Print Form

Appendix C

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH# 2015092075

Project Title: Niles Canyon Safety Improvements Project

Lead Agency: California Department of Transportation, District 4 — Contact Person: Jamie Le Dent

Mailing Address: 111 Grand Avenue MS 8B — Phone: 510-622-8729

City: Oakland — Zip: 94612 — County: Alameda

Project Location: County: Alameda — City/Nearest Community: Niles in Fremont and the town of Sunol

Cross Streets: Mission Boulevard (State Route 238) and Interstate 680 — Zip Code: 94536/94586

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): ____ ° ____ ′ ____ ″ N / ____ ° ____ ′ ____ ″ W Total Acres: ____

Assessor's Parcel No.: ____ Section: ____ Twp.: ____ Range: ____ Base: ____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR-84 and I-680 — Waterways: Alameda Creek

Airports: N/A — Railways: Niles Canyon Railway — Schools: Sunol Glen Elementary

RECEIVED
SEP 30 2015
STATE CLEARING HOUSE

Document Type:

CEQA:
- [x] NOP
- [ ] Early Cons
- [ ] Neg Dec
- [ ] Mit Neg Dec
- [ ] Draft EIR
- [ ] Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) ____
- Other: ____

NEPA:
- [ ] NOI
- [ ] EA
- [ ] Draft EIS
- [ ] FONSI

Other:
- [ ] Joint Document
- [ ] Final Document
- [ ] Other: ____

Local Action Type:

- [ ] General Plan Update
- [ ] General Plan Amendment
- [ ] General Plan Element
- [ ] Community Plan
- [ ] Specific Plan
- [ ] Master Plan
- [ ] Planned Unit Development
- [ ] Site Plan
- [ ] Rezone
- [ ] Prezone
- [ ] Use Permit
- [ ] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)
- [ ] Annexation
- [ ] Redevelopment
- [ ] Coastal Permit
- [ ] Other: ____

Development Type:

- [ ] Residential: Units ____ Acres ____
- [ ] Office: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
- [ ] Commercial: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
- [ ] Industrial: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
- [ ] Educational: ____
- [ ] Recreational: ____
- [ ] Water Facilities: Type ____ MGD ____
- [x] Transportation: Type Safety Improvements
- [ ] Mining: Mineral ____
- [ ] Power: Type ____ MW ____
- [ ] Waste Treatment: Type ____ MGD ____
- [ ] Hazardous Waste: Type ____
- [ ] Other: ____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- [x] Aesthetic/Visual
- [ ] Agricultural Land
- [ ] Air Quality
- [x] Archeological/Historical
- [x] Biological Resources
- [ ] Coastal Zone
- [ ] Drainage/Absorption
- [ ] Economic/Jobs
- [ ] Fiscal
- [x] Flood Plain/Flooding
- [ ] Forest Land/Fire Hazard
- [x] Geologic/Seismic
- [ ] Minerals
- [ ] Noise
- [ ] Population/Housing Balance
- [x] Public Services/Facilities
- [ ] Recreation/Parks
- [ ] Schools/Universities
- [ ] Septic Systems
- [ ] Sewer Capacity
- [x] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading
- [ ] Solid Waste
- [x] Toxic/Hazardous
- [x] Traffic/Circulation
- [x] Vegetation
- [x] Water Quality
- [ ] Water Supply/Groundwater
- [x] Wetland/Riparian
- [ ] Growth Inducement
- [x] Land Use
- [x] Cumulative Effects
- [ ] Other: ____

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to construct multiple safety improvements at specific site locations along the State Route 84 (SR-84) corridor between SR 238 (Mission Boulevard) and the SR-84/Interstate 680 Separation. The project alternative developed to meet the purpose and need of the project is the Build Alternative. Improvements of the Build Alternative include fixed object removal and relocation, the installation of rock drapery systems, limited shoulder widening, widening and barrier replacement on Alameda Creek Bridge and Overhead, and the signalization of the Pleasanton-Sunol Road/SR-84 intersection. Refer to the supplemental project information sheet for more information.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Revised 2010

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

X Air Resources Board
___ Boating & Waterways, Department of
X California Emergency Management Agency
X California Highway Patrol
___ Caltrans District #___
___ Caltrans Division of Aeronautics
___ Caltrans Planning
___ Central Valley Flood Protection Board
___ Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy
___ Coastal Commission
___ Colorado River Board
X Conservation, Department of
___ Corrections, Department of
___ Delta Protection Commission
___ Education, Department of
___ Energy Commission
X Fish & Game Region #3
___ Food & Agriculture, Department of
X Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of
___ General Services, Department of
___ Health Services, Department of
___ Housing & Community Development
X Native American Heritage Commission

X Office of Historic Preservation
___ Office of Public School Construction
___ Parks & Recreation, Department of
___ Pesticide Regulation, Department of
X Public Utilities Commission
X Regional WQCB #2
X Resources Agency
X Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
___ S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
___ San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
___ San Joaquin River Conservancy
___ Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
___ State Lands Commission
___ SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
X SWRCB: Water Quality
___ SWRCB: Water Rights
___ Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
X Toxic Substances Control, Department of
X Water Resources, Department of

___ Other: ___
___ Other: ___

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date September 30, 2015 Ending Date October 30, 2015

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: ___
Address: ___
City/State/Zip: ___
Contact: ___
Phone: ___

Applicant: ___
Address: ___
City/State/Zip: ___
Phone: ___

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: [signature] **Date:** 9/29/15

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

SCH NO. _____

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: _____

From: California Dept. of Transportation
111 Grand Avenue, MS 8B
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**
Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

Project Title: Niles Canyon Safety Improvements Project

Project Location: State Route 84, from Mission Boulevard (State Route 238) to Interstate 680

Project Description: The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to conduct multiple spot safety improvements on State Route 84 (SR-84) from Mission Boulevard to Interstate 680 in southern Alameda County. Collisions through the Niles Canyon corridor are an ongoing concern; from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011, a total of 83 accidents, including 41 injury accidents and one fatality, were reported within these project limits on SR-84. The accidents involved hitting objects, broadside, rear end, overturns, and other types of vehicular accidents. The purpose of the project is to improve safety on SR-84 by reducing the number of collisions through the implementation of various features.

This is to inform you that the Caltrans will be the lead agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Niles Canyon Safety Improvements Project. Your participation as a responsible agency is requested in the preparation and review of this document.

We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

A more detailed project description, location map, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

A copy of the Initial Study (___is) (__X_is not) attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please direct your response to Mr. Jamie Le Dent, Branch Chief (telephone 510-622-8729, email jamie.ledent@dot.ca.gov) at the address shown above. Please supply us with the name for a contact person in your agency.

Date 9/29/15

Signature _____
Title Branch Chief

Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report

SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT INFORMATION

Introduction

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to construct multiple spot safety improvements at specific site locations along the State Route 84 (SR-84) corridor between State Route 238 (SR-238) (Mission Boulevard) and the SR-84/Interstate 680 (I-680) separation. Collisions through the Niles Canyon corridor are an ongoing concern; from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011, a total of 83 accidents, including 41 injury accidents and one fatality, were reported within these project limits on SR-84. The accidents involved hitting objects, broadside, rear end, overturns, and other types of vehicular accidents. The purpose of the project is to improve safety on SR-84 by reducing the number of collisions through the implementation of various features.

Project Description

The alternative developed to meet the purpose and need of the project is the Build Alternative. The No-Build Alternative is also considered; under the No-Build Alternative, no changes would be made to SR-84 under this project; therefore, no construction activities would occur and there would be no change in the operations of the existing facility. The Niles Canyon Safety Improvements Project consists of multiple spot safety improvements and are identified in further detail below.

Installation and Replacement of Traffic Signs

As part of the proposed safety improvements on the Niles Canyon corridor, new roadway traffic signs would be installed and some existing signs would be replaced.

Stonybrook Box Culvert Removal with Clear Span Bridge Replacement

The proposed project would remove the existing reinforced box culvert that drains Stonybrook Creek into Alameda Creek and provide a clear span bridge over Stonybrook Creek. The channel profile and substrate would be restored to conditions similar to upstream and downstream conditions.

Low-speed Curve Improvement

A sharp curve (300-feet radius / 53 degree central angle), with non-standard lane widths and shoulders, is located approximately half a mile east of the Alameda Creek Bridge (Bridge #33-0036). The total length of the curve is approximately 500 feet. Caltrans proposes to reconstruct the curve and create an eight-foot shoulder at this location. Reconstruction of the curve would involve rock cuts and the installation of retaining walls.

Fixed Object Removal and Relocation

Trees and utility poles within eight feet of the edge-of-travel-way throughout the project area would be removed. Based on preliminary estimates, approximately 35 trees would be removed and 17 utility poles would be relocated.

Install K-rail

The existing K-rail that is located at the edge-of-travel-way on the upslope hill face that is west of the Rosewarnes railroad crossing would be replaced with K-rail that meets current standards.

Install Rock Drapery System
A rock drapery system would be installed in the western portion of Niles Canyon. A 250-foot long cable net drapery would be anchored to the top of the slope (approximately 40 feet high), and rocks would fall/work their way down into an existing catchment ditch to be cleared out by Caltrans maintenance crews.

Install Dynamic Rock Fall Fence
A dynamic rock fall fence would also be installed in the western portion of Niles Canyon. This dynamic rock fall fence would be approximately eight-feet tall and 400-feet long. Rocks falling from the slope would be "caught" in the 400-foot-long fence, extending eight feet from the slope, and angled perpendicular to the slop so that no rocks fall onto SR-84.

Limited Shoulder Widening
The following sections of road shoulder would be widened to accommodate an eight-foot shoulder with a safety edge on the current travel lane:

- Sims Park/Quarry Road for a length of approximately 640 feet
- West side of Silver Springs for a length of approximately 2,330 feet
- Paloma Way for a length of approximately 3,000 feet

Widening and Barrier Replacements on Alameda Creek Bridge and Overhead (Bridge #33-0039)
Caltrans proposes to remove the curb and replace the barrier railing on the Alameda Creek Bridge and Overhead (Bridge #33-0039). The preferred option is to replace the existing tubular steel type barrier with Type SR-20S (a see-thru metal barrier). Bicyclist warning signs would be installed on both sides of the Alameda Creek Bridge and Overhead (Bridge #33-0039).

Install and Replace Metal Beam Guard Railing with Midwest Guardrail System
Approximately 9,500 linear feet of existing Metal Beam Guard Railing along SR-84 in both directions would be replaced with Midwest Guard Rail System and approximately 3,000 feet of new Midwest Guard Rail System would be installed along the Paloma Way widening on the edge of shoulder.

Remove Sidewalk and Construct Safety Shape at Silver Springs Undercrossing
Caltrans proposes to remove sidewalks and construct a safety shape at the Silver Springs undercrossing. The existing four-foot-wide sidewalks on the east-bound direction and on the westbound direction would be removed to create space for a shoulder that would be wide enough for bicycle use. Shoulders would be put in on both sides of the roadway for a total of 2,200 feet in length (each shoulder would be approximately 1,100 feet long).

Signalization at Pleasanton-Sunol Road/State Route 84 Intersection
Caltrans proposes to signalize the intersection of Pleasanton-Sunol Road and SR-84, which is currently a four-way stop. Proposed improvements include providing a right-turn pocket on Pleasanton-Sunol Road, the installation of traffic light signals at the intersection of SR-84 and Plesanton-Sunol Road, and the installation of light signals at the intersection of Main Street and SR-84.

Installation of Active Warning Systems
Push-button-activated flashing beacons would be installed so that cyclists can use to signal their presence on roadway structures to motorists.

Installation of Speed Feedback Signs
The project would install solar powered speed-feedback signs and conventionally powered speed-feedback signs throughout the project limits.

Installation of Dynamic Active Warning Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)
Two ITSs would be installed as part of this project: at the approach to the Silver Springs undercrossing, the ITS would signal when traffic, which may not be visible to approaching motorists, has backed up within the undercrossing and at the Palomares intersection, the ITS would signal to motorists on the mainline that vehicles on Palomares are waiting to make a left turn.

Probable Environmental Effects

Based on preliminary surveys and information, Caltrans identified the following main subject areas for analysis in the EIR. The scope of environmental analysis will be modified based on input from this NOP and project scoping.

Aesthetics/Visual

Archeological/Historical

Biological Resources

Flood Plain/Flooding

Geologic/Seismic

Land Use

Paleontology

Public Services/Facilities

Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading

Toxic/Hazardous

Traffic/Circulation

Vegetation

Water Quality

Wetland/Riparian

Cumulative Effects