Notice of Intent to adopt a MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION and OPPORTUNITY to Comment on a Section 4(f) De Minimis Impacts Finding

Availability of Initial Study/Environmental Assessment and Opportunity for Public Hearing

Do you want a public hearing on changes proposed for State Route 4 in Calaveras County?

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

Do you want a public hearing on changes proposed for State Route 4 in Calaveras County, between post miles 43.8/44.3 regarding the State Route 4 Storm Water Project? The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to address storm water violations on State Route 4 in this area.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

The proposed project is an action that is subject to the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Section 4(f) of this legislation seeks to protect publicly owned parks and recreation areas, waterfowl and wildlife refuges, and historic sites considered to have national, state, or local significance. The act included a special provision to carry out this effort in 23 CFR 774.17, Section 4(f). In recent years, the Federal Highway Administration has assigned the responsibility for Section 4(f) findings to Caltrans under Section 6009 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) Act of 2005. SAFETEA-LU established the de minimis finding process, in which determinations are made regarding 4(f) resources when no adverse effects would occur. De minimis impacts are defined as those that do not adversely affect the activities, features and attributes for which the property qualifies as a 4(f) resource.

WHAT’S AVAILABLE?

Beginning August 15, 2014, the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment and other project information will be available for review at: Caltrans, District 10 Office, 1976 E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Stockton, CA 95205; and at the Chavez Central Library, 1065 Blagen Rd, Arnold, CA 95223, weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The document can also be accessed electronically at the following website: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist10/

WHERE DO YOU COME IN?

Caltrans is soliciting input from the public, as well as representatives from Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Public comments on the 4(f) de minimis finding, processing the project with a Negative Declaration and an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, or the project in general will be accepted until September 15, 2014.

Please submit your comments or request for public hearing in writing no later than September 15, 2014 to Caltrans, Scott Smith, Senior Environmental Planner, Central Sierra Environmental Analysis Branch, 855 M Street, Suite 200, Fresno, CA 93721. The date we will begin accepting comments is August 15, 2014. If there are no major comments (or requests for a public hearing), Caltrans may proceed with the project’s design.

CONTACT

For more information concerning this project, or if you would like to have a public hearing, please contact: Scott Smith, Senior Environmental Planner, at 559-445-6172 or email scott.smith@dot.ca.gov. If you have comments, questions, and/or concerns regarding this project, please submit them in writing to Caltrans, Attention: Scott Smith, 855 M Street, Suite 200, Fresno, CA 93721. For other state matters, please contact District 10 Public Affairs at 209-948-7977.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, individuals who require accommodations (American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documents in alternative formats, etc.) are requested to contact the Caltrans, District 10, Public Information Office, at: publicaffairsdistrict10@dot.ca.gov, or phone 209-947-5432. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service TDD and/or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2929, or 711.