

# Highway 49 Widening at La Barr Meadows

State Route 49 in Nevada County  
03-NEV-49-KP 15.5/18.0 (PM 9.7/11.2)  
EA 2A6900

## Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment



Prepared by the  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
and the  
State of California Department of Transportation  
June 2007



# General Information About This Document

## ***What's in this document?***

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment, which examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project located in Nevada County, California. The document describes why the project is being proposed, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, and potential impacts from construction of the project.

## ***What should you do?***

- Please read this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment.
- We welcome your comments. If you have any concerns regarding the proposed project, send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline. Submit comments via regular mail to Caltrans, Attn: Susan D. Bauer, Environmental Management M-1, P.O. Box 911, Marysville, CA 95901; submit comments via email to *sue.bauer@dot.ca.gov*
- Submit comments by the deadline: \_\_\_\_\_.

## ***What happens next?***

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans and 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 computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Caltrans, Attn: Susan D. Bauer, Environmental M-1 Branch, P.O. Box 911, Marysville, CA 95901; (530) 741-7113 Voice, or use the California Relay Service TTY number, 1-800-735-2929

SCH Number:  
03-NEV-49-15.5/18.0  
(PM 9.7/11.2)

Upgrade State Route (SR) 49 in Nevada County by widening, relocating, and  
signalizing the intersection at La Barr Meadows Road and SR 49 from Ponderosa  
Way KP 15.5 (PM 9.7) to just north of Lode Line Way KP 18.0 (PM 11.2)

## Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment

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

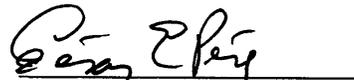
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Federal Highway Administration

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Transportation

30 May 2007  
Date of Approval

  
John D. Webb, Chief  
North Region Environmental Services  
California Department of Transportation

6/6/07  
Date of Approval

  
Federal Highway Administration

# Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

## ***Project Description***

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) propose to upgrade a portion of the interregional transportation facility (State Route 49) in Nevada County from Ponderosa Way to north of Lode Line Way near Grass Valley to accomplish the following objectives: 1) Improve safety by restricting access to State Route (SR) 49 through the elimination of driveways, 2) Correct roadway deficiencies within the project limits by bringing SR 49 up to current design standards, and 3) Accommodate existing and projected future traffic volumes at a level of service (LOS) D or better through the year 2025. Construction activities will consist of widening the existing roadway from two lanes to four lanes with a continuous median/left turn lane, realign the horizontal alignment, removal of at-grade intersections, construction of a frontage road system to funnel traffic from existing at-grade intersections and private driveways to new signalized intersection (La Barr Meadows & SR 49), and concrete barriers between the SR 49 and the new frontage road system.

## ***Determination***

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is the Caltrans' intent to adopt a MND for this project. This does not mean that the Caltrans' decision regarding the project is final. This MND 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 floodplains, geology or soils, wetlands, public services, farmland, or planned land use;
- The proposed project will not increase seismic hazards or induce growth;
- The proposed project will have **no significant effect** on air quality, cultural resources, biological resources, water quality, utilities, social, recreational or educational facilities, or neighborhood integrity.
- Visual/aesthetic impacts will be mitigated through a combination of either plantings that provide a visual screen and/or construction of screening fences or walls.
- Impacts to Waters of the U.S. will be mitigated through creation of waters on or off-site, purchasing credits at an approved mitigation bank, contributing to an in-lieu fee program, or by using a combination of these measures.

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John Webb, Chief  
North Region Environmental Services  
California Department of Transportation

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Date

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## List of Abbreviated Terms

ac	Acre
AC	Asphalt concrete
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
APE	Area of Potential Effects (cultural resources)
BMP	Best management practices (water quality)
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CDFG	California Department of Fish & Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CO	Carbon monoxide (air quality)
dBA	Decibels (noise level measurement)
DI	Drainage Inlet
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
FG	Finished grade
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
ft	foot/feet
HDM	Highway design manual
HPSR	Historic property survey report
IS	Initial Study
km	kilometer(s)
KP	kilometer post
Leq	Equivalent noise level
LOS	Level of service
m	meter(s)
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
mi	mile(s)
NAC	Noise abatement criteria
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NES	Natural Environment Study (biological resources)
NFIP	National Flood Insurance Program
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PG&E	Pacific Gas & Electric
PM	post mile
ppm	Parts per million
PRC	Public Resources Code
RTIP	Regional Transportation Improvement Program
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SR	State Route
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service