use for the project, the project would not be considered to contribute substantially to cumulative effects, and no further analysis is required.

Invasive Species

Any replanting or erosion control implemented for the project would be conducted with seed mixtures and mulches that are in compliance with Executive Order 13112, and plants listed on the California Invasive Plant Council’s (Cal-IPC) Invasive Plant Inventory with a high or moderate rating will be avoided; therefore, the project would not contribute substantially to cumulative effects, and no further analysis is required.

Environmental Consequences

The following analysis is based upon the 2008 CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G. Because CEQA environmental standards tend to be more stringent than NEPA standards, it is induced that project-level compliance with CEQA would also be consistent with NEPA standards. This section discusses the
impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects and how they would contribute to a cumulative effects.

This section defines the boundaries of each resource study area (RSA) and describes the existing conditions of each RSA in relation to each environmental resource considered in this cumulative analysis. Where appropriate, the historical context for understanding how the resource got to its current state is included. No cumulative impact discussion is provided for the No Build Alternative because the No Build Alternative would not result in either temporary or permanent changes to the environment that could contribute to cumulative impacts.

**Traffic and Transportation/Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities**

The RSA for traffic and transportation includes transportation facilities within the project site as well as within regional transportation systems. Project planned for the facilities within the project vicinity, as well as projects throughout Los Angeles County, with the potential to impact traffic and transportation facilities, would contribute to cumulative traffic and transportation impacts.

**Cumulative Impacts**

During construction of the proposed project, temporary lane closures may occur. This could result in traffic congestion on local streets; however, these impacts would be temporary and a TMP would be developed for the project to reduce congestion; therefore, the project contribution to cumulative traffic impacts is considered less than cumulatively considerable.

The project includes improvements to bikeway facilities, which are identified as beneficial impacts and would facilitate movement of cyclists through the project site. Likewise, improvements to intersections located within the project site would minimize vehicle delays and improve AM and PM LOS. These improvements would result in an overall beneficial impact to the local and regional bikeway and transportation facilities; therefore, cumulative contributions would be considered less than cumulatively considerable.

**Air Quality**

The RSA for air quality is defined as the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which covers 6,745 square miles Orange County, Los Angeles County (with the exception of Antelope Valley), and non-desert portions of San Bernardino County and Riverside County. Projects that impact air quality within this air basin have the potential to contribute to cumulative air quality effects.

**Cumulative Impacts**

Project construction could result in a temporary increase of pollutant emission associated with construction equipment and dust; however, construction-related emissions would be minimized through standard practices to reduce emissions, and project construction is not anticipated to violate state or federal air quality standards or contribute to the existing air quality violation in the air basin. Although other construction projects could occur concurrent to the proposed project, emissions would be localized and the same standard reduction measures would be required. Operation of the proposed project would comply with all applicable air quality plans, and be expected to improve traffic circulation in the area,
which would result in improved air quality. Therefore, project contributions to cumulative air quality impacts are considered less than cumulatively considerable.

**Noise and Vibration**

The RSA for noise includes communities and other public spaces within the project site and in the project vicinity where sensitive noise receptors may be located. Existing sensitive noise receptors in the vicinity include single-family residences, park space, and a school. Projects that could result in either temporary or permanent increases in noise levels within these areas would contribute to cumulative noise impacts.

**Cumulative Impacts**

Based on existing and future anticipated traffic levels, it was determined that operational noise increases associated with the project would not result in an adverse impact. Therefore, while some other development may occur in the area, the project contribution to cumulative noise impacts is considered to be less than cumulatively considerable.

**Biological Resources**

The RSA for biological resources includes developed and disturbed areas, as well as open space and parklands. Several sensitive resources are expected to occur within the project vicinity. Projects within the RSA could result in either temporary or permanent cumulative impacts to biological resources within the project vicinity.

The RSA also includes four wildlife corridors which allow for safe crossing under US 101. The noise and vibration associated with construction of these projects could disrupt these corridors; nighttime construction activities could also result in temporary cumulative impacts.

**Cumulative Impacts**

Project construction could result in temporary or permanent impacts related to biological resources; however, construction-related impacts would be minimized through pre-construction, construction, and post-construction monitoring. Therefore, project contributions to cumulative impacts to biological resources are considered less than cumulatively considerable.

**Mitigation Measures**

With implementation of standard minimization measures and mitigation measures proposed in this IS/EA, project contributions to cumulative impacts would be considered less than cumulatively considerable, and no additional mitigation measures are required.
2.5 Climate Change (CEQA)

Climate change refers to long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, wind patterns, and other elements of the earth's climate system. An ever-increasing body of scientific research attributes these climatological changes to greenhouse gases (GHGs), particularly those generated from the production and use of fossil fuels.

While climate change has been a concern for several decades, the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) by the United Nations and World Meteorological Organization’s in 1988, has led to increased efforts devoted to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and climate change research and policy. These efforts are primarily concerned with the emissions of GHGs related to human activity that include CO2, methane, nitrous oxide, tetrafluoromethane, hexafluoroethane, sulfur hexafluoride, HFC-23 (fluoroform), HFC-134a (s, s, s, 2 –tetrafluoroethane), and HFC-152a (difluoroethane).

There are typically two terms used when discussing the impacts of climate change. "GHG Mitigation" is a term for reducing GHG emissions in order to reduce or "mitigate" the impacts of climate change. “Adaptation," refers to the effort of planning for and adapting to impacts due to climate change (such as adjusting transportation design standards to withstand more intense storms and higher sea levels).1

Transportation sources (passenger cars, light duty trucks, other trucks, buses and motorcycles) in the state of California make up the largest source (second to electricity generation) of GHG emitting sources. Conversely, the main source of GHG emissions in the United States is electricity generation followed by transportation. The dominant GHG emitted is CO2, mostly from fossil fuel combustion.

There are four primary strategies for reducing GHG emissions from transportation sources: 1) improve system and operation efficiencies, 2) reduce growth of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) 3) transition to lower GHG fuels and 4) improve vehicle technologies. To be most effective, all four should be pursued collectively. The following regulatory setting section outlines state and federal efforts to comprehensively reduce GHG emissions from transportation sources.

Regulatory Setting

State

With the passage of several pieces of legislation including State Senate and Assembly Bills and Executive Orders, California launched an innovative and pro-active approach to dealing with greenhouse gas emissions and climate change at the state level.

Assembly Bill 1493 (AB 1493), Pavley. Vehicular Emissions: Greenhouse Gases (AB 1493), 2002: requires the CARB to develop and implement regulations to reduce automobile and light truck greenhouse gas emissions. These stricter emissions standards were designed to apply to automobiles and light trucks beginning with the 2009-model year. In June 2009, the US EPA Administrator granted a Clean Air Act waiver of preemption to California. This waiver allowed California to implement its own GHG emission standards for motor vehicles beginning with model year 2009. California agencies will be working with

1 http://climatechange.transportation.org/ghg_mitigation/
Federal agencies to conduct joint rulemaking to reduce GHG emissions for passenger cars model years 2017-2025.

**Executive Order S-3-05:** (Signed on June 1, 2005, by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger) the goal of this Executive Order is to reduce California’s GHG emissions to: 1) 2000 levels by 2010, 2) 1990 levels by the 2020 and 3) 80 percent below the 1990 levels by the year 2050. In 2006, this goal was further reinforced with the passage of Assembly Bill 32.

**AB32 (AB 32), the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006:** AB 32 sets the same overall GHG emissions reduction goals as outlined in Executive Order S-3-05, while further mandating that CARB create a plan, which includes market mechanisms, and implement rules to achieve “real, quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases.” Executive Order S-20-06 further directs state agencies to begin implementing AB 32, including the recommendations made by the State’s Climate Action Team.

**Executive Order S-01-07:** Governor Schwarzenegger set forth the low carbon fuel standard for California. Under this Executive Order, the carbon intensity of California’s transportation fuels is to be reduced by at least ten percent by 2020.

**Senate Bill 97 (Chapter 185, 2007):** Required the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop recommended amendments to the State CEQA Guidelines for addressing greenhouse gas emissions. The Amendments became effective on March 18, 2010.

**Federal**

Although climate change and GHG reduction is a concern at the federal level; currently there are, no regulations or legislation that have been enacted specifically addressing GHG emissions reductions and climate change at the project level. Neither the US EPA nor FHWA has promulgated explicit guidance or methodology to conduct project-level greenhouse gas analysis. As stated on FHWA’s climate change website (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/climate/index.htm), climate change considerations should be integrated throughout the transportation decision-making process—from planning through project development and delivery. Addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation up front in the planning process will facilitate decision-making and improve efficiency at the program level, and will inform the analysis and stewardship needs of project level decision-making. Climate change considerations can easily be integrated into many planning factors, such as supporting economic vitality and global efficiency, increasing safety and mobility, enhancing the environment, promoting energy conservation, and improving the quality of life.

The four strategies set forth by FHWA to lessen climate change impacts do correlate with efforts that the State has undertaken and is undertaking to deal with transportation and climate change; the strategies include improved transportation system efficiency, cleaner fuels, cleaner vehicles, and reduction in the growth of vehicle hours travelled.

Climate change and its associated effects are also being addressed through various efforts at the federal level to improve fuel economy and energy efficiency, such as the “National Clean Car Program” and Executive Order 13514- Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance.
Executive Order 13514 is focused on reducing greenhouse gases internally in federal agency missions, programs and operations, but also directs federal agencies to participate in the interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force, which is engaged in developing a US strategy for adaptation to climate change.

On April 2, 2007, in *Massachusetts v. EPA*, 549 U.S. 497 (2007), the Supreme Court found that greenhouse gases are air pollutants covered by the Clean Air Act and that the US EPA has the authority to regulate GHG. The Court held that the US EPA Administrator must determine whether or not emissions of greenhouse gases from new motor vehicles cause or contribute to air pollution which may reasonably be anticipated to endanger public health or welfare, or whether the science is too uncertain to make a reasoned decision.

On December 7, 2009, the US EPA Administrator signed two distinct findings regarding greenhouse gases under section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act:

- **Endangerment Finding:** The Administrator found that the current and projected concentrations of the six key well-mixed GHGs - carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6)--in the atmosphere threaten the public health and welfare of current and future generations.

- **Cause or Contribute Finding:** The Administrator found that the combined emissions of these well-mixed greenhouse gases from new motor vehicles and new motor vehicle engines contribute to the greenhouse gas pollution which threatens public health and welfare.

Although these findings did not themselves impose any requirements on industry or other entities, this action was a prerequisite to finalizing the US EPA’s Proposed Greenhouse Gas Emission Standards for Light-Duty Vehicles, which was published on September 15, 20092. On May 7, 2010 the final Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards and Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards was published in the Federal Register.

US EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) are taking coordinated steps to enable the production of a new generation of clean vehicles with reduced GHG emissions and improved fuel efficiency from on-road vehicles and engines. These next steps include developing the first-ever GHG regulations for heavy-duty engines and vehicles, as well as additional light-duty vehicle GHG regulations. These steps were outlined by President Obama in a memorandum on May 21, 2010.3

The final combined US EPA and NHTSA standards that make up the first phase of this national program apply to passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty passenger vehicles, covering model years 2012 through 2016. The standards require these vehicles to meet an estimated combined average emissions level of 250 grams of carbon dioxide per mile, equivalent to 35.5 miles per gallon (MPG) if the automobile industry were to meet this carbon dioxide level solely through fuel economy improvements. Together, these standards will cut GHG emissions by an estimated 960 million metric tons and 1.8 billion barrels of oil over the lifetime of the vehicles sold under the program (model years 2012-2016).

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2 [http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment.html)
3 [http://epa.gov/otaq/climate/regulations.htm](http://epa.gov/otaq/climate/regulations.htm)
On January 24, 2011, the US EPA along with Caltrans and the State of California announced a single timeframe for proposing fuel economy and greenhouse gas standards for model years 2017-2025 cars and light-trucks. Proposing the new standards in the same timeframe (September 1, 2011) signals continued collaboration that could lead to an extension of the current National Clean Car Program.

**Project Analysis**

An individual project does not generate enough GHG emissions to significantly influence global climate change. Rather, global climate change is a cumulative impact. This means that a project may participate in a potential impact through its incremental contribution combined with the contributions of all other sources of GHG.\(^4\) In assessing cumulative impacts, it must be determined if a project’s incremental effect is “cumulatively considerable.” See CEQA Guidelines sections 15064(h)(1) and 15130. To make this determination the incremental impacts of the project must be compared with the effects of past, current, and probable future projects. To gather sufficient information on a global scale of all past, current, and future projects in order to make this determination is a difficult if not impossible task.

The AB 32 Scoping Plan contains the main strategies California will use to reduce GHG. As part of its supporting documentation for the Draft Scoping Plan, ARB released the GHG inventory for California (Forecast last updated: 28 October 2010). The forecast is an estimate of the emissions expected to occur in the year 2020 if none of the foreseeable measures included in the Scoping Plan were implemented (see Figure 2.15). The base year used for forecasting emissions is the average of statewide emissions in the GHG inventory for 2006, 2007, and 2008.

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\(^4\) This approach is supported by the AEP: *Recommendations by the Association of Environmental Professionals on How to Analyze GHG Emissions and Global Climate Change in CEQA Documents* (March 5, 2007), as well as the SCAQMD (Chapter 6: The CEQA Guide, April 2011) and the US Forest Service (Climate Change Considerations in Project Level NEPA Analysis, July 13, 2009).
Caltrans and its parent agency, the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency, have taken an active role in addressing GHG emission reduction and climate change. Recognizing that 98 percent of California’s GHG emissions are from the burning of fossil fuels and 40 percent of all human made GHG emissions are from transportation, the Department has created and is implementing the Climate Action Program at Caltrans that was published in December 2006 (see Climate Action Program at Caltrans (December 2006)).

One of the main strategies in Caltrans’ Climate Action Program to reduce GHG emissions is to make California’s transportation system more efficient. The highest levels of carbon dioxide from mobile sources, such as automobiles, occur at stop-and-go speeds (0-25 miles per hour) and speeds over 55 mph; the most severe emissions occur from 0-25 miles per hour (see Figure 2.16). To the extent that a project relieves congestion by enhancing operations and improving travel times in high congestion travel corridors GHG emissions, particularly CO₂, may be reduced.

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5 Caltrans Climate Action Program is located at the following web address: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ogm/key_reports_files/State_Wide_Strategy/Caltrans_Climate_Action_Program.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/tpp/offices/ogm/key_reports_files/State_Wide_Strategy/Caltrans_Climate_Action_Program.pdf)
As discussed in Section 2.1.8 of this document, the proposed project would result in overall improvements to existing (2010) and future (2035) traffic circulation at the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road northbound ramps and surrounding roadway facilities.

**Quantitative Analysis**

**No Build Alternative**

Under the No Build Alternative, existing conditions would remain and no improvements to the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road intersection would occur.

**Build Alternative**

GHG emissions for transportation projects can be divided into those produced during construction and those produced during operations. GHG emissions generated during construction and operation of the proposed project are discussed, as follows:

**Long-term Operational Emissions**

Long-term operational emissions associated with the proposed project would be associated with the operation of motor vehicles on area roadways and the US101 on/off ramps. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a change in vehicle operations on the mainline of US 101. Motor vehicle operational emissions were quantified using EMFAC2007 emission factors for existing, build year (year 2015) and design year (year 2035) conditions, based on data obtained from the traffic analysis prepared for the proposed project. The modeling conducted includes running exhaust and idle emissions. Estimated annual operational mobile-source GHG emissions are summarized in Table 2.23.
Table 2.23: Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MTCO$_2$/year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Existing Conditions</td>
<td>1,462.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Build Year 2015</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-Build</td>
<td>1,664.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change - No-Build Alternative vs. Existing Conditions:</td>
<td>202.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build</td>
<td>1,662.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change - Build Alternative vs. Existing Conditions:</td>
<td>199.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change - Build Alternative vs. No-Build Alternative:</td>
<td>-2.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Design Year 2035</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No-Build</td>
<td>2,752.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change - No-Build Alternative vs. Existing Conditions:</td>
<td>1,289.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build</td>
<td>2,731.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change - Build Alternative vs. Existing Conditions:</td>
<td>1,269.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change - Build Alternative vs. No-Build Alternative:</td>
<td>-20.65</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on emission factors obtained from the EMFAC2007, version 2.3 computer model and traffic data obtained from the traffic analysis prepared for this project. Includes running exhaust and idle emissions.

The proposed project would improve local circulation, thereby reducing vehicle delay and associated emissions. In comparison to existing conditions, predicted opening year 2015 GHG emissions within the project study area would increase for both the No-Build Alternative and Build Alternative by approximately 203 and 200 MTCO$_2$/year, respectively. In opening year 2015 and in comparison to the No-Build Alternative, the Build Alternative would result in additional reductions of approximately 3 MTCO$_2$/year. The additional reductions in GHG emissions attributable to the proposed Build Alternative would be predominantly associated with reductions in peak-hour vehicle delay at intersections.

Under design year 2035 conditions, GHG emissions within the project study area for both the No-Build Alternative and the Build Alternative are projected to increase. Under No-Build Alternative conditions GHG emissions would increase by approximately 1,290 MTCO$_2$/ in comparison to existing conditions. In comparison to the No-Build Alternative the Build Alternative would result in mobile-source GHG reductions of approximately 21 MTCO$_2$/year within the project study area. As noted above, reductions in GHG emissions attributable to the proposed project would be predominantly associated with reductions in peak-hour vehicle delay at intersections.
It is important to note, however, that the GHG emissions are only useful for a comparison between the “build” and “no-build” alternatives. Actual GHG emissions will vary depending on multiple factors, such as fuel mix (EMFAC model emission rates are only for direct engine-out CO2 emissions not full fuel cycle; fuel cycle emission rates can vary dramatically depending on the amount of additives like ethanol and the source of the fuel components), rate of acceleration, and the aerodynamics and efficiency of the vehicles. In addition, the proposed project is not located in an area that is considered directly vulnerable to projected future sea level rise, is funded and anticipated to commence construction in 2013.

**Short-term Construction Emissions**

Construction GHG emissions are predominantly associated with emissions generated by motorized offroad equipment and on-road vehicles, including material transport trips and employees traveling to and from the project site. The amount of emissions generated would vary depending on multiple factors, such as the type and number of equipment required and hours of use. GHG emissions can be reduced by use of cleaner more efficient equipment and by implementing traffic management during construction phases to minimize associated vehicle delays on area roadways. The proposed project would comply with applicable State, Federal, and/or local rules and regulations developed as a result of implementing control and mitigation measures proposed as part of their respective SIPs.

Construction GHG emissions were estimated using the SMAQMD’s Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 6.3.2 (http://www.airquality.org/ceqa/index.shtml). While the model was developed for Sacramento conditions in terms of fleet emission factors and other modeling assumptions it is considered adequate for estimating road construction emissions by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District under its Indirect Source Review regulations and the SCAQMD in its CEQA guidance, and is used for that purpose in this project analysis. Emissions modeling was conducted based on the estimated area of daily disturbance and overall construction duration associated with each of the major project construction phases, as provided by the project engineer. The modeling assumes that each construction phase would occur over an approximately six-month period. All other construction activity assumptions, including equipment required, hours of use, number of workers and commute distances, were based on the default parameters contained in the model. All construction activities were assumed to occur in year 2013. Short-term construction GHG emissions are summarized in Table 2.24. Please refer to the Air Quality & Climate Change Study Report (AMBIENT Air Quality & Noise Consulting 2011) for additional information regarding greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.
Table 2.24: Construction-Generated Greenhouse Gas Emissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction Activity</th>
<th>Greenhouse Gas Emissions (MTCO²e/year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overpass Widening</td>
<td>201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widen Palo Comado Canyon Rd. South of US 101</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widen Palo Comado Canyon Rd. North of US 101</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NB US 101 Off-ramp Improvements</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NB US 101 On-ramp Improvements</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>932</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Emissions calculated using the SMAQMD's Road Construction Emissions Model (RCEM), Version 6.3.2, based on estimated area of daily disturbance and construction phasing information provided by the project engineer. All other construction activity assumptions, including equipment required, hours of use, number of workers and commute distances, were based on the default parameters contained in the model. Assumes a construction year of 2013.

As noted above, GHG emissions will be produced at different levels throughout the construction phase; their frequency and occurrence can be reduced through innovations in plans and specifications and by implementing better traffic management during construction phases. In addition, with innovations such as longer pavement lives, improved traffic management plans, and changes in materials, the GHG emissions produced during construction can be mitigated to some degree by longer intervals between maintenance and rehabilitation events. As discussed in Section 2.2.6 of this document, construction emissions would be minimized through the implementation of Caltrans’ Standard Specifications in Section 14 (2010).
**CEQA Conclusion**

While the proposed project will result in a slight increase in GHG emissions during construction, it is anticipated that the project will not result in any increase in operational GHG emissions. While it is Caltrans determination that in the absence of further regulatory or scientific information related to GHG emissions and CEQA significance, it is too speculative to make a significance determination regarding the project’s direct impact and its contribution on the cumulative scale to climate change, Caltrans is committed to implementing measures to help reduce GHG emissions. These measures are outlined in the following sections.

**AB 32 Compliance**

Caltrans continues to be actively involved on the Governor’s Climate Action Team as CARB works to implement Executive Orders S-3-05 and S-01-07 and help achieve the targets set forth in AB 32. Many of the strategies Caltrans is using to help meet the targets in AB 32 come from the California Strategic Growth Plan, which is updated each year. Former Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s Strategic Growth Plan calls for a $222 billion infrastructure improvement program to fortify the state’s transportation system, education, housing, and waterways, including $100.7 billion in transportation funding during the next decade. The Strategic Growth Plan targets a significant decrease in traffic congestion below today’s level and a corresponding reduction in GHG emissions. The Strategic Growth Plan proposes to do this while accommodating growth in population and the economy. A suite of investment options has been created that combined together are expected to reduce congestion. The Strategic Growth Plan relies on a complete systems approach to attain CO2 reduction goals: system monitoring and evaluation, maintenance and preservation, smart land use and demand management, and operational improvements as depicted in Figure 2.17.
Figure 2.17: Mobility Pyramid

Caltrans is supporting efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled by planning and implementing smart land use strategies: job/housing proximity, developing transit-oriented communities, and high density housing along transit corridors. Caltrans is working closely with local jurisdictions on planning activities; however, Caltrans does not have local land use planning authority. Caltrans is also supporting efforts to improve the energy efficiency of the transportation sector by increasing vehicle fuel economy in new cars, light and heavy-duty trucks; Caltrans is doing this by supporting on-going research efforts at universities, by supporting legislative efforts to increase fuel economy, and by its participation on the Climate Action Team. It is important to note, however, that the control of the fuel economy standards is held by US EPA and ARB. Lastly, the use of alternative fuels is also being considered; Caltrans is participating in funding for alternative fuel research at the UC Davis.

Table 2.25 summarizes Caltrans and statewide efforts that the Caltrans is implementing in order to reduce GHG emissions. More detailed information about each strategy is included in the Climate Action Program at Caltrans (December 2006).
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### Table 2.25: Climate Change Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Partnership</th>
<th>Method/Process</th>
<th>Estimated CO$_2$ Savings (MMT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smart Land Use</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Review (IGR)</td>
<td>Caltrans Local Governments</td>
<td>Review and seek to mitigate development proposals</td>
<td>Not Estimated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Planning Grants</td>
<td>Caltrans Local and regional agencies &amp; other stakeholders</td>
<td>Competitive selection process</td>
<td>Not Estimated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Regional Plans and Blueprint Planning</td>
<td>Regional Agencies Caltrans</td>
<td>Regional plans and application process</td>
<td>0.975 7.8</td>
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<td>State ITS; Congestion Management Plan</td>
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<td>Office of Policy Analysis &amp; Research</td>
<td>Interdepartmental, CalEPA, CARB, CEC</td>
<td>Analytical report, data collection, publication, workshops, outreach</td>
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US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange Project
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Source: California Department of Transportation
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The following measures will also be included in the project to reduce the GHG emissions and potential climate change impacts from the project:

- According to Caltrans Standard Specifications, the contractor must comply with all local Air Pollution Control District's rules, ordinances, and regulations in regards to air quality restrictions. Include information regarding the local AQMD regulations regarding idling time during construction.

**Adaptation Strategies**

“Adaptation strategies” refer to how Caltrans and others can plan for the effects of climate change on the state’s transportation infrastructure and strengthen or protect the facilities from damage. Climate change is expected to produce increased variability in precipitation, rising temperatures, rising sea levels, storm surges and intensity, and the frequency and intensity of wildfires. These changes may affect the transportation infrastructure in various ways, such as damaging roadbeds by longer periods of intense heat; increasing storm damage from flooding and erosion; and inundation from rising sea levels. These effects will vary by location and may, in the most extreme cases, require that a facility be relocated or redesigned. There may also be economic and strategic ramifications as a result of these types of impacts to the transportation infrastructure.

At the federal level, the Climate Change Adaptation Task Force, co-chaired by the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), released its interagency report October 14, 2010 outlining recommendations to President Obama for how Federal Agency policies and programs can better prepare the United States to respond to the impacts of climate change. The Progress Report of the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force recommends that the Federal Government implement actions to expand and strengthen the Nation’s capacity to better understand, prepare for, and respond to climate change.

Climate change adaption must also involve the natural environment as well. Efforts are underway on a statewide-level to develop strategies to cope with impacts to habitat and biodiversity through planning and conservation. The results of these efforts will help California agencies plan and implement mitigation strategies for programs and projects.

On November 14, 2008, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-13-08 which directed a number of state agencies to address California’s vulnerability to sea level rise caused by climate change. This Executive Order set in motion several agencies and actions to address the concern of sea level rise.

The California Natural Resources Agency (Resources Agency) was directed to coordinate with local, regional, state and federal public and private entities to develop. *The California Climate Adaptation Strategy* (Dec 2009), which summarizes the best known science on climate change impacts to California, assesses California's vulnerability to the identified impacts, and then outlines solutions that can be implemented within and across state agencies to promote resiliency.

---

The strategy outline is in direct response to Executive Order S-13-08 that specifically asked the Resources Agency to identify how state agencies can respond to rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, sea level rise, and extreme natural events. Numerous other state agencies were involved in the creation of the Adaptation Strategy document, including Environmental Protection; Business, Transportation and Housing; Health and Human Services; and the Department of Agriculture. The document is broken down into strategies for different sectors that include: Public Health; Biodiversity and Habitat; Ocean and Coastal Resources; Water Management; Agriculture; Forestry; and Transportation and Energy Infrastructure. As data continues to be developed and collected, the state's adaptation strategy will be updated to reflect current findings.

Resources Agency was also directed to request the National Academy of Science to prepare a Sea Level Rise Assessment Report by December 20107 to advise how California should plan for future sea level rise. The report is to include:

- relative sea level rise projections for California, Oregon and Washington taking into account coastal erosion rates, tidal impacts, El Niño and La Niña events, storm surge and land subsidence rates;
- the range of uncertainty in selected sea level rise projections;
- a synthesis of existing information on projected sea level rise impacts to state infrastructure (such as roads, public facilities and beaches), natural areas, and coastal and marine ecosystems;
- A discussion of future research needs regarding sea level rise.

Prior to the release of the final Sea Level Rise Assessment Report, all state agencies that are planning to construct projects in areas vulnerable to future sea level rise were directed to consider a range of sea level rise scenarios for the years 2050 and 2100 in order to assess project vulnerability and, to the extent feasible, reduce expected risks and increase resiliency to sea level rise. However, all projects that have filed a Notice of Preparation, and/or are programmed for construction funding the next five years (through 2013), or are routine maintenance projects as of the date of Executive Order S-13-08 may, but are not required to, consider these planning guidelines. Sea level rise estimates should also be used in conjunction with information regarding local uplift and subsidence, coastal erosion rates, predicted higher high water levels, storm surge and storm wave data. (Executive Order S-13-08 allows some exceptions to this planning requirement.) The proposed project is scheduled to be constructed in 2013 and is therefore not required to consider these planning guidelines.

Until the final report from the National Academy of Sciences is released, interim guidance has been released by The Coastal Ocean Climate Action Team (CO-CAT) as well as Caltrans as a method to initiate action and discussion of potential risks to the states infrastructure due to projected sea level rise.

Furthermore Executive Order S-13-08 directed the Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency to prepare a report to assess vulnerability of transportation systems to sea level affecting safety, 7 The Sea Level Rise Assessment report is currently due to be completed in 2012 and will include information for Oregon and Washington State as well as California.
maintenance and operational improvements of the system and economy of the state. Caltrans continues to work on assessing the transportation system vulnerability to climate change, including the effect of sea level rise.

Currently, Caltrans is working to assess which transportation facilities are at greatest risk from climate change effects. However, without statewide planning scenarios for relative sea level rise and other climate change impacts, Caltrans has not been able to determine what change, if any, may be made to its design standards for its transportation facilities. Once statewide planning scenarios become available, Caltrans will be able review its current design standards to determine what changes, if any, may be warranted in order to protect the transportation system from sea level rise.

Climate change adaptation for transportation infrastructure involves long-term planning and risk management to address vulnerabilities in the transportation system from increased precipitation and flooding; the increased frequency and intensity of storms and wildfires; rising temperatures; and rising sea levels. Caltrans is an active participant in the efforts being conducted in response to Executive Order S-13-08 and is mobilizing to be able to respond to the National Academy of Science report on Sea Level Rise Assessment which is due to be released in 2012.
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CHAPTER 3 COMMENTS AND COORDINATION

Though NEPA and CEQA regulations do not require federal scoping for projects where an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment is the appropriate document, early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process. It helps planners determine the necessary scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis required, and to identify potential impacts and mitigation measures and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and public participation for this project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including: project development team meetings, interagency coordination meetings, and public scoping meetings. This chapter summarizes the results of Caltrans’ efforts to fully identify, address and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

3.1 Public Scoping

Scoping

Once the project alternatives were identified, Caltrans initiated the process to solicit written comments and/or suggestions from interested parties, including public agencies, elected officials, and residents. A notice of public scoping/initiation of studies was sent via US Mail to these interested parties, which included a description of the project alternatives and an invitation to comment on the alternatives, either in writing or at the scoping meeting. Letters notifying the appropriate local, state, federal agencies and residents of the formal initiation of studies were prepared and mailed on October 5, 2010, using a list of individuals within a minimum 300-foot radius of the project.

In addition to the scoping letters, a notice of public scoping/initiation of studies was published in area newspapers. A list of the publications used to circulate the notice of public scoping/initiation of studies, along with the publication date, is included in Table 3.1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Publication</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 30, 2010</td>
<td>The Acorn Newspaper</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 30, 2010</td>
<td>Ventura County Star Newspaper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GPA Environmental

A public scoping meeting was held on October 14, 2010 at Agoura Hills City Hall, 30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA 91301. The meeting took place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., where information regarding the proposed project and the environmental process was disseminated to those in attendance. Those presenting information to the public included staff members from Caltrans, the City of Agoura Hills, and the City’s consultants. Individuals who attended the scoping meeting were able to view large-scale plans of the proposed alternatives and ask questions; to view a PowerPoint presentation which described the project alternatives, environmental process, and potential project schedule; and to ask additional questions and
provide comments. Six (6) requests to speak were received; a summary of the verbal comments received are provided in Table 3.2, below.

The primary purpose of the public scoping meeting was to provide information to interested parties, and to receive feedback to ensure that all factors are considered as part of the project design and environmental process. Six (6) individuals requested to speak during the scoping meeting by submitting request cards; others spoke during the open question and comment portion of the meeting. The verbal comments are summarized in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Verbal Comments Received at Public Scoping Meeting (Summary)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Comment</th>
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| Speaker #1           | - The area is rural in nature and that widening Palo Comado will increase traffic volume and traffic speed.  
                        |   - Money earmarked for this project should be used to build a soundwall instead.  
                        |   - The project will decrease home values in Old Agoura.  
                        |   - Correct only the safety issue at the northbound freeway exit ramp (sight distance). |
| Speaker #2           | - Do not spend taxpayer money on this project; stop the project at this phase, early on. |
| Speaker #3 (Phil Ramuno) | - People live here for the rural nature of the community and want to keep it that way.  
                        |   - Objects to the level of environmental document.  
                        |   - Would like to see more than two alternatives. |
| Speaker #4 (Tara Farkash) | - There are bushes blocking sight distance at the northbound off-ramp, which should be cut. The off-ramp does not need to be widened.  
                        |   - South of Palo Comado (industrial/commercial area) needs to be widened.  
                        |   - A soundwall should be constructed at the northbound on-ramp.  
                        |   - Question regarding the accident data.  
                        |   - Widening is growth inducing.  
                        |   - Cannot mitigate the impacts on this kind of project.  
                        |   - The build alternative appears to be a “done deal.” |
| Speaker #5 (Jess Thomas) | - Concerned about the growth inducement resulting from build alternative.  
                        |   - The environmental document needed is an EIR.  
                        |   - Wants to keep the community feel as is.  
                        |   - There is a history of opposition to these type of projects in the area. |
Speaker #6  
(Larry Brown)  
- The northeast quadrant (former school site) was fought against.
- In favor of the no build alternative.
- The build alternative will induce growth and encourage people to cut through to park and little league fields.
- Build a soundwall at the northbound on-ramp instead of the build alternative.
- A different configuration should be considered.

Open Discussion  
(Comments & Questions)  
- Questions regarding who initiated this project.
- Questions regarding the traffic information: LOS criteria, severity of accidents, etc.
- The bridge functions well as is, except for the north turn lane.
- Old Agoura is already built out.

Source: GPA Environmental

The public comment period ended on November 1, 2010. Eleven (11) written comments were received; a summary of those comments is included in **Table 3.3**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Bernfeld</td>
<td>October 4, 2010</td>
<td>Request for information.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American Heritage Commission</td>
<td>October 6, 2010</td>
<td>Native American cultural resources within the project vicinity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tara Farkash</td>
<td>October 10, 2010</td>
<td>Opposes build alternative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Jeanes</td>
<td>October 14, 2010</td>
<td>Opposes build alternative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June Slayton</td>
<td>October 14, 2010</td>
<td>Opposes build alternative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen Robinson</td>
<td>October 14, 2010</td>
<td>Opposes build alternative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy</td>
<td>October 15, 2010</td>
<td>Wildlife crossing in project corridor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Watters</td>
<td>October 20, 2010</td>
<td>Opposes build alternative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old Agoura Homeowners Association</td>
<td>October 31, 2010</td>
<td>Opposes build alternative.</td>
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</table>
Caltrans solicited questions, comments, and concerns from all interested parties regarding the proposed project and its potential environmental and community impacts, as discussed in this IS/EA. All written comments received during this public comment period are considered formal comments and are part of the public record. To view the project mailing list, please refer to Chapter 5. During the public circulation period, various outreach efforts were made to alert the public about the availability of the document. A Notice of Availability (NOA), which noted the availability of the IS/EA for public review, was mailed to agency and elected officials, residents, homeowners, and business owners in the vicinity of the project at the beginning of the public review period. Additionally, the NOA and notice of a public meeting was published in the newspapers included in Table 3.4 (see Appendix G for verification of publication).

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>January 30, 2012</td>
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<td>The Acorn Newspaper</td>
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<td>February 13, 2012</td>
<td>Ventura County Star Newspaper</td>
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<td>February 16, 2012</td>
<td>The Acorn Newspaper</td>
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The public meeting was held on February 21, 2012 at the City of Agoura Hills City Hall, 30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA 91301. The meeting took place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., where information regarding the IS/EA and the environmental process was disseminated to those in attendance. Those presenting information to the public included staff members from Caltrans, the City of Agoura Hills, and the City’s consultants. Individuals who attended the public meeting were able to submit written or verbal comments, view the IS/EA, and ask questions regarding the proposed project. All comments received during the public meeting have been recorded and responded to in Appendix E and F.

The IS/EA was circulated for public and agency review for a period of 37 days from January 30, 2012 to March 7, 2012, and was available for review at the City of Agoura Hills, Caltrans District 7 offices, local...
libraries, and published online at http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/resources/envdocs. In addition, a Notice of Completion (NOC) was filed with the State Clearinghouse (SCH), pursuant to CEQA requirements (see Appendix H). It should be noted that the review period noted by the SCH was a period of 30 days, from January 30, 2012 to February 28, 2012. No comments were submitted to the SCH during the review period.
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CHAPTER 4 LIST OF PREPARERS

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  Sacramento, CA 95812

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- **California Native Plant Society**  
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  Sacramento, CA 95814

- **California Wildlife Federation**  
  P.O. Box 1527  
  Sacramento, CA 95814

- **Milford Wayne Donaldson**  
  Historic Preservation  
  Department of Parks and Recreation  
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  Sacramento, CA 95814
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Honorable Zev Yaroslavsky</td>
<td>Supervisor, 3rd District Los Angeles County 26600 Agoura Road, #100 Calabasas, CA 91302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Honorable Peter C. Foy</td>
<td>Supervisor, 4th District County of Ventura 980 Enchanted Way, Suite 203 Simi Valley, California 93065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Honorable Linda Parks</td>
<td>Supervisor, 2nd District County of Ventura 2867 Thousand Oaks Blvd. Thousand Oaks, California 91362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Honorable John Flynn</td>
<td>Supervisor, 5th District County of Ventura 2900 Saviors Road, 2nd Fl. Oxnard, California 93033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Director, SCAG Land Use and Env. Planning Division 818 W. Seventh Street, 12th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90017-3435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry R. Wallerstein</td>
<td>SCAQMD, CEQA Division 869 Hall of Administration 500 W Temple St Los Angeles, CA 90012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern California Edison</td>
<td>Attn: CEQA review P.O. Box 800 Rosemead, CA 91770</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tracy Esoscue</td>
<td>Executive Officer Regional Water Quality Control Board 320 W 4th St., Ste. 200 Los Angeles, CA 90012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern California Gas Co.</td>
<td>Centralized Correspondence P.O. Box 3150 San Dimas, CA 91773</td>
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<td>Los Angeles County Sheriff's</td>
<td>Department Malibu/Lost Hills Station 27050 Agoura road Calabasas, CA 91302</td>
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<tr>
<td>Las Virgenes Municipal Water</td>
<td>District Los Angeles County Planning 1200 Thousand Oaks Boulevard Thousand Oaks, CA 91362</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barry Groveman</td>
<td>Mayor, City of Calabasas 100 Civic Center Way Calabasas, CA 91302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William D. Koecher</td>
<td>Mayor, City of Agoura Hills 30001 Ladyface Court Agoura Hills, CA 91301</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barry Groveman</td>
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<td>Scott Mitnick</td>
<td>City Manager, City of Thousand Oaks 2100 Thousand Oaks Boulevard Thousand Oaks, CA 91362</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Coroalles</td>
<td>City Manager, City of Calabasas 100 Civic Center Way Calabasas, CA 91302</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Maureen Tamuri, City of</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Rebecca De Leon</td>
<td>Environmental Planning Team Metropolitan Water District 700 N. Alameda St, US3-230 Los Angeles, CA 90012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Edelman</td>
<td>Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy 5750 Ramirez Canyon Road Malibu, CA 90265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conejo Recreation and Park</td>
<td>District 403 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gary Burden Assistant Fire</td>
<td>Chief Los Angeles Fire Department 3970 Carbon Canyon, Malibu, CA 90265</td>
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<td>Fire Station # 89</td>
<td>29575 Canwood Street Agoura Hills, CA 91362</td>
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<td>Cornerstone Preschool</td>
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Montessori School of Agoura
28124 Driver Ave
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

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Agoura Hills, CA 91301

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Gary Warner Insurance
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Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Agoura Mobil Mini Mart
5116 Chesebro Rd
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Unocal
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AGOURA CA 91301

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AGOURA CA 91301

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CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BAILEY, DENISE E
4125 JIM BOWIE RD
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BAKER, GARY B AND ROBIN
6237 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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AGOURA HILLS CA 91376

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CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
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AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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CANOGA PARK CA 91304

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
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LOS ANGELES CA 90067

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SIMI VALLEY CA 93063

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CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BROWN, LARRY AND ANNE MARIE
27528 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BRUCE, LESLIE R
4972 CALLE MONTECILLO
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BRUMAGIN, JEFFREY D TR
3844 UNITED RD
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BRYANT, DENNIS AND CHERYL
5509 DE VORE CT
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BUDDENBROCK, FABLE
28191 LAURA LA PLANTE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BUDGEN, LAUREN AND TROY
5241 COLODNY DR 202
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BUNCH, EWELL D AND JEAN H
27530 RONDELL ST
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BURDICK, EDWARD G AND PAMELA J
27817 CALLE MARGARITA
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BURGDORF, JUDITH A
05269 COLODNY DR NO 11
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BURKE, CORINNE AND RICHARD
5821 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BURLINGAME, STEVEN AND PAMELA
27816 VIA AMISTOSA
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BURNETT, DAVID AND GLENA
27312 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BURNS, ROBERT E JR AND KARA L
4136 JUN BOWIE RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BURSON, LESLIE C
28017 VIA AMISTOSA
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BUTKUS, PHILIP
4021 LIBERTY CANYON RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BUTTKE, TIMOTHY J AND
5704 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
BUZZA, GARY R
6054 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
C D C I
1112 MONTANA AVE NO C280
SANTA MONICA CA 90403

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CALLAHAN, DAVID AND LISA
28241 DRIVER AVE
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
C DEALVA, RUDOLPH JR AND NICHOL
4062 JIM BOWIE RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CAGNON, RONALD R CO TR
5836 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CAMBALIK, KATHERINE G
698 RUSHING CREEK PL
THOUSAND OAKS CA 91360

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CAMPION, DAVID AND QUYAN TIEN
3729 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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CANNAN, RYAN D
4090 YANKEE DR
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CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CANNING, MELANIE C
5291 COLODNY DR NO 22
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CANTOR, MARK AND BARBARA
5705 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CARGILL, ROBERT
4081 YANKEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CARDELLIO, JOSEPH T AND DAWN
6003 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CANTOR, MARK A AND JUANA
4131 DEFENDER DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CARDIEL, MARK A AND JUANA
4131 DEFENDER DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
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5269 COLODNY DR A 12
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CARRIE, NEIL AND KAREN K
5560 FAIRVIEW PL
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CASTILLO, HUMBERTO
6145 PALO COMADO DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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CAVANAUGH SPAIN, JON P
28317 LAURA LA PLANTE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CHARNELLE, ALAN AND ANNE H
9561 VAN NUYS BLVD
PANORAMA CITY CA 91402

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CHELO, UI YONG AND KUM L
5241 COLODNY DR 402
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CHOUHRY, WAHIDUL Z AND DANIELE P
28420 WARING PL
AGOURA CA 91301
CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CHUMASH OFFICE BLDG PTNSHP
171 THOUSAND OAKS BLVD 203
THOUSAND OAKS CA 91360

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CIESLIK HILDEGARD
5249 COLODNY DR # 5
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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CINI, STEPHEN J AND
4047 JOELTON DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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51 PRIMPTON CT
SIMI VALLEY CA 93065

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CIPRIANO, ROBERT
6054 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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CIPRIANO, WILLIAM P AND TERRI L
28400 FOOTHILL DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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CITIBANK TR
3476 STATEVIEW BLVD
FORT MILL SC 29715

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CLARK, JAMES E III AND RICKI
28242 FOOTHILL DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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CLARK, KENNETH N AND
27362 PROVIDENT RD
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CLAUNCH ROOFING INC
1063 VALLEY HIGH AVE
THOUSAND OAKS CA 91362

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
CLAUSEN, GARY M CO TR
28156 DRIVER AVE 3
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
COATES, GARRY AND
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CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
COHEN, CHARLES
3933 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
COHEN, MICHAEL E TR
28336 DRIVER AVE
AGOURA CA 91311

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
COHEN, BRET AND VIRGINIA
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AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
COHEN, GEORGE AND KATHLEEN
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AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
COLODNY LP
18455 BURBANK BLVD STE 308
TARZANA CA 91356

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CONDE, EDWARD AND KEEVA
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DORICZ, CLAUDIA
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AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DORENFELD SNYDER LLC
5010 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DORENFELD, DAVID K AND STACEY R
5846 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DOROTHY DRIVE LLC
4633 156TH ST
LAWNDALE CA 900260

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DOROTHY PROPERTIES LLC
28025 DOROTHY DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DORRIS, ROBERT JR AND ELVA
5210 LEWIS RD NO 7
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DORRIS, ROBERT T JR AND
5210 LEWIS RD NO 7
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DOROTHY PROPERTIES LLC
28025 DOROTHY DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DOROTHY PROPERTIES LLC
28025 DOROTHY DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DOZIER, STEPHEN L
5291 COLODNY DR # 25
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DRECKMANN, LUIS A
7482 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DRECKMANN, LUIS A
7482 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DRIFF, SYDNEY M CO TR
27311 OAK SUMMIT RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DUFFANT, BRIAN A AND LAURA L
5571 LEWIS LN
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DUFFY, KIMBERLY CHASAN
3920 UNITED RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DUFFY, KIMBERLY CHASAN
3920 UNITED RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EDWARDS, STEPHENS A CO TR
718 ADMIRAL CT
OAK PARK CA 91377

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EDWARDS, STEPHENS A CO TR
718 ADMIRAL CT
OAK PARK CA 91377

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EDWARDS, STEPHENS A CO TR
718 ADMIRAL CT
OAK PARK CA 91377

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DUITSMAN, DOUGLAS AND RHEBA J
PO BOX 48187
LOS ANGELES CA 90048

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DUNKER, JONATHAN C AND OLIVIA
3949 JIM BOWIE RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DUNN, DIANE TR
4095 LIBERTY CANYON RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DUNN, DIANE TR
4095 LIBERTY CANYON RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
DURAJ, KEVIN T
5320 COLODNY DR NO 2
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EDGINGTON, COLLEEN A
5269 COLODNY DR 1
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EDGINGTON, COLLEEN A
5269 COLODNY DR 1
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EDWARDS, MICHELLE M ET AL
5276 COLODNY DR # D
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EHRIG, ROBERT A AND JENNY T
28226 DRIVER AVE
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301
CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EHRIG, ROBERT A AND JENNY T
4027 YANKEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ELDER, PAUL AND BARBARA
4053 LIBERTY CANYON RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ELETEL, AIDA TR
5291 COLODNY DR # 4
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ELIAS, GIORGIO S TR
4030 JIM BOWIE RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ELIZALDE, VICTOR D TR
10511 ILONA AVE
LOS ANGELES CA 90064

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ELKINS, MARK J
5438 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ELLIOTT, BEATRICE D TR
3771 REKLAW DR
STUDIO CITY CA 91604

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ELLIOTT, CHERYL A
27504 RONDELL ST
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ELLIOTT, JOHN M
3767 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ELY, SUZANNE
2311 4TH ST #308
SANTA MONICA CA 90405

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ELZINGA, KRISTIE
1702 EMERALD ISLE WAY
OXNARD CA 93035

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EMPIRE INVESTMENT PROPERTIES INC
70 LAKE AVE 650
PASADENA CA 91101

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ENSTROM, MICHAEL AND GLORIA
5257 COLODNY DR NO 11
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ERASUS PARTNERS INC
5489 LAS VIRGENES RD
CALABASAS CA 91302

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ERGAS, HEDVA
5490 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ERMAN, YURY AND FLORA
4933 CALLE ROBLEDA
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ESKRIDGE, E.STANFORD II AND
6112 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ESKRIDGE, EARL CO TR
28405 TULARE LN
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ESTRADA, ARTHUR N AND RAQUEL
27924 VIA AMISTOSA
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EVANGELISTI, ROBYN
5269 COLODNY DR # 2
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EVANS, JOHN AND VENETYA
4901 LEWIS RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EVANS, WILLIAM J CO
146 ALVARADO ST
OJAI CA 93023

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
EWING, ROGER AND CHRISTINE
5559 COLODNY DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FAGUNDES, EDWARD A AND EMILIA B
6075 RUSTLING OAKS DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301
CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FIRESTONE, M A AND
PO BOX 78
WOODLAND HILLS CA 91365

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FITZGERALD, PIERRETT E I
27280 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FLORCZAK, RICHARD AND HEIDI
5314 LEWIS RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FLORES, JOSEPH D
5349 LEWIS RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FLOWERS, PAUL D TR
4072 YANKEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FORD, ROBERT C AND CAREN
6425 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FOREMAN, JOHN A AND TAMIN
27345 PROVIDENT RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FONTANA, FRANK AND DEBORAH A
27833 VIA AMISTOSA
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FRANK, ROBERT C AND CAREN
625 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FRANKE, JOSEPH A AND SARA W
3848 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FRANKEL, MICHAEL A AND CHRISTINE
4039 LIBERTY CANYON RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FRANSEN, DANIEL AND SHARON
4102 DEFENDER DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FREEDMAN, DAVID AND SARITA
28407 RENEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FREEDMAN, DAVID L AND ALLYSEN
27444 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
FRENCH, TAMI R
6350 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
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4073 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
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6350 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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6350 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
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4047 DEFENDER DR
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GARCIA, ERNESTO S AND CORAZON C
3503 PERLITA AVE
LOS ANGELES CA 90039

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GARRISON, JAMES AND JANE M
3918 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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GEIGER, MARK
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GELGOOD, JANICE G TR
27416 RONDELL ST
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AGOURA CA 91301

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CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GERBER, GARY F
27423 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GERSHON, LORRY F AND LINDA M
3947 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GHAVAMI, AMIR A AND SHAHLA
1797 ROYAL SAINT GEORGE DR
WESTLAKE VILLAGE CA 91362

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GHIDARI, SHAHRYAR AND ROYA K
PO BOX 1825
AGOURA HILLS CA 91376

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GILLES, TIMOTHY P
5241 COLODNY DR NO 204
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GINSBURG, MARGALIT
GINSBURG, MARGALIT
5241 COLODNY DR NO 204
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GITYFOROZE, SAIED
27505 ENDEAVOR ST
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GLADWIN, JOHN AND WENDY
6125 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GLASER, PAUL M AND TRACY B
11939 WEDDINGTON ST NO 106
VALLEY VILLAGE CA 91607
CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GLASSER, KAREN L
3906 JIM BOWIE RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GLAZER, JERE AND MICHELLE P
28245 BALKINS DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GLEN, CHARISSE
6063 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GLYNN, WILLIAM H AND RUTH K
5555 LEWIS LN
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GOBEL, RYAN D AND RACHEL M
5210 LEWIS RD # 5
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GOOD, LARRY G
28142 DRIVER AVE NO 3
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GOODROW PROPERTIES LLC
PO BOX 805
AGOURA HILLS CA 91376

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GOODWIN, MARIE E
620 BRECKENRIDGE PL
SIMI VALLEY CA 93065

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GOREN, IRENE
3812 UNITED RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GORDON, JOAN TR
3605 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GORDON, RALPH AND FLORA O
3000 QUAIL RUN DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GOWING, RICHARD N
4044 JOELTON DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GRUBLA, YAHUDA
28423 WARING PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GRAHAM, DARYL T
4030 YANKEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
GRAHAM, DINO P AND JANET L
5322 COLODNY DR UNIT 4
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301
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HAIM, FRED AND RANDI
27270 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HAKENSON, ROBERT R AND MARGARET E
4019 DEFENDER DR
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HAKIAN, JOSH AND PENNY
3737 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HALLANGER, GERALD W CO TR
27420 FREETOWN LN
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HALLER, MICHAEL AND YASUE I
5924 COLODNY DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HALPRIN, DAN H AND TARA J
6223 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HALSTEAD, BRADLEY AND JEANNIE L
28403 FOOTHILL DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HAMBURG, ROBERT G
1 CATHY TER
ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS NJ 76320

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HAMILTON, KEVIN AND CLAUDIA
6144 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HAMULIC, AIDA
204 FLITTNER CIR
THOUSAND OAKS CA 91360

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HANCOX, JESSE M AND JILL R
5275 COLODNY DR 11
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HANFT, KENNETH E
3823 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HANSEN, ERIK AND LISA
4025 DEFENDER DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HANTON, STEVEN N CO TR
27452 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HARGES, KENNETH J AND LORELEI
28047 DOROTHY DR STE 300
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HARITON, LAWRENCE F AND SHERI
6003 CALEDONIA CT
OAK PARK CA 91377

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HARKINS, JOSEPH M AND JENNIFER
5241 COLODNY DR 103
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HARMAN, JULIE F
28008 BALKINS DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HARRISON, J A AND
6615 PACIFIC COAST HWY 260
LONG BEACH CA 90803

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HART, BRIAN P AND LINDA
4032 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HARWICK, B TERENCE
PO BOX 330
AGOURA HILLS CA 91376

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HARWICK, MARK S AND
4082 YANKEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HASKELL, ROBERT AND TARRA
6150 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HAUCA, GREGORY AND
05303 LEWIS RD
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CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
HAUPT, ERIC R AND DIANE R
05402 CHESEBRO RD
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CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
K AND E BASKAKEREN 1ST FAMILY
4034 JOELTON DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KACKER, MANU D AND MINI K
28040 DOROTHY DR #103
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KAELEN, GEORGE R AND RAQUEL
287 PEBBLE BEACH DR
NEWBURY PARK CA 91320

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KAMRATH, CHRISTA TR
4009 LIBERTY CANYON RD
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KAMRATH, MICHAEL G AND ANAMARIA
4040 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KANE, M SHANNON
1663 HARLINGTON RD
SMYRNA GA 30082

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KAPCZYNSKI, KARA M
1663 HARLINGTON RD
SMYRNA GA 30082

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KAPLAN, WILLIAM B TR
28028 BALKINS DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KARPF, PAUL
5275 COLODNY DR # 7
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KAPLAN, WILLIAM B TR
28028 BALKINS DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KASSEL, JONATHAN D AND
3627 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KASTENBERG, ASTRID M
27556 RONDELL ST
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KATZIR, NOAM AND AMALIA
28415 WARING PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KEARNS, MICHAEL B AND GWENDOLYN W
5740 COLODNY DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KEENER, ART
5305 LEWIS RD
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KEENER, ART
5305 LEWIS RD
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KELLER, ANA M
4901 CALLE MONTECILLO
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KELLER, ROBERT
6136 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KELLER, ROBERT
4901 CALLE MONTECILLO
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KELLY, JOHN B AND ELIZABETH T
27306 PARK VISTA RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KENNAN, WAYNE A AND
28241 FOOTHILL DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KERSEY, DAVID M
28406 LEWIS PL
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CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KEY, RICHARD R
5275 COLODNY DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KHAN, HASIB AND SAMIYA
5831 SAINT LAUREL DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KHAVAEV, ALEXEI
27467 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KIAN, MIKE
4139 VICASA DR
CALABASAS CA 91302

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KILE, GREGORY L AND MARIA L
3851 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KILLOUGH, LAWRENCE P AND
5801 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KIM, CHI Y AND
5555 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KIM, SANG H AND SONHUI P
9161 COTTONWOOD CT
TUCSON AZ 85749

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KIMBER, TIMOTHY E
28337 FOOTHILL DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KING, KAYE
5111 AMBROSE AVE
LOS ANGELES CA 90027

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KIRA, SHARRON M TR
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KISSLING, ROBERT JR AND JOANNE
28402 FOOTHILL DR
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KLEIN, GARY J AND KATHRYN D
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WESTCHESTER CA 90045

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KLEIN, LINDA L
27807 CALLE MARGARITA
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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KLEMP, KALEY W AND NATHANIEL J
04040 JOELTON DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KLEMP, KALEY W AND NATHANIEL J
04040 JOELTON DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KNAUSS, LAURA A
23852 PACIFIC COAST HWY # 25
MALIBU CA 90265

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KOHLER, JOHN L
4022 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KOLVE, PATRICK A AND ELIZABETH
28250 DRIVER AVE
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KOSTRAB, ANTOINETTE AND
3982 JIM BOWIE RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KOVACS, MIKE AND ROZA
5648 SLICERS CIR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KOWALICK, VINCENT
5257 COLODNY DR NO C2
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KOVACS, MICHAEL AND
1212 OCEAN PARK BLVD # 8
SANTA MONICA CA 90405

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KOPEL, JESSICA
5249 COLODNY DR NO 6
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KOPEL, JESSICA
5249 COLODNY DR NO 6
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KOSTRAB, ANTOINETTE AND
3982 JIM BOWIE RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301
CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KOWALSKI, ROBERT E AND DAWN C
5523 FOOTHILL DR
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KOZASKI, ZIV CO TR
28255 FOOTHILL DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KRAMER, BARRY AND JENNIFER
27439 FREETOWN LN
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KRAMER, LAYNE
5322 COLODNY DR NO 2
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KROPPA, CARL A TR
27335 OAK SUMMIT RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KUKHTA, MARINA
5321 COLODNY DR # 11
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KURZWEIL, RUTH L
5720 TOTH PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KUROHAM, ALFONSOUS AND
5275 COLODNY DR NO 14
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KUTZIN, PAUL S AND LINDA S
04131 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
KUWATA, MILES M AND
6021 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LA ROCQUE, MICHAEL J AND LYNN R
5943 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LAMACCHIA, JOHN B CO TR
28719 PISCES ST
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LAMBERT, MELISSA
4083 YANKEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LAMBERT, GREGORY M TR
5911 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LANCASTER, ALEXANDER AND JENNIFER
PO BOX 4973
WESTLAKE VILLAGE CA 91359

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LANDIS, BARBARA J
4110 YANKEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LANDON, MARJorie L TR
6401 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LANCERQUIST, RONALF F CO TR
92 LLOYD CT
NEWBURY PARK CA 91320

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LACOMBE, JACQUELINE
28220 DRIVER AVE
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LAMBERT, MELISSA
4083 YANKEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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LAMBERT, GREGORY M TR
5911 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LAMBERT, MELISSA
4083 YANKEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LANCASTER, ALEXANDER AND JENNIFER
PO BOX 4973
WESTLAKE VILLAGE CA 91359

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LANDIS, BARBARA J
4110 YANKEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
LANDON, MARJorie L TR
6401 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301
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AGOURA CA 91301

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MINEO, JOSEPH S AND CAROLYN
959 RANCHO RD
THOUSAND OAKS CA 91362

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MINNO, PARVIZ AND LINDA
3619 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MITCHELL, CARY L AND SHARON S
2037 BROOKFIELD DR
THOUSAND OAKS CA 91362

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MITCHELL, MICKEY S AND JILL
27401 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MITCHELL, MONICA
22365 HAYWORTH CT
CORONA CA 92883

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MITCHELL, STEVEN A AND ARMITAH
6100 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MOCALIS, PHILIP W TR
2241 RAVENNA ST
SIMI VALLEY CA 93065

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MOGAN, THOMAS P AND SUSAN A
28250 LAURA LA PLANTE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MOLINA, RALPH AND BARBARA
14250 EL MONTE RD
ATASCADERO CA 93422

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MONAGAS, LISSETTE
5291 COLODNY DR NO 23
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MONTIVERO, BARBARA R TR
4059 LIBERTY CANYON RD # 57
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MOORE, DAVID W CO TR
2308 MARKHAM AVE
THOUSAND OAKS CA 91360

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MOORE, ERIK S
28445 DRIVER AVE
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MORGAN RANDY
10681 COURT AVE
STANTON CA 90680

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MORISHITA, SHINGO
5269 COLODNY DR NO 7
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MORRIS, JESSICA
4097 LIBERTY CANYON RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MORRIS, W DEE AND JUDI
27806 CALLE MARGARITA
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MORRIS, WAYNE E AND CHRISTINE
27391 PROVIDENT RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MORRISON, VERA D
3681 FRESNO RD
LE GRAND CA 95333

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MORROW, MARY
5275 COLODNY DR NO 19
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MORTEZAIE, ALI AND
275 EUCLID AVE
LONG BEACH CA 90803

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
MOST, DONALD AND MORGAN
28451 FOOTHILL DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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358 COTTAGES CT
CAMARILLO CA 93012
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**US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange Project** 220
CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
PURKISS, JOSHUA W AND
5269 COLODNY DR #8
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
PUSZTAI, MARGIT TR
12375 DORAN PL
NORTH HOLLYWOOD CA 91605

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
PYE, ANNE TR
27523 COUNTRY GLEN RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RY WICALL TRUCKING INC
28339 AGOURA RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RAABE, JAMES C AND CONNIE
6236 ACADIA AVE
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RAANAN, MEIR
27458 RONDELL ST
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RAH, DEBORAH A
28464 RENEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RAHAM, DEBORAH A
28464 RENEE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RAJOBEJAD, MAHNOOSH
3927 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RALSTON, RANDALL AND LYDIA
28316 LAURA LA PLANTE DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RAMUNO, PHILIP J AND JACQUELINE Z
6025 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RARSTON, TIMOTHY S AND SHERI E
5567 SPRING HILL CT
WESTLAKE VILLAGE CA 91362

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
REAM, LAWRENCE G AND SANDRA R
4926 CALLE MONTECILLO
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
REESE, MARY
3907 UNITED RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
REEVES, MARY
3907 UNITED RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
REEVES, MARY
3907 UNITED RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
REEILLY, MARK R AND
27421 FREETOWN LN
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
REESE, CALEB
5275 COLODNY DR 21
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RESEN, ELIZABETH
27520 RONDELL ST
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RICH, GARETH AND LINDA
5626 FAIRVIEW PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
REOS, CALEB
5275 COLODNY DR 21
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
REOS, CALEB
5275 COLODNY DR 21
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301
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RODRIGUEZ, ROBERT A CO TR
27555 ENDEAVOR ST
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ROESLER, DAVID AND DENICE
6007 COLODNY DR
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ROGERS, HOLLY
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AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ROGERS, KYLE AND
5257 COLODNY DR 5
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ROGLAND, KATHLEEN D
3975 JIM BOWIE RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ROHN, EDWARD AND AURORA
18425 BURBANK BLVD 404
TARZANA CA 91356

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ROIT, LEO
10501 WILSHIRE BLVD NO 1709
LOS ANGELES CA 90024

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ROJAS, JULIO C AND EDILDA
5426 LEWIS RD
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ROLES, DIANE
3969 PATRICK HENRY PL
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
RONDELL CONDOMINIUM OWNERS ASSN
10621 BLOOMFIELD ST
LOS ALAMITOS CA 90720

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ROSE, PATRICK AND ELLEN
27452 RONDELL ST
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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ROSE, STUART M AND CAROLYNE M
5214 CHESEBRO RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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ROSE, STUART M AND CAROLYNE
2206 CEDAR RIDGE CT
OXNARD CA 93036

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
ROSECRANS, GENE AND
6454 SMOKE TREE AVE
OAK PARK CA 91377

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ROSE, LEONARD C AND MARTHA R
5738 COLODNY DR
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28420 LEWIS PL
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ROSS, LEONARD C AND MARTHA R
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SOLIS, ERICKA D  
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AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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SOMA, RICHARD T  
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AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
SORENSEN, JANA L  
4069 YANKEE DR  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
SOUER, EDMUND L III  
27932 VIA AMISTOSA  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
SPARRMAN, JON  
3941 PATRICK HENRY PL  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
SPANDLING, WILLIAM B AND DENISE F  
28353 FOOTHILL DR  
AGOURA CA 91301

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SPENCER, BARRY M AND RAMAH  
27929 VIA AMISTOSA  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
SPETH, DONALD J TR  
28222 AGOURA RD STE 201  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
SPRADLING, MARY A  
1634 HIGHWAY 135  
BOONVILLE MO 65233

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
STALEY, PETER AND KERI  
27628 CALLE MARGARITA  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
STEM, CRAIG  
27502 RONDELL ST  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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STERLING, KATHLEEN B TR  
27530 FREETOWN LN  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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STEPHENSON, CHRIS AND LISA  
5263 COLODNY DR # 10  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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STEWART, CAROL A  
4035 LIBERTY CANYON RD  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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STEWART, PAMELA E AND WILLIAM K  
4927 CALLE ROBLEDIA  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
STUPPKA, RICHARD T  
268 LINCOLN AVE # 15A  
CORONA CA 92882

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
STANG, TERRY E AND  
5437 FAIRVIEW PL  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
STANG, TERRY E AND  
5437 FAIRVIEW PL  
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
STATE OF CALIF MTNS RECREATION  
5810 RAMIREZ CANYON RD  
MALIBU CA 90265

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE  
STANK, TAMRA AND  
28542 VIA AMISTOSA  
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CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
VAUGHN PERLING,JOSEPH AND
4908 CALLE ROBLEDA
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
VASSO,JOSEPH D AND
4000 YANKEE DR
AGOURA CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
VICK,LORETTA
2325 HOWARD AVE
SAN CARLOS CA 94070

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
VIGNELLE,JOSEPH D AND
5754 COLODNY DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
WA REAL ESTATE LLC
824 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 300
LOS ANGELES CA 90017

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
WAHLER,HUGH E
27387 OAK SUMMIT RD
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
WAHLER,MARSHA L TR
27534 RONDELL ST
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
WAMPER,CHARLES AND BARBARA
28420 FOOTHILL DR
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
WANG,ANDY C AND LINDA K
10551 REMMET AVE
CHATSWORTH CA 91311

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
WARD,HAILEY R
05291 COLODNY DR # 16
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

CURRENT OWNER/RESIDENCE
WATKINS,JOYCE
27441 FREETOWN LN
AGOURA HILLS CA 91301

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WATANABE,KENJI CO TR
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WATERS,RON AND DANIELLE
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| Weiner, Leonard S  
21038 Blythe St  
Canoga Park CA 91304 | Weitz, Barbara  
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| Weksler, Maxine  
28156 Driver Ave No 1  
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1055 Corporate Center Dr No 420  
Monterey Park CA 91754 | Wentrup, Charles L and Angela M  
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Oak Park CA 91377 | Westphal, Kenneth J and Linda F  
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Castaic CA 91384 | Wicak, Richard and Luanne  
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Environme ntal Factors Potentially Affected

Supporting documentation of all CEQA checklist determinations is provided in Chapter 2 of this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment. Documentation of “No Impact” determinations is provided at the beginning of Chapter 2. Discussion of all impacts and avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures is under the appropriate topic headings in Chapter 2.
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EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

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I. AESTHETICS: Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista
   
   The proposed project features would not obstruct views of or from surrounding mountains and hillsides, nor would it obstruct access.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway
   
   The proposed project features would not damage scenic resources because it is located within an existing transportation corridor. No historic buildings are located within the project area.

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?
   
   The proposed project would include the installation of a noise barrier (soundwall), which would include context-sensitive design so as not to degrade existing visual character. Minimization measures outlined in Section 2.1.9 of this IS/EA would reduce any impacts to “less than significant.”

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?
   
   The proposed project would not introduce any new lighting or glare.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
   
   The proposed project would not convert any farmland to a non-agricultural use.
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

There are no lands with agricultural zoning/Williamson Act contract designations within or adjacent to the project site.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?  

There are no lands with forest land or timberland designations within or adjacent to the project site.

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

There are no lands with forest land or timberland designations within or adjacent to the project site.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

There are no lands with farmland or forest land designations within or adjacent to the project site.

III. AIR QUALITY: Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

The proposed project is included in the regional emissions analysis conducted by SCAG for the conforming 2008 RTP, Amendment #4 and the RTIP, Amendment #08-34; therefore, this project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of any of the existing plans.

b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Short-term impacts to air quality are expected during construction due to types of work performed and construction equipment used. Temporary air quality impacts are considered less than significant with the mitigation proposed in Section 2.2.5 of this IS/EA. A comprehensive analysis of potential air pollutants has concluded that the proposed project would have a positive effect on the ambient air quality in the project vicinity.
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Operation of the proposed project would comply with all applicable air quality plans, and be expected to improve traffic circulation in the area, which would result in improved air quality. Therefore, project contributions to cumulative air quality impacts are considered less than cumulatively considerable.

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

During construction adjacent communities will be exposed to pollutants from grading and construction equipment. Construction air quality pollutants would dissipate rapidly. Mitigation measures identified in the Section 2.2.5 of this IS/EA would reduce the impacts to “less than significant”.

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Construction equipment exhaust may create temporary intermittent odors to nearby communities; however, odors are expected to dissipate rapidly.

**IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:** Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Several special-status species could be present within the project site. The project could result in impacts to these species; however, with the incorporation of mitigation measures listed in the Section 2.3.4 of this IS/EA, impacts would be reduced to “less than significant”.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

No sensitive natural communities or riparian habitats were located within the project site.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No wetlands are present within the project site.
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<td>d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?</td>
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One wildlife corridor was identified within the BSA; however, it is not located within an area that is subject to construction activity. The corridor is located approximately 250 feet away from any areas that will be graded or otherwise disturbed. Additionally, nighttime construction would be limited in order to avoid impacts to the wildlife corridor. For these reasons, impacts related to wildlife corridors are considered less than significant.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?  

The proposed project, including construction activities, would comply with the local policies and ordinances protecting biological resources throughout the project limits.

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No adopted Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans are located within the project site.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

The Historical Property Survey Report prepared for the proposed project showed no historical resources located within the project APE eligible for the National California or local registers.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

The Historical Property Survey Report prepared for the proposed project showed no archeological resources located within the project APE.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

The paleontological resources records review identified areas within the project vicinity where invertebrate fossil localities have been discovered; however, it is unlikely that they would be present within the project site due to heavy disturbances associated with the existing transportation facility. A paleontological monitor would oversee all excavations deeper than 5 feet below surface grade.
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

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Should any cultural resources or human remains be encountered during construction, all work in the area of the discovery would stop until a qualified archaeological monitor evaluates the nature and significance of the find.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

   i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?

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ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

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iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

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Ground shaking and ground rupture have the potential to occur within the proposed project site. The project structures would be built to current design standards to withstand ground shaking/ground rupture. “Less than significant” impacts are anticipated with the proposed project.

iv) Landslides?

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The proposed project is predominately on level ground and will not require major grading activities that would cut into hillsides. The proposed project would also stay within the roadway prism and not increase or decrease the potential for landslides.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

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The existing drainage system would be used to accommodate the new project features. The project would not result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

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Please see response to 5iv.
The proposed project is not located in an expansive soils area.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

The proposed project does not affect any existing or proposed septic tanks or wastewater disposal systems.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

An assessment of the greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is included in the body of environmental document. While Caltrans has included this good faith effort in order to provide the public and decision-makers as much information as possible about the project, it is Caltrans determination that in the absence of further regulatory or scientific information related to GHG emissions and CEQA significance, it is too speculative to make a significance determination regarding the project’s direct and indirect impact with respect to climate change. Caltrans does remain firmly committed to implementing measures to help reduce the potential effects of the project. These measures are outlined in the body of the environmental document.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Contaminants may be present in the soil, groundwater, and existing roadway structures within the project site; however, with implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures provided in Section 2.2.4, impacts would be reduced to “less than significant.”

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Please see response to 6a.
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

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Please see response to 6a.

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

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Per the ISA completed for the proposed project, two properties adjacent to the project site are identified as “REC” sites per ASTM; however, none are located within the project site.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

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The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan and is not within 2 miles of a public or private airport.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

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Please see response 6e.

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

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The proposed project would not impair the implantation or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plans. The proposed project will help facilitate traffic through the project area.

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

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The proposed project consists of upgrading an existing roadway facility. The project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of wildland fires.
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

The proposed project would follow the Department NPDS and SWPPP requirements. The proposed project would not violate any water quality standards. Project impacts are considered to be less than significant.

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing (and uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

Groundwater underlying the project site is of poor quality and is not currently used for the potable water system; however, it is used to augment supplies for the recycled water system. Grading activities associated with the proposed project are not expected to interfere substantially with groundwater.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

The proposed project would tie into existing drainage facilities along the project corridor. The project would not require any substantial changes to the existing drainage facility or offsite drainage pattern. Project impacts are considered to be less than significant.

d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

The proposed project would result in an increase of paved surface of 1.33 acres. Though the project would result in increased runoff flows, the increase would be minimal and project impacts are considered to be less than significant.

e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

The proposed project would result in increased runoff flows; however, increases are considered minimal and the existing hydrology would not be substantially altered. Implementation of BMPs proposed in Section 2.2.1 would reduce impacts of stormwater runoff within the project limits. Project impacts are considered to be less than significant.
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

The proposed project would follow Caltrans NPDS and SWPPP requirements and utilize BMPs to reduce impacts of the stormwater runoff; therefore, water quality would not be substantially degraded and project impacts would be considered less than significant.

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g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

The project site is not located within a 100-year flood zone.

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h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?

The project site is not located within a 100-year flood zone; therefore, there would be no placement of structures within a flood zone.

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i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

The project site is not located within a flood zone, nor is it situated near water bodies that are subject to dam or levee failures; therefore, there the project is considered to have no impact.

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j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow

Please see response to 7i.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

The proposed project would enhance accessibility to established communities by increasing the capacity of existing facilities.

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b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

The proposed project would not conflict with any applicable land use plans, policies or regulations of an agency with jurisdiction over the project; therefore, the project is considered to have no impact.

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c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?  

The proposed project would not conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans; therefore, the project is considered to have no impact.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

The proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources. No impacts are anticipated.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

The proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of known locally-important mineral resources. No impacts are anticipated.

XII. NOISE: Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Existing conditions within the project site currently exceed noise level standards. The proposed project would not increase noise levels within the project site; however, a soundwall is proposed to reduce existing noise impacts to "less than significant."

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Construction activities could result in temporary elevated groundborne noise levels; however, incorporation of the measures outlined in Section 2.2.6 of this IS/EA would reduce impacts to "less than significant."

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Please see response to 10a. The project is located within an existing transportation corridor with levels already exceeding noise level standards. Therefore, impacts related to the proposed project are considered less than significant.
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

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Please see response to 10b (noise resulting from construction activities).

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

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The proposed project is not located within two miles of a public airstrip; no impacts are anticipated.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

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Please see response to 10e.

**XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING:** Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

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The proposed project would serve to accommodate existing and anticipated traffic levels resulting from planned and proposed development within and adjacent to the project. The existing transportation facility currently provides access to areas that are currently developed or designated for specific land uses; therefore, the project is considered to have no impact on growth.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

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No houses will be displaced by the proposed project. No impacts are anticipated.

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

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No people would be displaced due to the proposed project. No impacts are anticipated.
XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES:

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection? □ □ □ ☒

The proposed project would not increase the demand or create new demand on fire protection services. No impacts are anticipated.

Police protection? □ □ □ ☒

The proposed project would not increase the demand or create new demand on police protection services. No impacts are anticipated.

Schools? □ □ □ ☒

The proposed project would not increase the demand or create new demand on school services. No impacts are anticipated.

Parks? □ □ □ ☒

The proposed project would not increase the demand or create new demand on parks services. No impacts are anticipated.

Other public facilities? □ □ □ ☒

The proposed project would not increase the demand or create new demand on other public facilities services. No impacts are anticipated.

XV. RECREATION:

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

The proposed project would not increase the demand or create new demand on regional parks services. No impacts are anticipated.
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

The proposed project does not include the use or expansion of recreational facilities. No impacts are anticipated.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: Would the project:

a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?

The proposed project would improve circulation for existing (2010) and anticipated future (2035) traffic conditions within the project limits, including the US 101 interchange facilities, local roadways, and non-motorized travel per the applicable plans and ordinances. No impacts are anticipated.

b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

The proposed project is included in regional plans; it would improve the LOS within the project limits, thus creating a positive impact on regional transportation. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

No public or private airports are located within the project vicinity. No impacts are anticipated.

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

The proposed project would address existing non-standard features, such as poor line-of-sight, the absence of bicycle facilities, and limited pedestrian access. Additionally, the proposed project would improve on- and off-ramps and lane configurations within the project site. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated.

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

Temporary impacts to emergency services could result during construction activities; however, a traffic management plan would be in place to reduce any delays; therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

The proposed project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation, nor would it decrease the performance or safety of these facilities. No impacts are anticipated.

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

The proposed project is located within an existing transportation corridor and would not require a wastewater facility. No impacts are anticipated.

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The proposed project is located within an existing transportation corridor and would not require a wastewater facility. No impacts are anticipated.

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

The proposed project would result in a minor increase in surface drainage; existing drainage facilities would be used because there is capacity to handle the increase. The proposed project would include the addition of vegetated swales. Project impacts are considered less than significant.

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

The proposed project would not required increased water supply. No project impacts are anticipated.

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?

The proposed project would not require the services of a wastewater treatment plant. No impacts are anticipated.
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

The proposed project would require the use of a local landfill to dispose of demolition materials. The use of local landfills would be temporary; it is Caltrans policy to recycle materials whenever possible. Project impacts would be considered less than significant.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

The proposed project would be in compliance with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. No impacts are anticipated.

**XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

As stated in the Biological Resources Section of this IS/EA, the project does have the potential to impact animal communities; however, with incorporation of the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, impacts would be reduced to less than significant. As stated in the Cultural Resource Section of this IS/EA the project would not have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Project impacts to Biological resources would be reduced to less than significant with incorporation of the mitigation measures.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

Please refer to the Cumulative Impacts Section of this IS/EA for a full analysis regarding cumulative impacts. The cumulative impact analysis found that the project would have a positive cumulative impact in the areas of traffic, air quality, and noise. No cumulative impacts requiring mitigation was discovered; therefore, the project is considered to have no impact.
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

As outlined in the Hazardous Materials Section of this IS/EA, grading activities, demolition, and excavation would occur within an area where contaminants may be present in the soil, groundwater, and existing structures. Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures have been incorporated to ensure there would be no adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, impacts are considered to be less than significant with the incorporation of the measures outlined in Section 2.2.4 of this IS/EA.
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March 16, 2012

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The California Department of Transportation, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, ensures that no person in the State of California shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity it administers.

For information or guidance on how to file a complaint based on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or age, please visit the following web page: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/title_vi/t6_violated.htm.

Additionally, if you need this information in an alternate format, such as in Braille or in a language other than English, please contact Mario Solis, Manager, Title VI and Americans with Disabilities Act Program, California Department of Transportation, 1823 14th Street, MS-79, Sacramento, CA 95811. Phone: (916) 324-1353, TTY 711, fax (916) 324-1869, or via email: mario_solis@dot.ca.gov.

MALCOLM DOUGHERTY
Acting Director

"Caltrans improves mobility across California"
PM Conformity Hot Spot Analysis – Project Summary for Interagency Consultation

RTIP ID\(^*(\text{required})\) LA0G230

TCWG Consideration Date January 25, 2011

Project Description (clearly describe project)
The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and The City of Agoura Hills (City), propose to construct improvements at the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange (PM 33.0/34.4), in Los Angeles County within in the City of Agoura Hills. The Build Alternative would include widening the entire length of Palo Comado Canyon Road, between Driver Avenue to the north and Chesbro Road to the south, from two to four lanes. Within these limits, the Palo Comado Canyon Road Overcrossing would be widened from one lane in each direction to provide two lanes in each direction, along with a dedicated left-hand turn lane, for a total of five striped lanes. A Class II bike lane and sidewalks would be provided on both sides of the overcrossing.

The Build Alternative would maintain the existing layout of the interchange ramps; however, the northbound on- and off-ramps would be slightly re-configured, with an additional lane being provided on the northbound off-ramp at the Palo Comado Canyon Road intersection. The intersection of the northbound ramps and Palo Comado Road would be signalized; the remaining intersections would remain un-signalized. Proposed improvements would not change the number of lanes on any freeway on or off ramps, nor affect any portion of the freeway mainline. Project construction is anticipated to begin in February 2013, and be completed and open for traffic in 2015. The project design/horizon year is 2035.

The project location is depicted in Figure 1. Figure 2 outlines the existing facilities. The proposed improvements are depicted in Figure 3. Nearby land uses are depicted in Figure 4.

Type of Project (use Table 1 on instruction sheet)
Reconfigure Existing Interchange

County
Los Angeles

Narrative Location/Route & Postmiles
City of Agoura Hills – US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange (PM 33.0/34.4)
Caltrans Projects – EA# 257200

Lead Agency: Caltrans
Contact Person: Andrew Yoon, PE
Phone#: 213-897-6117
Fax#: 213-897-6134
Email: andrew.yoon@dot.ca.gov

Hot Spot Pollutant of Concern (Check one or both) PM2.5 X PM10 X

Federal Action for which Project-Level PM Conformity is Needed (check appropriate box)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categorical Exclusion (NEPA)</th>
<th>EA or Draft EIS</th>
<th>FONSI or Final EIS</th>
<th>PS&amp;E or Construction</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
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Scheduled Date of Federal Action: 2011

NEPA Delegation – Project Type (check appropriate box)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Exempt</th>
<th>Section 6004 – Categorical Exemption</th>
<th>Section 6005 – Non-Categorical Exemption</th>
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Current Programming Dates (as appropriate)

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<th>ENG</th>
<th>ROW</th>
<th>CON</th>
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<tr>
<td>Start</td>
<td>July 2009</td>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End</td>
<td>August 2011</td>
<td>August 2012</td>
<td>September 2012</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Version 4.0 August 1, 2007

US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange Project 261
PM Conformity Hot Spot Analysis – Project Summary for Interagency Consultation

Project Purpose and Need (Summary): (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Purpose:
- Reduce existing and forecasted traffic congestion within the project limits;
- Improve circulation at the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange and adjacent roadway network;
- Improve safety at the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange; and
- Accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic along Palo Comado Canyon Road.

Need:
Palo Comado Canyon Road has seen significant increase in traffic levels due to the increased development in the area. The recent General Plan Update (2010) has identified Palo Comado Canyon Road and the intersections in the vicinity of US 101 freeway as deficient under existing as well as future forecast conditions.

Currently, the distance, between the existing Canwood Street intersection and the US 101 northbound ramps intersection on Palo Comado Canyon Road is approximately 100 feet (centerline to centerline). This configuration presents a nonstandard access control distance beyond the northbound off-ramp termini, and it does not have the capacity to handle the forecasted increase in traffic demand. Furthermore, the unplanned developments around Cheeseboro Road, Palo Comado Canyon Road, and Canwood Streets west of Palo Comado Canyon Road will substantially increase traffic volumes on the local roadway network, as well as the US 101 interchange. Roadway improvements are needed to keep traffic operation Level of Service (LOS) on the roadways and intersections within an acceptable range. The need for this project is as follows:
- Planned development of the vacant lands adjacent to the interchange will increase traffic volumes around the area, and improvements to the interchange and the roadway network are needed to accommodate additional traffic demands and relieve congestion.
- The existing access road, Canwood Street, has an intersection approximately 100 feet (centerline to centerline) from the existing northbound on-ramp intersection at the Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange. Improvements are needed to provide better access control and traffic circulation.

Surrounding Land Use/Traffic Generators (especially effect on diesel traffic)

Existing Land Use
The area surrounding the project site consists of a mix of residential, commercial, and school properties. The neighborhood along Agoura Road south of the interchange is mostly residential with single family homes, while the properties in the immediate area of the interchange are mostly commercial, including business parks, light industrial, retail, and gas stations. Gas stations exist in the north east and northwest quadrants of the interchange adjacent to the northbound ramps. Most of the remaining areas in the northeast quadrant of the interchange are vacant land, except for an equestrian community located near the interchange of Palo Comado Canyon Road and Driver Avenue. Several multi-family residential properties, Agoura Park, and Agoura High School are located northwest of the interchange. Existing land uses are depicted in Figure 4.

Future Land Use
The area has scattered vacant lots zoned commercial and residential, which are also planned for future development.

Version 4.0
August 1, 2007
PM Conformity Hot Spot Analysis – Project Summary for Interagency Consultation

Opening Year: Build and No Build LOS, AADT, % and # trucks, truck AADT of proposed facility

### Summary of Intersection Level of Service
**Opening Year 2015 Conditions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>Baseline (AM)</th>
<th>Baseline (PM)</th>
<th>Project (AM)</th>
<th>Project (PM)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driver at Chesebro</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Comado Rd at US 101 WB Ramps</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Dr at US 101 EB Ramps</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palo Comado Rd at Chesebro</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agoura at Chesebro</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Refer to Figure 2 for intersection locations.*

### Summary of Roadway, Mainline & On/Off-Ramp Level of Service
**Opening Year 2015 Conditions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Segment</th>
<th>Baseline (AM)</th>
<th>Baseline (PM)</th>
<th>Project (AM)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palo Comado Canyon Road</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 101 Mainline</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>US 101 NB ON-RAMP: LOS D</td>
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<td>D</td>
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<tr>
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<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>US 101 SB ON-RAMP: LOS D</td>
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<tr>
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<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
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</table>


### Average Daily Trips (Year 2015):
- Palo Comado Canyon Road: 11,400 ADT
- US 101, West of Palo Comado Canyon Road: 177,800 ADT
- US 101, East of Palo Comado Canyon Road: 103,000 ADT

### Percent and Number of Average Daily Truck Trips (Year 2015):
- Palo Comado Canyon Road: 2%, 228
- US 101, West of Palo Comado Canyon Road: 4%, 7,112 Truck ADT
- US 101, East of Palo Comado Canyon Road: 4%, 7,320 Truck ADT

*Note: ADTs for the Build and No-Build Alternatives remain the same.
   No improvement is proposed on the mainline US 101.*
PM Conformity Hot Spot Analysis – Project Summary for Interagency Consultation

RTP Horizon Year / Design Year: Build and No Build LOS, AADT, % and # trucks, truck AADT of proposed facility

### Summary of Intersection Level of Service
**Opening Year 2035 Conditions**

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<tr>
<td>Driver at Chesebro</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palo Comado Rd at US 101 WB Ramps</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorothy Dr at US 101 EB Ramps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Palo Comado Rd at Chesebro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agoura at Chesebro</td>
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</table>

Refer to Figure 2 for intersection locations.  

### Summary of Roadway, Mainline & On/Off-Ramp Level of Service
**Opening Year 2015 Conditions**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Segment</th>
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<tr>
<td>US 101 Mainline</td>
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<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 101 NB ON-RAMP: LOS D</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 101 NB OFF-RAMP: LOS D</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>US 101 SB ON-RAMP: LOS D</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US 101 SB OFF-RAMP: LOS D</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Average Daily Trips (Year 2035):  
- Palo Comado Canyon Road: 14,820 ADT  
- US101, West of Palo Comado Canyon Road: 206,500 ADT  
- US101, East of Palo Comado Canyon Road: 212,500 ADT

### Percent and Number of Average Daily Truck Trips (Year 2035):  
- Palo Comado Canyon Road: 2%, 297 Truck ADT  
- US101, West of Palo Comado Canyon Road: 4%, 8,260 Truck ADT  
- US101, East of Palo Comado Canyon Road: 4%, 9,500 Truck ADT

Note: ADTs for the Build and No-Build Alternatives remain the same. No improvement is proposed on the mainline US 101.
PM Conformity Hot Spot Analysis – Project Summary for Interagency Consultation

Opening Year: If facility is an interchange(s) or intersection(s), Build and No Build cross-street AADT, % and # trucks, truck AADT
Palo Comado Canyon Road (Build/No Build): 11,400 ADT, 2% Truck, 228 Truck ADT

RTP Horizon Year / Design Year: If facility is an interchange(s) or intersection(s), Build and No Build cross-street AADT, % and # trucks, truck AADT
Palo Comado Canyon Road (Build/No Build): 14,820 ADT, 2% Truck, 297 Truck ADT

Describe potential traffic redistribution effects of congestion relief (impact on other facilities)
The proposed project is an interchange improvement/modification intended to better manage existing traffic flow and enhance safety. Based on the traffic analysis prepared for this project and as indicated above, neither mainline nor cross-street ADT is anticipated to change with implementation of the proposed project. In addition, implementation of the proposed project is anticipated to result in improvements to levels of services on Palo Comado Road and at the intersection of Palo Comado Rd and US 101 WB Ramps. Project improvements would not provide new, nor enhanced access to any parcels along Palo Comado Rd. or any other roadway facility. As such, no traffic redistribution effects are anticipated to occur as a result of proposed project improvements.

Comments/Explanation/Details (attach additional sheets as necessary)
The proposed project will not alter local traffic patterns, nor will it affect diesel trucks traffic volumes on area roadways. In addition, the proposed improvements would not be a traffic generator project and would not redirect traffic flow in the project area. Although the improvements are being proposed to increase capacity for the purpose of accommodating future growth, the traffic study indicates that the proposed project would not result in a change in build vs. no build traffic volumes on area roadways, including the US 101 mainline and off-ramp ramps. In addition, as noted above, ADT truck volumes on US 101 for opening year 2015 and horizon year 2035 are not projected to exceed the FHWA and EPA’s POAQC criteria of 10,000 diesel truck ADT (diesel truck traffic of 0% or more for roadways with 125,000 ADT or more).

Based on the information provided above, the proposed project is not expected to introduce a significant amount of diesel truck traffic, would not generate additional diesel truck traffic above levels anticipated without implementation of the project, and is in compliance with the SIP/RTIP. Therefore, the project qualifies for a finding of "Not POAQC" based on the definition contained in 40 CFR 03.123(b)(1).

References
**TCWG Project-Level PM Hot Spot Analysis Project Lists**

<table>
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<th>January 2011</th>
<th>Determination</th>
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<td>LAG0216</td>
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<td>ORA001105</td>
<td>Not a POAOC - Hot Spot analysis not required</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORA300605</td>
<td>POAOC - Requires Qualitative Hot Spot Analysis</td>
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<tr>
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### BIOLOGY

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<th>Implementation/ Monitoring Phase</th>
<th>SSP# / NSSP#</th>
<th>Commitment Measure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-1</td>
<td>Wetlands and Other Waters - BMPs</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>Once per month</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>BMPs would be incorporated into construction operations to prevent the release of any contaminants (e.g., soil, silt, construction debris, raw cement, concrete, petroleum products, or any substance that could be hazardous to aquatic life, wildlife, or riparian habitat) into any creek, storm channel, or storm drain. All erosion control devices would be properly maintained and removed upon completion of construction activities.</td>
</tr>
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<td>1-2</td>
<td>Wetlands and Other Waters - Spill Prevention</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills/ Contractor</td>
<td>Once per month</td>
<td>Prior to Construction &amp; Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>A spill prevention and control plan would be developed and implemented to prevent hazardous materials from entering the waterway during construction. All leaks, drips and spills of hydraulic fluid, oil, fuel, or paving material would be immediately cleaned up to prevent entry into water ways. All workers would be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate clean up and response measures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-3</td>
<td>Pre-construction Training</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Prior to Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>A biological resources awareness training would be presented to all construction personnel prior to the initiation of construction activities. The training would be provided as follows: · The training would be developed and provided by a qualified biologist familiar with the special-status species that may occur in the study area. · Training materials would be language-appropriate for construction personnel. · All personnel would be required to complete the training prior to conducting any work in the work area boundary, including tree trimming, demolition, vegetation clearing and grading.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Log No.</td>
<td>Commitment Type</td>
<td>Responsible Party</td>
<td>Monitoring Frequency</td>
<td>Implementation/ Monitoring Phase</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-4</td>
<td>Burrowing Owl Monitoring</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Prior to Construction</td>
<td>• The training would provide educational information on habitats and the natural history of the special-status species potentially occurring in the work area, a discussion of required impact avoidance measures, lines of communication and authority, and a discussion of penalties for noncompliance. If new construction personnel are added to the project, the contractor would ensure that new personnel receive training before they start working. As an alternative to in-person training by a biologist, subsequent training of new personnel may include watching a videotape of the initial training and/or reviewing written materials approved by the project biologist.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>Burrowing Owl - Suitable Habitat &amp; Provisions if Discovered</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>Within 30 days of initiation of grading</td>
<td>Grading</td>
<td>Within 30 days of the initiation of any grading or land clearing, a survey for suitable ground burrows would be performed by a qualified biologist. The survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist and would cover all open habitats (grassland or similar low vegetation) in the construction limits and within 250 feet of the construction limits, access permitting. If no suitable ground burrows are observed, grading may proceed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-6</td>
<td>Burrowing Owl - Construction Inactivity</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>Prior to ground disturbance following construction inactivity</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Areas of bare ground or with grasses less than six inches in height may attract burrowing owls during the winter season. If construction resumes after a period of construction inactivity following clearing, a habitat evaluation to determine burrowing owl occupancy of the site would be conducted prior to ground disturbance the following season.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>Burrowing Owl - Provisions if Discovered</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Prior to and During Construction</td>
<td>All burrows containing active nests would be marked by flagging, and would be protected by a no-disturbance buffer zone of 250 feet.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If construction activity begins during the raptor breeding season (February 1 - August 31), a pre-construction survey for nests and nesting raptors would be conducted within two weeks of the initiation of construction activities. The survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist and would cover all vegetated areas within the project impact area and within 250 feet of the construction limits, access permitting. Because construction at different sites may occur at different times, surveys would be conducted in each individual construction area according to the schedule described above.

If there are any breaks in construction activity at any site for two weeks or more, surveys would need to be conducted again in adjacent habitats to ensure that no active nests or nesting raptors have taken residence adjacent to the project area.

If no active nests are detected during surveys, then no additional measures are required. If any nests or nesting activity is observed, appropriate protective measures would be implemented. Appropriate avoidance measures would include the following (other equally effective measures may be developed in consultation with the USFWS and/or CDFG):

- A 500-foot no-disturbance buffer would be established around occupied nests to prevent destruction of the nest and to prevent disruption of breeding and rearing behavior.
- Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it is unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, or kill said migratory bird species. The law applies to the removal of nests occupied by migratory birds during the breeding season. At the direction of a Caltrans Biologist, exclusionary devices and avoidance measures shall be constructed as needed.
<table>
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<th>Monitoring Frequency</th>
<th>Implementation/ Monitoring Phase</th>
<th>SSP# / NSSP#</th>
<th>Commitment Measure</th>
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</thead>
</table>
|         |                                 | City of Agoura Hills    | Various, based on presence of raptors                         | Prior to and During Construction |              | • The extent of no-disturbance buffers would be determined by a qualified wildlife biologist in consultation with the applicable resource agencies and would depend on the level of noise or disturbance, line of sight between the nest and the disturbance area, ambient levels of noise and other disturbances, and other topographic or artificial barriers.  
• No-disturbance buffers would be maintained until the end of the breeding season or until a qualified wildlife biologist has determined that the young birds have fledged. |
| 1-11    | Migratory Birds - Monitoring    | City of Agoura Hills    | February 1 - September 1                                      | One Week Prior to Construction  |              | If construction activities are scheduled to occur between February 1 and September 1, pre-construction survey for active nests would be conducted in all vegetated areas to be impacted and within 150 feet of the work areas, access permitting. The breeding bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than one week prior to the start of construction. |
| 1-12    | Migratory Birds - Construction Inactivity | City of Agoura Hills | Prior to construction activity following construction inactivity | Construction                    |              | If work stops at the project site for more than three consecutive days during the nesting season, a nesting bird survey would need to be conducted prior to the continuation of work. If no nesting or breeding behavior is observed, construction may proceed. |
| 1-13    | Migratory Birds - Provisions if Discovered | City of Agoura Hills | Various, based on presence of migratory birds                 | Prior to and During Construction |              | • If an active nest is detected, a determination would be made by a qualified biologist as to whether construction work would affect the active nest. If it is determined that construction would not affect an active nest, work may proceed.  
• If it is determined that construction activities are likely to impair the successful rearing of the young, a no-disturbance buffer would be established around occupied nests to prevent destruction of the nest and to prevent disruption of breeding or rearing behavior. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Log No.</th>
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<th>Responsible Party</th>
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| 1-14    | Coastal Whiptail and San Diego Horned Lizard - Monitoring | City of Agoura Hills | 48 hours prior to construction | Prior to Construction | | • The extent of no-disturbance buffers would be determined by a qualified biologist in consultation with the applicable resource agencies and would depend on the level of noise or disturbance, line of sight between the nest and the disturbance area, ambient levels of noise and other disturbances, and other topographic or artificial barriers.  

• No-disturbance buffers would be maintained until the end of the breeding season or until a qualified wildlife biologist as determined that the young birds have fledged.  

A pre-construction survey would be conducted in all vegetated areas that are to be impacted by the project, and within 50 feet of these work areas. The survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist within 48 hours of construction for coastal whiptail and San Diego horned lizard. | |
<p>| 1-15    | Coastal Whiptail and San Diego Horned Lizard - Provisions if Discovered | City of Agoura Hills | Various, based on species type | Prior to and During Construction | | If either of these species is encountered during pre-construction surveys, they would be allowed to disperse out of the construction zone. If dispersal is not likely to occur, the animals would be captured by a qualified biologist in possession of a valid scientific collecting permit and moved outside of the construction zone to an appropriate habitat location based on the habitat requirements for each species, and where there is suitable cover to provide shelter from predators. | |
| 1-16    | San Diego Black-tailed Jackrabbit and San Diego Desert Woodrat - Monitoring | City of Agoura Hills | 30 days prior to construction | Prior to Construction | | Pre-construction surveys would be conducted in all vegetated areas scheduled to be graded or cleared, and within 150 feet of these work areas. The survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist within 30 days of the initiation of construction activities. The survey would be conducted early enough prior to site clearing to address any woodrat middens requiring removal before construction. If no woodrat middens or jackrabbit dens are found, no further action is required. | |
| 1-17    | San Diego Black-tailed Jackrabbit and San Diego Desert Woodrat - Provisions if Discovered | City of Agoura Hills | Various, based on presence of species | Prior to and During Construction | | • If woodrat middens and/or jackrabbit dens are found and can be avoided, the biologist would direct the contractor in placing orange barrier fencing between the proposed construction area and the midden or den, allowing as much room as possible to avoid indirect disturbance to the midden or den. | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Log No.</th>
<th>Commitment Type</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
<th>Monitoring Frequency</th>
<th>Implementation/ Monitoring Phase</th>
<th>SSP# / NSSP#</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>Various, based on presence of species</td>
<td>Prior to and During Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>• If woodrat middens cannot be protected and/or avoided, a qualified biologist would disassemble middens or, if adjacent habitat is not suitable, trap and relocate desert woodrats out of the construction area (using live-traps) prior to the start of construction. In addition, the biologists would attempt to relocate the disassembled midden to the same area where the woodrats are released. Trapping and relocation of woodrats shall be performed in consultation with CDFG. • If any active black-tailed jackrabbit dens are identified on site and cannot be avoided, CDFG would be consulted to determine appropriate mitigation measures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-18</td>
<td>Special Status Bats - Monitoring</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>30 days prior to tree/snag removal</td>
<td>Prior to and During Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Prior to tree removal or the demolition or alteration of any structures, a qualified biologist (familiar with identification of bats and signs of bats) would survey the trees and/or structures for evidence of bat occupation. The pre-construction survey would be conducted within 30 days of the removal of any large tree or snag, or demolition of or construction at any structures.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-19</td>
<td>Special Status Bats - Construction Inactivity</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>Prior to construction activity following construction inactivity</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>If construction is postponed for more than 30 days from the date of the initial bat survey, a qualified biologist would need to repeat the pre-construction survey. The biologist would thoroughly search trees or snags that provide appropriate roosting habitat (trees with foliage or cavities, or that are hollow) for bats or evidence of bats. If no potential for roosting bats is found, tree removal, demolition or construction activities may proceed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-20</td>
<td>Special Status Bats - Suitable Habitat and Provisions if Discovered</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>Various, based on presence of bats</td>
<td>Prior to and During Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>• If a tree provides potentially suitable roosting habitat but bats are not present, exclusion of bats would be conducted by sealing cavities, pruning limbs, or removing the entire tree, in consultation with the qualified biologist. • If roosting bats or evidence of use by bats are found, the biologist would determine the species and estimate the number of bats present. The CDFG would be contacted to determine appropriate measures to remove trees and structures without impacting roosting bats. Trees and snags with cavities or loose bark that exhibit evidence of use by bats would be scheduled for humane bat exclusion and eviction, conducted during appropriate seasons and supervised by the bat biologist.</td>
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<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>Various, based on presence of bats</td>
<td>Prior to and During Construction</td>
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<td>• If it is determined that an active bat maternity roost is present (typically between April and August), bat removal would be prohibited. Humane exclusion would not be permitted until after the breeding season or until after the maternity roost is no longer active, as determined by a qualified biologist.</td>
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<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Project Design</td>
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<td>• If the biologist determines or presumes that roosting bats are present, they may be excluded by installing one-way exclusion devices. To avoid impacts on non-volant (i.e., non-flying) bats, the biologist would only conduct bat exclusion and eviction from February 15 through April 15 and from August 15 through October 30. After the bats vacate the cavities, the biologist would plug the cavities or remove the limbs. The construction contractor would only be authorized to remove trees after the bat biologist verifies that the exclusion methods have successfully prevented bats from returning, usually in seven to 10 days. After construction activities are complete, the bat biologist would remove the exclusion devices.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-21</td>
<td>Invasive Species - Planting Types</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>Various, based on presence of invasive species</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>In compliance with the Executive Order on Invasive Species, E.O. 13112, and subsequent guidance from the FHWA, the landscaping and erosion control included in the project would not use species listed as noxious weeds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-22</td>
<td>Invasive Species - Provisions if Discovered</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>Various, based on presence of invasive species</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>In areas of particular sensitivity, extra precautions would be taken if invasive species are found in or adjacent to the construction areas. These include the inspection and cleaning of construction equipment and eradication strategies to be implemented should an invasion occur.</td>
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<td>1-23</td>
<td>Revegetation of Natural Plant Communities</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Post-Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Revegetated natural plant communities should be hyrdoseeded with native plant seed mix equal to the native plant species identified during pre-construction surveys by the qualified Biologist. Quantities should be applied per Seed Specifications, and applied by a licensed landscape contractor. A plant establishment period (PE Standard Specification) should be included in the contract to ensure healthy plant establishment, irrigation and weed management.</td>
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<td>2-1</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>One visit following construction</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Landscaping that is removed as a result of the noise barrier construction shall be replaced.</td>
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<td>2-2</td>
<td>Contour Grading</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Project Design/ Grading</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grading activity would be performed in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the natural landscape and terrain by such design techniques as locating development in the least sloping areas of the site.</td>
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<td>2-3</td>
<td>Noise Barrier and Retaining Wall(s)</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Project Design</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aesthetic treatments on all proposed retaining walls and the noise barrier would be determined by the Caltrans landscape architect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-1</td>
<td>Environmentally Sensitive Areas for Archaeological Resources</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>Daily during all grading activities</td>
<td>Grading/ Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>The project area would be monitored during all ground disturbances. If cultural materials are discovered during construction, all earth-moving activity within and around the immediate discovery area would be diverted until a qualified archaeologist assesses the nature and significance of the find.</td>
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<td>3-2</td>
<td>Unearth Human Remains/Cultural Materials Provisions</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills/ Contractor</td>
<td>Various, based on presence of remains</td>
<td>Grading/ Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities would cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County Coroner contacted. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At this time, the person who discovered the remains would contact the Caltrans District 7 Environmental Branch so that they may work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains.</td>
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<td>4-1</td>
<td>Paelontology - Monitoring</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>Daily during excavation deeper than 5 feet below surface grade</td>
<td>Grading</td>
<td></td>
<td>Areas of deep excavation (deeper than 5 feet below surface grade) would be monitored by a qualified principal paleontologist (M.S. or PhD in paleontology or geology familiar with paleontological procedures and techniques) for any vertebrate fossils.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-2</td>
<td>Paleontology - Provisions if Discovered</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>Various, based on presence of resources</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>If fossils are discovered, the paleontologist (or paleontological monitor) would recover them. Construction work in these areas would be halted or diverted to allow recovery of fossil remains in a timely manner. Fossil remains collected during monitoring would be cleaned, repaired, sorted, and catalogued. Prepared fossils, along with copies of all pertinent field notes, photographs, and maps, would be deposited in a scientific institution with paleontological collections.</td>
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<td>5-1</td>
<td>Parks and Recreation</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) would be developed to maintain access to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-2</td>
<td>Context Sensitive Design for Sensitive Community Resources</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td></td>
<td>The project would incorporate context sensitive solutions, particularly within the Old Agoura neighborhood, in order to protect the semi-rural character of the community.</td>
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<td>Noise and Vibration (see Noise Attenuation)</td>
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<td>6-1</td>
<td>Sound Barriers</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Design</td>
<td></td>
<td>The project will incorporate noise abatement in the form of a barrier at 5306 Cheseboro Road with an average height of 6 feet. Calculations based on preliminary design data indicate that the barrier will reduce noise levels by approximately 6 dBA for one residence at a cost of $46,000.</td>
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<td>6-2</td>
<td>Standard Specifications</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>Once per month</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>Construction of the project shall comply with Section 14-8.02: Noise Control of the 2006 Caltrans Standard Specifications Amendments, which states: • Do not exceed 86 dBA Leq(h) at 50 feet from the job site activities from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. Use an alternative warning method instead of a sound signal unless required by safety laws. • Equip an internal combustion engine with the manufacturer-recommended muffler. Do not operate an internal combustion engine on the job site without the appropriate muffler.</td>
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<td>6-3</td>
<td>Special Provisions</td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>Once per month</td>
<td>Construction</td>
<td></td>
<td>The project shall implement the following measures from Caltrans Special Provisions S5-310: Noise Control: • All equipment will have sound-control devices that are no less effective than those provided on the original equipment. No equipment will have an un-muffled exhaust. • As directed by Caltrans, the contractor will implement appropriate additional noise abatement measures, including changing the location of stationary construction equipment, turning off idling equipment, rescheduling construction activity, notifying adjacent residents in advance of construction work, and installing acoustic barriers around stationary construction noise sources.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AIR QUALITY</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Dust Control and other Best Management Practices</strong></td>
<td>Contractor</td>
<td>Once per month</td>
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|         | Contractor       | Once per month    | Construction         |                                  |              | • Develop a dust control plan documenting sprinkling, temporary paving, speed limits, and expedited revegetation of disturbed slopes as needed to minimize construction impacts to existing communities.  
  • Locate equipment and materials storage sites as far away from residential and park uses as practical. Keep construction areas clean and orderly.  
  • Establish Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) or their equivalent near sensitive air receptors within which construction activities involving extended idling of diesel equipment would be prohibited, to the extent feasible.  
  • Use track-out reduction measures such as gravel pads at project access points to minimize dust and mud deposits on roads affected by construction traffic.  
  • Cover all transported loads of soils and wet materials prior to transport, or provide adequate freeboard (space from the top of the material to the top of the truck) to minimize emission of dust (particulate matter) during transportation.  
  • Promptly and regularly remove dust and mud that are deposited on paved, public roads due to construction activity and traffic to decrease particulate matter.  
  • Route and schedule construction traffic to avoid peak travel times as much as possible, to reduce congestion and related air quality impacts caused by idling vehicles along local roads.  
  • Install mulch or plant vegetation as soon as practical after grading to reduce windblown particulate in the area. Be aware that certain methods of mulch placement, such as straw blowing, may themselves cause dust and visible emission issues and may need to use controls such as dampened straw. |              |         |
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-1</td>
<td>Soil and Groundwater Sampling</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>During PS&amp;E</td>
<td></td>
<td>During the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&amp;E) Phase, soil and groundwater should be tested at the locations where CIDH piles will be installed for the potential contaminants that have been identified in the Initial Site Investigation to determine the level of contamination and to identify proper handling and disposal methods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-2</td>
<td>Pole-top Transformer Sampling</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>During PS&amp;E</td>
<td></td>
<td>During the PS&amp;E Phase, the pole-top transformers would checked with the utility company to determine if PCBs are present and to determine their potential hazardous waste impact on the project area.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-3</td>
<td>Joint Compound Sampling</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>During PS&amp;E</td>
<td></td>
<td>During the PS&amp;E Phase, sampling and analysis of the joint compound in the Palo Comado Canyon Road overcrossing would be conducted to determine whether or not ACM is present in the joint compound and to determine proper disposal methods if ACM is found.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-4</td>
<td>Paint Striping Sampling</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>During PS&amp;E</td>
<td></td>
<td>During the PS&amp;E Phase, based on recorded data of yellow striping on the roadway, the striping will be handled appropriately according to the lead and chromium content which is based on the age of the striping. In the absence of this information, it will be necessary to dispose the thermoplastic striping at a Class 1 facility if the material is removed by itself.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-5</td>
<td>Surface Soil (shoulders) Sampling</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>During PS&amp;E</td>
<td></td>
<td>During the PS&amp;E Phase, the exposed soil in the project area would be sampled and analyzed from the surface to the depth of excavation within the construction footprint of the project to determine its proper soil management, including on-site reuse or offsite disposal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-6</td>
<td>Sampling of Soils from Landscaped Areas</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>During PS&amp;E</td>
<td></td>
<td>During the PS&amp;E Phase, sampling and analysis of soils from landscaped areas along the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road intersection that are subject to excavation would be conducted to determine the level of pesticides/herbicides contamination to identify a proper handling method.</td>
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<td>Log No.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-7</td>
<td>Sampling of Soils from Noise Barrier Areas</td>
<td>City of Agoura Hills</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>During PS&amp;E</td>
<td></td>
<td>During the PS&amp;E Phase, the soil and groundwater will be tested to determine potential hazardous waste issues at 5306 Cheseboro Road where the noise barrier will be located, which will remain in the City of Agoura Hills right-of-way and a private property.</td>
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**WATER QUALITY REQUIREMENTS**

<p>| 9-1    | Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) | Contractor       | Once per month      | Construction                     |             | A SWPPP would be prepared and implemented for the project.                                                                                                                                                              |
| 9-2    | Construction BMPs                           | Contractor       | Once per month      | Construction                     |             | • Scheduling: A schedule would be developed that includes sequencing of construction activities with the implementation of construction site BMPs.                                                                       |
|        |                                             |                  |                     |                                |             | • Preservation of Existing Vegetation: Areas that would not be disturbed as part of construction activities would be clearly marked on plans and protected in the field with fencing prior to clearing and grubbing. Access limitations would also be shown on the plans and described in the Special Provisions. |
|        |                                             |                  |                     |                                |             | • Soil Binders: Soil binders (or soil stabilizers) would be applied to disturbed soil to protect from erosion by raindrop impact or wind.                                                                                |
|        |                                             |                  |                     |                                |             | • Earth Dikes/Drainage Swales and Ditches: Top, toe, and mid-slope diversion ditches, berms, dikes, and swales would be used to intercept runoff and direct it away from critical slopes without allowing it to reach the roadway.               |
|        |                                             |                  |                     |                                |             | • Outlet Protection/Velocity Dissipation Devices: Outlet protection/velocity dissipation devices of rock, riprap, or similar materials would be placed at pipe outlets to reduce flow velocity and the energy of exiting stormwater flows and to prevent scour. |
|        |                                             |                  |                     |                                |             | • Silt Fencing: Silt fences would be placed below the toe of exposed and erodible slopes, down slope of exposed soil areas, around temporary stockpiles, and along streams and channels to intercept and slow the flow of sediment-laden sheet flow runoff. |
|        |                                             |                  |                     |                                |             | • Fiber Rolls: Fiber rolls would be placed on the face of slopes at regular intervals and/or at the toe of slopes to intercept runoff, reduce its flow velocity, release the runoff as sheet flow, and provide some removal of sediment from the runoff. |</p>
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|         | Contractor      |                   | Once per month       | Construction                   |              | • Gravel Bag Berm: Gravel bag berms would be installed across slopes to intercept runoff, reduce runoff velocity, release runoff as sheet flow, and provide some sediment removal.  
• Street Sweeping and Vacuuming: Street sweeping and vacuuming would be implemented anywhere sediment is tracked from the project site onto paved roads to prevent the sediment from entering a storm drain or watercourse.  
• Sandbag Barriers: Sand bag barriers would be used to intercept and slow the flow of sediment-laden sheet flow runoff.  
• Storm Drain Inlet Protection: Storm drain inlet protection would be administered where necessary to reduce sediment from stormwater runoff discharging from the construction site prior to entering the storm drainage system.  
• Stabilized Construction Entrance/Exit: A crushed aggregate layer would be installed over geotextile fabric (or steel plates with ribs) at all construction entrance/exit points to limit the migration of sediment from the construction site.  
• Entrance/Outlet Tire Wash: Tire wash areas would be installed at stabilized construction access points to remove sediment from tires and undercarriages, preventing the migration of sediment onto adjacent roadways.  
• Water Conservation Practices: Water conservation practices, including preventing water leaks, avoidance of vehicle washing on site, sweeping in lieu of hosing areas, and applying water for dust control and to minimize runoff, would be implemented during construction.  
• Paving and Grinding Operations: Paving and grinding operations would be implemented in a manner that would minimize pollution of stormwater runoff during paving operations, including new paving and preparation of existing paved surfaces for overlay. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Log No.</th>
<th>Commitment Type</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
<th>Monitoring Frequency</th>
<th>Implementation/ Monitoring Phase</th>
<th>SSP# / NSSP#</th>
<th>Commitment Measure</th>
<th>Completed Signature Page</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|         |                 | Contractor        | Once per month      | Construction                    |             | • Illicit Connection/Illegal Discharge Detection and Reporting: Procedures and practices would be implemented so that construction contractors would have the ability to recognize illicit connections or illegally dumped or discharged materials on a construction site and be required to report incidents to the Resident Engineer (RE).  
• Material Delivery and Storage: Procedures and practices would be implemented for the proper handling and storage of materials, including secondary containment, spill prevention and control, product labeling, quantity reduction, proper storage, material covering, training, and inventory control.  
• Material Use: Procedures and practices would be implemented for use of construction material in a manner that minimizes or eliminates the discharge of these materials to the storm drain system or watercourses, including proper waste disposal, product labeling, proper cleaning techniques, recycling materials, reducing quantities and application rates, spill prevention and control, training, and reduction of exposure to stormwater.  
• Stockpile Management: Procedures and practices would be implemented to eliminate pollution of stormwater from stockpiles of soil and paving materials, including locating stockpiles away from drainages, providing perimeter sediment barriers, and wind erosion control measures.  
• Spill Prevention and Control: Procedures and practices would be implemented to prevent and control spills in a manner that minimizes or prevents the discharge of spilled material to storm drain systems or watercourses.  
• Solid Waste Management: Procedures and practices would be implemented to minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants to storm drain systems or watercourses as a result of the creation, stockpiling, or removal of construction site wastes.  
• Hazardous Waste Management: Procedures and practices would be implemented to minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants from construction site hazardous waste to the storm drain system or watercourses. |             |         |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Log No.</th>
<th>Commitment Type</th>
<th>Responsible Party</th>
<th>Monitoring Frequency</th>
<th>Implementation/ Monitoring Phase</th>
<th>SSP# / NSSP#</th>
<th>Commitment Measure</th>
<th>Completed Signature Page</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|        |                         | Contractor        | Once per month       | Construction                      |              | • Contaminated Soil Management: Procedures and practices would be implemented to minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system or watercourses from contaminated soil.  
• Concrete Waste Management: Procedures and practices would be implemented to minimize or eliminate the discharge of concrete waste materials to the storm drain system or to watercourses.  
• Sanitary/Septic Waste Management: Procedures and practices would be implemented to minimize or eliminate the discharge of construction site toilet facilities to the storm drain system or watercourse.  
• Liquid Waste Management: Procedures would be implemented to prevent pollutants related to non-hazardous liquid wastes from entering storm drains or receiving waters. |                          |         |
| 9-3    | Permanent Treatment BMPs| City of Agoura Hills/ Contractor | One visit following construction | Construction                      | Biofiltration Swales (Bioswales): Incremental discharge increases would be controlled through the incorporation of bioswales into the project. |                          |         |
APPENDIX E  Written Comments Received

A total of one (1) government agency, twenty three (23) individuals, and one (1) organization provided written comments during the circulation period. This appendix includes copies of the letters received, with the responses to comments immediately following each letter/comment card.

A. Public Agencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy</td>
<td>Elizabeth Cheadle,</td>
<td>02/27/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B1</td>
<td>Old Agoura Homeowner’s Association</td>
<td>Jess Thomas, President</td>
<td>03/06/2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Private Citizens/Individuals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type of Correspondence</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C1</td>
<td>Michael McRory</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C2</td>
<td>Joan Yacovone</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Gary Buzza</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Gary Peters</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C5</td>
<td>Marc Schumann</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C6</td>
<td>Pat &amp; Mike Colabella</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C7</td>
<td>Julie Thornbury</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C8</td>
<td>William &amp; Carol Foster</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C9</td>
<td>Cyrena Nouzille</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C10</td>
<td>Jess Thomas</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
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<td>C11</td>
<td>Robyn Britton</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
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<td>C12</td>
<td>Brian Tamsut</td>
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<tr>
<td>C13</td>
<td>Oliver Horeczky</td>
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<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C14</td>
<td>Daniel Farkash</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Type of Correspondence</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>C15</td>
<td>June Slayton</td>
<td>Comment Card</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C16</td>
<td>Kevin Henderson</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C17</td>
<td>David Stumpf</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>02/21/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C18</td>
<td>Alan Goldberg</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>02/04/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C19</td>
<td>Jon Levin</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>03/05/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>C20</td>
<td>Steve &amp; Patricia Hess</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>03/06/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C21</td>
<td>Russ &amp; Andrea Diamond</td>
<td>Email</td>
<td>03/07/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C22</td>
<td>Richard Watters</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>02/28/2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>C23</td>
<td>Tara Farkash</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>Not Dated</td>
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<tr>
<td>C24</td>
<td>Joanne Calhoun</td>
<td>Letter</td>
<td>02/24/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Laura Toston</td>
<td>Noise Barrier Letter</td>
<td>03/02/2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
February 27, 2012

Carlos J. Montez, Branch Chief
Division of Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation, District 7
100 S. Main Street MS-16A
Los Angeles, California 90012

Comments on US 101/Palo Comado Road Interchange Project IS/EA
EA 25720 – 07-LA-101-PM.33.0/34.4

Dear Mr. Montez:

The Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Conservancy) offers the following comments and recommendations on the above-referenced project Initial Study (IS)/Environmental Assessment (EA). The Conservancy’s October 15, 2010 and November 4, 2010 comment letters on the project made the case for fencing mitigation measures to benefit cross freeway wildlife movement at the Liberty Canyon Road interchange located to the east and for funding to the National Park Service for continued wildlife movement studies along the 101 Freeway in the subject area. The IS/EA does not include either such mitigation measures.

The IS/EA includes an extensive compilation of cumulative impacts along the subject section of the 101 Freeway. The widening of the whole subject interchange eliminates any potential use of the overpass for cross-freeway wildlife movement and puts added pressure on the Liberty Canyon underpass to serve as the primary inter-mountain range wildlife corridor.

The Conservancy finds the IS/EA to be deficient if it does not include a funding set aside to provide for the immediate future study and potential future modification of the Caltrans right-of-way fencing on the southwest corner of the Liberty Canyon interchange. The current fencing at the edge of the right of way limits the width of land available to animals to move behind an existing commercial building complex to Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) land between the freeway and Agoura Road. Caltrans has strong requirements to fence the outer edge of freeway rights-of-ways, but those requirements are not absolute. If the Palo Comado interchange is eliminated as a
Mr. Carlos Montez  
California Department of Transportation  
US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange Project IS/EA  
February 27, 2012  
Page 2

secondary wildlife overcrossing, that loss of animal movement capacity combined with the cumulative traffic capacity provided by the subject project provides adequate nexus to require mitigation at the Liberty Canyon interchange.

If regulations absolutely prohibit moving right-of-way fencing as described above, we urge Caltrans to include a mitigation measure to specifically fund the MRCA to plant oak trees and native perennial bunch grass on the properties it owns and manages on either side of the Liberty Canyon interchange. Such planting would specifically not conflict with the proposed location and construction staging needs for a proposed wild/recreation tunnel under the 101 Freeway just west of the interchange. To create enough perennial vegetation to commensurately improve wildlife crossing function at the interchange, the mitigation should pay for the installation of a potable or reclaimed water meter for the MRCA on each side of the freeway and $30,000 to landscape a critical 0.1 acre on each side of the freeway.

Because vegetation takes a long time to grow to size, the IS/EA must provide the landscaping funding prior to the commencement of construction at the Palo Comado interchange. Or alternatively, the substantial movement of right-of-way fencing as described above.

Please direct all future correspondence to Paul Edelman, Deputy Director of Natural Resources and Planning, at 310-589-3230, ext. 128, edelman@smmc.ca.gov, or at the above letterhead address. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ELIZABETH A. CHEADLE  
Chairperson
Response to Comment #1

The IS/EA discusses wildlife corridors in the project vicinity in Section 2.3.1. The IS/EA found that it is not likely for the Build Alternative to result in direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on wildlife corridors; therefore, mitigation measures were not proposed.

Response to Comment #2

The IS/EA did not identify cumulative impacts as a result of the Build Alternative, primarily due to the number of major wildlife corridors near the Biological Study Area (BSA), none of which are located in the BSA. The Build Alternative would consist of widening an existing roadway that is perpendicular to the US 101 freeway barrier, which proves no threat to existing wildlife crossings. One corridor associated with the intermittent creek at the western end of the proposed project exists; however, grading and paving activities would occur approximately 250 feet away from the corridor.

Please refer to Figure 1.3 of the IS/EA. The Build Alternative does not include the “widening of the whole subject interchange” as stated by the commenter. A majority of the widening activities would occur along Palo Comado Canyon Road, with only minor improvements proposed at the US 101 on-and off-ramp intersection.

Response to Comment #3

Please refer to the response to Comment #2 regarding the presence of major wildlife crossings in the project vicinity. The Build Alternative would consist of widening an existing roadway, and would not eliminate the opportunity for animal movement at the overcrossing. Any construction activities associated with the Build Alternative would occur approximately 250 feet from the nearest wildlife corridor, located at the west end of the proposed project site.

Liberty Canyon is located approximately one mile southeast of the BSA and allows contiguous passage under US 101 via the spanning bridge underpass. In addition, the concrete-lined drainage culvert and equestrian trail discussed in the IS/EA provide for the crossing of small, medium, and large wildlife species. It was determined that ample crossings are located within the project vicinity and that the Build Alternative would not result in direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on wildlife corridors; therefore, mitigation measures were not proposed.

Response to Comment #4

The IS/EA found that it is not likely for the Build Alternative to result in direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on wildlife corridors; therefore, mitigation measures are not proposed, per NEPA and CEQA. Additionally, Caltrans is currently involved with a grant application to build a wildlife tunnel at Liberty Canyon, which is approximately one-mile away from the proposed project.
Comment Letter B1: Old Agoura Homeowner’s Association (03/06/2012)

The commenter submitted a letter during the public comment period which refers to a previously-submitted letter, dated October 31, 2010. The letter dated October 31, 2010 has been included for official recordation; however, no responses are provided.

OLD AGOURA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
6064 CHESEBRO ROAD
AGOURA HILLS, CA 91301
818-889-9665
DIRECTORS@OLDAGOURA.ORG

March 6, 2012

Mr. Carlos J. Montez, Branch Chief
Division of Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation
100 South Main Street, MS16A
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3712
carlos_montez@dot.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Montez,

This comment is to be taken together with our first comment letter of October 31, 2010 regarding the proposed changes to the Palo Comado Canyon Road overpass and its intersections with the 101 freeway in Agoura Hills.

First of all, we genuinely appreciate the lone alternative lately offered to keep the existing road width from the Northbound off-ramp down the hill to Driver Avenue. For us, that would deter some level of z-pattern traffic seeking to avoid the brief wait at Kanan by exiting at Chesebro to access Driver or Canwood. But, we remain unconvinced that the proposed 5-lane bridge will not encourage and promote more dense and traffic-creating development than would otherwise be allowed. Zoning density is subject to change over time and economic pressure will have its way eventually. “Build it and they will come”.

Old Agoura is a rural community. We have opposed the widening of the “Chesebro” bridge since before the adoption of the 1992 general plan. Our views were overridden, but no explanation given. But that 1992 plan and the recently updated one both call for keeping Agoura Road at two lanes to preserve its rural nature. There are two lanes leading to the bridge from both directions. How can a five-lane monstrosity be justified?

Studying the Draft IS/EA in order to understand the net effects of the proposed project was an extremely frustrating task. The document is not comprehensible to the general public, or even by technical professionals who are not traffic engineers. At the Feb 21 public meeting, I used table 1.10 to make the point. One cannot know the accident/death statistics by analyzing this table. This pattern repeats throughout the document and leaves the concerned citizen with many more questions than answers. I seriously doubt that the city council members would find the document usable for making the decision on whether to proceed with the project.

Excessive speed is an impediment to traffic flow in the existing situation. If traffic coming up the hill from Driver is flowing at 25-30, cars waiting at the Northbound off-
ramp will proceed and merge confidently. But anything faster than that causes uncertainty and backup on the ramp. After much visual analysis, both driving and watching on foot, we have come to the conclusion that a roundabout between the Northbound off ramp and on ramp is the sensible, economic, and esthetic alternative. It will be traffic calming and promote continuous flow without the visual clutter of more cement lanes and traffic light standards. It might even reduce air pollution by greatly reducing start and stop sequences.

There’s got to be a better answer than the proposed five-lane bridge to nowhere.

Jess Thomas, President
OLD AGOURA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
6064 CHESEBRO ROAD  
AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA 91301  
818-889-9965

October 31, 2010

Mr. Carlos J. Montez, Branch Chief  
Division of Environmental Planning  
California Department of Transportation, District 7  
100 South Main Street, MS16A  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3712  
Carlos_montez@dot.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Montez,

Thank you for the thorough presentation of proposed plans to “improve” the Palo Comado Canyon Road/101 Freeway interchange on October 14.

The Old Agoura Homeowners Association, a California non-profit corporation, strongly opposes most of the proposed plan. Old Agoura is a rural, equestrian-oriented community that strives to protect and enhance the country ambiance of our community. The Agoura Hills General Plan formally recognizes and protects our goal in many ways. Urban amenities such as sidewalks, curbs and gutters, and streetlights are specifically prohibited. The Old Agoura Design Overlay extends to the South side of the freeway.

Our long-term philosophical problem with the entire plan is that it is growth inducing. We are just winding up an 11-year fight with Los Angeles County over their proposal to allow a huge private school development at the northeast corner of this interchange, so we are well aware of what an increase in traffic carrying capacity could help justify in the future. We would much rather limit development than face future incremental urbanization. It is completely unacceptable to pursue the proposed design on the basis of a Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Finding of No Significant Impact.

The more immediately objectionable impacts of the proposal are the widening of Palo Comado Canyon Road, on the North side of the bridge, down to Chesebro Road, and the proposal for a signal light at the freeway intersection. Daily experience demonstrates that there is no present safety or traffic-flow need and the retaining stem-walls required would detract from the present open visual nature of the trip up the hill. A traffic signal at the freeway would significantly prolong the Agoura High School logjams.

We accept that there are structural upgrades and line-of-sight problems that need to be dealt with, but we remain very skeptical of the need for the Herculean job proposed.

Sincerely yours,  
Jess Thomas, President
Response to Comment #1

Palo Comado Canyon Road is operating at Level of Service (LOS) F under current AM and PM peak traffic conditions and therefore would require additional capacity to improve the circulation in this area for existing conditions as well as future conditions. The traffic analysis indicates that a four-lane bridge would improve the LOS and provide additional capacity that is required for existing and future traffic conditions, as outlined in the City’s current General Plan. Zoning and/or General Plan land use designation changes are not proposed as part of the Build Alternative.

Response to Comment #2

Please refer to the response to Comment #1. A queue analysis was completed under with and without project conditions; the proposed improvements for the overpass and the northbound off-ramp intersection show significant reduction in queues on the northbound off-ramp.

Response to Comment #3

The IS/EA includes the analysis of potential environmental impacts using technical studies that have been prepared for the proposed project. Though technical subject matter is discussed, it is the intention of the writer to simplify technical terms and concepts whenever possible. Accident analysis was completed for the proposed project location, which shows that the accident rates on the northbound off-ramp to Palo Comado Canyon road has a concentration of accidents and exceeds the statewide average rate for similar facilities.

Response to Comment #4

The City studied several alternatives as part of the preliminary planning process, including a roundabout at the northbound off-ramp intersection. This alternative was initially considered, but ultimately rejected due to right-of-way impacts that were not acceptable to the City. Therefore, it was not included for analysis in the IS/EA.
Response to Comment #1

Palo Comado Canyon Road is operating at Level of Service (LOS) F under current AM and PM peak traffic conditions and therefore would require additional capacity to improve the circulation in this area for existing conditions as well as future conditions. The traffic analysis indicates that a four-lane bridge would improve the LOS and provide additional capacity that is required for existing and future traffic conditions.
Comment Letter C2: Joan Yacovone (02/21/12)

Response to Comment #1

It is assumed the commenter is referring to the northbound off-ramp intersection. Obstructions to line-of-sight need to be relocated or eliminated; the line-of-sight obstruction at this intersection is the bridge railing. Without widening the roadway or reducing the width of lanes to allow a different configuration (so a left-turning vehicle could stop further into the roadway), it cannot be improved. A traffic signal would not change the stop bar location for a left-turning vehicle; thus, the bridge rail would remain an obstacle to safe stopping sight distance. The addition of a traffic signal would require additional lanes to provide vehicle stacking. Without widening of the roadway, the LOS on Palo Comado Canyon Road would remain poor with unacceptable delays.
Response to Comment #1

Palo Comado Canyon Road is operating at Level of Service (LOS) F under current AM and PM peak traffic conditions and therefore would require additional capacity to improve the circulation in this area for existing conditions as well as future conditions. The traffic analysis indicates that a four-lane bridge would improve the LOS and provide additional capacity that is required for existing and future traffic conditions. In addition, without widening the roadway or reducing the width of lanes to allow a different configuration (so a left-turning vehicle could stop further into the roadway), safety on the bridge cannot be improved.
Response to Comment #1

The commenter’s opposition to the Build Alternative is noted for the record. Traffic is expected to increase as a result of general area-wide growth, as outlined in the City’s General Plan; the overpass widening is being proposed to accommodate existing and future traffic conditions. City staff, based upon input from community, has determined that any major improvements to the intersection to Driver Avenue/Chesebro Road would adversely affect the character of Old Agoura neighborhood and therefore no major improvements are proposed at this intersection.
The commenter’s preference for the Build Alternative is noted for the record.
Traffic is expected to increase as a result of general area-wide growth, as outlined in the City’s General Plan; the overpass widening is designed to accommodate existing and future traffic levels. The proposed project does not include a traffic signal at the intersection of Driver Avenue/Chesebro Road.
Comment Letter C7: Julie Thornbury (02/21/12)

The commenter’s opposition of the Build Alternative is noted for the record.
Response to Comment #1

The overpass widening is designed to accommodate existing and future traffic levels. Future traffic level assumptions were based upon build-out conditions outlined in the City’s General Plan.
Response to Comment #1

The City studied several additional alternatives as part of the preliminary planning process. These alternatives included such elements as a local access road connection to the northbound off-ramp, a 5-way traffic signal at the northbound off-ramp, and a roundabout at the northbound off-ramp intersection. These alternatives were initially considered, but ultimately rejected due to right-of-way impacts that were not acceptable to the City. Therefore, they were not included for analysis in the IS/EA. The scoping meeting resulted in the incorporation of context-sensitive solutions for the Build Alternative in order to preserve the character of the Old Agoura neighborhood (see Section 2.1.5).
Response to Comment #1

The IS/EA includes the analysis of potential environmental impacts using technical studies that have been prepared for the proposed project. Though technical subject matter is discussed, it is the intention of the writer to simplify technical terms and concepts whenever possible.
Response to Comment #1

It is assumed the commenter is referring to Chapter 2, environmental issues eliminated from discussion. The IS/EA states that the nearest federally-designated Wild and Scenic River (per the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968) is located approximately 23 miles from the project site. This information is correct. The waterway indicated by the commenter is an intermittent creek, noted in Section 2.3.2 of the IS/EA (see Figure 2.14).

It is assumed the commenter is referring to Table 2.22, Cumulative Project List. The IS/EA states that the source of this information is dated June 2011, the most current information available as of the date of publication of the IS/EA. The table also indicates the status of each project listed; it is assumed that projects with existing approvals are in the process of construction for the purpose of a cumulative impacts analysis.
Response to Comment #1

Because the Driver Avenue/Chesebro Road intersection is located within a residential area of the Old Agoura Overlay Zone, any improvements such as roadway widening, the installation of traffic lights, or the addition of similar infrastructure would not be consistent with local planning policies. Therefore, only limited improvements are proposed at this intersection and it will continue to operate at LOS F during AM and PM peak periods.
The commenter’s preference for the Build Alternative is noted for the record.
Response to Comment #1

Palo Comado Canyon Road is operating at Level of Service (LOS) F under current AM and PM peak traffic conditions and therefore would require additional capacity to improve the circulation in this area for existing conditions as well as future conditions. The traffic analysis indicates that a four-lane bridge would improve the LOS and provide additional capacity that is required for existing and future traffic conditions, as outlined in the City’s current General Plan. Accident analysis was completed for this location, which shows that the accident rates on the northbound off-ramp to Palo Comado Canyon Road have a concentration of accidents and exceeds the statewide average rate for similar facilities.
Comment Letter C15: June Slayton (02/21/12)

The commenter’s opposition of the Build Alternative is noted for the record.
Comment Letter C16: Kevin Henderson (02/21/12)

From: Carlos Montez  
To: Natalie Hill: Erin Peterson  
Subject: Fw: re:improvement on palo camado rd.  
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2012 12:05:17 PM

Carlos Montez  
Branch Chief  
Environmental Planning  

----- Forwarded by Carlos Montez/D07/Caltrans/CAGov on 02/22/2012 12:05 PM -----

kevinhenderson  
Henderson  
<animalman2aaa@hotmail.com>  
To  
<carlos.montez@dot.ca.gov>  
cc  
02/21/2012 07:25 PM  
Subject  
re:improvement on palo camado rd.  

I live at 6203 chesebro rd.I have lived there 42 years. The problem would be increased traffic also we see it has a way for other officials to eventually try and build on the property -which the jewish school tried to build on for 25 years. So people will fight this every step of the way. It changes the property codes- it changes the way of life for everybody. For eventually 100,000 Plus people. It isn't about convenience-more jobs - its about what will happen in the long run-to the surrounding property. Don't see the tree -see the forest. Regards
Response to Comment #1

Palo Comado Canyon Road is operating at Level of Service (LOS) F under current AM and PM peak traffic conditions and therefore would require additional capacity to improve the circulation in this area for existing conditions as well as future conditions. The traffic analysis indicates that a four-lane bridge would improve the LOS and provide additional capacity that is required for existing and future traffic conditions, as outlined in the City’s current General Plan. Approval and/or implementation of the Build Alternative would not result in changes to Zoning or General Plan land use designations.
Comment C17: David Stumpf (02/12/12)

Mr. Montez,

Thank you for considering my comments regarding this project. As a nearly 12 year resident of Agoura, residing in the Liberty Canyon area, and having two children attend Agoura High School, all I can simply say is that this project cannot be completed soon enough. This interchange is the most dangerous intersection in Agoura as there is poor visibility and no signal to regulate traffic coming off the Northbound 101. That is just the worst of an all around poorly designed interchange.

Sincerely,

David M. Stumpf

The commenter’s support of the Build Alternative is noted for the record.
Comment Letter C18: Alan Goldberg (02/04/2012)

Mr. Goldberg
Thank you for your comments on this project. We will include a response to your comment in the final environmental document.

Regards,
Carlos Montez
Branch Chief
Environmental Planning

Dear Mr. Montez,

I have reviewed the IS/EA and feel that the no-build alternative makes the most sense. It would retain the rural nature of the area and help to limit the already excessive commercial activity on the frontage roads. These roads are already heavily used and widening the interchange would only move congestion toward them. The pressure would then begin to widen those roads, with the eventual result of creating a network of "highways" in the area. I have seen how such roads create a racetrack mentality in drivers, encouraging dangerous driving, while at the same time encouraging more development. The result is a congested, urban environment and the destruction of that which you set out to enhance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alan Goldberg
4031 Liberty Canyon
Agoura, California

The commenter’s preference for the No Build Alternative is noted for the record.
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Comment Letter C19 – Jon Levin (03/05/2012)

From: Carlos Montez
To: Natalie Hilli, Erin Peterson
Subject: Pw: Agoura Overpass
Date: Monday, March 05, 2012 11:12:41 AM

FYI

Carlos Montez
Branch Chief
Environmental Planning

--- Forwarded by Carlos Montez/D07/Caltrans/CAGov on 03/05/2012 11:11 AM
---

Jon Levin
<jlewin1072@aol.com>
03/05/2012 09:26 AM
Subject: Agoura Overpass

I am writing to you because of the negative affects that the Cheseboro Road Overpass construction will have on Old Agoura. First of all, there will be a lot more traffic that Old Agoura can not adequately handle. It will open up Old Agoura to more building, especially on the Heschel property. It will cause the old country feel of this unique neighborhood to once again, be lessened. These are just a few of the negative results that will happen if this construction happens. This is bad enough but the actual construction will be another added burden to this area that has endured so much in recent years. Because of the immediate and long range problems this construction project should be abandoned. Sincerely, Jon Levin, 5947 Lapworth Drive, Old Agoura, Ca.
Response to Comment #1

Palo Comado Canyon Road is operating at Level of Service (LOS) F under current AM and PM peak traffic conditions and therefore would require additional capacity to improve the circulation in this area for existing conditions as well as future conditions. The traffic analysis indicates that a four-lane bridge would improve the LOS and provide additional capacity that is required for existing and future traffic conditions, as outlined in the City’s current General Plan.

The IS/EA notes that the Old Agoura community is a semi-rural residential neighborhood, and that the project would incorporate context-sensitive solutions in order to preserve the character of the Old Agoura neighborhood (see Section 2.1.5).
Comment Letter C20: Steve & Patricia Hess (03/06/12)

Dear Mr. Montez -

I am writing in response to the recent proposal of planned improvements to the 101/Palo Comado interchange. My family has lived in the Agoura area for over 20 years and we have seen the area grow and agree that improvements to traffic flow and safety may be necessary at this location. We hope our comments below will assist you in the planning process and that you will be careful to consider the impact your decisions will have on environment and surrounding community.

The Palo Comado overpass connects Old Agoura to Agoura Roads, two of the last rural areas in Agoura Hills. Both of these areas have mature development plans and the expectation of future traffic impacts are well understood. What is needed is better control at the 101 West bound exit onto Palo Comado. What is definitely not needed is more lanes of concrete looking over the historic area of Old Agoura and Agoura Hills. This area in question serves as the entrance to the most historic area of Agoura Hills, Old Agoura. Your design must respect both the visual and lifestyle requirements of the region and the residents.

Also, the environmental impacts from large scale bridge lighting are enormous. The Palo Comado region is a well documented wildlife corridor, one of the last East-West in the region. We request that you comply with the accepted "dark skies" ordinances of both LA County and Calabasas, as well as any similar ordinance eventually adopted by Agoura Hills. I cite the recent Reyes Adobe bridge and interchange project just completed. The lighting design is the least compatible with a rural or environmentally minded community like ours. It violates all the best practices of "dark skies" planning and is completely incompatible with our neighborhood. I strongly urge you to make "dark skies" a key element of your planning.

I travel this road every day. Traffic is generally light. Smart traffic management can greatly
improve the service level. Be sure to note that foot & bicycle traffic is already provided both over and under the 101 at location very close to Palo Comado.

And finally we ask that you take a "bottom up" approach; listen, communicate and deliver based on community input. Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

Sincerely,
Steve & Patricia Hess
28907 Wagon Road
Agoura, Ca 91301
818/652-4429
Response to Comment #1

The IS/EA notes that the Old Agoura community is a semi-rural residential neighborhood, and that the project would incorporate context-sensitive solutions in order to preserve the character of the Old Agoura neighborhood (see Section 2.1.5).

Response to Comment #2

The Build Alternative proposes lighting only at intersections; it is not proposed along the entire length of Palo Comado Canyon Road. As part of the future project design process, the design team would consider the addition of light shielding on the proposed standard fixtures. If it is found that the shields would direct lighting in a way that would comply with the dark sky principles, they would be added to the design.

Response to Comment #3

The commenter’s comment regarding the existence of pedestrian and bicycle facilities near the proposed project site is noted for the record. The IS/EA discusses existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities in Section 2.1.8.
Dear Mr. Carlos Montez,

We are writing you this letter as concerned homeowners currently residing in the Old Agoura neighborhood of Agoura Hills, in the county of Los Angeles. We attended the hearing but arrived late and missed the opportunity to express our opposition to the proposal to widen the Palo Comado freeway overcrossing and the other suggested proposed improvements to the feeder roads. As 30 year residents of Agoura Hills, with the past six years in the tranquil, rural old part of the city, this project in unwarranted, unnecessary and a waste of the taxpayer’s money.

Making the drive to the Westside of Los Angeles six days a week for work, our concerns with implementing traffic control (stop lights) in or near this area would have a negative impact on the constant flow of cars traveling this route. This intersection does get congested a couple of times a day when Agoura High School is in session but there is consistent movement. The so-called improvements to the Kanan and Reyes Adobe freeway overpass have not served our area in a positive way. Traffic flow has lessened, backups and wait times at peak times have lengthened and safety has also been impacted.

We understood the need for those improvements because both intersections represent the central core of ingress and egress of our fine city, Palo Comado/Chesbro does not. Please do not destroy the remaining vestige of civility and tranquility of our community with this unwanted urbanization project. We are not NIMBYs, who are against growth and progress. As real estate developers and involved in the building trade and supply business we are trained to be pragmatists and realists with regards to urban planning and improvements. The Hill’s 101 overpass in Calabasas is much more in need and deserving for Caltrans attention than the Palo Comado/101 Interchange.

Please heed the sentiment of the homeowners who expressed themselves at the public hearing and do #1 #2 #3
not proceed with this project.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our opinion and opposition.

With Regards,

Russ and Andrea Diamond
5833 Lapworth Dr.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
818-889-4244
www.russ@snyderdiamond.com
Response to Comment #1

The commenter’s opposition to the Build Alternative is noted for the record.

Response to Comment #2

Palo Comado Canyon Road is operating at Level of Service (LOS) F under current AM and PM peak traffic conditions and therefore would require additional capacity to improve the circulation in this area for existing conditions as well as future conditions. The traffic analysis indicates that a four-lane bridge would improve the LOS and provide additional capacity that is required for existing and future traffic conditions, as outlined in the City’s current General Plan. In addition, without widening the roadway or reducing the width of lanes to allow a different configuration (so a left-turning vehicle could stop further into the roadway), safety on the bridge cannot be improved.

Response to Comment #3

The IS/EA notes that the Old Agoura community is a semi-rural residential neighborhood, and that the project would incorporate context-sensitive solutions in order to preserve the character of the Old Agoura neighborhood (see Section 2.1.5).
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February 28, 2012

Carlos Montez 
Division of Environmental Planning
100 S. Main Street, Suite 100, MS 16A,
Los Angeles, CA. m90012-3712

Comments and thoughts on the proposed changes to the Palo Comado Canyon Road / U.S. 101 interchange.

To repeat my comment after the original “Scoping Meeting” on October 14, 2010, Old Agoura is and has always been a rural, equestrian community, and the overwhelming majority of the residents wish it to remain that way (no sidewalks, no streetlights, and last but not least, no traffic signals). Preserving unique, established neighborhoods should be a consideration of any “Improvement Project” such as this.

I attended the “Public Hearing” on the evening of February 21, 2012, and having heard the comments of a number of residents of “Old Agoura”, I have updated my comments to the following.

- Adding a left turn lane would have a positive impact and improve traffic flow going north bound over the bridge, as one vehicle waiting to make a turn stops all north bound flow.

- Adding bicycle lanes would improve safety for bicycle riders, and improve safety issues due to cars crossing the center line to avoid them.

- Adding or widening existing sidewalk(s) would obviously improve safety for pedestrians (were there any surveys on the number of pedestrians using the bridge? Maybe a sidewalk on one side would be adequate?)

- Was the proposed idea of a lane splitting from the North bound off ramp, and going under the overpass, and connecting with Canwood Street studied or investigated? That would significantly reduce heavy commercial and other traffic using the off ramp as it must now, and would also significantly reduce the traffic load at the top of the existing off ramp (ending at Palo Comado).
Comments, Page 2

- Since the Public Hearing, I have driven the Northbound off ramp looking for signage advising large vehicles that they were not legally allowed on the portion of road going North to the four way stop sign. The only sign I observed was placed after you were committed on that Northbound portion of road leading to the stop sign, and was just about small enough to easily be missed. There was NO signage anywhere on the off ramp with this information.

- Was a sound wall going North (starting along the Northbound on ramp) and continuing along the North side of the Freeway looked at? #4

- Adding a Center or Left Turn lane on Palo Comado, North of the over pass and between the two Auto Fueling Stations could improve safety and traffic flow in that area. #5

I understand that planning for the future is an important consideration in a project like this, but as the Old Agoura neighborhood is close to being built out, the project truly does look like a “Bridge to Nowhere”, especially in these economically hard times, and just because the money is available doesn’t mean that it has to be wasted.

Richard L. Watters
28245 Driver Ave.
Agoura Hills, CA. 91301
Mudywaters2@aol.com
818-889-5289
Response to Comment #1

The IS/EA notes that the Old Agoura community is a semi-rural residential neighborhood, and that the project would incorporate context-sensitive solutions in order to preserve the character of the Old Agoura neighborhood (see Section 2.1.5).

Response to Comment #2

A pedestrian count was not included as part of the traffic study. The IS/EA notes that the City’s General Plan designates Palo Comado Canyon Road as a four-lane roadway with bike lanes and sidewalks (see Section 2.1.8). Sidewalks would be required on both sides of the bridge in order to be consistent with local planning documents.

Response to Comment #3

The idea presented by the public during the scoping meeting of splitting the northbound off-ramp to take traffic under the overpass and connect to Canwood Street was studied; it was found to have many of the same challenges as other alternatives considered and eliminated (see response to Comment Letter C9 regarding alternatives considered). The idea of taking the traffic that is destined for Canwood north of the interchange directly onto Canwood through this routing was considered. The constrained site limited the geometric feasibility of this option, as it would require considerable improvements to the connection of the split-ramp terminus at Canwood.

This option also would also impact the existing northbound on-ramp, and would require the complete reconstruction of the northbound on-ramp and considerable ROW impacts on the adjacent commercial and industrial properties. Variations of this option were studied, and each had significant challenges with geometric approvals from Caltrans due to the non-standard configurations of the interchange ramps as well as the unavoidable ROW impacts. Many of these options also created a circuitous routing of the northbound Palo Comado traffic destined for northbound US 101. These options required northbound US 101 traffic to traverse through the Driver/Chesbro intersection to reach the northbound US 101 on-ramp.

Response to Comment #4

The need for a soundwall at this location was not identified in the noise study prepared for the proposed project; therefore, it is not proposed as part of the Build Alternative.

Response to Comment #5

The City studied several additional alternatives as part of the preliminary planning process. These alternatives included such elements as a local access road connection to the northbound off-ramp, a 5-way traffic signal at the northbound off-ramp, and a roundabout at the northbound off-ramp intersection. These alternatives were initially considered, but ultimately rejected due to right-of-way impacts that were not acceptable to the City.
Mr. Carlos J. Montez
Branch Chief
Division of Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation, District 7
100 South Main Street MS-16-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: 07-LA-101-PM 33.0/34.4
   EA 25720
   US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange Project

Dear Mr. Montez,

I am writing in protest of your idea to widen the Chesebro /101 freeway interchange. We all know that by widening this interchange it will only promote more traffic through our rural neighborhood. It will give a false sense of access to Agoura Hills from the freeway by adding lanes at the top and bottlenecking past the stop sign. Perhaps the intention is to be the precursor to widening all of Driver Ave. Progress, something that we aren’t looking to entertain on our roads in Old Agoura. This so called improvement will negatively impact the residential/agricultural neighborhood of Old Agoura. We the residents moved here to live a lifestyle different than the typical neighborhoods. We have a light ordinance so that we can see the stars at night. We have a sound ordinance so that we can hear the silence. We love the idea that wildlife inhabits our quiet streets. We don’t have sidewalks and curbs so that we have easier movement with livestock through our streets. Why is it that people that don’t live here are always pushing new ideas for us to live with?

In our last meeting with your representatives and the city of Agoura Hills, the proposition was, “Did we want the widening of the overpass or not.” We agreed that we do not want it widened. All of us said it would adversely impact us and we are not interested. My suggestion to continue the ramp through to Canwood Road following the freeway behind some existing commercial buildings would be the only alternative that I would agree to look at. I never saw or heard a follow up from anyone in your department on this suggestion.

It’s such a shame that we have to fight for our rights to live the unique lifestyle that is not available in every neighborhood. It’s the responsibility of the D.O.T. to listen to the residents that will be most affected by this plan. There is no doubt that a legitimate E.I.R would show extreme impact to our neighborhood. Since this project will be funded with our tax payer money, we say save the money, use it where it’s wanted and needed, not Chesebro Road in Agoura Hills. Let us enjoy our homes without the impact of more traffic, lights, noise and everything else that goes along with widening the overpass.

Sincerely,

Tara Farkash
28442 Driver Ave.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
Response to Comment #1

The commenter’s opposition to the Build Alternative is noted for the record.

The IS/EA notes that the Old Agoura community is a semi-rural residential neighborhood, and that the project would incorporate context-sensitive solutions in order to preserve the character of the Old Agoura neighborhood (see Section 2.1.5).

Response to Comment #2

At the scoping meeting, the project design team addressed some of the challenges with the proposed routing of the northbound off-ramp to Canwood under the overpass. The configuration is non-standard and would create considerable ROW impacts. The route would also create circuitous traffic routing of the northbound traffic on Palo Comado Canyon Road, destined for the northbound US 101 on-ramp.
Comment Letter C24: Joanne Calhoun (02/24/12)

J.L. CALHOUN-5826 COLODNY DRIVE-AGOURA HILLS, CA-91301
(818)889-0741 INCALHO@HOTMAIL.COM

Mr. Carlos Montez
100 S. Main Street Suite 100
Los Angeles, CA  90012-3712

February 24, 2012

Dear Mr. Montez,

As the home owner of property in the Old Agoura section of Agoura Hills I am opposed to the widening of the US/101 Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange.

Palo Comado is a 2 lane road that dead ends at Agoura Road to the South. To the north Palo Comado interchanges to Driver Avenue which is a 2 lane road that can never be widened. The widening of the bridge to 4 lanes can only CAUSE traffic problems.

Just west of the existing Palo Comado Bridge is a foot bridge that crosses over the freeway and also a tunnel that goes under the freeway. Pedestrians or cyclists that do not wish to use the existing Palo Comado Bridge can surely use that access.

Please keep me advised on any future plans on widening the Palo Comado Bridge.

Yours truly,

Joanne L. Calhoun
**Response to Comment #1**

The commenter’s opposition to the Build Alternative is noted for the record.

**Response to Comment #2**

Traffic is expected to increase as a result of general area-wide growth, as outlined in the City’s General Plan; the overpass widening is being proposed to accommodate existing and future traffic conditions.

**Response to Comment #3**

The IS/EA notes that the City’s General Plan designates Palo Comado Canyon Road as a four-lane roadway with bike lanes and sidewalks (see Section 2.1.8).
SOUNDWALL CONSENT FORM

Please indicate your preference regarding the proposed soundwall below and complete the survey by including your signature and date, and return the form in the envelope provided. It is important that we receive a response by **March 7, 2012**. Thank you for your participation.

☑ I agree to have a minimum 6-foot masonry soundwall.

☐ I agree to have no soundwall.

Comments:

Property Owner’s Name __________________________ Laura Toston

Property Address _______________________________ 5306 Chesebro Road, Agoura Hills CA 91301

Signature __________________________ Date **March 3, 2012**

Mail to: Carlos J. Montez
Caltrans Environmental Planning, MS 16-A
100 S. Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

"Caltrans improves mobility across California"
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APPENDIX F    Verbal Comments Received

A public meeting was held at the City of Agoura Hills City Council Chambers, 30001 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA on February 21, 2012. The purpose of the meeting was to receive comments during the public comment period. Seventeen (17) individuals provided verbal comments during the public meeting, two of whom commented during the same six-minute period. This appendix includes the entire meeting transcript; many of the verbal comments received were duplications of comment letters and/or comment card responses provided by the same individuals during the public comment period. For this reason, the comment from each individual is taken as a whole (listed below), and responses are only provided when they have not already been addressed in Appendix E. Any responses to comments are included immediately following the transcript.

D. Verbal Comments

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<td>Merrill Platzer</td>
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<td>Nino &amp; Carlene Defranco</td>
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<td>D16</td>
<td>Allen Robinson</td>
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CARLOS MONTEZ:

Good evening everyone. My name is Carlos Montez. I am with Caltrans. Where Caltrans is a partner with the City of Agoura Hills on this project. I’m just here to introduce Kara Seward she’s with Senator Fran Pavley’s office. Let’s acknowledge her. Now I would like to turn it over to Erinn Peterson. She will be handling our whole meeting. Thank you.

ERINN PETERSON:

Okay, good evening. Can you hear me? Ok we will go ahead and start the public hearing. My name is Erinn Peterson and I am here essentially to assist the project team with letting you know what’s going on with the project and also to help with the public comment period. As you can see, on the agenda we did want to have a little open house session so you all would be here once we started. We are going to go ahead and give a very, very brief sort of over view of the project: where it’s been, where we are now, and what you can expect in the future. And then really the primary purpose of this public hearing is to solicit input from you. I do have comment cards here, so I do expect some input, questions and comments, specifically as they relate to the environmental document. I hope that you’ve seen the environmental document; it is a draft. And so you will be able to speak into the microphone to give your questions and comments. They will be recorded, transcribed verbatim and then we will respond to those questions and comments in the final document. If you were present at the scoping meeting, I don’t know how many of you were, but if you were there, this is going to be a little bit different in terms of format than the scoping meeting was. The purpose of that meeting was a little informal: a lot of questions and answers, giving ideas getting ideas. This is more formal. It’s an opportunity for you again, to just provide comments and we can respond in a more formal way about the environmental document. At this time I would like to introduce the project team. There are several people here from Caltrans District 7. Of course we mentioned already, Carlos. Natalie Hill is also here from Caltrans District 7. From the City of Agoura hills we have Nathan Hamburger. Over to my right we have Kelly Fisher, over to the left Ramiro Adeva and also Sheila of course is here. And from Kimley Horn we have Bob Blume. He’s going to be helping me talk about project design and how we got here. And Sri is also here somewhere. There he is. And from GPA Environmental we have Richard Galvin and myself. For those of you who were not at the scoping meeting or who are unfamiliar with the project, we are going to go ahead and just give very basic details about the project and then get a little bit more into more the formal public comment period. The purpose of the project is to reduce existing and forecasted traffic congestion, also to improve circulation, to improve safety, and to accommodate pedestrian and bicycle traffic. And the need for the project stems from of course traffic safety and operational deficiencies. Bob Blume is going talk again all about the project design history, which will describe the project need a little bit more thoroughly.
BOB BLUME:

Thank you. I’m Bob Bloom with Kimley Horn and Associates. I’m... we’re consultants to the city on this project. I’m going to discuss a little bit about the history of how we got here, the alternatives that are being considered, and some of the additional context elements that are features that can be added to the project that can soften the impact on the community. As many of you know through your participation and watching this area, the interchange has been studied for several years to improve some of the deficiencies that exist there and we’ve talked a little bit about that when I talk about the no build alternative. There are many alternatives being considered over time and the site is very constrained and makes it very difficult to come up with a solution to some of the deficiencies without impacting the right away and the community. So we have worked really hard to find compromise. In 2010 the General plan was up dated by the city and identified this current interchange as deficient and needed to be fixed. Measure R provided funding for the project as a regional benefit to the 101 corridor, as the traffic is interval with the corridor and the regional route. The no build alternative which is the existing condition has several deficiencies that I’d like to just kind of walk through. There is no sidewalk on the north side of the bridge. There is one sidewalk and it is on the south side. There’s no bike lanes on the bridge at all. It’s two lanes and because of that configuration, it has very poor level of service at the northbound ramp intersections, with heavy congestion and delays, which are the measurements for level of service. There is accident history at the intersection at the northbound off ramp that points to potential problems with the configurations. As we look at that more we find that the sight distance as your approaching the northbound off ramp at the intersection of Palo Comado is limited as you look to the south, to the left. Part of that is because there is no sidewalk, there is no shoulder and the bridge railing obstructs the view of the traffic. The oncoming traffic for the people trying to turn left onto Palo Comado. The limited sight distance is one of the big challenges that the bridge widening helps to improve. With the increase traffic the interchange operations will continue to deteriorate as the future traffic volumes will increase with just regional growth on 101, as well. The build alternatives, which were the displays outside this, show the maximum impact of the build alternative in the areas that have been studied from an environmental perspective. There is only one build alternative as it was very hard to find a solution that didn’t have signification impact on the adjoining property owners. There was several that were looked at but they were not acceptable to the city as there was too much impact on the gas stations and the other private properties adjacent to the interchange. The bridge will be widened to two lanes in each direction. It will have a center turn lane for the northbound on ramp, and it will provide for bike lanes on both sides of the bridge, five foot bike lanes and six foot sidewalks. So it will improve the circulation for the pedestrians and the bicyclists. It will provide adequate stopping sight distance at that northbound intersection. And it will also... there’s some adjustments to those ramps to accommodate the widening of the bridge. There’s some additional elements that the city has been working on to help make this more palatable and make it more context sensitive as you approach the Old Agoura neighborhood. A lot of those comments came from the scoping process and we’ve been sensitive to those and tried to find some options that would help to minimize some of those impacts. Some of those are to be able to reduce some of the lane widths and bicycle lane widths of the purposed alternative to be able to stay within the existing pavement as we approach the Old Agoura/Driver intersection and preserve the sign that’s there and not have to impact the sign. Also, if you looked at the exhibits
outside, there are some solutions to provide for a decomposed granite trail on the north side, which helps to approach the Old Agoura with more of a rural feel and not have as much impact with the concert sidewalk type of pedestrian path. We can do this without sacrificing any level of service of the improvements and keeps the overall project in tacked. So, these elements can be studied further in final design and it is the intent that they will be integrated into the final design of the project.

ERINN PETERSON:

Alright, thank you Bob. Now I get to talk about something that I am very familiar with and that I can talk a little bit more comfortably about and that would be the environmental laws that are guiding the environmental document that we have drafted. There are two sets of environmental laws and the environmental documents that were written. The California Environmental Quality Act known as CEQA and the National Environmental Policy Act known as NEPA. Caltrans is the lead agency under both sets of laws and the draft document that was written is a joint document that is an initial study and IS under CEQA and EA which is an environment assessment under NEPA. So the document, the draft document that is available is covered under both laws. Since the scoping meeting in October 2010, we went ahead and proceeded with the technical studies that were required for the environmental document. I’m going to go over some of the technical studies that were written. There were actually nine of them. I am just going to tell you what they were and what their purpose was. I’m not going to bore you with the details, but if you do have questions about them, after the formal comment period you can come up and ask and I would be happy to elaborate. The first study was an air quality and climate change study report. Basically, talks about what could happen to or how the potential project can impact air quality and of course climate change. Secondly, the historical report that was drafted basically discusses the cultural and historic items that might be on site. The hydraulic study of course discusses the hydrology of the area and discusses how the project could potentially impact the hydrology in that area. The initial site assessment discusses some of the hazardous materials that could be present on sight and how the project could be impacted or could impact the area in terms of hazardous materials. The natural environment study was drafted in order to discuss the biological resources that are present in the area. The noise study was conducted in order to of course, discuss how the project could impact the area in terms of noise. The scoping summary drafted is simply a summary of the scoping meeting that you all… most of you came to in October of 2010. The traffic study is, of course, an imperative portion of this document and discuses existing and forecasted traffic with or without the potential project and other traffic details that were used in the environmental document, and lastly we have the visual impact memorandum which discusses how the project could potentially impact the area from a visual standpoint. You will notice… I don’t know if you saw some of the boards that were out in the welcome area. Some of those visual boards were taken from the impact memorandum. These technical studies were the basis of the environmental analysis that was performed in the draft environmental document that was completed in January of this year and then disseminated to the public. Now we find ourselves at the public comment portion. The draft document is technically…. it is being called and it’s being circulated and it will be circulated until Wednesday March 7th of this year where you can provide any form of comment that you would like regarding the environmental document and that will be included in the final study. Once the final study, the final ISEA is drafted, then Caltrans will sign
the Mitigated Negative Declaration which you see on the screen as an MND or the Finding of No Significant Impact also known as the FONSI. I’m just going to reiterate how you can get a copy of the draft environmental document. All of those… there are several ways to get it. Either a hard copy or electronically, if you don’t have a pen and paper and can’t write these items down there is a cd out at the welcome desk that has the environmental document on it, and of course comments cards were you can go ahead and mail in any comments that you have or even email them to Carlos Montez at the address provided on the screen and we will make sure that they are included on the final document. So with that I think we are going to move into the public comment period. There are a few items that I should go over. Again, we are looking for input on the environmental document, though I understand that we might get other comments, that’s fine. We will try to address all of your comments; they will most certainly be recorded and transcribed again verbatim and included in the final document. They will be responded to in the final document so there won’t be that back and forth questions and answer. If you have questions that you would like to have answered tonight we’re more than happy to answer them. It will just be outside the public comment period. So, once we disperse you’re welcome to approach any one of us and we would be more than happy to talk with you or answer any questions that you have. That you need answered outside of the environmental document. Typically I understand the city provides about a three minute comment period. We have asked for six minutes. So you will notice that you have a green light while you are speaking, and if you are speaking that green light will stay on until you have 30 seconds left to speak, where it will turn yellow and then when it’s red it will cut the microphone off and the recording, it won’t be recorded basically. So, once you see that yellow light, if you would wrap up your comments it will be greatly appreciated. If you wish to speak and haven’t filled out a speaker card they will be available at the welcome desk. If for any reason you wish not to speak but you would like to leave a comment, you may also do that on these speaker cards. They are also just comment cards. I will call you up one at a time, please say what you would like to say. It will be recorded and responded to in the final environmental document. So with that we will go ahead and start the formal comment period. I am going to…. if I say your name incorrectly please correct me into the microphone and spell your name. I might say it incorrectly. The first speaker will be Merrill.

MERRILL PLATZER (D1):

Hi, my name is Merrill Platzer. I live on Foothill Drive in Agoura Hills the last 31 years. I am flatly opposed to the Palo Comado overpass proposed building alternative. There is no reason to overhaul this over pass. A four lane road that empties into semirural setting in Old Agoura will increase traffic not decrease traffic flow. Driver and Chesebro intersection now is a nightmare, with traffic flow during the weekdays between eight and nine, twelve and one, and three and four at a standstill as a result of car trips to and from Agoura and Indian Hills High School, as well as local traffic trying to ingress and egress this area. In the morning it takes me about 15 minutes to go from Foothill to Driver and Chesebro. It’s a breeze going over the overpass. So, the problem is not the overpass it is Driver. Drivers built out road services the Old Agoura community. It is not designed to sustained increased traffic flow to serve the High Schools that use as a bypass for those to go from Chesebro to Kanan Road. The City of Agoura Hills would better serve to look at a better arterial flow of Driver and to deal with the congestion of the traffic to and from Agoura High School at these peak hours is a disaster waiting to happen. The money spent to widen the
road and overpass is a road to nowhere could be used to look at our arterial roads, to take the traffic from Agoura high and divert across to Hillrise and Kanan Road. The widening of Palo Comado/Chesebro from two to four lane road would only dump more traffic on Drive and therefore, increase the noise level, destroy the semi rural character of Old Agoura, increase the number of accidents, pedestrian, equestrian, and motor vehicle accidents and injuries, and ultimately the vegetation and wildlife in this area. We are built out in this area. Why are we doing this? Is there a project of the development of which the citizens of Agoura Hills is not aware of? Maybe we should know about it. We do not need an overhaul. The moneys better spent on other projects. Thank you very much.

ERINN PETERSON:

Thank you for your comment. Next I have Cyrena. Is that correct?

CYRENA NOUZILLE (D2):

Hi, my name is Cyrena Nouzille. I’ve been a resident of Old Agoura in Agoura Hills for about fourteen years. I enjoyed Merrill’s comment of inviting increased development. Kind of a build it and they will come type of atmosphere and this is not a vintage baseball team coming through the cornfields. I served on the General Plan update committee and openly opposed the widening of the bridge at that time. The resulting document I felt was inherently contradicting. On one side you want in Section 2.1 to retain the community’s small town look and feel. The bridge abuts a rural, historic neighborhood and national park land. If you build a five lane bridge to nowhere, you’re inherently destroying the semirural character of the neighborhood. And that is something that the General Plan was designed to protect. I do have a lot of unanswered questions. For example page seven, seeks to project delays in 2035, yet the city has some kind of self proclaimed at near built status today, with scattered open parcels. Where do these numbers come from? Table 2.1 I don’t think is accurate. Nor does a less than thirty second delay warrant a 22 million dollar construction project. Page 10 says we have a higher than average accident rate at this intersection. Like I said I’ve lived here fourteen years and I’ve never once seen an accident at that intersection. The statistics in Table 1.10 are equivalent to percentages. I would like to know how many accidents have happened in over what statistical period? Page 15 states the nearest wild scenic creek is 23 miles away, Sespe Creek. I don’t even know where that is. But address nothing regarding the national park land and blue line streams and wildlife corridors. Clearly they don’t rate in that document. Asking us to choose between an on off switch is kind of ludicrous. You want us to either build or no build. I think there’s enough brains in the room to figure out how to install a dimmer switch on this project. And if I only have one choice, I choose to keep it off. Thank you.

ERINN PETERSON:

Thank you. Jess Thomas would be next.

JESS THOMAS (D3):

The primary point I wish to make tonight is that the Draft ISEA issued to describe and support this project is not understandable by the general public. I’ve been trying to understand why the
project is deemed necessary and beneficial. I attempted to look up the historical accident rate for the intersections involved. Table 1.10 does not provide that data in definitive terms. The language used does not allow a non-traffic engineer to know this seemingly critical history. This pattern repeats throughout the document and leaves the concerned citizen with many more questions than informed realizations. I seriously doubt that the city council would find this document usable in making the decision on whether to proceed with the project. If the city wishes to attempt to gain public support from Old Agoura, a much more understandable explanation will be needed. I realize that this is not a decision making hearing tonight, but there are a few statements about Old Agoura’s historical position on this issue that should be made. “We have opposed the widening of the Chesebro bridge” since before the adoption of the 1992 General Plan. We do not accept the environmental assessment sweeping statements that the project is not potentially growth inducing. We believe that any increase in traffic carrying capacity will be filled and that Old Agoura will suffer the spillover result. That said I have to grudgingly admire staff’s ability to capture 22 and a half million dollars of Measure R’s transportation bond funds and really wish that we could use it for the purchase of certain open space lands. Thank you.

ERINN PETERSON:

Thank you so much. Robyn Britton.

ROBYN BRITTON (D4):

Good evening. My name is Robyn Britton. I’ve lived in Agoura for twenty-one years. I can’t stress enough that the proposed plans for the Palo Comado overpass is completely over blown. I served on the last General Plan Update Committee and openly opposed the widening of the overpass at that time. I live in Old Agoura two minutes from the overpass. I use it every day, every business day and on the weekends. For ten to fifteen minutes every school day there’s a backup on the northbound Chesebro off ramp, as impatient parents and students of Agoura High School all attempt to exit the freeway at the same time, turn right at Palo Comado at the same time, and get to the school exactly at the same time. At no other time is there a backup of even thirty seconds, not during the morning or evening commutes or even afterschool on that off ramp. This problem is created by people not willing to get up five minutes early and get to school a little earlier. Maybe they are skewing your statistics. You don’t need to put up a signal. You’ll be creating backups. Traffic actually flows pretty well. There’s no special danger for vehicles on the northbound exit ramp turning left. If people would just make sure the vegetation was cut back, you can see who is coming on your left. And I have never seen but a couple cars waiting for a vehicle turning left on to the onramp, the northbound onramp, unless there’s an accident on the freeway. The people of Old Agoura are scratching their heads and trying to figure out what the planners are thinking. The IAES is flawed with many unanswered questions and outright errors. To even consider spending over 22 million dollars to make it easier to dump traffic into our semirural horse community is ridiculous when no build is an option. Because if you build it, rest assured they will come. Right now residentially Old Agoura is pretty much built out. Commercially the east freeway frontage road of Palo Comado is also pretty much built out. I question your projections and would like to see your methodology. There won’t be a big increase in traffic in the next twenty years and we’re not really having problems with the overpass and
intersections now. So I would ask that you leave us and the overpass alone. Since we’re not on camera finally, I’d just like to ask everyone who is in favor of no build. Who doesn’t want to see this happen, to stand up right now? The powers at be need to know that there are over fifty residents here from Old Agoura and that all but one were standing up. Thank you.

ERINN PETERSON:

Thank you. May I please call Brian Tamsnt.

BRIAN TAMSUT (D5):

I am currently a student at Agoura High School. I have been sent here by my schools student council to ask about page 8 of the report which states that the intersection at Driver and Chesebro currently operates at an “F” level. Now this intersection is very important to getting to school. We were just wondering how the new plans were going to affect that intersection. Because if it currently operates at an “F” level right now, are these plans planning to improve that intersection or will it simple make things worse? Thank you.

ERINN PETERSON:

Thank you. Ron Troncatty.

RON TRONCATTY (D6):

Ok, my name is Ron Troncatty. I live on 5312 Chesebro Road in Old Agoura. First, I would like to draw attention to this and your report. If you notice it says “existing” on the top. It says “existing condition” and the bottom it says “proposed condition”. There are not, there is not any lights in the existing condition or that sign. The only….so that is wrong. Okay, I don’t want to take up any more time that…. that there is many errors in the report. Secondly, there is a message or some testimony that a lot of alternatives were looked at. Please put up the other alternatives that I’ve got from Caltrans on LA exits. You can see the amount of different kinds of configurations. This is one. Bring up the next one. These are all….this is Phoenix, AZ, but there is one in Los Angeles. This is Atlanta, GA. Look at what’s going on there. On over passes, and underpasses and switchbacks, and whatever. I’m glad you brought them up in great order. Now bring up the Los Angeles one. That’s the last one…… (speaker walked away from the microphone – inaudible discussion). Any, any development, any improvement to the Palo Comado overpass has to entail properly… for any proper realignment has to entail a realignment of Canwood. (Speaker did not speak into the microphone)….you cannot bring traffic down from the freeway overpass, down the Chesebro intersection and call it an improvement. It’s not an improvement. You’ve got to do it at the freeway. Canwood's got to be connected up there. Thank you.

ERINN PETERSON:

Thank you so much. I just wanted to point out that there were times that you were unable to speak into the microphone. So I don’t want you to think that we missed out on some of your
comments, but since they won’t be recorded there… we may have trouble getting it all in the document, but we will do our very best.

**RON TRONCATTY (D6):**

As Ron Troncatty, here at the meeting tonight, would be this. Any improvement to the overpass of the Chesebro bridge would necessitate, at the very least, a realignment of Canwood. Period, point blank.

**ERINN PETERSON:**

Thank you. I appreciate that. Larry Brown.

**LARRY BROWN (D7):**

Good evening. I’m Larry Brown. I live at 27528 Country Glen. First, I would like to say that it’s my view that if Sacramento wasn’t full of jackals who sell concrete by the ton, and rebar by the mile, we wouldn’t even be having this conversation, cause this is like Alice in Wonderland. A lot of people have done…not done their homework. The list of defects that were cited as a reason for this project are a hundred percent specious. Only one of them has some credibility and that may be the danger, the risk of accident at the northbound, the northbound freeway off ramp. I know that’s been a bone of contention for some people and there are many, many ways to widen this bridge to four lanes. To reconfigure that off ramp is perfectly ridiculous. As other people have already said the bridge itself and the traffic on the bridge is not the problem. That’s never where the traffic comes from, and to widen it so that you dump more traffic into what already is a bottle neck is just dumb. The idea that we’re going to be concerned about foot traffic and that we need more sidewalk is ridiculous. There is no foot traffic. I bet you there’s not one person that crosses on foot every three hours. It’s totally specious. The limited sight defect was certainly not an issue when we put that driveway across from Alesco Development, right across from the ramp that feeds up from the Chesebro ramp that exits the 101 southbound, because it’s in the worst possible place. If that thing isn’t a hazard I don’t know what is. I’ve almost gotten clobbered there a million times and I know a guy that dumped a motorcycle there. There’s no reason for this. It’s a bad idea. And I’m sure there’s other….oh yes and I wanted to mention too, that the people said that there’s no further build out. There’re right. What are we building it for? Not only is it, they will build it and they will come, they’ll built it and they will come and have no place to go. Because we have that beautiful Riopharm Development already on Agoura Road and the wildlife corridor that can’t be developed right next to it and you couldn’t put a postage stamp where they approved Riopharm. I don’t know how that thing even got approved and unless you want to triple deck the Whizin’s Center there’s not going to be much more there either. This is totally ridiculous. Thank you.

**ERINN PETERSON:**

Thank you. Gayle, you’re up next.

**GALE TRUMBEAUX (D8):**
Good evening, my name is Gale Trumbeaux and I have lived in Old Agoura for almost forty years, long before we were a city. Old Agoura is a special place. Its rural; its horses, its deer, its coyotes’, its rattle snakes. It’s wonderful and what you’re doing is going to intrude on that beautiful place that we have at home. And I have found none of the reasons that you have given for doing this as being valid. They aren’t. Ask the people who live there, we know. So ladies and gentlemen I would say that if you’re really going to do this project, if it goes through it has nothing to do with the need for doing it. It has to do with a lot of people somewhere making a lot of money off of it. Thank you.

ERINN PETERSON:
Thank you. Oliver.

OLIVER HORECZKY (D9):
I feel like a Salmon. My name is Oliver Horeczky. I live at 6171 North Fairview Place; well it’s now Fairview Place, Old Agoura. I’ve lived in Old Agoura for 26 years. I love Old Agoura. I think it’s beautiful. I think anybody that equates Old Agoura with the interchange as a way of life as living on a freeway. We’re not living on a freeway. That interchange is an unsafe interchange. My wife has been in an accident there. I have two friends who have had an accident there, with the northbound traffic. It needs to be altered. I am not an engineer. I don’t know the best way to do it. That’s why we have people to look at that. But it is my opinion and I’m from Old Agoura, that that interchange needs to be changed. Thank you.

ERINN PETERSON:
Thank you. Pat MacGregor

PAT MACGREGOR (D10):
Pat MacGregor. I’ve lived in Agoura Hills for about 33 years, before we became a city. I’ve lived in Old Agoura for a long time and the freeway, the bridge was fine. And we’re almost built out now. So why we need to widen it, to accommodate more traffic, when Agoura Hills is almost completely built out, I don’t understand and I don’t think we need to do it.

ERINN PETERSON:
Thank you so much. June Slayton

JUNE SLAYTON (D11):
Hi, I’m June Slayton. I live at 5536 Foothill Drive in Old Agoura. And I’ve lived in the same house there for about fifteen years. I’m going to start off by saying I thought California was broke. So I don’t know what we’re spending this money on this project for and I don’t know why we’re here. Okay. I’ll start with that and then the second thing is um… this project you… we’re talking about isn’t going to change the times of the heavy traffic at all. It will increase traffic. Additionally, I agree that trimming the landscaping at the off ramp would probably solve the problem and will be a whole lot cheaper. But in researching this project actually…(I don’t skip
something here). But, in preparing for the meeting tonight I spent some time on the internet looking for reasons to help you understand why Old Agoura community does not want or need this project. This city has several websites, which I found interesting, boasting about all the qualities of Old Agoura. So, there are pictures of the greenery, streams, change of seasons and riding trails throughout Old Agoura. Various city literature uses phrases that I found interesting. Some of these phrases are in your own literature which says and I’m quoting “which helps to preserve the quality of life in Agoura Hills, in bodies the desires of the community, protect and promote the quality of life in the region, neighborhood input is also an important factor in equestrian overlay zone it is intended to reinforce the importance of Old Agoura equestrian character and heritage.” Other websites boast of Old Agoura’s rural countryside homes that still enjoy convenience of suburbia, “Where peace and quiet and natural beauty abounds.” The Old Agoura Homeowners Association site states, “Living in Old Agoura where you can still see the stars at night and a community that includes peace and tranquility and is filled with natural beauty. Providing a reflection of time long gone, back to a simpler way of life.” We are all here because the project that you are pushing on us is not wanted or needed by the Old Agoura equestrian community. This project will forever change a way of life for all of us who live here. You know that Drivers the only road in and out of Old Agoura. It is burdened by the traffic from Agoura High School, who now has approximately 2,161 students, plus teachers and parents that travel on Driver at three different times during the day. The congestion is now difficult to maneuver. Most of us do not plan to leave our homes or travel home during the morning rush hour to school at 8:30 in the morning, at noon lunch break, or when school lets out around 3 o’clock p.m. Many of the students, teachers, and parents who now use the Kanan off ramp will use the Chesebro off ramp if you start adding to it. If there’s an emergency situation in Old Agoura it will cause mass congestion trying to evacuate and to relocate livestock. We are asking our city officials to follow your own words, and your own literature, that states you will embody the desires of the community, protect and promote the quality of life in the region, and that the neighborhood input is an important factor here. And stand behind us to stop this project. Thank you very much.

ERINN PETERSON:

Thank you. Jean Luc.

JEAN LUC NOUZILLE (D12):

My name is Jean Luc Nouzille and I live on Chesebro on the north side. I also happen to have an office on the south side of the bridge in the Alesco…. I also ride my bike about three times a week back and forth on the bridge. As a cyclist I’m aware of some of the operational deficiencies that you mention. The statement that I’d like to make is, I cannot believe that we cannot come up with a solution that would address the operational deficiencies as you call them of the bridge without widening it and unloading a whole bunch of traffic on our community. There has to be a solution. I drive to Westwood frequently and I see round-a-bouts for instance. Is a round-a-bout on the north side of the bridge, could be an alternative, would avoid some of the issues of the traffic going north turning left. There are a lot of smart people in this room, a lot of engineers and I’m sure we can find a solution that would address the safety issues that already have been
mentioned or some of the operational issues that you mentioned without widening the bridge to four lanes. That’s my statement. Thank you.

ERINN PETERSON:

Thank you. I believe the name is Pat Colabella.

PAT COLABELLA (D13):

Hi my name is Pat Colabella. I wasn’t coming here to speak originally, but I’ve heard everyone get up and say that we’ve lived in Old Agoura twenty years, thirty years, fifteen years. I wanted to give you the view point of someone who just moved to Old Agoura four years ago? And we moved here for the rural feeling. I moved here to raise my family. I can’t tell you how excited I am to be able to drive somewhere without a traffic light, and without having to wait in traffic, that’s not existent. I believe if you put a wider bridge and a traffic light, it will be creating the traffic that’s non-existent, other than High School let out time. I’m concerned that you feel the need for two sidewalks. Where I can’t tell you, I can count on one hand how many times I have actually seen someone use the one side that does exist. So I don’t feel the need for two. I’m an avid equestrian. I use the horse arena twice a week. I know the traffic dangers that do exist now with trucks coming through with the…just the traffic that comes through; the loud noises all of that. I would assume that while this project goes on, the arena won’t even be usable. Because it will be frightening for most horses, and I am concerned with the traffic that will then be drawn into and how that will affect the arena and what Old Agoura is supposed to be, and that is the reason we moved here and I just wanted to give you a new comer’s view point that we are very against this. Thank you.

ERINN PETERSON:

Thank you. The last speaker card that I have is Sharon Robinson. If you would like to speak, then please fill out a speaker card and you can just bring it directly to me.

SHARON ROBINSON (D14):

Hi, good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. You’re very generous with your time as well. I agree with most every speaker here this evening including Oliver who says there are some dangers at that intersection. But I do believe that those dangers can be mitigated in a way that does not include a five lane bridge. I think there’s also a problem with that size of a bridge coming into the intersection, which has already been identified as operating at an “F” level. We’re inviting more traffic to come into that small intersection, when we should be doing something to mitigate the problem there. Obviously, that’s not a Caltrans problem. There’s been a long history with, how shall I say, a deaf ear, or an uncooperative school district when it comes to the traffic that they cause in our neighborhood. And the young man from Agoura High might take that back to the student councils, as well. That perhaps they need to use Kanan Road instead of cutting through Old Agoura, but that said there are some problems. Also, when Canwood has been built out, with all the newer businesses over the last ten years or so, we have been consistently assured that traffic would not be a problem for our neighborhood, with all that build out. And now we have a five lane bridge with a lot of people who are going to feel that it’s more
welcoming and easier to get to the businesses along Canwood by getting off at Chesebro instead of Kanan. I think that there are a lot of problems here. There do need to be some fixes and I think that who said it? We need a dimmer switch on this project. Thank you for your time.

ERINN PETERSON:

I believe we have one more speaker. Nino.

NINO DEFRANCO (D15):

Hi I’m Nino DeFranco over in Agoura Hills also and my wife Carlene I want her to be a part of this also. Well let me get to the point of my son also lives over here in Agoura Hills and he bought a place. Let me get to that story first. It’s kind of interesting cause he’s at Reyes Adobe off ramp. And I’ll let my wife describe this a little bit more. I am a little bit nervous on this but…

CARLENE DEFRANCO (D15):

It was just, well; Reyes Adobe has a lot more traffic going through Agoura Hills. We’re in a community where we’re not going through to Simi Valley. There…it’s…. I think the project is just right now an overkill. I mean there are things I think that needs to be addressed. There are dangers that need to be addressed, but there’s just no reason to have a five…I mean I think we should have a bridal path perhaps across there, a bike lane pedestrian friendly, but we don’t need more traffic, like invited into our community.

NINO DEFRANCO (D15):

The point I was going to get with my son is at Reyes Adobe, whoever the engineer was, everyone’s so proud of it, because here it is beautiful big lights and all this and we’re trying to get on the off ramp and switch over to another lane to go see our son. It’s dangerous. It’s really dangerous. What we really need to do is it looks good on paper. So what’s on paper does not mean that it can make sense. So we need to slow down, figure out where the cars are coming and where they’re going and is it for the residents or is it just to make people fly through? And we need to slow down and start thinking things through for the pedestrians. Let me point out one more thing… Also, this morning six o’clock, here I am going to work. It’s dark and I see this young man and it’s really dangerous on the shoulder. What we need to do is look out again. There’s a school let them walk, let them take their bicycles. We’re not taking that into consideration. Let’s hurry and build five lanes, ten lanes. What are we making a parade through that or something? So let’s figure things out before we just jump on and big infrastructure, but anyways, does wife says something? Anything else?

CARLENE DEFRANCO (D15):

Also, it’s for Canwood traffic.

NINO DEFRANCO (D15):

It’s a two teamer. It works great.
CARLENE DEFRANCO (D15):

I wasn’t really prepared. I mean I was ready to write, but not speak. If it’s to prepare for Canwood….if Canwood needs to grow because of Trader Joe’s or whatever I think that, that should be dealt with first, because right now it’s like a freeway, it’s very dangerous coming down Canwood, going down Canwood. But to put a big bridge there it’s just definitely an over kill. I don’t.

NINO DEFRANCO (D15):

I’m just sorry you missed out hearing anybody else. I’m sure everyone has good intention in the neighborhood, but I thank you.

ERINN PETERSON:

Thank you so much. Allen.

ALLEN ROBINSON (D16):

I like a lot of others weren’t going to speak, but I had to make my comments known here. My name’s Allen Robinson I live in Old Agoura. I don’t know if you guys saw the beautiful sunset on the way here today, but that’s what Old Agoura’s about. I appreciate your concern for looking out for our safety. I appreciate that, but I think the whole project is a waste of money. There’s a bridge for pedestrian bikes just off of Canwood. Just to bring that to note here. Caltrans is a…. I noticed in this report here that it was behind the environmental laws. I think that’s a little conflict of interests. I smell Caltrans looking for work. That’s the way I see it. Looks like they’re just looking for work; I say move on down the freeway to another exit.

ERINN PETERSON:

Thank you so much. That is the last speaker card I have. Is there anybody in the audience who would like to say anything else? Okay, with that I’m going to close the formal Public Hearing. Again, thank you. I know that you came after work or took your own time. We do appreciate it and if you do have any questions that you would like answered outside of the environmental document or your have statements you would like to make, you can approach any one of us. We’ll be out in the welcome area.

(END OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD)
**Response to Comment D1**

Palo Comado Canyon Road is operating at Level of Service (LOS) F under current AM and PM peak traffic conditions and therefore would require additional capacity to improve the circulation in this area for existing conditions as well as future conditions. The traffic analysis indicates that a four-lane bridge would improve the LOS and provide additional capacity that is required for existing and future traffic conditions.

**Response to Comment D2**

This commenter also submitted a comment card and is identified as C9 in Appendix E. Please refer to the response to Comment D1. The improvements proposed are intended to provide capacity and traffic safety for the projects already identified in the City’s General Plan. Many of the proposed projects are to the south of the interchange; improvements to the Palo Comado Canyon overcrossing are intended to provide the necessary lanes to adequately address the projected build-out of the General Plan.

Regarding Table 2.1: The IS/EA states that the source of this information is dated June 2011, the most current information available as of the date of publication of the IS/EA. The table also indicates the status of each project listed. Regarding the accident rates: Accident analysis was completed for this location, which shows that the accident rates on the northbound off-ramp to Palo Comado Canyon Road has a concentration of accidents and exceeds the statewide average rate for similar facilities.

The IS/EA references the National Park in Section 2.1.3, Parks and Recreation. The IS/EA identifies Blue Line Streams in Section 2.3.2, Wetlands and other Waters, and is specifically depicted in Figure 2.14. The IS/EA discusses Wildlife Corridors in Section 2.3.1, Natural Communities.

**Response to Comment D3**

This commenter also submitted a comment card and is identified as C10 in Appendix E. Regarding Table 1.10: Caltrans Transportation Systems Network Traffic Accident Surveillance and Analysis System (TSN TASAS) tracks accident data for the State Highway System throughout the State. This historical data is used to assist in identifying potential accident concentrations and traffic safety issues at comparable like facilities across the State. This data may not be the easiest to interpret; however, Caltrans uses this data to identify potential safety concerns while studying improvements to various facilities across the state. The northbound off-ramp has consistently shown a higher concentration of accidents. During the project studies, the accident information is studied and applied to the project in an attempt to understand the reasons for higher than average rates for similar types of facilities around the State. In this case there are several elements that can contribute to these higher than expected accident rates. Some of these factors include insufficient sight distance, congestion/delay due to lack of breaks in traffic during peak periods, and lack of shoulders and sidewalks.
Response to Comment D4

This commenter also submitted a comment card and is identified as C11 in Appendix E. Please refer to the response to Comment D1 regarding traffic conditions, the response to Comment D2 regarding growth assumptions used, and the response to Comment D3 regarding traffic safety data used.

Response to Comment D5

This commenter also submitted a comment card and is identified as C12 in Appendix E. No further response is necessary.

Response to Comment D6

It is assumed the commenter is referring to Figure 2.3 of the IS/EA. Site visits have confirmed that light posts do currently exist in this view.

Response to Comment D7

Please refer to the response to Comment D1 regarding traffic conditions and the response to Comment D2 regarding growth assumptions used.

Response to Comment D8

The IS/EA notes that the Old Agoura community is a semi-rural residential neighborhood, and that the project would incorporate context-sensitive solutions in order to preserve the character of the Old Agoura neighborhood (see Section 2.1.5).

Response to Comment D9

This commenter also submitted a comment card and is identified as C13 in Appendix E. No further response is necessary.

Response to Comment D10

Please refer to the response to Comment D1 regarding traffic conditions and the response to Comment D2 regarding growth assumptions used.

Response to Comment D11

This commenter also submitted a comment card and is identified as C15 in Appendix E. Please refer to the response to Comment D1 regarding traffic conditions, the response to Comment D2 regarding growth assumptions used, the response to Comment D3 regarding traffic safety data used, and the response to D8 regarding the use of context-sensitive design. It is anticipated that the Build Alternative would improve the available evacuation routes out of Old Agoura.
Response to Comment D12

The IS/EA notes that the City’s General Plan designates Palo Comado Canyon Road as a four-lane roadway with bike lanes and sidewalks (see Section 2.1.8). Bike lanes would be required on both sides of the bridge in order to be consistent with local planning documents.

The City did study several additional alternatives as part of the preliminary planning process. These alternatives included such elements as a local access road connection to the northbound off-ramp, a 5-way traffic signal at the northbound off-ramp, and a roundabout at the northbound off-ramp intersection. These alternatives were initially considered, but ultimately rejected due to ROW impacts that were not acceptable to the City. Therefore, they were not included for analysis in the IS/EA.

Response to Comment D13

This commenter also submitted a comment card and is identified as C6 in Appendix E. The IS/EA notes that the City’s General Plan designates Palo Comado Canyon Road as a four-lane roadway with bike lanes and sidewalks (see Section 2.1.8). Sidewalks would be required on both sides of the bridge in order to be consistent with local planning documents.

There are no improvements proposed for the Driver Avenue/Chesebro Road intersection beyond the construction of an all-purpose train and sidewalks to the south of the intersection, to provide equestrian connectivity along the roadway.

Response to Comment D14

Please refer to the response to Comment D1 regarding traffic conditions and the response to Comment D2 regarding growth assumptions used.

Response to Comment D15

Please refer to the response to Comment D1 regarding traffic conditions. Traffic is expected to increase as a result of general area-wide growth, as outlined in the City’s General Plan; the overpass widening is being proposed to accommodate existing and future traffic conditions. City staff, based upon input from community, has determined that any major improvements to the intersection to Driver Avenue/Chesebro Road would adversely affect the character of Old Agoura neighborhood and therefore no major improvements are proposed.

Response to Comment D16

The commenter’s statement has been noted for the record. No response is necessary.
RETURN TO:

The Acorn Newspapers
30423 Canwood Street, Suite 108
Agoura Hills, California 91301-4316

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I am a citizen of the United States and resident of the County aforesaid. I am over the age of eighteen years, and not party or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of:

THE ACORN NEWSPAPERS
30423 CANWOOD STREET, SUITE 108
AGOURA HILLS, CALIFORNIA 91301

A newspaper of general circulation, printed and published Thursdays in the City of Agoura Hills, County of Los Angeles, and which newspaper has been adjudicated a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, under the date of June 26th, 1980, case Number 3216672. That the notice of which the Annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller that nonpareil), has been published in each regular issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates to-wit:

February 9, 16,

all in the year of 2012

I certify or declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Agoura Hills, California
this 17th day of February 2012.

Sincerely,

Marlynn Baird
Legal Advertising

_____________________________________________________

COUNTY CLERK FILING STAMP

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

AH-0547

CITY OF AGOURA HILLS
PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (ISEA) and Public Hearing for the U.S. 101/ Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange Project

What is Being Planned? The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of Agoura Hills (City) are proposing improvements to the U.S. 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange (PM 33.0/34.4) in Los Angeles County, within the City of Agoura Hills. The Build Alternative would include widening Palo Comado Canyon Road between Driven Avenue to the north and Cheasboro Road to the south from 2 to 4 lanes. Within these limits, the Palo Comado Canyon Road Overcrossing would be widened from 1 lane in each direction to 2 lanes in each direction and a dedicated left-hand turn lane (northbound). Class II bike lanes and a sidewalk would also be provided on the overcrossing, as well as local street lighting. The proposed project would address traffic, operational, and safety issues at the existing interchange. A No Build Alternative and one Build Alternative have been evaluated in the Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (ISEA). Why This Notice? Caltrans has completed technical studies for this project, and the Draft ISEA is now available for public review and comment. Caltrans is currently soliciting written comments from all pertinent public agencies, private entities, and interested/affected individuals regarding the Draft ISEA.

Where do you come in? A public meeting will be held to discuss the Draft ISEA on Tuesday, February 21, 2012, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the City of Agoura Hills City Council Chambers, 3001 Ladyface Place, Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Written comments will be accepted at this meeting. Written comments, suggestions, or inquiries may be submitted by March 7, 2012 to:

Mr. Ronald Kosinski, Deputy District Director
California Department of Transportation
Division of Environmental Planning (Palo Comado)
100 South Main Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Attn: Carlos Montez

Contact Information: For more information about this study, you may contact Carlos Montez, Division of Environmental Planning, 100 S. Main Street, MS 15A, Los Angeles, CA 90012; TTYS users may call (213) 897-4337; Carlos_Montez@dot.ca.gov; Nathan Hamburger, Assistant City Manager at the City of Agoura Hills may be contacted at nhamburger@ci.agoura-hills.ca.us; (818) 597-7308.

Published: February 9, 16, 2012 AH-0547

Thank you for your interest!
Certificate of Publication

I.O. #1248614

In Matter of Publication of:

Public Notice

State of California) )§
County of Ventura)

I, Maria Rodriguez, hereby certify that the Ventura County Star Newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura within the provisions of the Government Code of the State of California, printed in the City of Camarillo, for circulation in the County of Ventura, State of California; that I am a clerk of the printer of said paper; that the annexed clipping is a true printed copy and publishing in said newspaper on the following dates to wit:

Jan. 30, 2012

I, Maria Rodriguez certify under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this Feb. 13, 2012, in Camarillo, California, County of Ventura.

Maria Rodriguez
(Signature)
Certificate of Publication

I.O. #1249548

In Matter of Publication of:

Public Notice

State of California
County of Ventura

I, Maria Rodriguez, hereby certify that the Ventura County Star Newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura within the provisions of the Government Code of the State of California, printed in the City of Camarillo, for circulation in the County of Ventura, State of California; that I am a clerk of the printer of said paper; that the annexed clipping is a true printed copy and publishing in said newspaper on the following dates to wit:

Feb. 13, 2012

I, Maria Rodriguez certify under penalty of perjury, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated this Feb. 13, 2012, in Camarillo, California, County of Ventura.

Maria Rodriguez
(Signature)
APPENDIX H Verification of Notice of Completion
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February 29, 2012

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

Subject: US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange Project
SCH#: 2012011064

Dear Natalie Hill:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Joint Document to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on February 28, 2012, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse
Caltrans and The City of Agoura Hills propose to construct improvements at the U.S. Highway 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road interchange (PM 33.0/34.4), in Los Angeles County within the City of Agoura Hills. The project would include widening the Palo Comado Canyon Road and Palo Comado Canyon Road Overcrossing over US 101 and modification of the interchange ramps in order to improve traffic circulation, safety, and bicycle/pedestrian access. The No-Build Alternative would maintain the existing configuration of the US 101/Palo Comado Canyon Road Interchange. The Build Alternative would widen Palo Comado Canyon Road from two to four lanes between Driver Avenue and Chesebro Road and include a dedicated left-hand turn lane, for a total of five striped lanes.

Lead Agency Contact
Name: Natalie Hill
Agency: California Department of Transportation, District 7
Phone: 213 897 0841
Fax:
Address: 100 South Main Street, MS-16A
City: Los Angeles
State: CA
Zip: 90012

Project Location
County: Los Angeles
City: Agoura Hills
Region:
Lat / Long:
Cross Streets: Palo Comado Canyon Road/Chesebro Road
Parcel No.:
Township:
Range:
Section:
Base:
Proximity to:
Highways: US 101
Airports:
Railways:
Waterways:
Schools:
Land Use: Transportation

Project Issues
Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Absorption; Fiscal Impacts; Flood Plain/Flooding; Geologic/Seismic; Minerals; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Schools/Universities; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Cumulative Effects

Reviewing Agencies
Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Office of Emergency Management Agency, California; Air Resources Board, Transportation Projects; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 4; Native American Heritage Commission; Public Utilities Commission

Date Received: 01/30/2012
Start of Review: 01/30/2012
End of Review: 02/28/2012

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.
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Mr. Michael Miles, District Director  
California Department of Transportation  
District 7  
100 South Main Street, Suite 100  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-3606

Attention: Andrew Yoon, Senior Transportation Engineer

Dear Mr. Yoon:

SUBJECT: Project-Level Conformity Determination for the US-101/Palo Comado Road Interchange Project

On June 12, 2012 the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) a request for the project-level conformity determination for the US-101/Palo Comado Road Interchange Project in the City of Agoura Hills, Los Angeles County pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327(a)(2)(B)(ii)(1). The project is in an area that is designated nonattainment or maintenance for 8-hour ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), course particulate matter (PM_{10}), fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}), and lead (Pb).

The project-level conformity analysis submitted by Caltrans indicates that the project-level transportation conformity requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 93 have been met. The project is included in the Southern California Association of Government’s (SCAG) currently conforming 2012 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and the 2011 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP). The latest conformity determination for the 2012 RTP and for the 2011 FTIP through Amendment #11-24 was approved by FHWA and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) on June 4, 2012. The design concept and scope of the preferred alternative have not changed significantly from those assumed in the regional emissions analysis.

As required by 40 C.F.R. 93.116 and 93.123, the localized CO and PM analyses are included in the documentation. The CO hotspot analysis was performed with the Caltrans’ Transportation Project-Level Carbon Monoxide Protocol. The analyses demonstrate that the project will not create any new violation of the standards or increase the severity or number of existing violations. Based on the information provided, FHWA finds that the project-level conformity determination for the US-101/Palo Comado Road Interchange Project in the City of Agoura Hills, Los Angeles County conforms to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) in accordance with 40 C.F.R. Part 93.
If you have any questions pertaining to this conformity finding, please contact Stew Sonnenberg, FHWA Air Quality Specialist, at (916) 498-5889 or by email at Stew.Sonnenberg@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

For
Vincent P. Mammano
Division Administrator

cc: (email)
A. Yoon, CT D-7
M. Brady, CT HQ
J. Hannon, FHWA

SSonnenberg/km