

Widen Interstate 5 (I-5) between State Route 73 (SR-73) and El Toro Road by adding general-purpose lanes in each direction on I-5 between Avery Parkway and Alicia Parkway, extend the second high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane from Alicia Parkway to El Toro Road, reestablish existing auxiliary lanes and construct new auxiliary lanes, and improve several existing on- and off-ramps.

Mitigated Negative Declaration/Finding of No Significant Impact

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code
(Federal) 42 USC 4332(2)(C) and 49 USC 303

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation and
Orange County Transportation Authority
Responsible Agency: California Transportation Commission

May 6, 2014
Date of Approval


Ryan Chamberlain
District Director
California Department of Transportation
District 12
NEPA Lead Agency/CEQA Lead Agency

The following person may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), the City of Lake Forest, the City of Laguna Hills, the City of Laguna Niguel, and the City of Mission Viejo, is proposing to widen Interstate 5 (I-5) between State Route 73 (SR-73) and El Toro Road. The proposed project will add general-purpose lanes in each direction on I-5 between Avery Parkway and Alicia Parkway, extend the second high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane from Alicia Parkway to El Toro Road, reestablish existing auxiliary lanes and construct new auxiliary lanes, and improve several existing on- and off-ramps. Additionally, the project proposes no HOV buffer. Under Build Alternatives 2 and 3, the HOV lane would accommodate continuous access throughout the project limits.

Determination

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project, and following public review, has determined from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

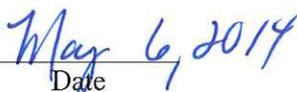
The proposed project would have no effect on agriculture and forest resources, mineral resources, population and housing, land use and planning, and recreation.

In addition, the proposed project would have no significant effect on aesthetics, air quality, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, public services, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems.

The proposed project would have no significant adverse effect on paleontological and biological resources because Measures PAL-1 and BIO-11 would reduce potential effects to insignificance. Please refer to Sections 2.11 (Paleontological Resources) and 2.16 (Wetlands and Other Waters of the United States) for the detail of these measures.



Ryan Chamberlain
District Director
California Department of Transportation
District 12



Date

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR

Interstate 5 Widening Project from State Route 73 to El Toro Road

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in cooperation with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) has determined that Alternative 2 will have no significant impact on the human environment. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based on the attached Environmental Assessment (EA), which has been independently evaluated by Caltrans and determined to adequately and accurately discuss the need, environmental issues, and impacts of the proposed project, and the appropriate mitigation measures. It provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Caltrans takes full responsibility for the accuracy, scope, and content of the attached EA (and other documents as appropriate).

The environmental review, consultation, and any other action required in accordance with applicable federal laws for this project is being, or has been, carried-out by Caltrans under its assumption of responsibility pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327.

Date

May 6, 2014

Caltrans District Director

