

Introduction

The California Department of Transportation (Department or Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA), and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), propose to address traffic congestion along State Route 24 in the vicinity of the Caldecott tunnels by constructing a fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel between Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California.

This document is Volume II of the Final Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Report (FEA/EIR) for the Caldecott Improvement Project. It contains comments and responses to comments on the May 2006 Draft Environmental Assessment / Environmental Impact Report (DEA/EIR) received from individuals, organizations, businesses, local agencies, regional agencies, state agencies, and federal agencies about the proposed project. These comments were received during the 77-day¹ comment period and at the public hearings held on June 7, 2006 in the city of Orinda and on June 15, 2006 in the city of Oakland for the DEA/EIR.

This volume consists of nine (9) chapters:

Chapter 1 addresses the general issues that were raised regarding the Caldecott Improvement Project during the public comment period;

Chapter 2 contains comments and responses to comments on the DEA/EIR from Elected Officials;

Chapter 3 contains comments and responses to comments on the DEA/EIR from Federal Agencies;

Chapter 4 contains comments and responses to comments on the DEA/EIR from State Agencies;

Chapter 5 contains comments and responses to comments on the DEA/EIR from Regional Agencies;

Chapter 6 contains comments and responses to comments on the DEA/EIR from Local Agencies;

Chapter 7 contains comments and responses to comments on the DEA/EIR from businesses/organizations;

Chapter 8 contains comments and responses to comments on the DEA/EIR from individuals; and

Chapter 9 provides information related to the Public Hearings for the proposed project held on June 7th and on June 15th, 2006. It includes a description of the publicity executed for the Public Hearings and the circulation of the DEA/EIR. It also includes a summary of what took place during the Public Hearings, and a list of major concerns expressed by the attendees.

Chapter 9 also contains written comments submitted on comment cards during or after the Public Hearings. It also contains responses to the comments received.

A complete copy of the Public Hearing Record for the public hearings, which includes the public hearing handouts, the transcript of the public hearings, public hearing displays, responses to comments, and other information is available from the Department's Public Information Center at 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, Ca. (510-286-4444). Chapters 2 through 8 are arranged so that each letter is followed by the response to that letter. Comments on the letters have been marked with Arabic numerals on the right hand margin. Responses, which follow the letters and numbers, are correspondingly labeled.

In order to enhance readability, the comment cards and the comments in Chapter 9 are transcribed followed by the response. The comments are transcribed as accurately as possible with no editing or alteration of punctuation, although spelling has been standardized.

¹ The original 60-day comment period due to end July 15, 2006 was extended to July 31, 2006 because of technical difficulties from June 29th through July 5th when emails sent to the project website were not received.

Some comments/opinions included in these letters and comment cards do not require a response but they also have been noted and considered in the selection of the Preferred Alternative. They are acknowledged by the phrases “Comment(s) noted” or “Thank you for you comment(s).”

The following table of contents lists each individual, organization and agency that responded by letter or comment card.