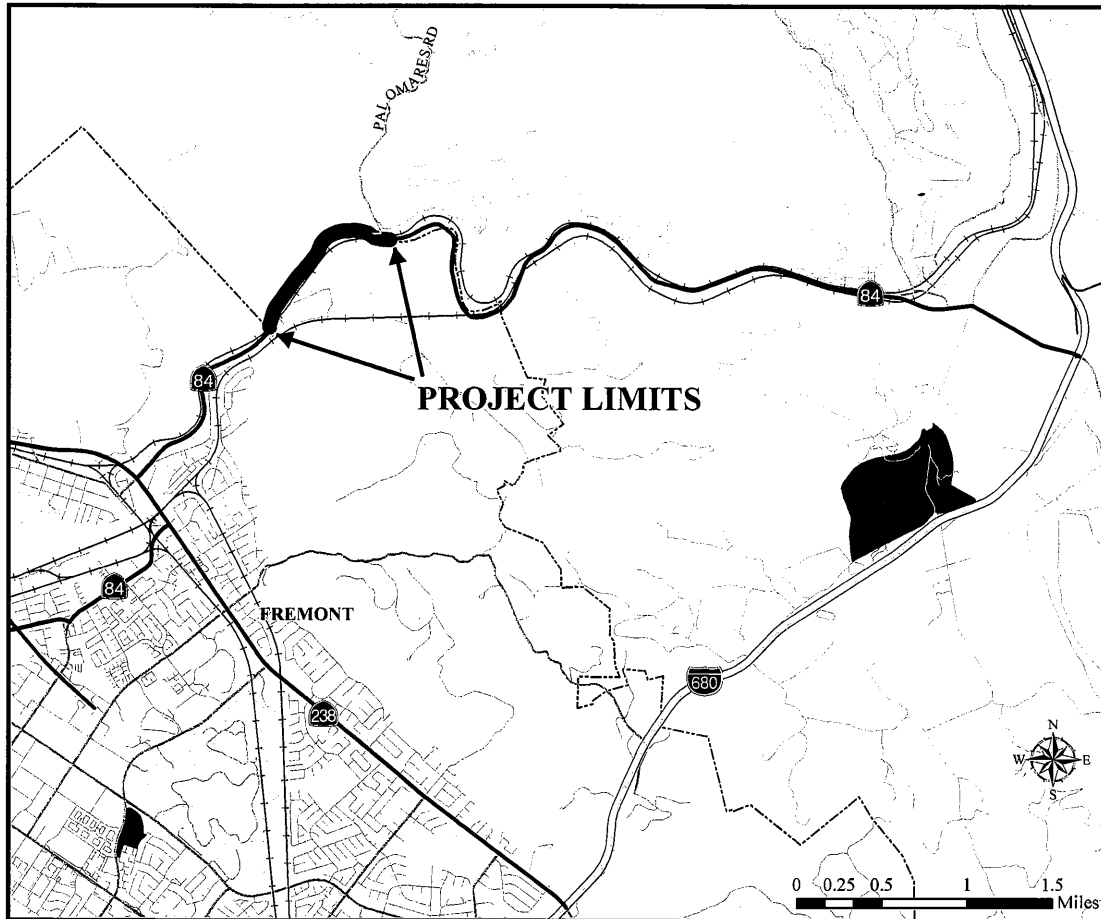


Route 84 Safety Improvement Project



Proposed Negative Declaration/ Initial Study (CEQA) and Environmental Assessment (NEPA)

Dividing Border Between Union City and the City of Fremont

In Alameda County, California

04-ALA-84-KP 19.5/21.4

EA 174400

May 2005



General Information About This Document

What's in this document?

This document is a Proposed Negative Declaration/ Initial Study (CEQA) Environmental Assessment (NEPA) which examines the potential environmental impacts of alternatives for the proposed project located in Alameda County, California. The document describes why the project is being proposed, alternative(s) for the project, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, and resulting potential impacts.

What should you do?

- Please read this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment.
- We welcome your comments. If you have any concerns regarding the proposed project, please send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline indicated below. Submit comments via regular mail to either of the following addresses:
 - Caltrans
Attn: Ed Pang, Office of Environmental Analysis
P.O. Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-0660
 - Federal Highway Administration
Attn: Maiser Khaled
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814-2724
 - OR you may submit comments via email to Ed_Pang@dot.ca.gov
- Please submit comments by: **July 13, 2005**.

What happens after this?

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

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is 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: Ed Pang, Office of Environmental Analysis, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA 94623-0660; (510) 286-6214 Voice, or use the California Relay Service TTY number, 1(800) 735-2929.

State of California
Department of Transportation

04-ALA-84-KP 19.5/21.4
EA 174400

Proposed Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to realign a section of the existing roadway, widen to accommodate standard shoulders, improve sight distance, and improve vertical clearance at Rosewarnes and Farwell Underpasses on Route 84 in Alameda County. The purpose of the project is to enhance safety.

Determination

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study and determines from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

1. The project will not significantly impact fish, plant life, or wildlife; nor will it significantly impact any rare or endangered species.
2. No historic or archaeological sites or structures of architectural or engineering significance will be affected, nor will there be any significant impacts to cultural resources.
3. The project will not affect neighborhoods, social, or educational facilities, or the economy of the area.
4. There will be no significant impacts upon the aesthetic features of the area.
5. The project will not affect any important farmland or any floodplain.
6. The potential for geologic or seismic hazards will not be increased by the project.
7. The project is compatible with local, regional and state land use planning and will not introduce any new pattern of land use or any growth in the area. It will not alter present patterns of traffic circulation or movement.
8. The project will have no significant impacts to noise, air, or water quality. The project will not change the rate of use of any natural resources.

Susan Chang
Deputy District Director
Division of Environmental Planning and Engineering
California Department Of Transportation

Date

**Route 84 Curve Realignment
Dividing Border Between Union City and the City of Fremont
Alameda County, California**

Initial Study (CEQA)/Environmental Assessment (NEPA)

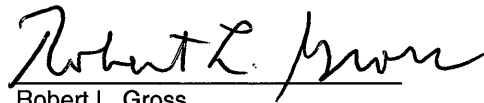
Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, Public Resources Code
(Federal) 42 USC 4332(2)(C)

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration, and
Cooperating/Responsible Agencies

March 30, 2005

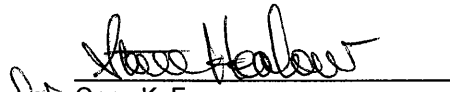
Date of Approval



Robert L. Gross
District Office Chief
District 04 Office of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

May 17, 2005

Date of Approval



for Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

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List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

APE	area of potential effect
ASR	Archaeological Survey Report
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CO	Carbon Monoxide
DBH	Diameter at breast-height
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
ft	foot/feet
HASR	Historical Architecture Survey Report
km	kilometer(s)
KP	kilometer post
kph	kilometer(s) per hour
m	meter(s)
mi	mile(s)
mph	miles per hour
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PM	post mile
SFPUC	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
TMP	traffic management plan
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chapter 1 Proposed Project

1.1 Project Description

The proposed project is to widen State Route 84 (SR-84) to accommodate standard shoulder lane widths from Rosewarnes Underpass to just beyond Farwell Underpass in Niles Canyon, Alameda County (Figure 1-1 and Figure 1-2). This project also proposes to improve sight distance and vertical clearance at the Rosewarnes and Farwell Underpasses, provide a northbound left turn pocket at SR-84 and Palomares Road, and realign the intersection.

In the project area, SR-84 is an undivided two-lane highway with narrow shoulders on a typical curving horizontal alignment, bounded on the north by a steep mountainous face, and to the south by Alameda Creek. The existing pavement width from the centerline to the edge of pavement is typically 4.2 to 4.8 m (13.8 to 15.7 ft), yielding 3.6 m (11.8 ft) lanes and shoulders varying from 0.6 to 1.2 m (2 to 3.9 ft). The posted highway speed limit is 80 kph (50 mph) along most of the project. In sections where there are non-standard horizontal curves, the speed limit is reduced to 40 kph (25 mph).

1.2 Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to enhance safety on Route 84. Specifically, the purposes of the project are to:

- Enhance traffic safety by increasing shoulder widths to meet current standards at select locations.
- Enhance traffic safety by increasing sight distance.
- Enhance traffic safety by increasing vertical clearances to meet current standards.
- Enhance traffic safety by providing a northbound left turn pocket lane at Palomares Road to reduce backups to through traffic.

The proposed project has independent need and utility. It is a useable and reasonable transportation improvement even if no additional transportation improvements in the area are made. It is not a necessary precedent for action on a larger project or a commitment to a larger project with significant environmental effects.

