



# Public Notice



## Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration (Study Results Available) Announcement of Open Forum Public Hearing

### Lee Vining Rockfall Safety Project on US Highway 395

#### WHEN AND WHERE

Date: **Tuesday, August 7, 2012**

Time: **4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

(Open House Format)

Place: **Lee Vining Community Center**

296 Mattly Ave, Lee Vining, CA 93541

#### WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration is proposing to reduce rockfall at six slopes along U.S. Highway 395 north of Lee Vining from north of National Forest Visitor Center Road to north of Picnic Grounds Road.

#### WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our studies show it will not significantly affect the quality of the environment. The report that explains why is called a Negative Declaration/Initial Study/Environmental Assessment and it is available for you to read. A hearing will be held to give you an opportunity to discuss the project with Caltrans staff before a final alternative is selected.

#### WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

Maps for the Proposed Negative Declaration and Initial Study/Environmental Assessment and other project information are available for review and copying at the Caltrans District 9 Office at 500 South Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514. There are also copies available at the Lee Vining branch of the Mono County Library at 51710 U.S. 395, Lee Vining, CA 93541, the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center at 1 Visitor Center Drive, Lee Vining, CA 93541 and the Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore at the corner of U.S. 395 and Third Street, Lee Vining, CA 93541. The document is available online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist9/projects/leeviningrockfall/index.html>

There are also copies available at the Lee Vining branch of the Mono County Library at 51710 U.S. 395, Lee Vining, CA 93541, the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center at 1 Visitor Center Drive, Lee Vining, CA 93541 and the Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore at the corner of U.S. 395 and Third Street, Lee Vining, CA 93541. The document is available online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist9/projects/leeviningrockfall/index.html>

#### WHERE DO YOU COME IN?

Do you have any comments about processing the project with a Negative Declaration and Initial Study/Environmental Assessment? Do you disagree with the findings of our study as set forth in the Proposed Negative Declaration? Would you care to make any other comments on the project? Please submit your comments in writing no later than August 25, 2012 to Caltrans, Attn: Scott Smith, Senior Environmental Planner, 855 M Street, Suite 200, Fresno, CA 93721. If there are no major comments, Caltrans will proceed with the project's design.

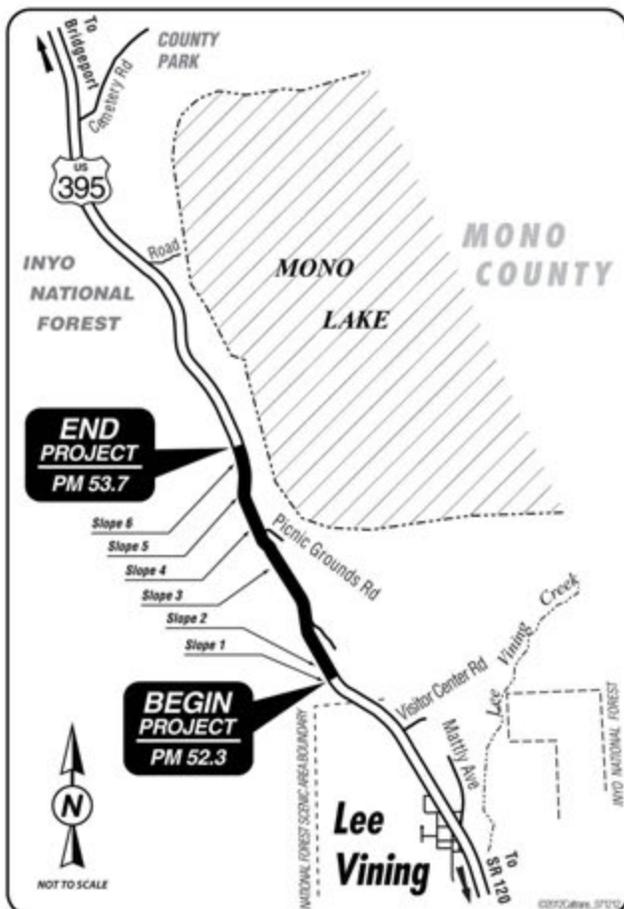
#### CONTACT

For more information about this study or any transportation matter, contact Scott Smith, Senior Environmental Planner at (559) 445-6172 or by email at [scott\\_smith@dot.ca.gov](mailto:scott_smith@dot.ca.gov).

For all other State Highway matters, please contact District 9 Public Affairs Office at (760) 872-0603.

#### SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Individuals who require special accommodation (American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in alternate formats, etc.) are requested to contact District 09 Public Affairs Office at (760) 872-0603 at least 5 days before the scheduled hearing date. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 1-800-735-2929 or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922.



# Lee Vining Rockfall SAFETY PROJECT



## Project Information Sheet

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this project is to improve safety to the traveling public and maintenance workers by minimizing rockfall from existing steep slopes.

**DESCRIPTION**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to reduce rockfall at six slopes along U.S. 395 north of Lee Vining in Mono County from 0.4 mile north of National Forest Visitor Center Road to 0.7 mile north of Picnic Grounds Road.

**DESIGN OPTIONS**

Two design options are proposed to reduce the rockfall problem.

Design Option	Slope 1	Slope 2	Slope 3	Slope 4	Slope 5	Slope 6
Design Option 1	Cut	Cut	Revegetate	Hybrid System and Drapery	Hybrid System	Anchored Mesh
Design Option 2	Cut	Cut	Revegetate	Anchored Mesh	Anchored Mesh	Anchored Mesh

**ESTIMATED COST**

Design Option 1: \$3,510,000 (escalated costs)  
 Design Option 2: \$5,861,000 (escalated costs)

**TIMELINE**

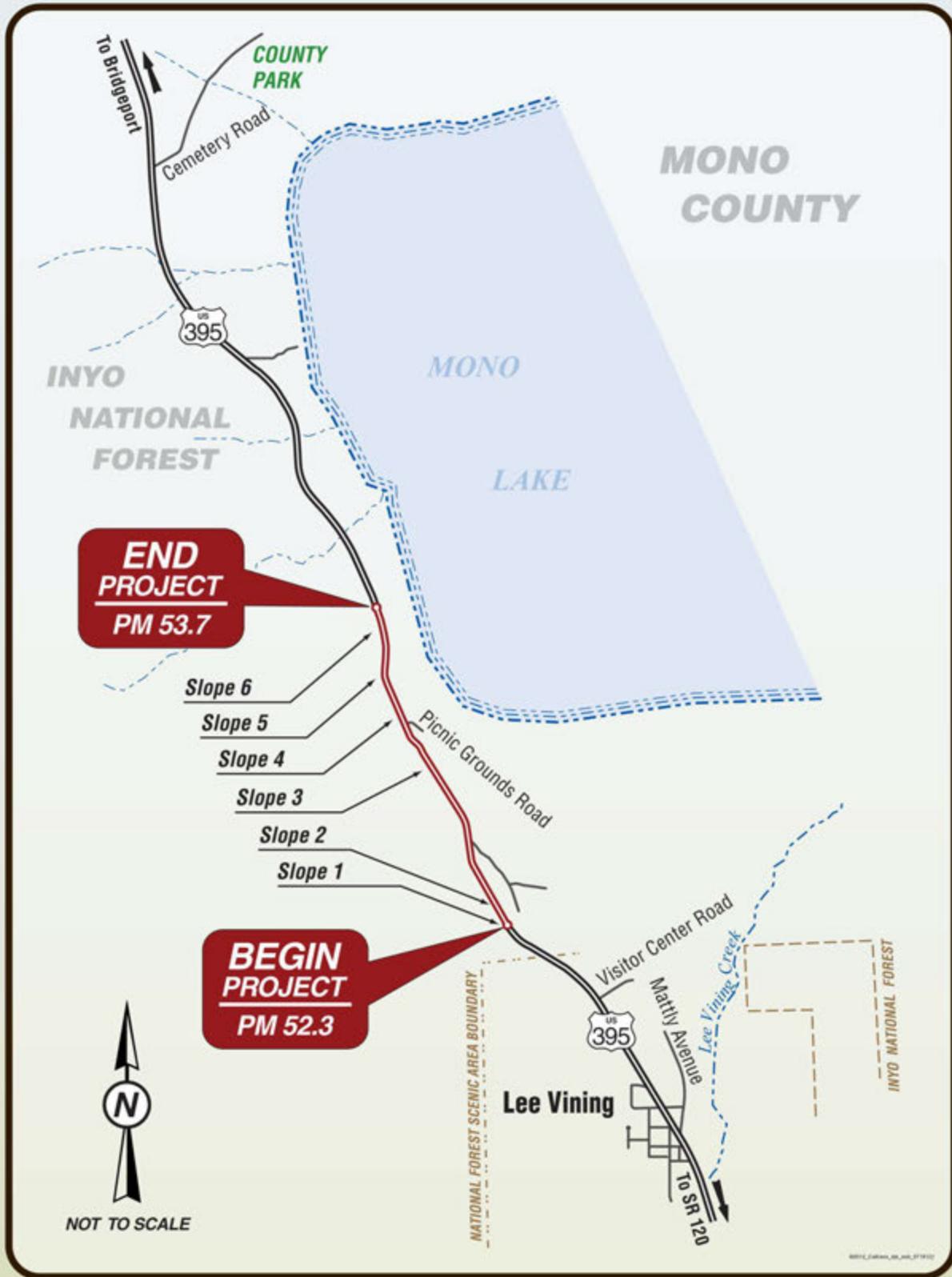
Final Environmental Document: Fall 2012  
 Project Design Complete: Fall 2013  
 Construction: Summer 2014

**QUESTIONS?**

For more information please contact Scott Smith, Senior Environmental Planner at (559) 445-6172 or [scott\\_smith@dot.ca.gov](mailto:scott_smith@dot.ca.gov)



# Project Information Sheet



# See Vining Rockfall SAFETY PROJECT



## Comment Card

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

REPRESENTING: \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to the project mailing list.

Please email me updates on this project.

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the following comments filed in the record\* (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Place your comments into the Comment Box tonight or mail your comments by August 25, 2012 to:

**CALTRANS**  
 Attn: Scott Smith  
 Senior Environmental Planner  
 855 M Street, Suite 200  
 Fresno, CA 93721

How Did You Hear About This Meeting?  newspaper  newsletter  someone told me about it  other: \_\_\_\_\_



CALTRANS  
Attn: Scott Smith  
Senior Environmental Planner  
855 M Street, Suite 200  
Fresno, CA 93721



Please Place  
Stamp Here

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*See Vining Rockfall*  
**SAFETY**  **PROJECT**

fold along line

*Please submit your comments in writing  
no later than August 25, 2012*

*Lee Vining Rockfall*  
**SAFETY PROJECT**



**OPEN FORUM PUBLIC HEARING**

**Welcome!**

**Date:** Tuesday, August 7, 2012

**Time:** 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Open House Format)

**Place:** Lee Vining Community Center  
296 Mattly Avenue, Lee Vining, California



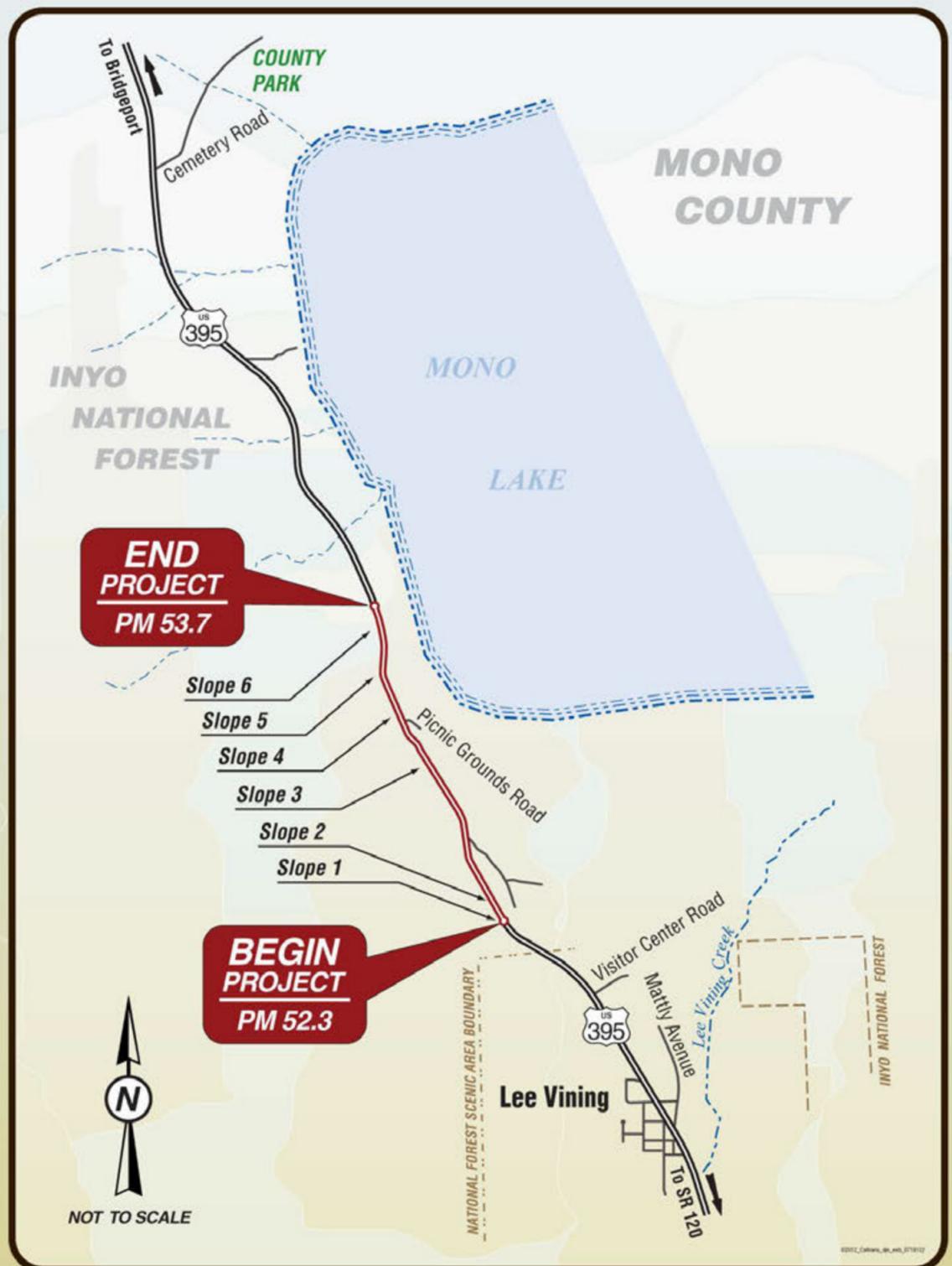
# Lee Vining Rockfall SAFETY PROJECT



## OPEN FORUM PUBLIC HEARING

Please Sign In...

Feel free to view our displays and ask questions of project staff who are present at tonight's meeting



# WHY ARE WE HERE TONIGHT?

## ◇ The Purpose of Tonight's Meeting:

- To present the proposed project to the community.
- To obtain written comments on the proposed project and on the Draft Environmental Document.
- Caltrans staff are available to answer your questions. Written comments may be placed in the comment box tonight or mailed directly to our office.

## ◇ What's Next?

Do you have any comments about processing the project with a Negative Declaration and Initial Study/Environmental Assessment? Do you disagree with the findings of our study as set forth in the Proposed Negative Declaration? Would you care to make any other comments on the project? Please submit your comments in writing no later than August 25, 2012 to Caltrans, Attn: Scott Smith, Senior Environmental Planner, 855 M Street, Suite 200, Fresno, CA 93721.

If there are no major comments, Caltrans will proceed with the project's design.

# PROJECT DESCRIPTION

◇ **Description:** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to reduce rockfall at six slopes along U.S. 395 north of Lee Vining in Mono County. The proposed project begins at post mile 52.3 and ends at post mile 53.7. The main purpose of the project is to improve safety for the traveling public and maintenance personnel by reducing rockfall from the existing steep slopes between these post miles.

◇ **Design Options by Slope under the Build Alternative**

Design Option	Slope 1	Slope 2	Slope 3	Slope 4	Slope 5	Slope 6
Design Option 1	Cut	Cut	Revegetate	Hybrid System and Drapery	Hybrid System	Anchored Mesh
Design Option 2	Cut	Cut	Revegetate	Anchored Mesh	Anchored Mesh	Anchored Mesh

◇ **Estimated Construction Cost:**

Design Option 1: \$3,510,000 (escalated costs)

Design Option 2: \$5,861,000 (escalated costs)

◇ **Schedule**

Final Environmental Document: Fall 2012

Project Design: Fall 2013

Construction: Summer 2014

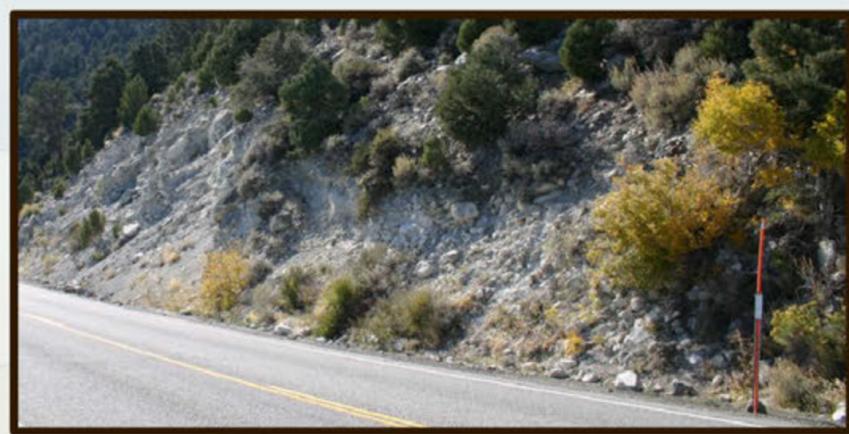
# PURPOSE AND NEED

## ◇ Purpose

The purpose of this project is to improve safety to the traveling public and maintenance workers by minimizing rockfall from existing steep slopes.

## ◇ Need

A study done by the Caltrans Engineering Service Center in fall 1997 identified six slopes in the project area that are producing a large amount of rockfall.

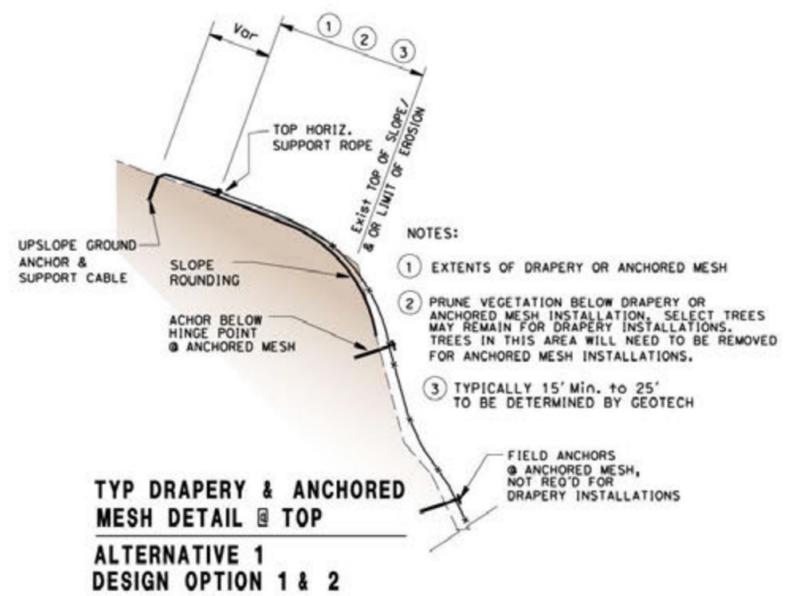
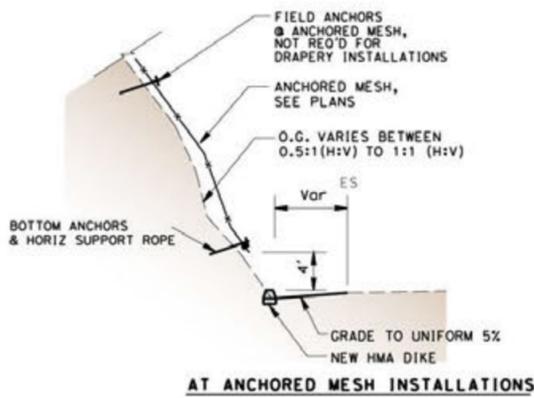
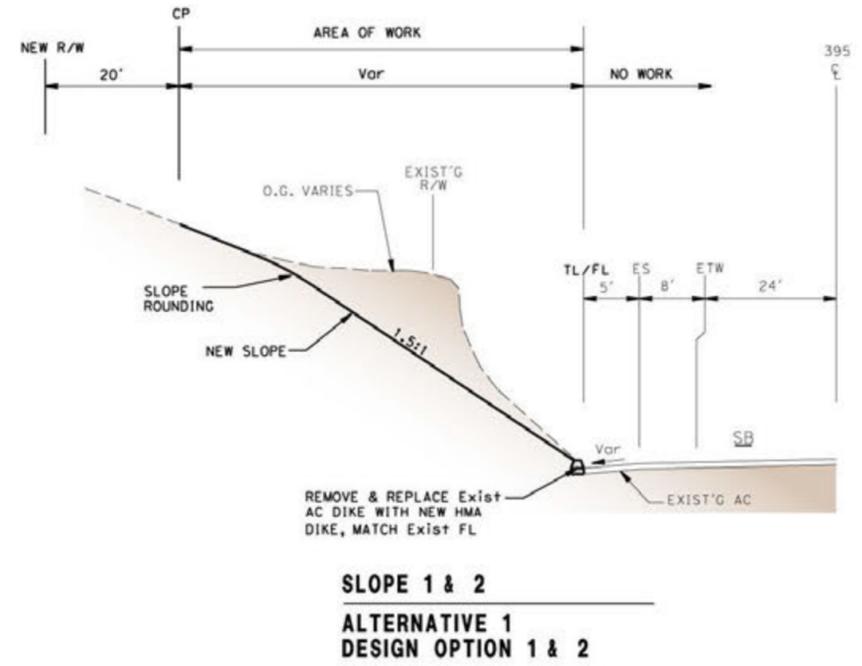
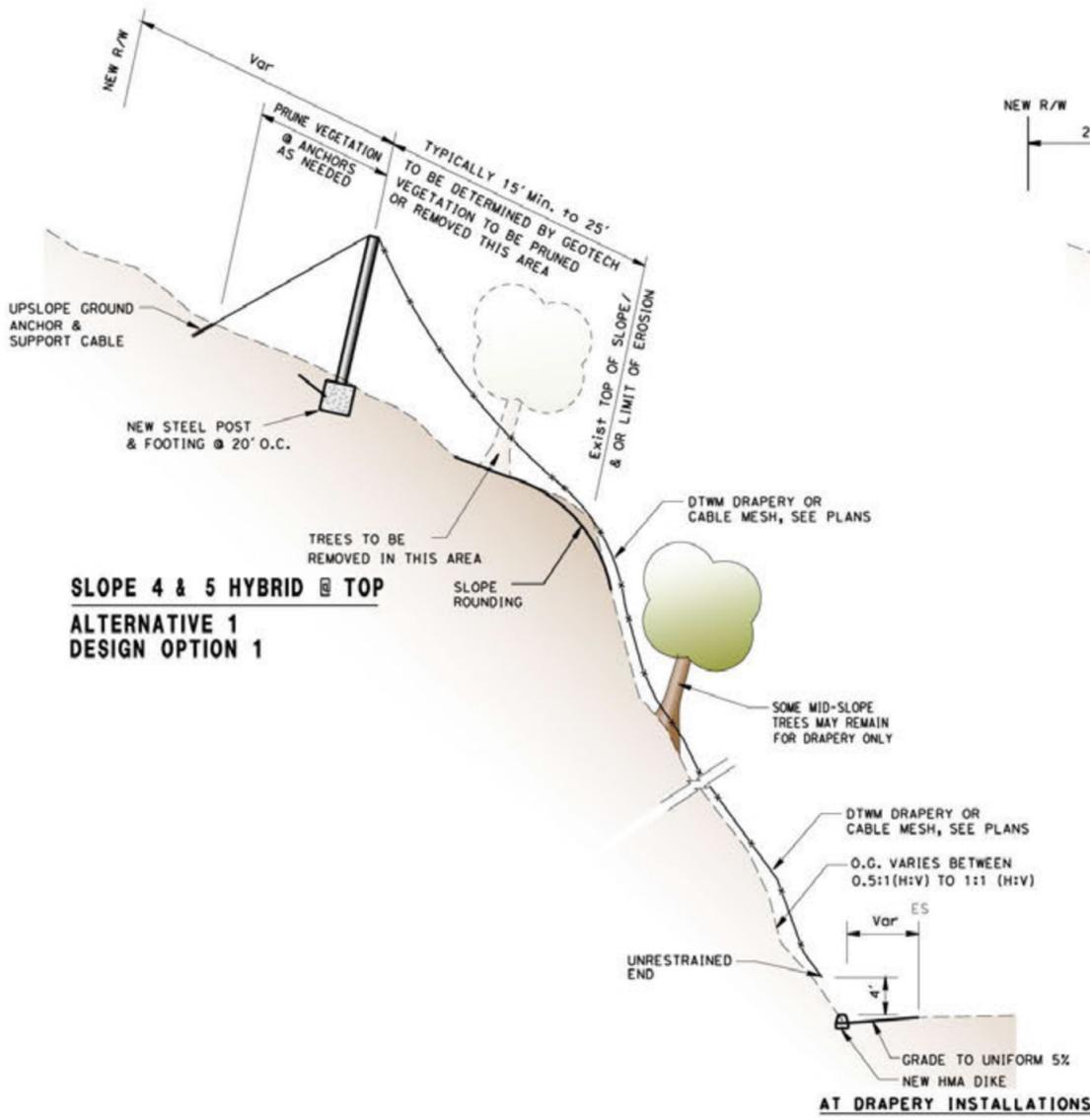


## ◇ Rockfall Hazard Rating by Slope

Slope Number	Post Miles	Slope Area (Square Feet)	Maximum Height (Feet)	Rockfall Hazard Rating <sup>1</sup> .	Comments
1	52.34 to 52.43	7,400	37	92	Rock 8 inches to 2 feet in size
2	52.50 to 52.54	7,400	36	87	Rock 6 inches to 1.5 feet in size
3	52.91 to 52.97	6,530	35	69	Rock 8 inches to 2 feet in size
4	53.03 to 53.23	42,300	22-85	190	Rock 8 inches to 2 feet in size
5	53.28 to 53.44	41,000	116	262	Rock 8 inches to 2 feet and greater in size
6	53.51 to 53.62	15,300	58	567	Least amount of site distance and containment area, rock 18 inches to greater than 4 feet in size

<sup>1</sup>. A larger Rockfall Hazard Rating number indicates a more hazardous slope.

# TYPICAL CROSS SECTIONS



Not to Scale

# ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS

- ◇ **Scoping**
  - Preliminary Studies to Develop Alternatives
- ◇ **Alternative Analysis**
  - Define Alternative
  - Engineering and Environmental Analysis of Alternatives
  - Draft Project Report
- ◇ **Draft Environmental Document Preliminary Results of Environmental Analysis**
  - Preliminary Minimization Measures
  - Public Agency/Review and Comment
  - Circulation of Draft Environmental Document
- ◇ **Public /Agency Review & Comment**
  - Circulate Environmental Document
  - Public Agency Review and Comment (July 27, 2012 to August 25, 2012)
  - We are here* → • **Public Hearing** (August 7, 2012)
- ◇ **State and Federal Review and Approval / Formal Response to Comments**
  - Final Environmental Document
  - Begin Design

# ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

- ◇ **Air Quality Report**
- ◇ **Noise Study Report**
- ◇ **Water Quality Report**
- ◇ **Natural Environment Study**
- ◇ **Location Hydraulic Study**
- ◇ **Cultural Clearance Memo**
- ◇ **Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment**
- ◇ **Visual Impact Assessment**
- ◇ **Paleontological Identification Report**
- ◇ **Geotechnical Design Report**

# VISUAL STUDIES

## ◇ Visual/Aesthetic Impact Findings

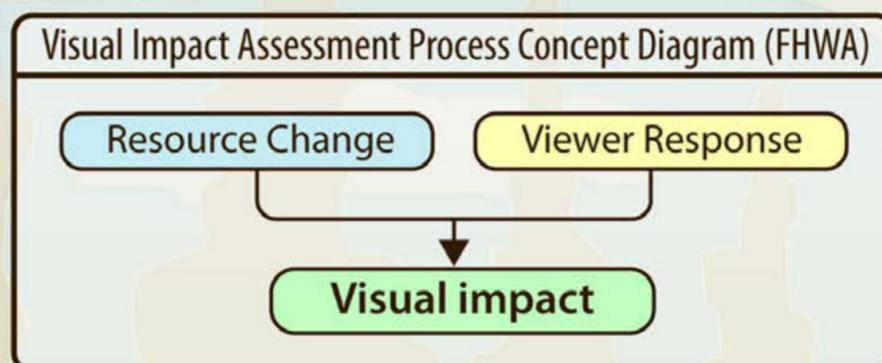
Implementation of Option 1 would result in moderately beneficial visual impacts at four of the six project slopes due to the ability to successfully replant the slopes and visually blend with the natural setting. But, Option 1 would cause moderately adverse visual impacts at Slopes 4 and 5. Option 2 would have moderately beneficial visual impacts at each of the six project slopes due to the ability to successfully replant the slopes and visually blend with the natural setting.

The following measures would reduce the project’s potential visual impact: Preserve as much existing vegetation as possible.

- ▶ Preserve as much of the existing landform as possible.
- ▶ Limit the use of slope-rounding at specific locations where slope-rounding would result in the removal of mature trees and large vegetation.
- ▶ Color the cross-connectors within the cable mesh fabric to match the color of the cabling and the surrounding natural setting.
- ▶ Where replanting strategies are applied, plant species selection would be based in part on the native land cover immediately adjacent to the slope planting area.

## ◇ Analysis Methodology

The above findings are based on visual impact assessment method developed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in conjunction with the American Society of Landscape Architects and outlined in the graphic to the right:



## ◇ Key Process Steps

1. Define the existing visual settings.
2. Identify key views and viewpoints.
3. Analyze and rate expected viewer sensitivity (response).
4. Analyze type and extent of impact based on change of setting combined with expected viewer response.
5. Identify mitigation measures based on specific impacts
6. Identify residual impacts, if any

# VISUAL IMPACT RATINGS

## ◇ Visual Impact Ratings as seen from each Observer Viewpoint

Observer Viewpoint (OV)	Project Option	Resource Change					Viewer Response	Visual Impact Rating*
		Vividness (V)	Intactness (I)	Unity (U)	(=V+I+U/3)	Difference		
1	Existing	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.2			
	Option 1 and 2	3.5	4.2	4.2	4.0	+0.8 (low)	6.0 (high)	+3.4 (moderate-positive)
2	Existing	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.2			
	Option 1 and 2	3.5	4.2	4.2	4.0	+0.8 (low)	6.0 (high)	+3.4 (moderate-positive)
3	Existing	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.2			
	Option 1 and 2	3.5	4.2	4.2	4.0	+0.8 (low)	6.0 (high)	+3.4 (moderate-positive)
4	Existing	5.0	2.5	2.5	3.3			
	Option 1	3.0	2.0	2.5	2.5	-0.8 (low)	6.2 (high)	-3.5 (moderate-negative)
	Option 2	3.2	3.7	3.7	3.5	+0.2 (low)	6.2 (high)	+3.2 (moderate-positive)
5	Existing	3.0	2.3	2.3	2.5			
	Option 1	3.0	2.2	2.2	2.4	-0.1 (low)	6.1 (high)	-3.1 (moderate-negative)
	Option 2	3.3	3.7	3.7	3.6	+1.1 (low)	6.1 (high)	+3.6 (moderate-positive)
6	Existing	3.1	2.8	2.8	2.9			
	Option 1 and 2	3.4	3.7	3.7	3.6	+0.7 (low)	6.0 (high)	+3.4 (moderate-positive)
7	Existing	6.0	5.8	5.9	5.8			
	Option 1	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.0	+0.2 (low)	6.5 (high)	+3.3 (moderate-positive)
	Option 2	6.0	6.2	6.2	6.1	+0.3 (low)	6.5 (high)	+3.4 (moderate-positive)
8	Existing	5.0	4.0	4.2	4.4			
	Option 1	5.0	4.2	4.4	4.5	+0.1 (low)	6.3 (high)	+3.2 (moderate-positive)
	Option 2	5.0	4.6	4.9	4.8	+0.4 (low)	6.3 (high)	+3.4 (moderate-positive)

Visual Impact = [(Absolute value of RC) + VR]/2, with plus or minus sign applied to the resulting numeral depending on whether the resource change (RC) was positive or negative.

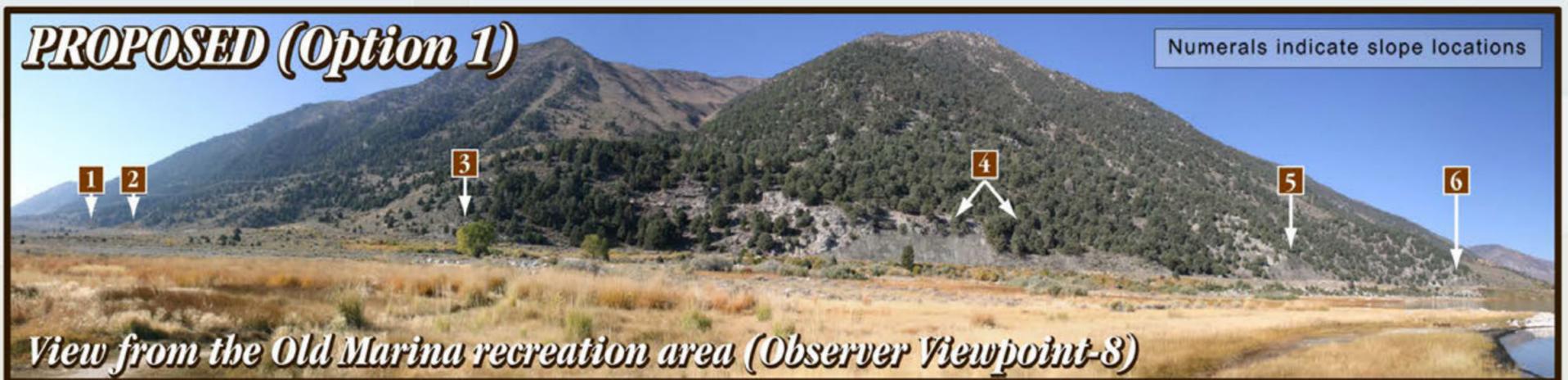
Source: Lee Vining Rockfall Visual Impact Assessment June 2012

**Vividness (V)** is the visual power or memorability of the landscape components as they combine in striking and distinctive visual patterns.

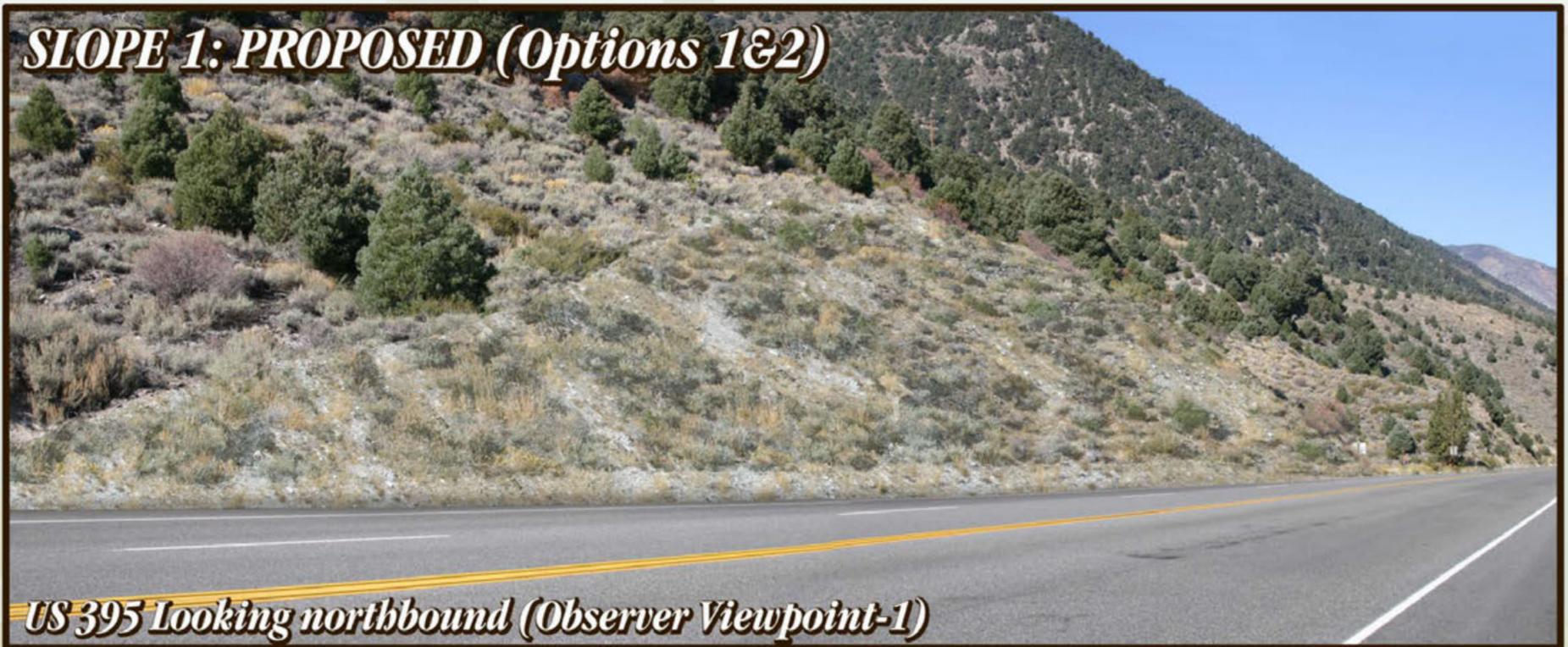
**Intactness (I)** is the visual integrity of the landscape and its freedom from non-typical encroaching elements. If all of the various elements of a landscape seem to “belong” together, there will be a high level of intactness.

**Unity (U)** is the visual harmony of the landscape considered as a whole. Unity represents the degree to which potentially diverse visual elements maintain a coherent visual pattern.

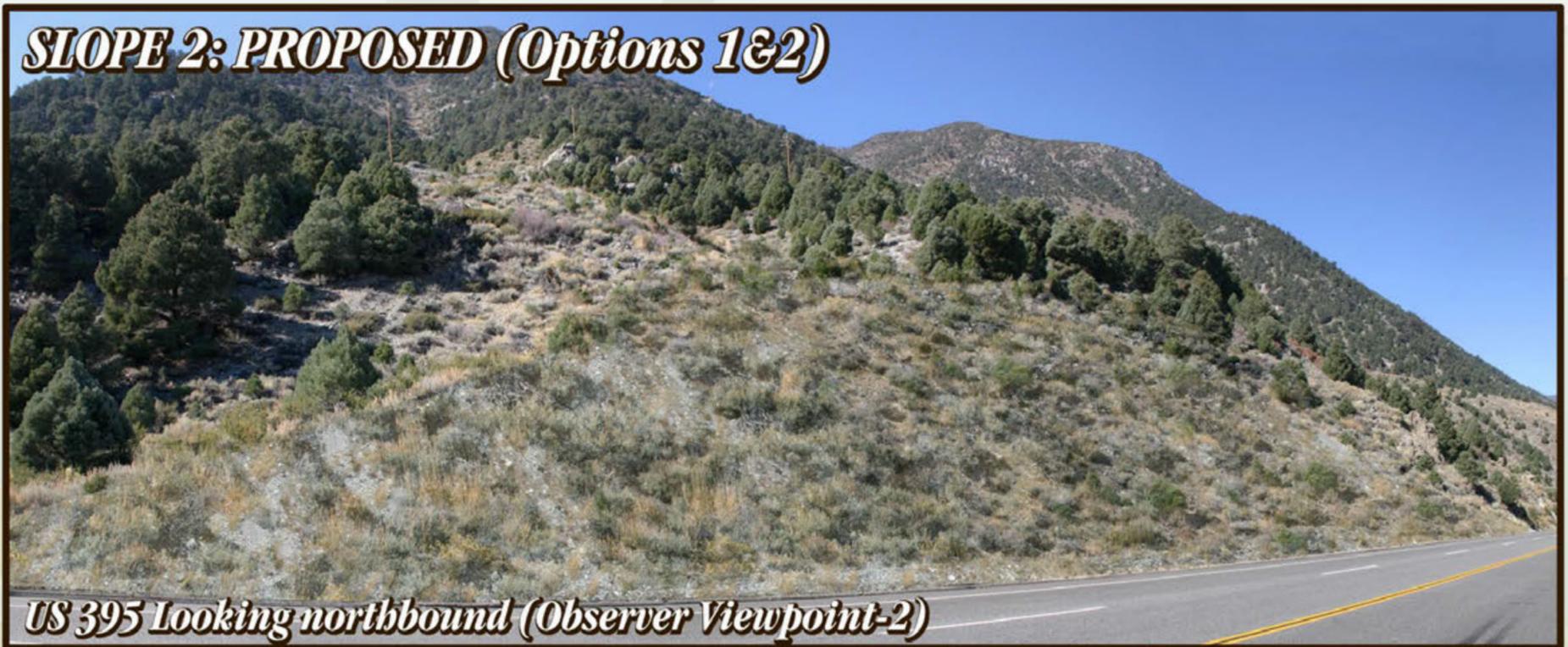
# VISUAL SIMULATIONS



# VISUAL SIMULATION: SLOPE 1



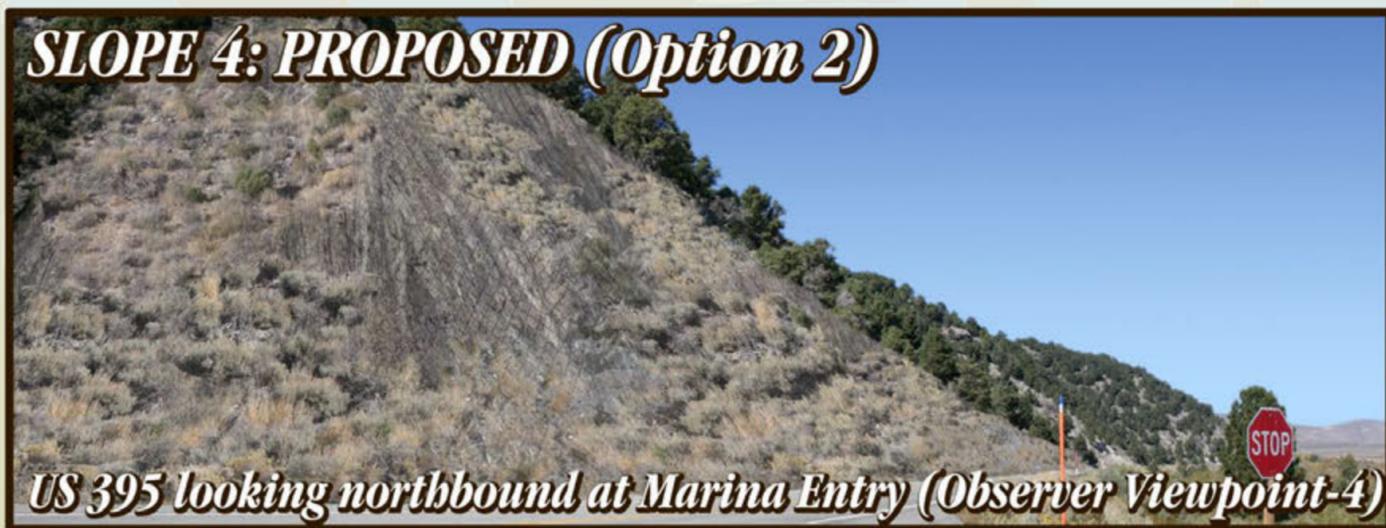
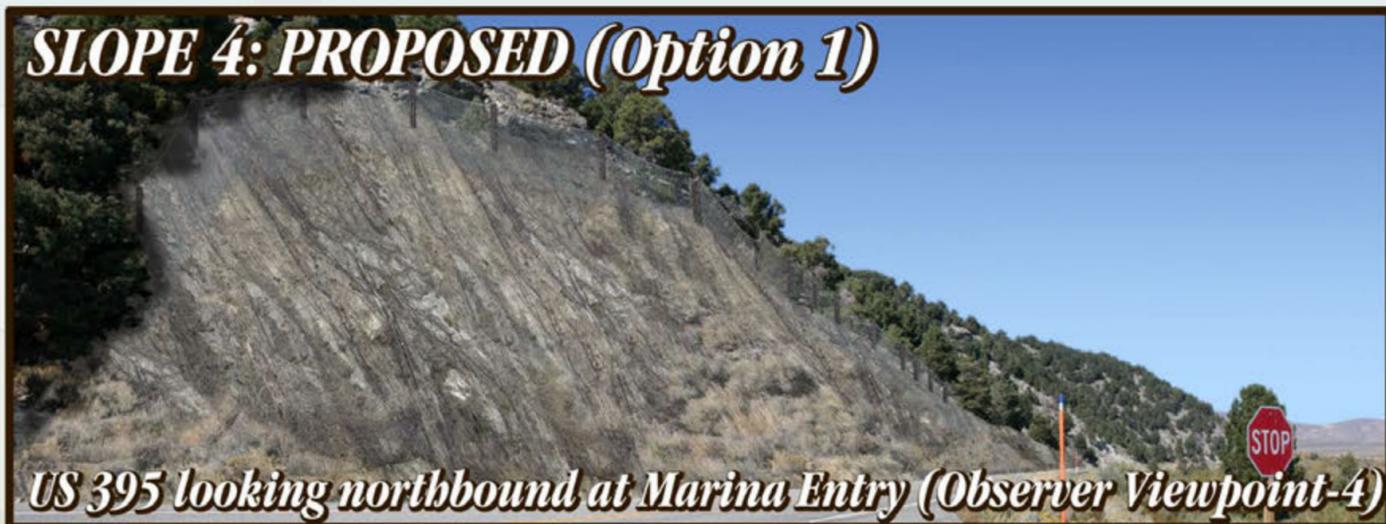
# VISUAL SIMULATION: SLOPE 2



# VISUAL SIMULATION: SLOPE 3



# VISUAL SIMULATION: SLOPE 4



# VISUAL SIMULATION: SLOPE 5

## SLOPE 5: EXISTING



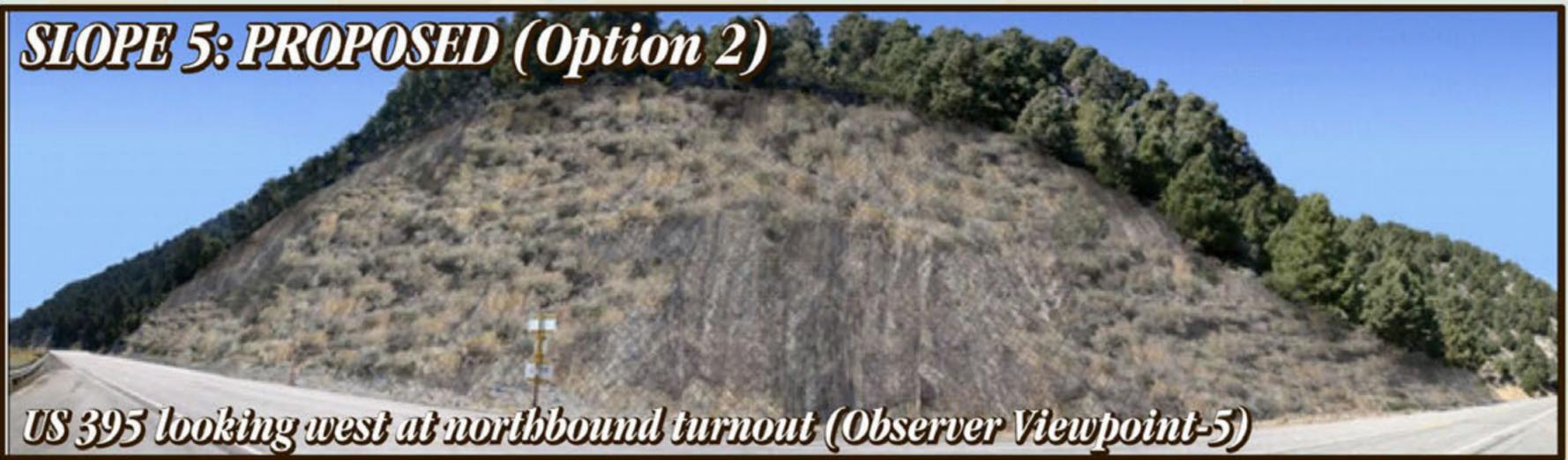
US 395 looking west at northbound turnout (Observer Viewpoint-5)

## SLOPE 5: PROPOSED (Option 1)



US 395 looking west at northbound turnout (Observer Viewpoint-5)

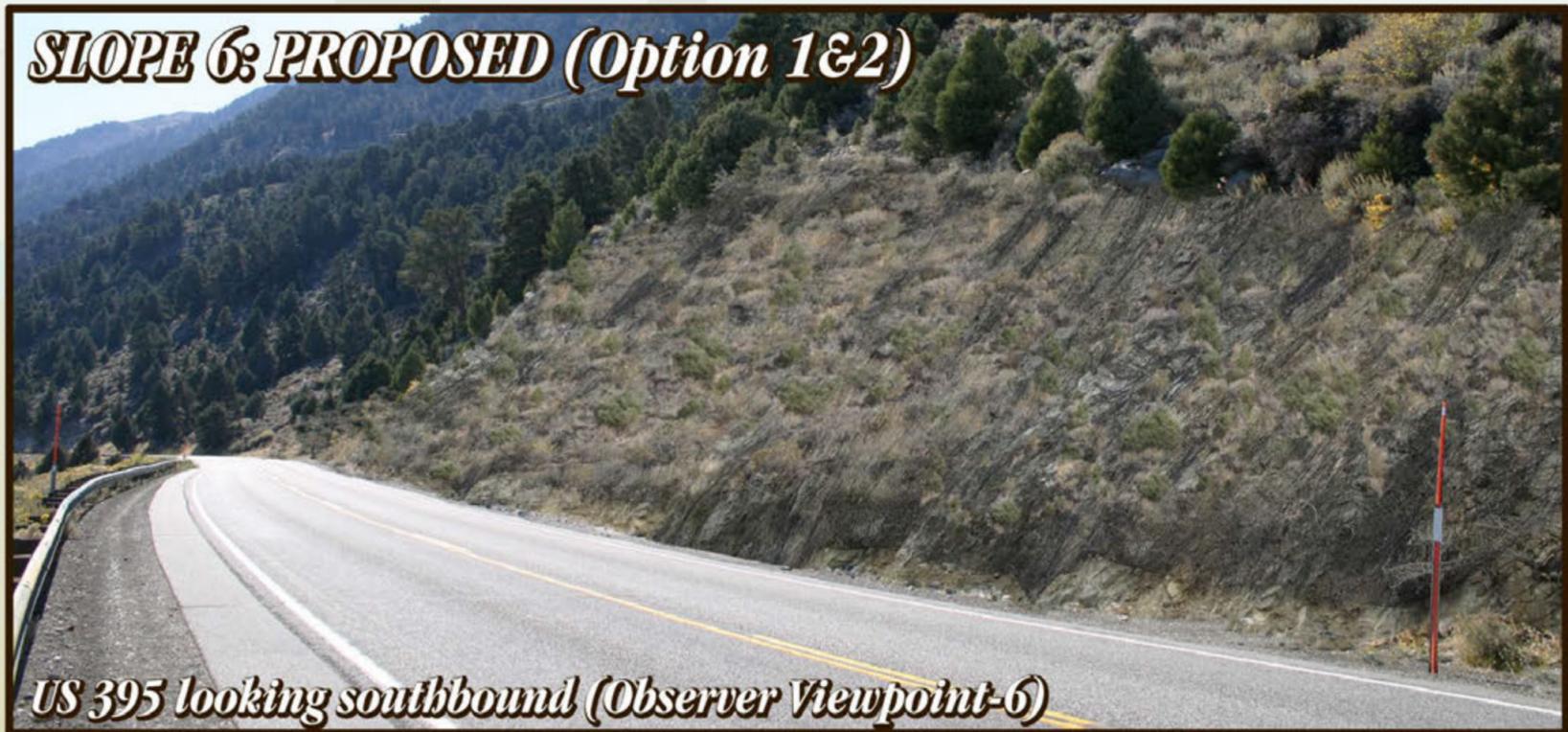
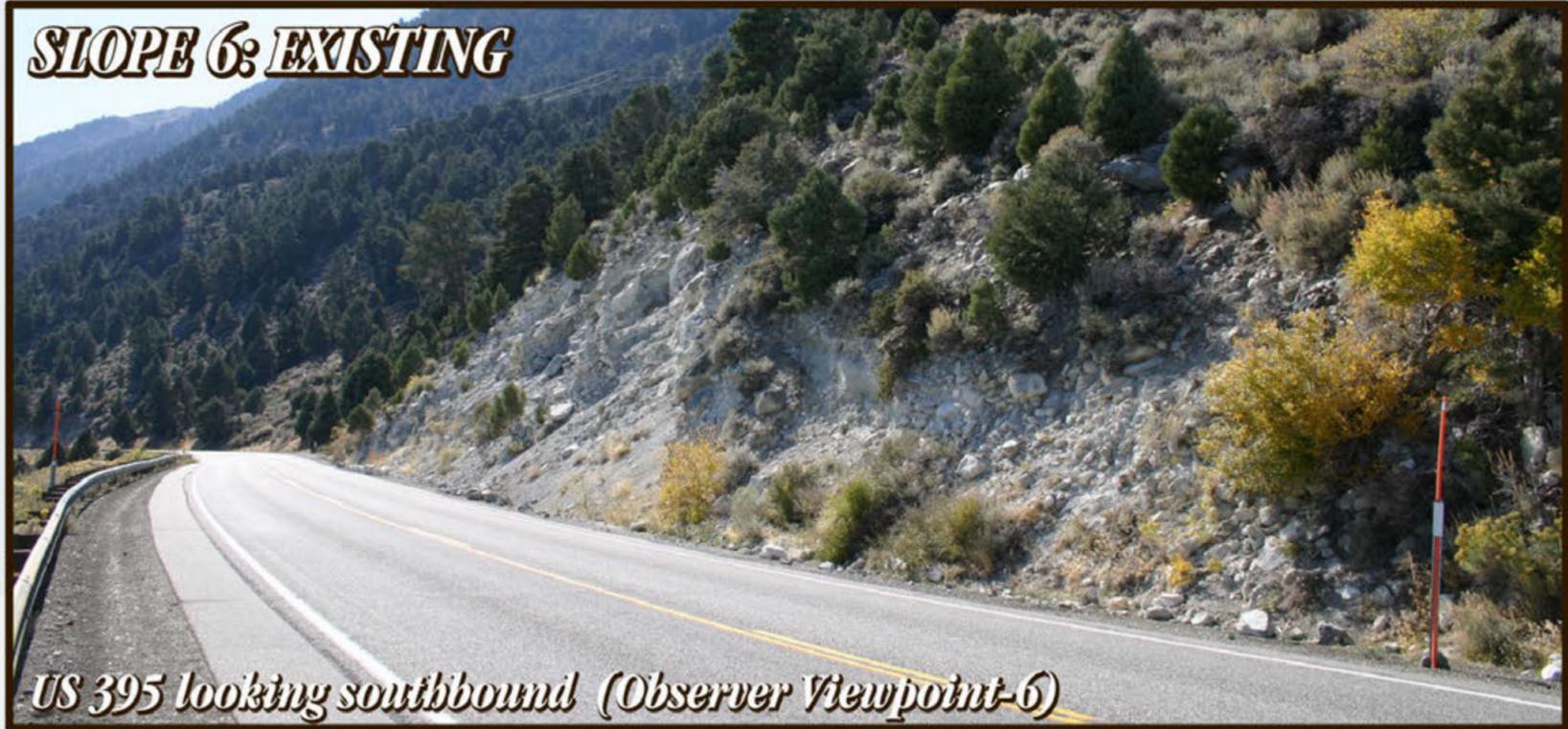
## SLOPE 5: PROPOSED (Option 2)



US 395 looking west at northbound turnout (Observer Viewpoint-5)



# VISUAL SIMULATION: SLOPE 6



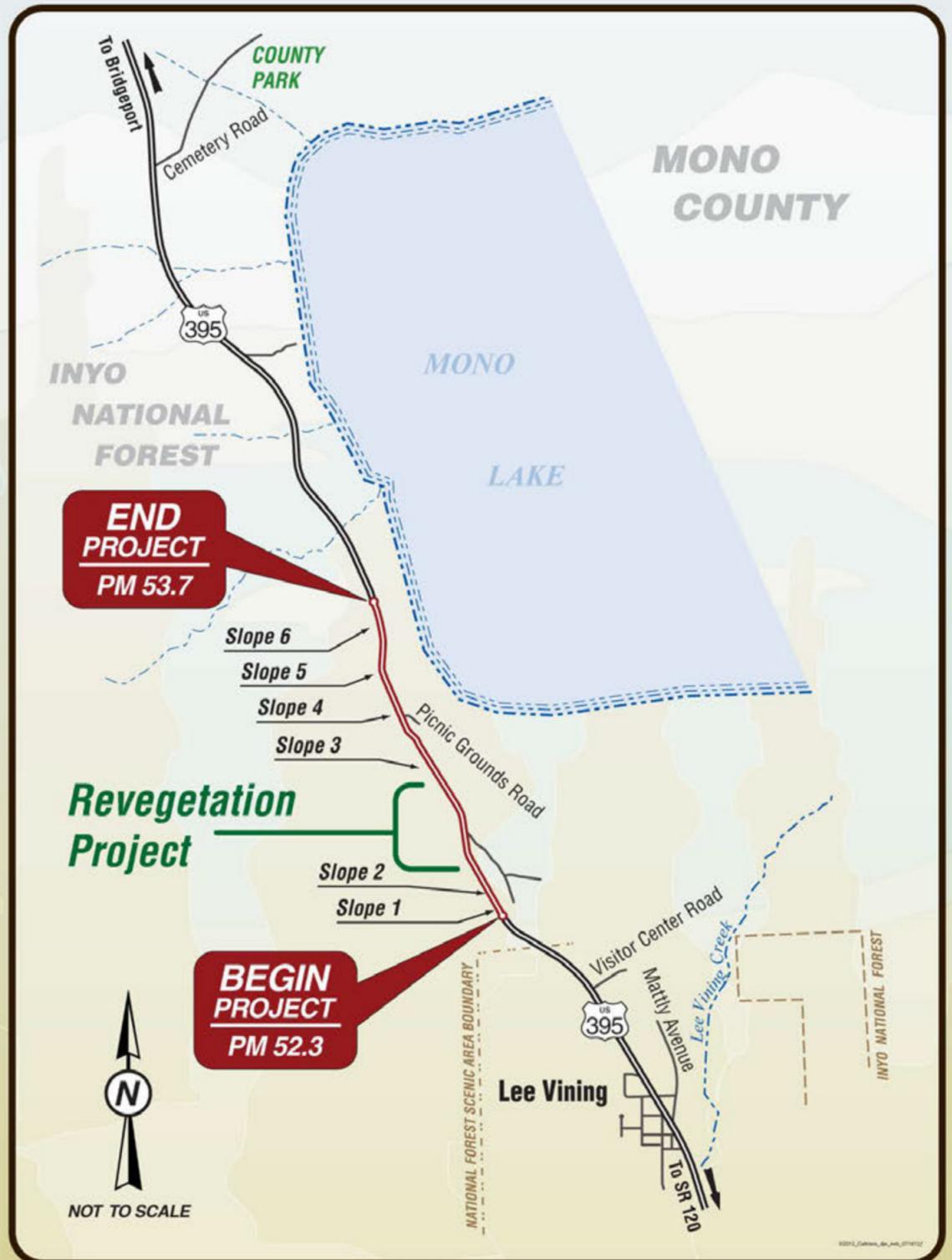
# REVEGETATION PROJECT

The Lee Vining Revegetation Project is a planned project scheduled for construction before the Lee Vining Rockfall Project during the 2013 fiscal year.

It will use experimental techniques to revegetate three smaller eroding cut slopes between Slopes 2 and 3 on the west side of the highway.

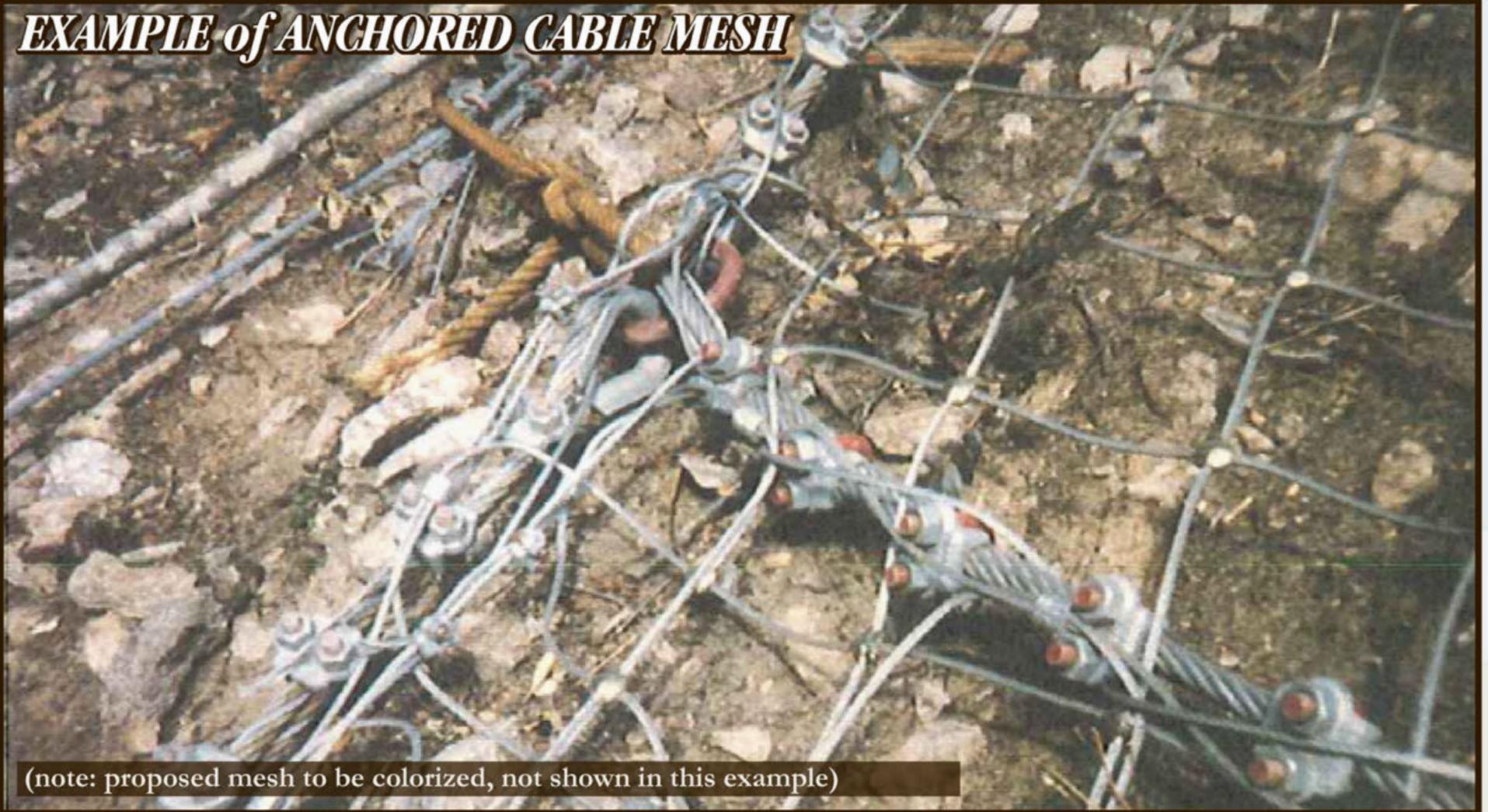
Using experimental erosion control and revegetation strategies, the project would stabilize the slope surface through minor slope rounding and revegetation efforts.

Should revegetation efforts take root and do so before design work is finished, those results would be applied to the Lee Vining Rockfall Project.



# MESH EXAMPLES

**EXAMPLE of ANCHORED CABLE MESH**



(note: proposed mesh to be colorized, not shown in this example)

**EXAMPLE of CABLE MESH over DOUBLE TWISTED WIRE MESH**



(note: proposed mesh to be colorized, not shown in this example)

# PUBLIC COMMENT

**There are 4 ways you can provide input on this project\*:**

- ◇ **A Court Reporter is available tonight to take your spoken comments**
- ◇ **Written comments can be placed into the Comment Box tonight.**
- ◇ **Written comments can be mailed to:**

*Scott Smith, Senior Environmental Planner  
Caltrans, Environmental Planning  
855 M Street, Suite 200  
Fresno, CA 93721*

- ◇ **You can submit comments via e-mail to:**

*scott\_smith@dot.ca.gov*

**\*Please submit comments by Friday, August 25, 2012**