

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 10-11, 2008

Reference No.: 2.2a.(1)
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Jay Norvell
Division Chief
Environmental Analysis

Subject: **NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, ROUTE 76 IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY – ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDING WIDENING AND REALIGNING ROUTE 76 NEAR BONSCALL**

ISSUE:

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) is being asked to review and comment at its December 2008 Commission meeting on the following Notice of Preparation (NOP):

- 11-SD-76, PM 12.4/17.6, PM 46.1/47.1, Route 76 in San Diego County – Construct roadway improvements including one additional lane in each direction and interchange ramp improvements near Bonsall.

PROGRAMMING:

The proposed project would construct roadway improvements consisting of lane additions and interchange ramp improvements along portions of Route 76 and Route 15 through the unincorporated communities of Bonsall and Fallbrook in San Diego County. Upon completion of the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), a proposed route adoption will be presented to the Commission.

The project is fully funded and utilizes local tax ordinance, TransNet and TransNet Extension funding through the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). Construction is expected to begin in Fiscal Year 2012.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

The EIR will evaluate the following alternatives:

Existing Alternative: This alternative includes widening the roadway from a two-lane highway to a four-lane facility with improvements to the Route 15 interchange on and off ramps. The project would limit access to Route 76 from businesses and home driveways to frontage roads with signalized intersections. Additional improvements under this alternative would include soft-bottom culverts over creeks to allow drainage and to support wildlife movements between the San Luis Rey River and upland habitats.

Southern Alternative: This alternative includes constructing a four-lane facility south of the San Luis Rey River with two bridge structures. Additional improvements under this alternative would include soft-bottom culverts over creeks to allow drainage and to support wildlife movements between the San Luis Rey River and upland habitats.

No Build Alternative: This alternative does not address the existing and future traffic demands.

POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

- Agriculture
- Community impacts
- Wetland impacts to the San Luis Rey River and its tributaries
- Endangered species and sensitive habitat
- Cultural resources
- Water quality
- Noise
- Visual impacts

An EIR will be prepared for the project because the study encompasses an extensive area and has generated public controversy. The project could potentially result in substantial environmental impacts to these resources.

PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:

- Avoidance of cultural and natural resources.
- On and off-site mitigation for impacts to the San Luis Rey River.
- Noise attenuation.
- Reduce visual impacts of cut/fill slopes, retaining or sound attenuation walls, and views of the river valley.

Attachment

