



NEWS RELEASE

09-121

Today's Date: Thursday, December 3, 2009
District: 1 - Eureka
Contact: Phil Frisbie, Jr.
Phone: (707) 441-4678

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Please note: Attached is being sent as a news release.

###

**SLOW FOR THE
CONE ZONE**
CALTRANS



PUBLIC NOTICE

Willits Bypass

Route 101 (PM R43.1/52.3) in Mendocino County
Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report

Notice of Availability and Opportunity for Public Hearing

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are proposing to construct a new segment of Route 101 that would bypass the town of Willits. Route 101 is important for interstate and inter-regional travel and is considered the economic lifeline of California's North Coast. It is the principal arterial route for people and goods between the San Francisco Bay Area and the greater Eureka-Arcata area. Travel times and the costs of transporting goods to and from the communities along Route 101 are significant. These costs are exacerbated by congestion-related delays where Route 101 passes through developed areas on surface streets. The segment of Route 101 in Willits is an example of this type of facility. Route 101 serves as Main Street in Willits and is the only continuous north-south street traversing the city. Route 101 must accommodate nearly all local traffic traversing Willits, as well as all inter-regional traffic. The purpose of the project is to bypass the City of Willits to relieve congestion, reduce delays, and improve safety for interregional traffic.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Caltrans has prepared a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) with new information about the project that was not identified in the 2006 Final Environmental Impact Report. The purpose of the Supplemental EIR is to disclose and describe impacts to North Coast semaphore grass (*Pleuropogon hooverianus*). Impacts to North Coast semaphore grass will be considered less than significant after mitigation. A copy of the Draft Supplemental EIR is available for review at Caltrans District 1, 1656 Union Street, Eureka, the Willits Library, 390 Commercial Street, Willits, and the Ukiah Library, 105 North Main Street, Ukiah. We welcome your comments. Please send your written comments to California Department of Transportation, Attn: Jeremy Ketchum, Office of Environmental Management, 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833. In order for your comments to be included in the Final Supplemental EIR, they must be received by **January 15, 2010**.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Project information, including, the 2006 Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement can be found online at: www.dot.ca.gov/dist1/d1/projects/willits/reports.htm. If you would like additional information or would like to request a public hearing, please contact either: Jeremy Ketchum, Senior Environmental Planner, at (916) 274-0621 or jeremy_ketchum@dot.ca.gov; or Dave Kelley, Project Manager, at (530) 741-5408 or dave_kelley@dot.ca.gov,

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Individuals who require special accommodations should contact Phil Frisbie, Jr., Public Information Officer at (707) 441-4678, or TTY 711.

