

COORDINATION AND COMMENTS

COORDINATION

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and public participation for this project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including project development team meetings and interagency coordination meetings. Below is a list and summary of consultation with government agencies that Caltrans will continue to coordinate with in an effort to fully identify, address and resolve project-related issues.

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
Fort Bragg City Council Members
Mendocino County Planning Department
CA Department of Fish and Game
US Army Corp of Engineers
North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

- **Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) Coordination**

Caltrans continues to coordinate with the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG). On January 5, 2009, Steven Blair, Project Manager, received correspondence from Phil Dow, MCOG who requested that Caltrans address the below subject matters due to public concern and interest. Appendix C contains the responses to these subject matters. In addition, Appendix C serves as a reference source for responses to public comments.

- Cost of the roundabout versus a signal system
- Concern over large trucks negotiating the roundabout
- Perception that a signal system is a safer alternative
- Roundabouts do not belong on main highways
- Concern about general driver confusion; especially seniors
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety

- **Biological Agency Coordination**

The Caltrans Biologist coordinated with resource agencies regarding sensitive species and habitats under their jurisdiction.

September 25, 2007. Rick Miller, Mendocino County Planning was consulted. Rick will issue the Coastal Development Permit (CDP).

- For the roundabout, a CDP will be obtained with continued coordination

October 1, 2007. Consulted with Rick Macedo of CDFG –phone conversation. He recommends a work window of June 15th to October 15th in the creek area. Discussion included avoidance measures, and potential impacts to birds and aquatic animals under the signal alternative.

November 28, 2007. Consultation with Teresa (Beddoe) Spade, Biologist for Mendocino County, in Fort Bragg office. CDP documentation requirements were discussed.

March 18, 2008. Phone call to Hal Durio of USACE regarding a jurisdictional determination for wetland delineation for project. He requested a description of the resources in the area, and regarded the ditch through the blackberry area between the gas station and creek to be non-jurisdictional, since it only carries water from roadside runoff. The only jurisdictional area is the creek.

April 15, 2008. Rick Macedo of the CDFG was consulted during a multi-agency field review regarding potential DFG jurisdiction. Mr. Puget of the NCRWQCB agreed that DFG would take jurisdiction over the creek and riparian area at PM 59.18 if Caltrans constructs the signal alternative. He recommended selection of the roundabout alternative to avoid any impacts to water resources. Regarding mitigation for impacted resources, he stated that 2:1 replacement of riparian plantings on site would be required.

April 16, 2008. Jeremiah Puget of the NCRWQCB was consulted during a field review regarding potential jurisdiction. Mr. Puget stated that his agency would also take jurisdiction over the creek and riparian area at PM 59.18 if we constructed the signal alternative (i.e. both CDFG and NCWQCB would be taking jurisdiction). He recommended that Caltrans construct the roundabout alternative to avoid impacts to water resources. Regarding mitigation for impacted resources, he stated that 3:1 replacement of riparian plantings on site or up to 5:1 replacement offsite would be required.

Coordination

This IS/Proposed ND was provided to the public for review during a 30-day comment period from September 24th to October 31st. The IS/Proposed ND was distributed and publicly noticed as described below.

On September 19, 2008, fifteen copies of the IS/Proposed ND along with the Notice of Completion were provided to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH sent copies to the below agencies for review and comment:

- CA Parks and Recreation
- Public Utilities Commission
- CA Regional Water Quality Control Board North Coast
- CA Department of Water Resources
- US Army Corp of Engineers, SF, CA
- CA Highway Patrol
- CA Coastal Commission
- CA Dept of Fish and Game (Mendocino County)
- Office of Emergency Services
- Office of Historic Preservation

Caltrans received a letter from the SCH confirming that these agencies were notified of the public review and comment period.

On September 23, 2008, two copies of the IS/Proposed ND were sent to the Fort Bragg Library for public review.

On September 25, 2008, the "Public Notice/Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration/Notice of Availability of an Initial Study & Notice of Public Open House" was advertised in two newspapers, the Fort Bragg Advocate and the Mendocino Beacon.

On September 29, 2008, the County Clerk received the "Public Notice/Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration/Notice of Availability of an Initial Study", which was posted in the clerk's lobby. The posting period ended on October 31, 2008.

On September 29, 2008, Rick Miller, Mendocino County Planning Department, received the IS/Proposed ND for public review and comment.

Public Meetings

On March 26, 2008, a public forum was noticed in the Mendocino Beacon newspaper. On March 31, 2008 a forum was held at Fort Bragg Town Hall. At this forum, Caltrans, MCOG, Mendocino Planning Department, and City Council member, Kendall Smith, partnered to present the roundabout and signal alternatives. For both alternatives, Caltrans provided displays, providing comparisons between project design, cost, environmental impacts, permit requirements, and right-of-way encroachments.

On October 17, 2008, Caltrans held an open house at the Fort Bragg Town Hall. One hundred and twenty-two local citizens attended. Both alternatives were presented. For the roundabout displays, a large model (using an oversized table top, aerial map along with model size cars and trucks) was used to demonstrate how traffic would maneuver through the roundabout. Also, a video was presented to demonstrate the movement of traffic through a Caltrans roundabout facility.

The document distribution, public review, and public participation processes have complied with CEQA regulations.

COMMENTS

A total of 76 comments and two petitions were received. During the 30-day comment period, 27 communications were received in the form of government letters/emails and public comment letters/emails. Four comment letters/emails were received from government agencies: Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse; Native American Heritage Commission; City of Fort Bragg; and Mendocino County Planning Department. Twenty-three comment letters/emails were received from local citizens of the Fort Bragg area.

Before the official 30-day comment period, 49 comment cards were received from the attendees of the October 17, 2008 open house. The comment cards indicated 27 attendees oppose and 22 support the roundabout.

Two petitions were submitted, opposing the roundabout and supporting the signal alternative. At the open house, one week prior to the 30-day comment period, a petition was submitted to the Project Manager, Steven Blair by the USA gas station owner's employee. During the 30-day comment period, Phoebe Graubard, a Fort Bragg resident, submitted a second petition. Both petitions and Caltrans responses are contained in Appendix D.

The petitions indicate that many local residents oppose the roundabout. However, the government agencies support the safest alternative, which is the roundabout. The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), City of Fort Bragg, and Mendocino County Planning Department support the roundabout. Furthermore, Mendocino County is contributing to the funding to this project.

Responses to Comments

Comments and corresponding responses are organized as follows: Appendix A-Government Agency Comments and Caltrans Responses; Appendix B -Public Comments and Caltrans Responses; Appendix C - Summary of Caltrans Responses to Public Comments; and Petitions and Caltrans Responses to Petitions.