



# Navigating the Environmental Process in Coastal Areas

- the short version -



# Perceptions of Environmental

The environmental process **should be viewed as a way to conduct landscape level analysis**, to see “the big picture”



# Environmental Process GOALS

- \* Identify resources
- \* AVOID, MINIMIZE, MITIGATE impacts

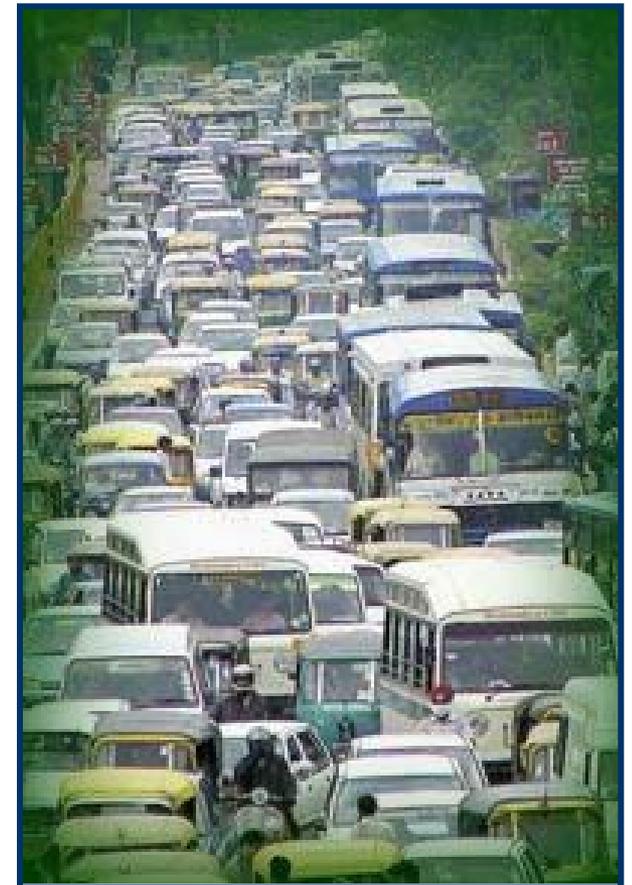


# Resources



# Purpose and Need

\* What is it?



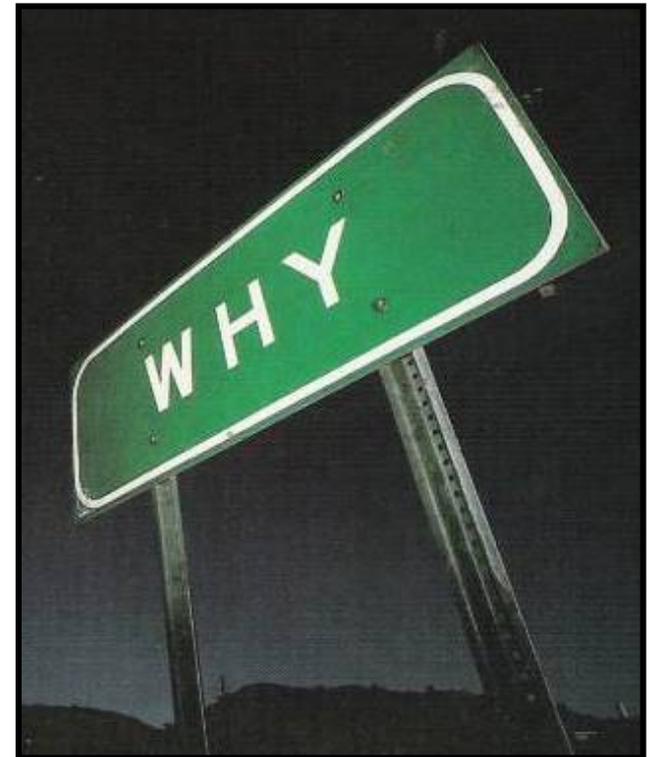
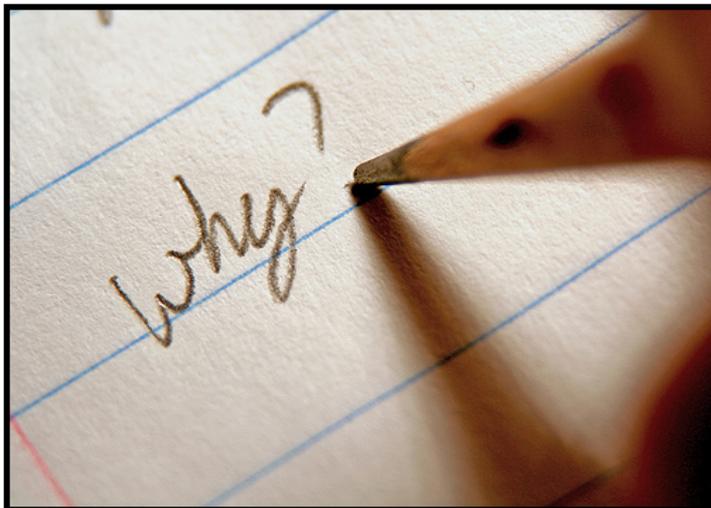
# Purpose and Need

- \* Legal Requirement
  - ◉ Required under CEQA
  - ◉ Required under NEPA
- \* Important for “transparency”
- \* Helps prevent “scope creep”



# Purpose and Need

- \* Why should you care?
- \* What is your role in this?





# Formal vs. Informal Scoping

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## What do we mean?

### FORMAL

- \* Per NEPA and CEQA
- \* Document It
- \* Part of the Administrative Record

### INFORMAL

- \* PIDs & PEARs
- \* Meetings, phone calls, e-mails
- \* Brainstorming



# The Two Types of Teams

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## Project Delivery Team:

- \* Defined in the PDPM
- \* NEPA requirement
- \* Typically 2 groups

## Project Team:

- \* Functional PDT
- \* Often most involved
- \* Performs most of the work

# Public Involvement

\* What kinds of public involvement are you familiar with?





# Public Involvement

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- \* Legal Requirement

- ◉ Required under CEQA
- ◉ Required under NEPA
- ◉ Required under other laws too

- \* Scoping to Final Environmental Document



# Public Involvement

- \* Roles and Responsibilities
  - ◉ Where do we all fit in?



- \* Ultimately, we are here to support each other!

# Public Involvement

- \* Some projects require public involvement above and beyond what is required by law

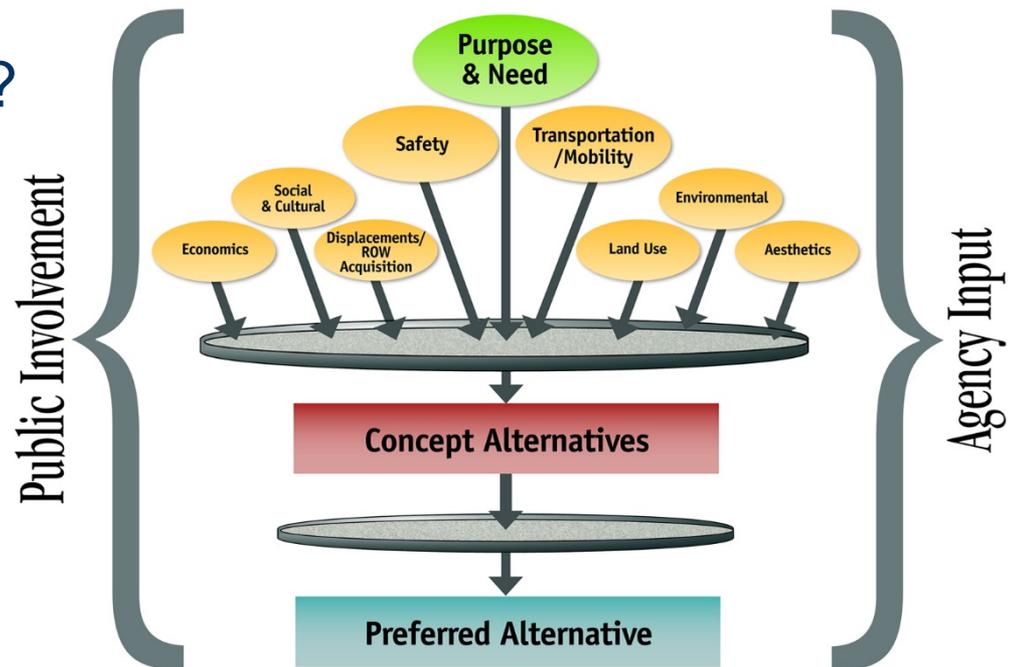
## Above&Beyond



# Public Involvement

## \* Context Sensitive Solutions

- ◉ What is it?
- ◉ Who is involved?
- ◉ How does it work?





# Context Sensitive Solutions

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## \* What is it?

*Context sensitive solutions (CSS) is a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders in providing a transportation facility that fits its setting. It is an approach that leads to preserving and enhancing scenic, aesthetic, historic, community, and environmental resources, while improving or maintaining safety, mobility, and infrastructure conditions.*



# CSS – Core Principles

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- \* Strive towards a shared stakeholder vision to provide a basis for decisions
- \* Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of contexts
- \* Foster continuing communication and collaboration to achieve consensus
- \* Exercise flexibility and creativity to shape effective transportation solutions, while preserving and enhancing community and natural environments
- \* Identify Community Values

# Context Sensitive Solutions

\* Who is involved?

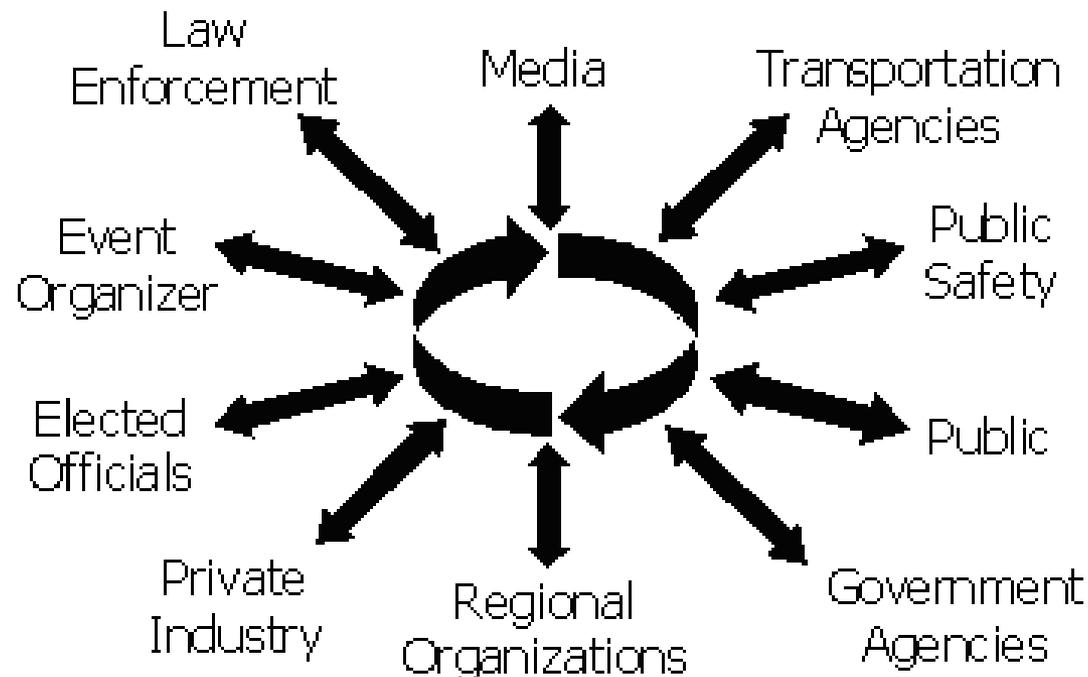
STAKEHOLDERS!!!



# Stakeholders

\* Who are stakeholders?

## Stakeholders



# Context Sensitive Solutions

## \* How does it work?

- ◎ Part of the whole process, start to finish
  - Identify Stakeholders
  - Identify Concerns
  - Involve them in the Purpose and Need
  - Involve them in Alternatives development, evaluation, and selection





# Coastal Zone



# The Coastal Act

- \* Federal and State Regulations
  - ◉ Coastal Zone Management Act
  - ◉ California Coastal Act
- \* Local Coastal Programs
- \* Coastal Development Permit



# Coastal Zone

- \* How do I find it?
- \* How do I know whose jurisdiction it is?



# Permit or Exclusion?

\* Could I,  
Would I,  
Should I be  
excluded?

Or

\* Do I need a  
CDP?



# Special Coastal Act Policies

- \* Wetlands
- \* Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA)
  - ◉ Includes all species/habitats on the CNDDDB, T&E species and may include special species with no status
- \* Coastal Access
- \* Agricultural Lands



# Interagency Relations

## Interagency Relations Working together!

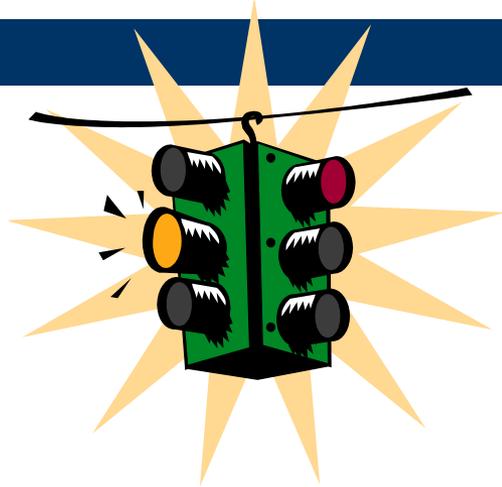


# Interagency Relations

- \* Funds Resource and Regulatory Agency Staff
- \* Environmental Protection Agency
- \* Fish and Wildlife Service
- \* NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service)
- \* Army Corps of Engineers
- \* CA Coastal Commission
- \* CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- \* Office of Historic Preservation



# Interagency Relations



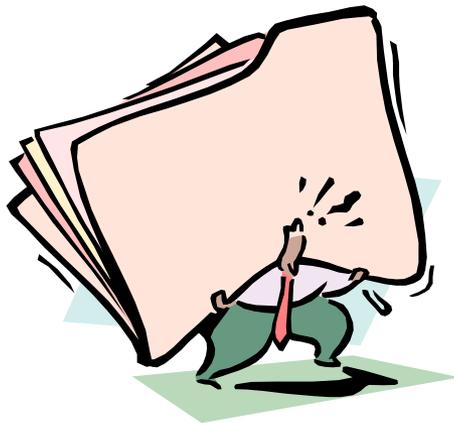
## Before Contacting Agency Staff:

- \* Ensure that you cannot get the information from within Caltrans!!!
  - ◉ Ask someone in your office!
  - ◉ Ask your boss!
  - ◉ Ask HQ!
  - ◉ Search the DEA websites!

# Interagency Relations

## When you contact an agency:

- \* Be realistic and specific in asking for input
- \* Know your schedule
  - Identify level of information





# QUESTIONS?????

