Chapter 6 Summary of Public/Agency Involvement Process/ Tribal Coordination

Introduction

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and public participation for this project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including: project development team meetings, interagency coordination meetings. This chapter summarized the results of Caltrans' efforts to fully identify, address and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

6.1 Comment Period and Public Meetings on DEIR/S

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (DEIR/S) was released on October 16, 2007; distribution of the document and a public comment period of 60 days followed (ending December 14, 2007). The DEIR/S was available for viewing at the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM), the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA), the Community Center at Lucchesi Park, and several city and regional libraries throughout the area. Caltrans received over 700 comments during the comment period (refer to Volume 3 for the Response to Comments Report).

Caltrans, TAM, and SCTA hosted two public meeting open houses to present the findings of the DEIR/S on the Marin-Sonoma Narrows Highway 101 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane Widening Project. Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) guidelines, local residents, elected officials, interested property owners, local businesses, and other interested parties of the general public, were notified of the document release and the public meetings through local newspapers (see Figures 6-2 through 6-5) and letters of notification to people on the project mailing list. A Notice of Availability also appeared in the Federal Register on October 26, 2007 (see Figure 6-6). The two public meeting open houses were held on November 6, 2007 in Petaluma at the Beverly C. Wilson Hall located at the Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds and November 14, 2007 in Novato at the Novato

Unified School District Board Room. During the meetings, a presentation was given on the overview of the project and the project schedule information. Fifty-five people signed in at the two meetings. A court reporter was also on hand to record comments and project staff was on hand to answer questions.

6.2 Scoping Meetings and Outreach Efforts Prior to DEIR/S

FHWA published a Notice of Intent (NOI) under NEPA to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register on May 2, 2001. Caltrans submitted a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to prepare an EIR under CEQA to the California State Clearinghouse on April 23, 2001. Caltrans held public scoping meetings on August 1, 2001 in Novato and Marin County, and August 22, 2001, in Petaluma and Sonoma County, following the NOI/NOP filings. The intent of these meetings was to solicit input from public agencies and the public about the scope of the environmental analysis. The meetings were advertised in local newspapers, including a Spanish language newspaper.

Invitations were also mailed to over 100 interested parties. These meetings were attended by 103 people. Caltrans project development team staff was available to answer questions. A court reporter and Spanish speaking translators were available at both locations, and comment cards were collected.

During the project's early scoping phase, local city and county officials and members of the public expressed concerned about the extent of the potential environmental impacts identified in the "Novato Narrows" Project Study Report associated with 28 acres of potential right-of-way acquisition. Concerns included impacts to wetlands, biological habitats, and growth inducement within the semi-rural setting of the Central Segment. Caltrans created a Policy Advisory Group (PAG) as a means of providing a public forum to discuss local issues of concern throughout the environmental and design process. The PAG is composed of local city and county officials. PAG meetings were open to the public and held on an as-needed basis in alternate locations in Novato and Petaluma.

Caltrans has also been meeting with local constituencies in Marin and Sonoma counties and state, federal, and local agencies, as illustrated in Figure 6-1. This coordination has helped Caltrans reduce or modify the footprint of project elements (e.g., bridges, service roads, mainline alignment, etc.) to effectively avoid and minimize potential environmental impacts.

Once the alignment of the proposed freeway facility within the project's Central Segment was determined, Caltrans held additional public meetings in Novato on November 18, 2002, and in Petaluma on November 19, 2002. These meetings were advertised in local newspapers. Invitations were also mailed to over 250 people on the interested parties' mailing list. This meeting was attended by 63 people. Caltrans project development team staff was available to answer questions, and comment cards were collected.

Several key opinions emerged from the session and are summarized below; responses to those comments are noted in parentheses following the comment.

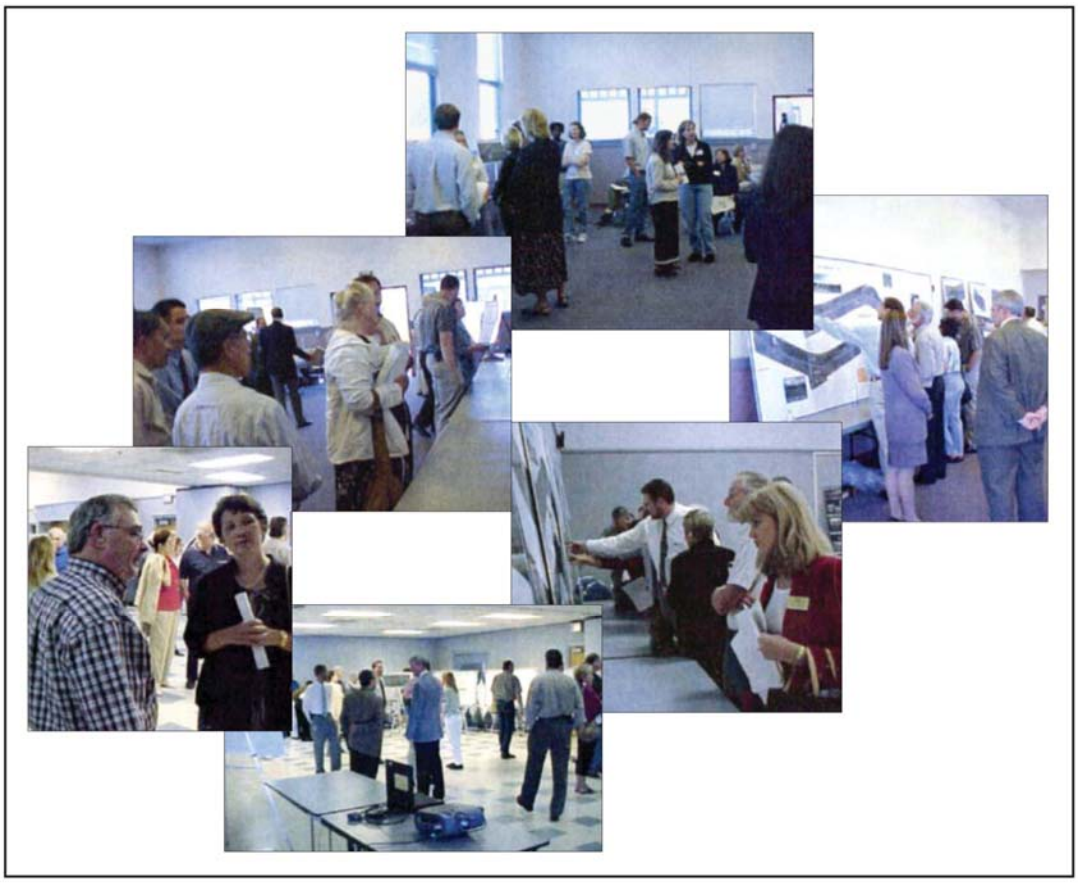

Figure 6-1 Public Scoping Meetings and Attendees

- Support the proposed improvements, but wish they could happen sooner (the project approval and environmental documentation are the first steps toward implementing the proposed improvements);
- Support a No Build Alternative (the No Build Alternative is evaluated at an equal level of detail as the Build Alternatives);

- Provide continuous Class 1 and Class 2 (each of the Access Options proposes a continuous bicycle and pedestrian pathway);
- Improve safety at Kastania Road (each of the Access Options would rehabilitate this road, provide for a bicycle/pedestrian path, and make the roadway non-continuous to discourage through traffic movements);
- Minimize the frontage roads and interchanges (during the alternatives development phase, there was a deliberate effort to reduce footprint impacts while addressing the need to replace access. The Access Options that scored the highest in achieving this balance were evaluated in the FEIR/S; and
- Preserve scenic/rural quality (during the alternatives development phase, there was a deliberate effort to reduce footprint impacts and to discourage growth by minimizing the required right-of-way and designing the access roads to be non-continuous; the Access Options that scored highest in minimizing impacts to natural resources while balancing the need to replace access are evaluated in this FEIR/S).

The conversion of the expressway to a freeway and the Access Options in Segment B (the Central Segment) raised concerns over the fate of the existing bicycle and pedestrian connections along the shoulders of the expressway. As a result, Caltrans met with SMART and a coalition of bicycle/pedestrian interest groups to discuss plans to replace bicycle access within this segment.

A public outreach effort was specifically targeted towards residents in Petaluma who were concerned about noise. Caltrans met with the Payran/McKinley Neighborhood Action Committee to discuss the impacts and benefits of adjacent freeway soundwalls that were included in the scope of the MSN Project.

Ongoing coordination efforts throughout the environmental process also resulted in an alternatives evaluation process that was reviewed by Caltrans' local partners (TAM and SCTA) and the PAG. This evaluation process, that was critical to defining the Access Options identified in Chapter 2, is described in Appendix A and summarized here. A team of Caltrans design, engineering, and environmental specialists crafted a series of improvements that included various combinations of interchanges and frontage road configurations. In total, 15 different packages were identified. In order to screen the wide array of options for the most viable candidates for further study, the Caltrans team scored each of the options in terms of operational flexibility, access to private parcels, land acquisition, potential

growth inducement, visual resource impacts, parkland impacts, biological resource impacts, cultural resource impacts, and costs. The combined scores were used to identify the four Access Options.

Public meetings were held June 15, 2005, in Novato, and June 16, 2005, in Petaluma, to preview the four interim Access Options within Segment B (the Central Segment) of the Build Alternative. This meeting was advertised in local newspapers. Invitations were also mailed to over 250 people on the interested parties' mailing list. This meeting was attended by 35 people. Caltrans project development team staff was available to answer questions, and comment cards were collected.

The meeting was a forum for individuals to preview express the Access Options. It was explained that each of the options would be considered at an equal level of detail in this DEIR/S, and that one Access Option would be combined with one of the Build Alternatives as the preferred alternative. A number of comments concerned the design of the bicycle paths, all of which would be constructed to the appropriate Caltrans standard for a Class 1 or Class 2 facility. Finally, participants indicated the need to maintain adequate water supplies, which could be interrupted by the proposed Access Options and mainline alternatives. Disruption of water supplies is generally addressed in Chapter 3.1.7, Utilities/ Emergency Services. Further consideration of water supplies will be examined during final design, following project approval and environmental documentation.

Caltrans has a website at http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/msn to provide the public with information on project alternatives, project schedule, public meetings, and PAG meetings. Visitors can submit comments or questions through this website. Caltrans also prepared and distributed newsletters summarizing project information. A comprehensive newsletter was distributed earlier that described the project history, identified the proposed project, and summarized the schedule and the environmental review process. Table 6-1 (at the end of this chapter) lists public meetings and other outreach efforts that Caltrans has undertaken since the NOI/NOP.

6.3 External Planning Agencies Coordination

Caltrans initiated a series of meetings with public agencies to ensure the MSN Project alternatives would be in conformity with planning efforts and not conflict with the provision of local needs and services. Specifically, Caltrans formulated

an External Planning Team composed of city and county public works representatives, federal and state regulatory officials, county water agencies, California Highway Patrol, and other agencies to coordinate local planning efforts within the MSN Project area and to confer with federal and state agency officials who would have permitting authority over the MSN HOV widening project. In addition, Caltrans met with representatives of the GGBHTD, the major commuter transportation service provider, to see how their visions for improving existing and future transit hubs would coincide with the MSN Project.

Although the California State Lands Commission did not participate in the External Planning Team meetings, coordination with this agency is reflected in their letter dated January 6, 2006 (see Appendix C). Table 6-2 (at the end of this chapter) summarizes interagency meeting dates and discussion topics.

In addition, records of meetings with State Parks (Appendix C) reflect our coordination with Olompali SHP officials and their conceptual approval of a new Park entryway. As stated in Section 3.1.5, there would be no transfer in ownership of Park fight-of-way and the MSN Project meets the criteria for temporary occupancy. Therefore, 4(f) provisions under the Department of Transportation Act do not apply.

6.4 Regulatory Agency Coordination

Coordination was initiated under the following federal and state provisions.

6.4.1 NEPA/404

In April 2006, representatives from the USFWS, USACE, USEPA, NOAA Fisheries, FHWA, and Caltrans signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to integrate NEPA with the Clean Water Act. The goal of the MOU was to improve coordination and streamline the review of EIS projects that will likely require an Individual Permit.

In addition to Caltrans consultation with USFWS[1] and NOAA Fisheries under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Section 6.3.2), NOAA Fisheries has also participated in the MSN NEPA/404 process, along with USEPA, USACE, FHWA, CDFG, and the RWQCB to review the project's need and purpose and

[1] USFWS has participated in the NEPA/404 process on an information-only basis.

the range of alternatives. These meetings took place on February 28, 2002, January 31, 2006, February 28, 2006 and February 9, 2007.

Due to further design refinements since the start of NEPA/404 process, Caltrans conducted a revised wetland delineation. USACE approved the jurisdictional delineation on December 23, 2008. Wetland impacts based upon delineation are reported in Section 3.3.3. Appendix B contains correspondence from the USEPA, FHWA, and USACE that reflects coordination with these agencies.

One of the outcomes of the NEPA/404 permitting process has been the identification of the Preliminary Least Environmentally Damaging Preferred Alternative (LEDPA). The Preliminary LEDPA and conceptual mitigation, were discussed in NEPA/404 meetings held on May 7, 2008 and August 12, 2008, and concurrence was achieved among the attending agencies on the Preliminary LEDPA (see Appendix B).

6.4.2 Endangered Species Act

Table 6-3 (at the end of the chapter) summarizes the contacts and meetings conducted to coordinate field studies in compliance with the state and federal Endangered Species Acts.

Caltrans has prepared Biological Assessments to convey survey and assessment information, which was be reviewed by USFWS and NOAA Fisheries. The USFWS and NOAA Fisheries issued Biological Opinions (see Appendices N and O, respectively).

CDFG will also be reviewing survey and assessment information in connection with CDFG 1601 permit applications. Avoidance and minimization measures for Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse habitat were agreed to by CDFG in a letter, dated January 11, 2006 (see Appendix C). These measures are summarized in Section 3.3.6.

6.4.3 National Historic Preservation Act

FHWA and Caltrans consulted as early as August 2002 with the SHPO, during which a field visit of the project area was conducted. Caltrans cultural resources staff also conducted project specific meetings at least quarterly throughout the duration of project planning and fieldwork. Native American representatives from the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria (FIGR) were involved in all aspects of

archaeological fieldwork and post field analysis. FIGR was also afforded the opportunity to review technical documents and findings. Historical societies and museum groups were contacted for historic information about the project area (also referred to in the Historic Resources Evaluation Report).

Table 6-1 MSN DEIR/S Public Outreach Coordination

Public Meetings			
Representation	Date	Topics Discussed or Agenda	How Advertised
Caltrans, City of Petaluma and Novato residents, and elected officials	8/1/01, 8/22/01, 11/18/02, 11/19/02, 06/15/05, 06/16/05, 10/24/05	Public map display and information boards Questions and answers with Caltrans project development team Summary of comments and Caltrans handling of response in Section 6.1	Notices in local newspapers: Marin Independent Journal, La Oferta, and Petaluma Argus-Courier Invitation letters sent to elected officials Open house map display announcements mailed by Caltrans Public Affairs Press releases
DEIR/S Public Meetings	11/6/07, 11/14/07	Project Overview Public map display and information boards Questions and answers with Caltrans project development team Environmental and Technical Studies	Notices in local newspapers: Marin Independent Journal, La Voz, and Press Democrat Invitation letters sent to elected officials, County Clerks and Marin/Sonoma Libraries Open house map display announcements mailed by Caltrans Public Affairs Press releases
Policy Advisory Group Meetings			
Representation	Date	Concerns	Resolution of Concerns
Marin and Sonoma Counties, and the cities of Petaluma, Novato, and San Anselmo are represented on the PAG.	9/21/01, 01/18/02, 2/15/02, 4/19/02, 5/17/02, 9/20/02, 2/20/04, 4/21/04, 12/15/04, 3/16/05, 6/15/05, 12/21/05, 2/18/08	• Availability of Funding	Discussed in FEIR/S in Chapter 1
		• Inclusion of High Occupancy toll element	Included in FEIR/S as an alternative considered but withdrawn
		• Environmental and access impacts with upgrading of expressway to freeway in Segment B	Considered in development and evaluation of Access Options (see Appendix A)
		• Aesthetics of Redwood Landfill Overcrossing	Overcrossing was constructed with private funding; visual impacts Addressed in FEIR/S in Section 3.1.10
		• Impacts to Petaluma River and construction staging of Petaluma River Bridge	Coordinated with U.S. Coast Guard; biological impacts addressed in FEIR/S in Section 3.3.3.3 and Section 3.3.6.3
		• Frequent opportunities for public comments	Multiple meetings held with opportunities for public comment; see dates at left

Table 6-1 MSN DEIR/S Public Outreach Coordination

		• Provision of access to bus park-and-ride lots	Not included in project scope but future consideration is not precluded
		• Preferred Alternative and Access Option	Unanimously supported the Fixed HOV Lane Alternative with Access Option 12b
Other Mailings and Public Outreach			
Name of Meeting or Group Contact	Date	Agenda Items (Caltrans Staff) Comments and Concerns	Resolution of Concerns
Marin Conservation League Don Wilhelm	8/14/01	• Preview board displays • Answer questions • Concerns: minimize interchange impacts or environmental resources	Minimizing impacts of interchanges was considered in the Alternatives Evaluation (see Appendix A)
	11/16/01	• Overview of project design and schedule • Discussion: environmental study limits, environmental assessment status, findings to-date, and possible mitigation sites • Concerns: traffic studies and growth inducement	Technical studies for traffic and growth were completed and are summarized in the FEIR/S
Transportation Solutions Defense and Education Fund David Schonbrunn	9/5/01	• Preview board displays • Answer questions • Concerns: lack of transit alternative	Expansion of express bus service was considered and withdrawn as an alternative (see Section 2.4 in this FEIR/S
Golden Gate Transit	9/10/01, 5/2/02, 1/5/06	• Introduce project to transit community • Potential to enhance HOV lane design to increase convenience of bus transportation • Park and ride locations	More extensive transit improvements such as direct ramps to/from bus stations and park and ride care will be considered in a future project
Payran/McKinley Neighborhood Action Committee Jeff Cartwright, Chair	3/21/02	• Overview of project design • Overview of environmental process • Concerns: noise walls, landscaping, impacts to homes, and right-of- way take	All technical studies are complete. Build Alternatives include noise walls adjacent to residential area. Impacts and minimization efforts are explained in Sections 3.2.7, 3.1.10, and 3.1.5

Table 6-1 MSN DEIR/S Public Outreach Coordination

Marin and Sonoma Bicycle Communities and SMART	4/24/02	• Vision of a Class 1 path along Northwest Pacific Railroad (NWPRR) right-of-way	MSN Project provides bicycle/pedestrian access along the Central Segment. Some portions are proposed as Class 1. Proposed system would be compatible with SMART system
Name of Meeting or Group Contact	Date	Agenda Items (Caltrans Staff) Comments and Concerns	Resolution of Concerns
SMART Lillian Hames, Project Director	4/30/02	Update provided: • SMART preparing EIR for full 70 mile corridor (Cloverdale to San Rafael/Ferry Terminal) • Fifteen stations planned, 75 mph operating speed, and 55-minute travel time between Santa Rosa and San Rafael • SMART policy is to accommodate bike and pedestrians within rail corridor where feasible	No concerns raised

Table 6-2 Interagency Coordination

Name of Meeting or Group Contact	Date	Agenda Items (Caltrans Staff) Comments and Concerns	Resolution of Concerns
U.S. Coast Guard	1/31/06	Petaluma Bridge Replacement	• Project designed to maintain navigation and boat safety. Advanced planning study prepared and shared with U.S. Coast Guard and SMART
State Parks Department	6/19/06, 1/29/08	Impacts to Olompali SHP	• Impacts to Olompali SHP discussed in Section 3.1.5. Letter from Park appears in Appendix C • Benefits of the new entrance to park operations
External Local Planning Agencies: Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit; local public works departments; local water agencies; Olompali SHP; Golden Gate Transit; California Highway Patrol; California Department of Fish and Game; US Coast Guard; Regional Water Quality Control Board; Marin County Sheriff's Department; Sonoma County Transit Authority; Transportation Authority of Marin	3/19/02, 7/16/02, 10/15/02, 9/4/03, 11/29/05	• Access to Olompali SHP	• Chapter 2.3.2, Access Options, explains that all Access Options propose same entryway design generally accepted by Olompali SHP; Caltrans will propose de minimis findings as part of Section 4(f) conclusions
		• Compliance with NEPA/404	• See next part of Table 6-2 listing NEPA/404 meetings
		• Potential impacts to water agencies	• Chapter 3.1.7, Utilities, addresses potential relocation of utilities and identifies need to execute Utility Agreements
		• Potential wetland impacts	• Chapter 3.3.3, Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S., addresses wetland impacts; a Section 404 permit will be required from USACE
		• Potential impacts to listed threatened, rare, and endangered species, including the salt marsh harvest mouse	• Chapter 3.3.6, Threatened and Endangered Species, addresses listed species; mitigation measures recommended to avoid "take" to salt marsh harvest mouse incorporate recommendations from California Department of Fish and Game
		• Impacts to SMART	• Chapter 3.1.8, Transit and Parking, addresses interferences with proposed commuter rail service
		• Impacts to transit agencies	• Chapter 3.1.8, Transit and Parking, addresses interferences with transit services.

Table 6-2 Interagency Coordination

Name of Meeting or Group Contact	Date	Agenda Items (Caltrans Staff) Comments and Concerns	Resolution of Concerns
		• Provision of bicycle and pedestrian facilities	• Chapter 2.3.2, Access Options, explains that all Access Options provide for a continuous north/south route, with connections to both east and west sides of US 101; further coordination will occur during the design phase
		• Impacts to local circulation	• Chapter 3.1.9, Traffic and Transportation, addresses delays, queues, and construction impacts; Transportation Management Plan, to be developed with locals, recommended to address circulation concerns
		• North Marin Water District Pipeline relocation and costs	• Email from Caltrans right-of-way agent dated 5/20/08 and response to comments on MSN Project DEIR/S and Section 3.1.7 address utility owners questions regarding relocation and cost provisions
NEPA 404 Process meetings/mailings			
Caltrans Federal Highway Administration National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Water Quality Control Board California Department of Fish and Game Regional Water Quality Control Board California Department of Fish and Game	2/18/02, 1/31/06, 2/28/06, 2/22/06, 2/9/07, 05/07/08, 8/12/08, 12/23/08	• Project overview • Environmental study limits • NEPA/404 Integration Process • Interagency Tour of Marin-Sonoma Narrows project area • Purpose and Need for proposed project • Open discussion • Introduction to project alternatives • Project status updates • Project Alternatives • Resources in project area • Alternatives analysis and considerations • Alternatives and wetland impact avoidance strategies	Technical studies for their project show Build Alternatives would meet the purpose and need Additional analysis resulted in further impact reductions (see Section 3.3.3) Wetland delineation updated, results reported in Section 3.3.3 Consensus reached on purpose and need, range of alternatives, and Preliminary LEDPA (see Appendix B) Jurisdictional delineation approved by US Army Corps of Engineers (12/12/08).

Table 6-2 Interagency Coordination

Name of Meeting or Group Contact	Date	Agenda Items (Caltrans Staff) Comments and Concerns	Resolution of Concerns
		• Concern: Adequacy of project scope to meet purpose and need • Concern: Alternatives analysis for further avoidance of wetland resources needed • Concern: Overstatement of potential impacts to wetland resources • Preliminary LEDPA and Conceptual Mitigation Plan	

Table 6-3 Summary of Personnel and Consultants Contacted for the MSN Project

Personnel	Agency	Title and Expertise*	Date
Fred Botti	CDFG	Wildlife Biologist CDFG Liaison *SMHM	07/31/01 04/16/02 10/24/02 (phone) 11/7/03 04/23/04 04/30/04 (email) 11/30/04
Bill Cox	CDFG	Fisheries Biologist *CCCS *Chinook salmon *Sacramento splittail *CFWS	05/29/02 (phone) 02/07/03 (phone)
Carl Wilcox	CDFG	Habitat Conservation Manager *SMHM	11/09/05 (phone) 01/13/06 (letter)
Jim Browning	USFWS	Fish and Wildlife Biologist *SMHM	05/14/02 01/08/04
Erik Schmidt	NOAA Fisheries	Fisheries Biologist *CCCS *Chinook salmon	05/14/02 02/25/03 (phone, with Mr. Hamaker, CH2M HILL)
John Yeakel	Caltrans	USACE Liaison *Wetlands	05/14/02 10/24/02 (phone)
Jeff Wilkinson	H.T. Harvey and Associates subcontracting through CH2M HILL	Staff Herpetologist *CRLF *CTS	01/22/03 02/11/03 02/25/03 02/27/03 03/05/03 03/13/03 03/25/03 03/26/03 04/03/03 04/09/03 04/14/03 09/09/05
Leslie Wood	Private Consultant (approved by Dan Buford [USFWS Branch Chief Coast Bay Delta])	Private Consultant *CRLF	02/07/02 01/09/03 01/22/03
Tim Hamaker	CH2M HILL	Fisheries Biologist *CCCS *Chinook salmon *Sacramento splittail	02/10/03 02/11/03 02/25/03 (phone) 02/19/08

Table 6-3 Summary of Personnel and Consultants Contacted for the MSN Project

Personnel	Agency	Title and Expertise*	Date
Larry Serpa	The Nature Conservancy	Area Ecologist *CFWS	08/26/02 (phone)
Jules Evans	Avocet Research Associates	Fish and Wildlife Biologist *Black rail *Clapper rail	06/17/02 (office)
Geoff Monk	Monk and Associates LLC	Principle Biologist *SMHM *CRLF *CTS	06/29/02 07/15/02 10/21/02 (email) 11/22/02 (phone) 17/08/02 (phone)
Lisa Kettley	CH2M HILL	Biologist *CCCS *Chinook salmon *Sacramento splittail	02/11/03
Josh Collins	San Francisco Estuary Institute	Senior Scientist	7/17/06 (email)
Melissa Escaron	CDFG	Caltrans Liaison	05/05/08
John Cleckler	USFWS	Caltrans Liaison	12/04/07 06/05/08 06/19/08
Chris Nagano	USFWS	Assist. Field Supervisor	12/04/07 06/05/08 06/19/08
Gary Fellers	Point Reyes Seashore	Biologist *CRLF	02/22/08
Dave Cook	Sonoma County Water Agency	Biologist *CRLF	02/21/08
Cay Goude	USFWS	Biologist	12/04/07
Maral Kasparian	USFWS	Biologist	12/04/07

Key:
CCCS- Central California Coastal steelhead
CFWS- California freshwater shrimp
CRLF- California red-legged frog
CTS- California tiger salamander
SMHM- Salt marsh harvest mouse

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DECLARATION

I am a resident of Los Angeles County, over the age of eighteen years and not a party to any or interested in the matter noticed.

The notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy appeared in the:

LA VOZ

On the following dates:

November 5, 2007

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Los Angeles, California, this

5th day of November 2007

Signature

1225356

"The only Public Notice which is justifiable from the standpoint of true economy and the public interest, is that which reaches those who are affected by it"

Los Angeles, CA 90012

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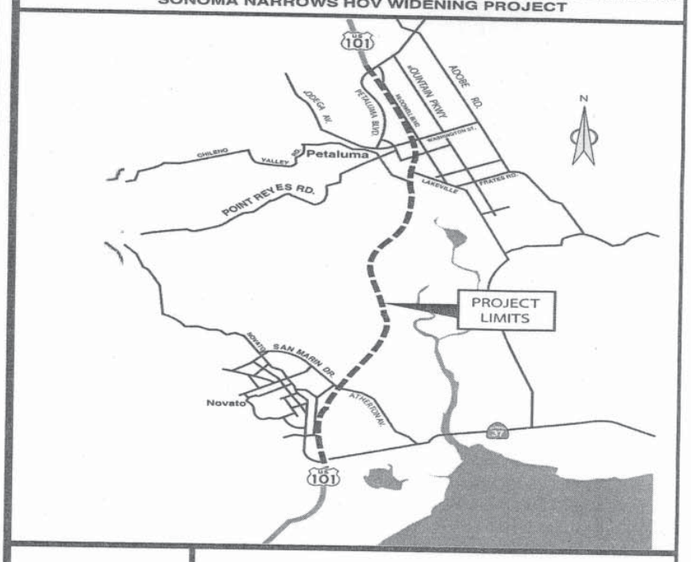
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE FOR THE PROPOSED MARIN-SONOMA NARROWS HOV WIDENING PROJECT



WHAT'S BEING PLANNED

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), propose to reduce traffic congestion and address physical deficiencies of the roadway on US 101 between Novato and Petaluma.

WHY THIS NOTICE

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Caltrans has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/S) to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed Marin-Sonoma Narrows Project. The DEIR/S is now available for public review. Comments are being accepted from October 16, 2007, through December 14, 2007.

WHERE YOU COME IN

Attend an Open House/Map Display: Caltrans will host two open house meetings with visual and map displays and provide the public with opportunities to discuss the project with staff. There will be a brief presentation at 6:30-6:45 p.m. at both meetings. Comments on the DEIR/S will be accepted in writing or individual verbal comments can be recorded at a court reporter station during the meetings. The meeting locations and dates are as follows:

When and Where

Location: Beverly C. Wilson Hall
Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds
175 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma
Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2007
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

and

Location: Novato Unified School Boardroom
1015 - 7th Street, Novato
Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

How To Review The DEIR/S: The DEIR/S is available for review on the website listed below and at locations in Marin and Sonoma Counties. Digital and hardcopies include Volume 1, the main environmental document, Volume 2, the project mapping, and the Appendices.

On the Web:
•MSN Project Web site* at www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/msn

Document available to review at:
- Civic Center Library at 3501 Civic Center Drive, #427, San Rafael;
- Novato Library at 1720 Novato Boulevard, Novato;
- South Novato Library at 6 Hamilton Landing, Suite 140A, Novato;
- Transportation Authority of Marin, 70 San Pablo Avenue, San Rafael;
- Petaluma Community Center at 320 N. McDowell Boulevard, Petaluma;
- Petaluma Regional Library at 100 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma;
- Central Santa Rosa Library, 3rd & E Streets, Santa Rosa; and
- Sonoma County Transportation Authority, 490 Mendocino Avenue, S-206, Santa Rosa

Ways To Comment On The DEIR/S: Comment period is October 16, 2007 through December 14, 2007. You can submit written comments using the MSN Comment Form (download at www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/msn) or using your own materials. You can also obtain a pre-addressed comment form at one of the public meetings. To submit your comments, mail to:

Melanie Brent
Caltrans District 4
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612-3717

E-Mail* comments to:
melanie.brent@dot.ca.gov

Record verbal comments at the court reporter station during one of the scheduled public meetings.

CONTACT

For more information about the MSN Project, please contact Jit Pandher, Project Manager, (510) 286-6425, Jit_S_Pandher@dot.ca.gov.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS
Individuals who require special accommodations or translation services should call Melanie Brent at (510) 286-5231 at least 3 days prior to the scheduled public meeting. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 711. All locations are wheelchair accessible.

Figure 6-2
English Language
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DECLARATION

I am a resident of Los Angeles County, over the age of eighteen years and not a party to any or interested in the matter noticed.

The notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy appeared in the:

LA VOZ

On the following dates:

November 5, 2007

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Los Angeles, California, this

5th day of November 2007

Signature

1225406

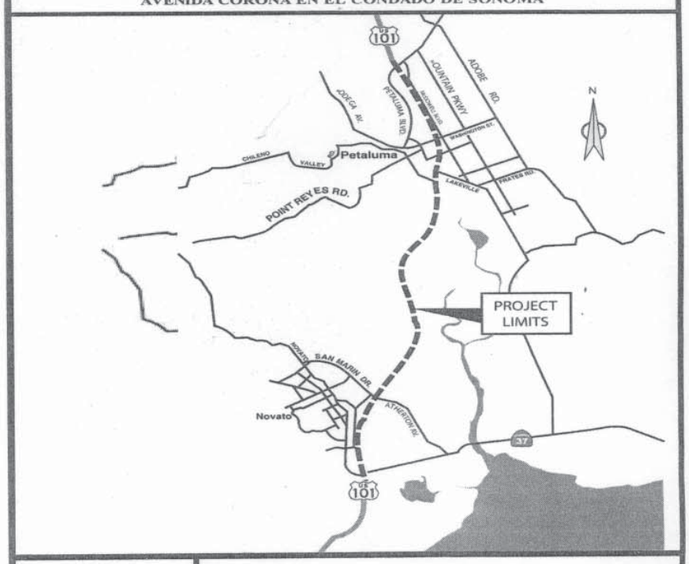
"The only Public Notice which is justifiable from the standpoint of true economy and the public interest, is that which reaches those who are affected by it"

t Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

A0000000311155

ANUNCIO PUBLICO

NOTICIA DE DISPONIBILIDADPOR UNA VERSION PRELIMINAR DE UN INFORME/DECLARACION DE IMPACTO AMBIENTAL (DEIS/R) Y REUNION ABIERTA AL PUBLICO PARA UN PROYECTO EN LA RUTA 101 ENTRE LA RUTA 37 EN EL CONDADO DE MARIN Y LA PUENTE DE LA AVENIDA CORONA EN EL CONDADO DE SONOMA



LO QUE SE PLANIFICA

En la propuesta se estudia la posibilidad de extender hacia el norte el sistema de carriles de alto uso vehicular (HOV) del Condado de Marín, hasta llegar al sur del Condado de Sonoma. El propósito de este proyecto es aliviar la congestión y disminuir los retrasos de los usuarios de los carriles HOV.

PORQUE ESTA NOTICIA

El Departamento de Transporte de California (Caltrans) en colaboración con la Dirección Federal de Carreteras (FHWA), va a elaborar una Versión Preliminar de un Informe/Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (DEIS/R) para un tramo de aproximadamente 16 millas de la Ruta 101, entre la Ruta 37 en el Condado de Marín y el entronque de la Old Redwood Highway en el Condado de Sonoma. Comentos se aceptan entre el 16 de octubre y 14 de deciembre de 2007.

SU PARTICIPACION

Se le invita a asistir a una reunión para evaluar la propuesta y aportar sus comentarios respecto al proyecto. Se pondrán a su disposición mapas generales y se expondrán elementos de recursos ambientales para que usted exprese su parecer. Caltrans y los miembros del equipo del proyecto contestarán sus preguntas. Tambien se aceptan comentarios por escrito sobre la propuesta del proyecto de la Ruta 101 durante el reunión.

DONDE Y CUANDO:

Lugar: Novato School District Boardroom
1015-7th Street
Novato
Fecha: Martes, 6 de noviembre de 2007
Hora: De 5:30 P.M. a 8:30 p.m.

Y

Lugar: Petaluma Community Center
320 N. McDowell Boulevard
Petaluma
Fecha: Jueves, 14 de noviembre de 2005
Hora: De 5:30 P.M. a 8:30 P.M.

QUE ESTA DISPONIBLE

COMO REVISAR EL DEIR/S: Se puede reviser el DEIR/S en el internet: www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/msn

Tambien en los siguientes lugares:

- Civic Center Library at 3501 Civic Center Drive,
- Novato Library at 1720 Novato Boulevard,
- South Novato Library at 6 Hamilton Landing,
- Transportation Authority of Marin, 70 San Pablo
- Petaluma Community Center at 320 N. McDowell
- Petaluma Regional Library at 100 Fairgrounds
- Central Santa Rosa Library, 3rd & E Streets, Santa
- Sonoma County Transportation Authority, 490

COMO COMENTAR EN EL DEIR/S: Se puede escribir sus comentos y se pueden dar durante el reunión u deben enviarse a:

Melanie Brent, Caltrans District 4,
111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612-3717
Email: Melanie_brent@dot.ca.gov
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

CONVENIOS ESPECIALES: Las personas que necesiten documentos en otros formatos o servicios de traducion favor llame a Melanie Brent, teléfono (510) 286-5321. Los usuarios de TDD pueden comunicarse con la linea California Relay Service TDD en el 711.

Caltrans

MARIN SONOMA 101 NARROWS

CONTACTO

Para mayor información acerca de este proyecto u otro asunto de transporte favor llame a o escribe a

Bijan Sartipi
Director del Distrito
Departmento de Transporte
P.O. Box 23660
Oakland CA 94623-0660

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Figure 6-3
Spanish Language
Public Notice Advertisement
La Voz

TB0420060002BAO_Newspaper_PublicNotices.indd_070108

PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(2015.5 C.C.P.)

CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER
CNS 1228500
MARIN SONOMA NARROWS

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
County of Marin } SS

Proof

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid: I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of the MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the County of Marin, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Marin, State of California, under date of FEBRUARY 7, 1955, CASE NUMBER 25568; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

NOV. 9

all in the year 2007.

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Donna Lazarus
Signature

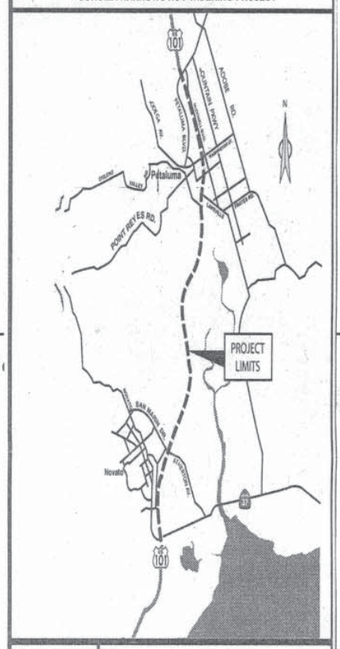
Dated this 9 day of NOVEMBER 2007

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

* A 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3 2 2 6 5 9 *

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE FOR THE PROPOSED MARIN-SONOMA NARROWS HOV WIDENING PROJECT



WHAT S BEING PLANNED

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), propose to reduce traffic congestion and address physical deficiencies of the roadway on US 101 between Novato and Petaluma.

WHY THIS NOTICE

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Caltrans has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/S) to assess the environmental impacts of the proposed Marin-Sonoma Narrows Project. The DEIR/S is now available for public review. Comments are being accepted from October 16, 2007, through December 14, 2007.

WHERE YOU COME IN

Attend an Open House/Map Display: Caltrans will host two open house meetings with visual and map displays and provide the public with opportunities to discuss the project with staff. There will be a brief presentation at 6:30-6:45 p.m. at both meetings. Comments on the DEIR/S will be accepted in writing or individual verbal comments can be recorded at a court reporter station during the meetings. The meeting locations and dates are as follows:

When and Where

Location: Beverly C. Wilson Hall
Sonoma-Marin Fairgrounds
175 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma
Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2007
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

and

Location: Novato Unified School Boardroom
1015 - 7th Street, Novato
Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2007
Time: 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

WHAT S AVAILABLE

How To Review The DEIR/S: The DEIR/S is available for review on the website listed below and at locations in Marin and Sonoma Counties. Digital and hardcopies include Volume 1, the main environmental document, Volume 2, the project mapping, and the Appendices.

On the Web:
•MSN Project Web site* at www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/msn

Document available to review at:

- Civic Center Library at 3501 Civic Center Drive, #427, San Rafael;
- Novato Library at 1720 Novato Boulevard, Novato;
- South Novato Library at 6 Hamilton Landing, Suite 140A, Novato;
- Transportation Authority of Marin, 70 San Pablo Avenue, San Rafael;
- Petaluma Community Center at 320 N. McDowell Boulevard, Petaluma;
- Petaluma Regional Library at 100 Fairgrounds Drive, Petaluma;
- Central Santa Rosa Library, 3rd & E Streets, Santa Rosa; and
- Sonoma County Transportation Authority, 490 Mendocino Avenue, S-208, Santa Rosa

Ways To Comment On The DEIR/S: Comment period is October 16, 2007 through December 14, 2007. You can submit written comments using the MSN Comment Form (download at www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/msn) or using your own materials. You can also obtain a pre-addressed comment form at one of the public meetings. To submit your comments, mail to:

Melanie Brent
Caltrans District 4
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612-3717

E-Mail* comments to:
melanie.brent@dot.ca.gov

Record verbal comments at the court reporter station during one of the scheduled public meetings.

CONTACT

For more information about the MSN Project, please contact Jil Pandher, Project Manager, (510) 286-6425, Jil_S_Pandher@dot.ca.gov.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Individuals who require special accommodations or translation services should call Melanie Brent at (510) 286-5231 at least 3 days prior to the scheduled public meeting. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 711. All locations are wheelchair accessible.

Figure 6-4
Public Notice Advertisement
Marin Independent Journal

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

(2015.5 C.C.P.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Sonoma

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the county aforesaid: I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of The Press Democrat, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published DAILY IN THE City of Santa Rosa, County of Sonoma; and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Sonoma, State of California, under the date of November 29, 1951, Case number 34831, that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than nonpareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates to wit:

The Press Democrat
11/2 1x - 11/02/2007

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Santa Rosa, California, on

11/02/2007

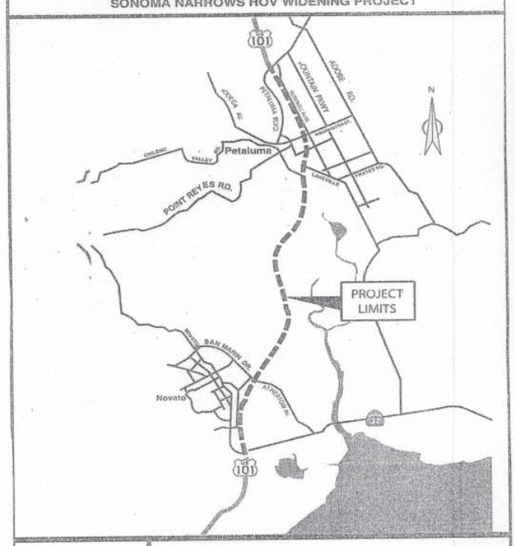
SIGNATURE

This space for County Clerk's Filing Stamp

Proof of Publication of

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) FOR THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE FOR THE PROPOSED MARIN-SONOMA NARROWS HOV WIDENING PROJECT



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2204779 - Pub. Nov. 2, 2007 1IL

Figure 6-5
Public Notice Advertisement
Press Democrat

TB0420060002BAO_Newspaper_PublicNotices.indd_070108

Figure 6-6 Federal Register Notice of Availability Posting (see page 2 of 2)

Page 1 of 2

[Federal Register: October 26, 2007 (Volume 72, Number 207)]
[**Notices**]
[Page 60846-60847]
From the Federal Register Online via GPO Access [wais.access.gpo.gov]
[DOCID:fr26oc07-64]

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[ER-FRL-6692-3]

Environmental Impacts Statements; Notice of Availability

Responsible Agency: Office of Federal Activities, General Information (202) 564-7167 or http://www.epa.gov/compliance/nepa/.

Weekly receipt of Environmental Impact Statements
Filed 10/15/2007 through 10/19/2007.
Pursuant to 40 CFR 1506.9.

EIS No. 20070435, Draft EIS, BLM, UT, Richfield Field Office Resource Management Plan, Implementation, Future Management of the Public Lands and Resource, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Capitol Reef and Canyonlands National Parks, Sanpete, Sevier, Piute, Wayne and Garfield Counties, UT. Comment Period Ends: 01/24/2008. Contact: Wayne Wetzel, 435-896-1500.
EIS No. 20070436, Draft EIS, FHW, ME, Wiscasset Route 1 Corridor Study Project, To Relieve Traffic Congestion and Improve Safety, U.S. Army COE section 404 Permit, Wiscasset and Edgecomb Counties, ME. Comment Period Ends: 12/21/2007. Contact: Mark Asselmann, 207622-8350.
EIS No. 20070437, Draft EIS, NPS, HI, PROGRAMMATIC EIS--Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, To Provide Long-Term Direction for Natural and Cultural Resource, Island of Hawii, HI. Comment Period Ends: 12/26/2007. Contact: Aric Arakaki 808-326-6012.
EIS No. 20070438, Final Supplement, NOA, NC, Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery Management Plan (FMP), Amendment 11, Implementation to Control Capacity and Mortality in the General Category Scallop Fishery, Gulf of Maine, Georges Bank, NC. Wait Period Ends: 11/26/2007. Contact: Patricia A. Kurkal, 978-281-9250.
EIS No. 20070439, Draft EIS, BOP, AL, Aliceville, Alabama Area, Proposed

[[Page 60847]]

Federal Correctional Complex, To Address the Growing Federal Inmate Population, Pickens County, AL. Comment Period Ends: 12/10/2007. Contact: Pamela J. Candler, 202-514-6470.
EIS No. 20070440, Draft EIS, FHW, UT, Mountain View Corridor (MVC) Project, Proposed Transportation Improvement 2030 Travel Demand in Western Salt Lake County south of I-80 and west of Bangerter Highway and in northwestern Utah County of I-15, south of the Salt Lake County Line, and north of Utah Lake, Salt Lake and Utah County, UT. Comment Period Ends: 12/24/2007. Contact: Edward Woolford, P.E. 801-963-0182.
EIS No. 20070441, Draft Supplement, IBR, CA, PROGRAMMATIC--Environmental Water Account (EWA) Project, Updated Information to Provide an Evaluation of 2004 Final EIS/EIR Environmental Water Account (EWA) and Effects Associated with Extending the Current EWA's through 2011, CALFED Bay-Delta Programs, Endangered Species Act section 7 and

(See next page)

Figure 6-6 (continued)

Page 2 of 2

U.S. Army COE Section 10 Permit, CA. Comment Period Ends: 12/10/2007. Contact: Ms. Sammie Cervantes, 916-978-5104.
EIS No. 20070442, Final EIS, FHW, CA, Interstate 5/Cosumnes River Boulevard Interchange Project, Extension of Cosumnes River Boulevard from Franklin Boulevard to Freeport Boulevard with an Interchange at Interstate 5, South of the Pocket/Meadowview Road Interchange and North of the Laguna Boulevard Interchange, City of Sacramento, Sacramento County, CA. Wait Period Ends: 11/26/2007. Contact: Cesar E. Perez, 916-498-5065.
EIS No. 20070443, Draft Supplement, FTA, CA, Third Street Light Rail Phase 2, Updated Information on the Central Subway Project Area, Funding, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency, in the City and County San Francisco, CA. Comment Period Ends: 12/10/2007. Contact: Ray Sukys, 415-744-3133.
EIS No. 20070444, Final EIS, USA, GA, Fort Benning U.S. Army Infantry Center, Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) 2005 and Transformation Actions, Implementation, Chattahoochee and Muscogee Counties, GA. Wait Period Ends: 11/26/2007. Contact: John Brent, 706-545-2180.
EIS No. 20070445, Draft EIS, USN, 00, Shock Trail of the MESA VERDE (LPD 19), San Antonio (LPD 17) Class Ship designated as the Shock Ship for Proposed Shock Trail, Possible Offshore Locations are Naval Station Norfolk, VA; Naval Station Mayport, FL; and Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL. Comment Period Ends: 12/10/2007. Contact: Donald Shaver, 703-412-7521.
EIS No. 20070446, Final EIS, FHW, IN, I-69 Evansville to Indianapolis Project, I-69 Tier 2 Section 1: Evansville to Oakland City, from 1-64 to IN-64, Preferred Alternative is 4, Gibson and Warrick Counties, IN. Wait Period Ends: 11/26/2007. Contact: Anthony DeSimone, 317-226-5307.
EIS No. 20070447, Draft EIS, FHW, CA, **Marin-Sonoma Narrows** (MSN) HOV Widening Project, Propose to Relieve Recurrent Congestion along U.S. 101 south of the Route 37 Interchange in the City of Novato (**Marin** County) and ends north of the Corona Road Overcrossing in the City of Petaluma (**Sonoma** County), **Marin** and **Sonoma** Counties, CA. Comment Period Ends: 12/14/2007. Contact: Cesar E. Perez, 916-498-5065.
EIS No. 20070448, Final EIS, USA, 00, PROGRAMMATIC--Army Growth and Force Structure Realignment, Implementation, Nationwide. Wait Period Ends: 11/26/2007. Contact: Mike Ackerman, 410-436-2522.
EIS No. 20070449, Final EIS, BLM, ID, Smoky Canyon Mine Panels F & G, Proposed Mine Expansion, Caribou County, ID. Wait Period Ends: 11/26/2007. Contact: Bill Stout 208-478-6367.
EIS No. 20070450, Draft Supplement, WPA, 00, Big Stone II Power Plant and Transmission Project, Addresses the Impacts of Changes to the Proposed Action relative to Cooling Alternatives and the Use of Groundwater as Backup Water Source, U.S. Army COE Section 10 and 404 Permits, Grant County, SD and Big Stone County, MN. Comment Period Ends: 12/10/2007. Contact: Nancy Werdel, 720-962-7251.
EIS No. 20070451, Draft EIS, AFS, UT, Indian Springs Road Realignment, Reducing Adverse Impacts to Watershed and Fisheries, U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permit, Uinta National Forest, Heber Ranger District, Wasatch County, UT. Comment Period Ends: 12/10/2007. Contact: Jim Percy, 435-654-0470.

Dated: October 23, 2007.
Robert W. Hargrove,
Director, NEPA Compliance Division, Office of Federal Activities.
[FR Doc. E7-21102 Filed 10-25-07; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 6560-50-P