

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: July 19-20, 2006

Reference No.: 2.2a.
Action Item

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Ref: **SUMMARY – NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, ROUTE 101 IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY – CONSTRUCT CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS NEAR ARCATA**

ISSUE:

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) is being asked to review and comment at the July 2006 Commission meeting on the following Notice of Preparation (NOP):

- 01-Hum-101, PM 79.8/87.8, Route 101 in Humboldt County - Construct corridor improvements near Arcata.

PROGRAMMING:

The corridor project consists of a 2006 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) project and a 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project. The roadway rehabilitation work programmed in the SHOPP is fully funded. Total estimated project cost is \$38,985,000. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2009-2010. The STIP project to upgrade Route 101 to a four-lane facility is not fully funded. The project is currently programmed for \$5,719,000 in Regional Improvement Program funds and Federal Demonstration Funds. Total estimated project cost is \$42,090,000, capital and support. This project is estimated to begin construction in Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

Proposed project alternatives are currently being developed. The project alternatives may include:

- Realign certain intersections.
- Construct a third northbound lane in part of corridor.
- Close median crossings and acceleration and deceleration lanes at various locations. Extend acceleration and deceleration lanes elsewhere.
- Reconstruct access ramps at an existing interchange. Construct new interchange.
- Install median barrier at various locations.
- Replace or widen bridges.
- Improve shoulders.
- Pavement overlay.

- Install upgraded lighting.
- Replace tide gates.
- Remove certain trees near edge of traveled way.

POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

- Endangered species and habitat
- Cultural resources
- Wetland impacts
- Noise
- Community impacts
- Visual impacts
- Construction impacts
- Growth inducement potential
- Seismic and liquefaction hazards
- Hazardous waste and materials
- Floodplain, and water quality

Based on the potential for significant impacts in the form of community impacts, wetlands impacts and impacts to adjacent sensitive habitats, an Environmental Impact Report is being prepared for this proposed project.

PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:

- Public outreach program with local community.
- Design to avoid and minimize wetland impacts, and coordinate with Army Corps of Engineers on any necessary mitigation.
- Consider appropriate noise attenuation.
- Incorporate archeological surveys on project site.
- Use established water quality Best Management Practices on project site.
- Coordinate with appropriate resource agencies regarding sensitive species and habitat.

Attachment

