

ED-89 PM 18.0–24.9 Water Quality Improvements Project

State Route 89 Eagle Falls Viaduct to Meeks Creek
EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
DISTRICT 3–ED–89, PM 18.0/24.9
03-1A8440

Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration



**Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation**



May 2008

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

What's in this document:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study, which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the Project, located in El Dorado County, California. The document describes why the Project is being proposed, the existing environment that could be affected by the Project, and the potential impacts from the Project.

What you should do:

- Please read this Initial Study. Additional copies of this document, as well as its supporting technical studies, are available for review at the California Department of Transportation North Region Office of Environmental Management, 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833; and at the California Department of Transportation District 3 Office, 703 B Street, Marysville, CA 95901. A copy of the Initial Study is also available at the South Lake Tahoe Branch of the El Dorado County Public Library, 1000 Rufus Allen Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.
- The document is also available for review at the following website by visiting <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist3/departments/envinternet/envdoc.htm> and clicking on the El Dorado County icon.
- We welcome your comments. If you have any comments regarding the Project, please send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline.
 - Submit comments via postal mail to:
Jody Brown
Environmental Branch Chief
Attn: Brenda Powell-Jones
California Department of Transportation
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833
 - Submit comments via email to brenda_powell-jones@dot.ca.gov.
- Submit comments by the deadline: June 27, 2008.

What happens next:

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans may: (1) give environmental approval to the Project, (2) undertake additional environmental studies, or (3) abandon the Project. If the Project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the Project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to the California Department of Transportation, Attn: Brenda Powell-Jones, Office of Environmental Management, 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833; call (916) 274-5911; or use the California Relay Service 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY), 1 (800) 735-2929 (Voice), or 711.

State Route 89 Water Quality Improvements Project
State Route 89 Eagle Falls Viaduct to Meeks Creek, PM 18.0 to PM 24.9
El Dorado County, California

INITIAL STUDY with Proposed Negative Declaration

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

Caltrans proposes to implement water quality improvement measures along a segment of State Route 89 in El Dorado County to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements and implement elements of the Lake Tahoe Basin Environmental Improvement Program. Potential impacts are described, especially with regard to traffic and circulation (temporary impacts), visual resources, wetlands, sensitive habitats, and plant and wildlife species.

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

May 20, 2008
Date of Approval

John D. Webb
John D. Webb
Chief, Office of Environmental Services—South
California Department of Transportation

Proposed Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, California Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to improve the quality of stormwater runoff by collecting and treating the stormwater runoff from State Route 89 by implementing the following improvements where feasible and warranted: rehabilitating existing drainage systems and installing new drainage systems, including stormwater basins, vegetated swales and water conveyance systems; deploying treatment best management practices; providing rock slope protection; constructing rock energy dissipaters for erosion control; regrading driveways; revegetating bare or erodible areas; where permitted by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, allowing sheet flow off of roadways to allow the spreading and subsequent infiltration of runoff water where feasible in stream environment zone (SEZ) areas; placing asphalt-concrete overlay (1.8 inches); digging out failed pavement sections; and lining or replacing culverts in poor condition.

Determination

This proposed Negative Declaration (ND) is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt an ND for the Project. This does not mean that Caltrans' decision regarding the Project is final. This ND is subject to modification based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for the Project and, pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons.

The Project would have no impacts on agricultural resources, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and recreation.

In addition, the Project would have no significant impacts on aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems.

John D. Webb
Chief, Office of Environmental Services—South
California Department of Transportation

Date

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List of Abbreviated Terms

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	micrograms per cubic meter
208 Plan	<i>Water Quality Management Plan for the Tahoe Basin</i>
AADT	annual average daily traffic
AB 1493	Assembly Bill 1493
AB 32	Assembly Bill 32
AP	Adopted Plan
APE	area of potential effects
ARB	California Air Resources Board
Basin Plan	<i>Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region</i>
BE	biological evaluation
BEMZs	Bald Eagle Management Zones
BEWH	Bald Eagle Wintering Habitat
BMPs	best management practices
BOD	biochemical oxygen demand
CaCO_3	calcium carbonate
California CAA	California Clean Air Act
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CCD	census county subdivision
CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERCLA	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980
CERFA	Community Environmental Response Facilitation Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFGC	California Fish and Game Code
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHP	California Highway Patrol
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
CIA	Community Impact Assessment
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	community noise equivalent level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
County	El Dorado County
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	decibels
dBA	A-weighted decibels
dbh	diameter at breast height
Draft PEIR	Draft Program Environmental Impact Report
EDR	Environmental Data Resources
EIP	Environmental Improvement Program
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESAs	Environmentally Sensitive Areas
ESCP	Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan

ESL	Environmental Study Limit
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIFRA	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
FIRMs	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
gC/m ² /yr	grams of carbon per meter squared per year
General Construction Permit	NPDES General Permit for Construction
GHG	greenhouse gas
HRCAs	Home Range Core Areas
HSPRP	hazardous spill prevention and recovery program
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IS	Initial Study
ISA	initial site assessment
Lahontan RWQCB	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
L _{max}	maximum sound level
LTAB	Lake Tahoe Air Basin
LTBMU	Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
mg/L	milligrams per liter
MIS	Management Indicator Species
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
mph	miles per hour
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MVPs	maintenance vehicle pullouts
NAAQS	national ambient air quality standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NES	Natural Environmental Study
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NTU	nephelometric turbidity units
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PACs	protected activity centers
PASs	Plan Area Statements
PM	post mile
PM 2.5	particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter
PM10	particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter
Porter-Cologne Act	Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
ppm	parts per million
PRC	Public Resources Code
Project	Water Quality Improvements Project (EA 03-1A8440; ED-89 [PM] 18.0–24.9)

PSR	Project Study Report
PUD	Public Utility District
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976
Regional TMP	<i>Lake Tahoe Basin Regional Traffic Management Plan</i>
ROGs	reactive organic gases
RSP	rock slope protection
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SEZ	stream environment zone
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SNFP FEIS	Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement
SNFP FEIS ROD	Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
SPCCP	Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program
SR	State Route
Statewide Permit	statewide NPDES permit
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TDS	total dissolved solids
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TMP	traffic management plan
TOC	total organic carbon
TRPA	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
TRPA's Regional Plan	TRPA's Regional Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin: Goals and Policies
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act
TSS	total suspended solids
TTUSD	Tahoe Truckee Unified School District
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
Washoe Tribe	Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
WDRs	waste discharge requirements

List of Technical Studies Available

The following technical studies were prepared to support the analysis contained in this Initial Study:

- Air Quality Analysis (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Archaeological Survey Report (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Community Impact Assessment (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Historic Property Survey Report (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Historic Resources Evaluation Report (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Hydrology and Water Quality Study (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Initial Site Assessment for Hazardous Waste (California Department of Transportation 2007)
- Natural Environment Study (Jones & Stokes 2008)
- Wetland Delineation and Wetland Impact Reports (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Noise Analysis (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Visual Impact Assessment (California Department of Transportation 2008)