



NEWS RELEASE

08-107

Date: Tuesday, September 02, 2008
District: District 1 - Eureka
Contact: Julie East
Phone: 707-441-3998

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

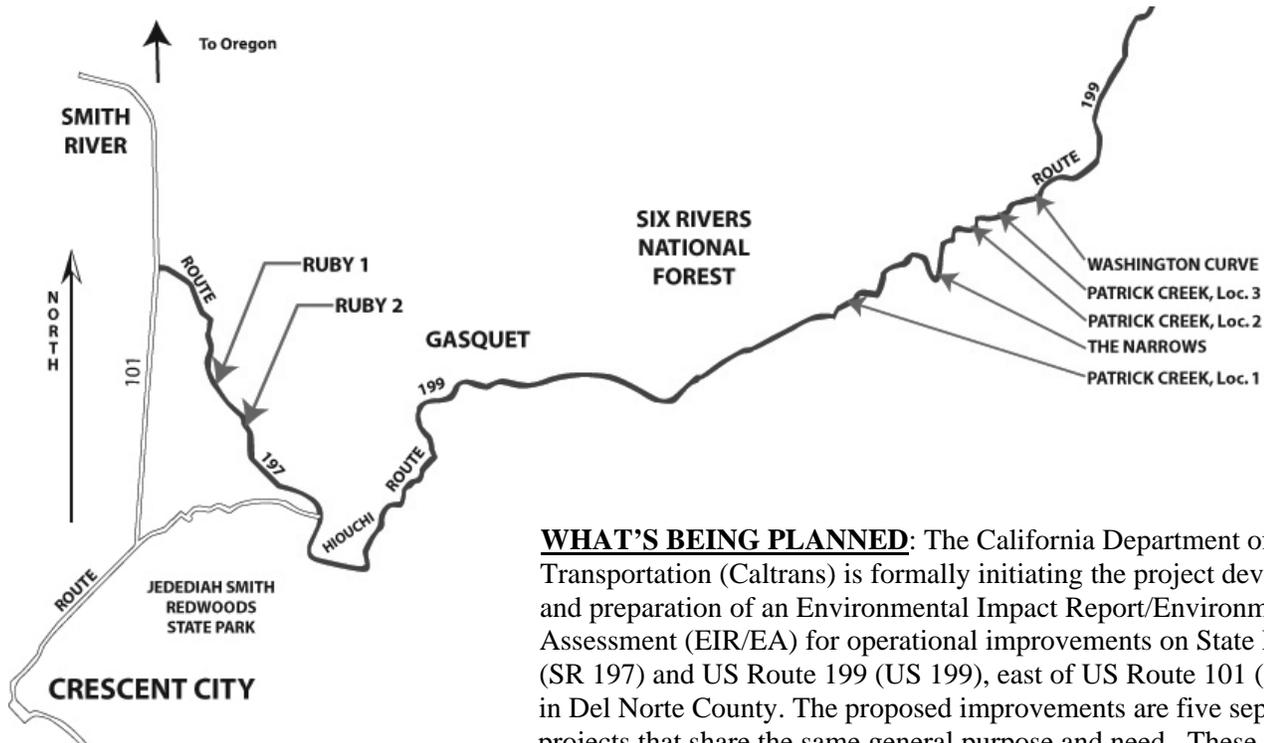
Please note: The following is being issued as a news release.

###



PUBLIC NOTICE

Announcement of Public Scoping Meeting and Availability of Project Information for Proposed Routes 197/199 Safe STAA Access



WHAT'S BEING PLANNED: The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is formally initiating the project development and preparation of an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for operational improvements on State Route 197 (SR 197) and US Route 199 (US 199), east of US Route 101 (US 101), in Del Norte County. The proposed improvements are five separate projects that share the same general purpose and need. These projects

are known as the Ruby 1, Ruby 2, Patrick Creek, The Narrows, and Washington Curve projects. The primary purpose of these projects is to reclassify Routes 199 and 197 as part of the STAA network of truck routes. The secondary purpose is to improve and enhance safety on Routes 197 and 199 for all users. Design alternatives are being developed for the projects and Environmental studies are ongoing. Caltrans will design each project so as to avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive resources.

WHERE YOU COME IN: Caltrans is hosting a public scoping meeting to allow and encourage interested individuals and agencies the opportunity to review maps and other project information displays and comment on the scope and content of the EIR/EA. Caltrans staff will be available during the meeting to answer questions and receive comments or suggestions for consideration during the project development and environmental documentation process. There will be additional opportunities to attend future public meetings regarding these projects.

WHEN AND WHERE: The public meeting will be held from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Tuesday, September 16, 2008, at the Crescent City Cultural Center, 1001 Front Street, Crescent City. If you cannot attend this meeting, project information will be available at http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist1/d1/projects/197-199_staa/ shortly after the scoping meeting. Written comments may be submitted to Caltrans, Attention Kim Hayler, Environmental Coordinator, P.O. Box 3700, Eureka, CA 95502 prior to **September 30, 2008**.

CONTACT: For more information about the developing draft EIR/EA or environmental process, please contact Kim Hayler, Environmental Coordinator, at (707) 441-2058. For more information on the proposed projects, please contact Kevin Church, Project Manager, at (707) 445-6440. Media should contact Julie East, Public Information Officer, at (707) 441-3998.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this notice is available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette, or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call (707-445-6416) or write to the Caltrans District 1 Environmental Management Branch at PO Box 3700, Eureka, CA, 95502. TTY users may contact the California Relay Service TTY line at 1-800-735-2929 or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922.