

# **Echo Summit Rock Wall Parapet Replacement/ Water Quality Improvement Project**

EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
DISTRICT 3 – ED – 50 (PM 66.7/67.8)  
1E14U

## **Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment [and Section 4(f) Evaluation]**



Prepared by the  
State of California Department of Transportation

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 the Department under its assumption of responsibility pursuant to 23 U.S. Code 327.

**February 2009**



# General Information About This Document

## *What's in this document?*

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration, has prepared this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, which examines the potential environmental impacts of alternatives being considered for the proposed project located in El Dorado County, California. The document describes why the project is being proposed, alternatives for the project, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, and potential impacts from each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

## *What should you do?*

- Please read this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment. Additional copies of this document as well as the technical studies are available for review at the Caltrans North Region Office of Environmental Management at 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento CA 95833; and at the Caltrans District 3 Office, 703 B Street, Marysville CA 95901. A copy of the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment is also available at the following El Dorado County Libraries: South Lake Tahoe Branch, 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd, South Lake Tahoe, Ca 96150, and the Main Branch, 345 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667.
- The document is also available for review on the following website by visiting <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist3/departments/envinternet/eldorado.htm>
- Attend the public information meeting:  
**Monday May 11, 2009: 4:30-7:30 PM**  
**Inn By The Lake in South Lake Tahoe, 3300 Lake Tahoe Blvd, South Lake Tahoe, CA**
- We welcome your comments. If you have any concerns regarding the proposed project, please attend the public information meeting or public hearing, or send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline. Submit comments via U.S. mail to Caltrans at the following address:

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: [bpowellj@dot.ca.gov](mailto:bpowellj@dot.ca.gov).
- Submit comments by the deadline: **May 22, 2009**.

## *What happens next?*

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans, as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration, may 1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, 2) do 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, large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Department of Transportation, Attn: Brenda Powell-Jones, Environmental Planning, 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento CA 95833; (916) 274-5911 Voice, or use the California Relay Service 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY), 1 (800) 735-2929 (Voice) or 711.

SCH# TBD  
03-ED-50-PM 66.7/67.8  
EA 03-1E14U

Echo Summit Rock Wall Parapet Replacement and Water Quality Improvement  
Project on US 50 at Echo Summit, PM 66.7 to PM 67.8 in El Dorado County

**INITIAL STUDY with  
Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
Section 4(f) Evaluation**

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code  
(Federal) 42 U.S. Code 4332(2)(C) and 23 U.S. Code 327 and 49 U.S. Code 303

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Transportation

13 April 2009  
Date of Approval



John D. Webb  
Chief, Office of Environmental Service – South  
California Department of Transportation

# Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

## ***Project Description***

Caltrans proposes to upgrade the deteriorating masonry rock wall parapets at seven locations on US Highway (US) 50 in El Dorado County from Robbins Run Sidehill to Rockwall Sidehill 2 (within the proposed project limits: PM 66.7/67.8) by constructing modified Type 736 concrete barriers on Portland cement concrete slabs. The proposed project will also include replacement or lining of existing cross culverts, digging out and replacing areas of loose and damaged asphalt concrete pavement and placing a ¾-inch asphalt overlay.

## ***Determination***

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project. This does not mean that Caltrans' decision regarding the project is final. This Mitigated Negative Declaration is subject to modification based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

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

The proposed project will have no effect on: Land Use, Growth, Farmlands/Timberlands, Utilities, Environmental Justice, Hydrology and Floodplains, Geology/Soils, Paleontology, Air Quality, and Special Status Species.

In addition, the proposed project would have no significant effect on: Traffic and Transportation, Aesthetics, Water Quality, Hazardous Waste, Wetlands and Other Waters, and Noise.

In addition, the proposed project would have no significantly adverse effect on a historic property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, because the following mitigation measures would reduce potential effects to insignificance:

- Replacing the rock parapet walls with methods and materials that mimic the texture and color of the existing rock parapet walls would mitigate the adverse affects to Upper Meyers Grade.

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John D Webb, Office Chief  
Office of Environmental Service - South  
California Department of Transportation

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Date

## Summary of Potential Impacts and Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

Resource	Potential Impact	Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures
<b>Traffic and Transportation</b>	Traffic delays to the driving public due to lane closures for purposes of constructing the project.	Implementation of Traffic Management Plan and extensive Public Outreach Program to inform public of upcoming lane closures.
<b>Visual/Aesthetics</b>	The replacement of the wall will improve the safety and improve the visual quality of the area by providing a more uniform appearance to the existing wall.	The new barrier wall shall be constructed in such a way that will mimic the texture and color of the existing wall.
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	Replacement of the rock parapet walls will have an adverse effect on Upper Meyers Grade, a National Register Eligible, historic property	Per Memorandum of Agreement between Caltrans, SHPO and US Forest Service, the new barrier wall shall be constructed in such a way that will mimic the texture and color of the existing wall.
<b>Water Quality and Storm Water Runoff</b>	The project may have minimal impacts during construction to Upper Truckee River (below Christmas Valley), which eventually flows into Lake Tahoe after flowing approximately ten miles north.	Caltrans BMPs and practices will be implemented to prevent receiving water pollution as a result of construction activities related to the Echo Summit Rockwall project.
<b>Hazardous Waste/Materials</b>	Hazardous materials have not been identified within the project limits.	Although there is no identified potential for hazardous materials to occur during the construction of this project, USEPA and El Dorado County must be notified 10 days prior to demolition activities per NESHAP requirements.
<b>Air Quality</b>	Potential for construction related dust and exhaust emissions	Measures to be included in contract specifications to reduce the potential for fugitive dust and reduce exhaust emissions.
<b>Noise</b>	During construction, noise from construction activities may intermittently dominate the noise environment in the immediate area of construction. Depending on the lane closure strategy that is ultimately chosen for construction of this project, construction activities may occur in the nighttime hours as well as during the day.	Measures shall be implemented to ensure that impacts related to construction noise remains minimal.
<b>Wetlands and other Waters</b>	Wetlands have been identified near the project study area at the Echo Summit Maintenance station; Construction of this project will not directly impact jurisdictional wetlands. Because the maintenance station may be used for equipment storage and staging, measures will be implemented to ensure there are no impacts to identified wetland areas.	Areas delineated as jurisdictional wetlands shall be protected by orange fencing and designated as environmentally sensitive areas that may not be used or disturbed by construction equipment or materials.

Summary

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Potential Impact</b>	<b>Avoidance, Minimization and Mitigation Measures</b>
<b>Invasive Species</b>	A minimal risk exists for construction equipment to spread noxious weeds into the project area from areas outside the project work areas.	Although no areas of noxious weeds were identified within the project limits, measures shall be implemented to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species into the project area. These measures include activities such as requiring construction equipment to be cleaned before entering the work areas.

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## List of Abbreviated Terms

ADL	Aerially Deposited Lead
APE	Area of Potential Effect
BMP	Best Management Practices
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNEL	Community Noise Level Equivalent
CWA	Clean Water Act
DOT	Department of Transportation
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FOE	Finding of Effect
HRER	Historic Resource Evaluation Report
Lahontan	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
LRWQCB	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
LTBMU	Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
LTHU	Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NESHAP	National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants
NOC	Notice of Construction
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
PM	Post mile
PS&E	Plans Specifications and Estimates
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SEZ	Stream Environment Zone
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SOIS	Secretary of Interior Standards
SWMP	Storm Water Management Program
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program
TRPA	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WPCP	Water Pollution Control Program