

11-IMP-78/111
K.P. L11.6-L25.3 / 33.5-39.7
P.M. L7.2-L15.7 / 20.8-24.7
SCH # _____

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: All
Federal, State, and
Local Responsible and
Cooperating Agencies

From: California Department of
Transportation
District 11
P.O. Box 85406
San Diego, CA 92186-5406

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement
(References: Division 13, Public Resources Code, Section 21080.4 (State);
40 C.F.R. 1501.7 and 1508.22 (Federal))

This is to inform you that the California Department of Transportation in cooperation with the FHWA will be the lead agency and will prepare an EIS/EIR for the project described below. We will need the name of a contact person in your agency.

We need to know the applicable permit and environmental review requirements of your agency and the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR/EIS prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project action is to adopt a route alignment and construct approximately 19.9 km (12.4 miles) of State Routes 78 and 111 in Imperial County and near Brawley from 0.8 km (0.5 miles) south of Baughman Road on State Routes 86 and 78 to 0.5 km (0.3 miles) north of Mead Road on State Route 111. The project is proposed as a four lane limited access expressway. Within the limits of the study area for the project, various environmental resources and issues are known to exist and include but are not limited to: wetlands, floodway and floodplain, wildlife habitat, prime farmlands and farmlands of State Importance, growth inducement, economic, home and business relocation, noise, changes to vehicle traffic patterns, regional air quality, seismic exposure, land use planning, hazardous waste, and irrigation/drain systems. No historic properties are known to exist at this time within the project study corridor.

Alternatives to be studied include the "no build" and alignment variations as appropriate to minimize environmental effects of the project.

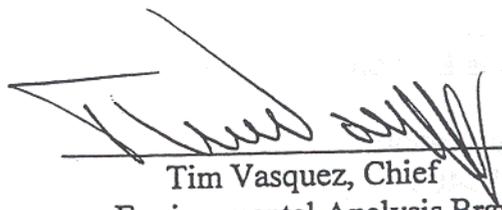
At least one public scoping meeting will be held to solicit citizen information and involvement in the project. There will be a formal public hearing at the conclusion of the environmental studies. Public Notice will be given as to the date, location, and time of the public meetings and

the hearing. Individual scoping meetings will be arranged with responsible/cooperating agencies and with special interest groups upon request.

Due to the limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 45 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response and direct any comments or questions regarding this project to Tim Vasquez, Chief, Environmental Analysis Branch "A", Caltrans District 11, at the address shown on the first page or by telephone at (619) 688-3384.

10/10/96
Date



Tim Vasquez, Chief
Environmental Analysis Branch "A"