INTRODUCTION

A Traffic Operations Analysis memorandum (Wood Rodgers, dated 02/28/2005) was completed in support of the Project Study Report (PSR) for the construction of operational improvements to the intersection of State Route 68 (SR 68) and Corral de Tierra Road (05-MON-068, PM 12.95), located in the unincorporated area of Monterey County, approximately 13 miles east of the City of Monterey and 9 miles west of the City of Salinas. Caltrans approved the PSR in October 2006. The Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) phase has now been initiated by Monterey County. As part of the current effort, we have prepared this brief evaluation to determine if a significant change to existing traffic volumes for the study facilities has occurred subsequent to the Project Initiation phase that could require an updated traffic operations analysis for the Project Report and environmental document. This technical memorandum addendum presents the results of our review of recent traffic trends between year 2003-2004 (existing conditions’ analysis year in the PSR) and current year 2013-2014 (existing conditions’ analysis year for the PR) on State Route 68 (SR 68) at its intersection with Corral de Tierra Road.

This technical memorandum is intended to serve as a technical addendum to the Traffic Operations Analysis memorandum prepared for the PSR (Wood Rodgers, dated 02/28/2005).

RECENT TRAFFIC GROWTH TRENDS

Caltrans-published Average Daily Traffic (ADT) count data from the years 2003 through year 2013 were reviewed for the segment of SR 68 containing the study intersection with Corral de Tierra Road. Table 8 of the PSR Traffic Operations Analysis memorandum has been expanded as Table 1 of this addendum to include year 2004 thru year 2013 traffic volumes and the volumes for the study segment and the adjacent highway segments.
As shown in Table 1, the AADT on segment of SR 68 at the Corral de Tierra Road study intersection grew significantly (by 14%) between 1992 and 2001. However, the AADT has only slightly increased (2%) on SR 68 at Corral de Tierra Road from 2001 through 2013, possibly due to slow economic conditions and tourism decline within the study vicinity in recent years. Year 2013 also shows a 2% increase in AADT as compared to 2004, the base year for the PSR traffic analysis. However, it should be noted that the adjacent segment of SR 68 west of Laureles Grade has shown a 13% decline in AADT between years 2004 and 2013. Likewise, the adjacent highway segment east of the study intersection has shown a 7% decline in traffic volumes since 2004. Also, the AADT at the study intersection was lower in 2012-2013 than in the 2006-2011 period. Therefore, it appears unlikely that the small increase in traffic volumes on the SR 68 roadway segment containing the Corral de Tierra Road intersection since 2004 is evidence of a significant upward trend.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Based on this review, it is Wood Rodgers’ general finding and conclusion that the 2005 PSR traffic operations analysis memorandum (dated 02/28/2005) continues to represent a reasonable and current evaluation of existing and forecast traffic operations at the study intersection both with and without the proposed SR 68/Corral de Tierra Road intersection improvement project. Furthermore, Caltrans Traffic Operations staff has acknowledged that the proposed project improvements are scoped adequately based on the traffic operations analysis completed in the PSR phase. An updated traffic operations analysis for the Project Report and environmental document is therefore not recommended to be necessary. The project Opening Day traffic volumes stated as 2008 in the 2005 memo can be taken to apply to year 2016. The traffic volumes forecast for 20 years after construction can be taken to apply to year 2036.