

# **State Route 55 (SR 55) Improvement Project Between Interstate 5 (I-5) and State Route 91(SR 91)**

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
DISTRICT 12 – ORA – 55 (Post Miles 10.4/R17.9)  
EA 0K7200

## **Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment**



**Prepared by the  
State of California Department of Transportation**

The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 USC 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 23, 2016 and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

**September 2019**

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## General Information about This Document

What's in this document:

The California Department of Transportation (Department, Caltrans), as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has prepared this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA), which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the proposed project located in Orange County, California. Caltrans is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The document tells why the project is being proposed, what alternatives we have considered for the project, how the existing environment could be affected by the project, the potential impacts of each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

### What you should do:

- Please read the document.
- Copies of this document and related technical studies are available for review at the following locations:

Caltrans District 12  
1750 East 4th, Suite 100  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Charles P. Taft Branch Library  
740 East Taft Avenue  
Orange, CA 92865

Orange County Transportation Authority  
550 South Main Street  
Orange, CA 92868

Santa Ana Public Library  
26 Civic Center Plaza  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Orange Public Library  
407 East Chapman Avenue  
Orange, CA 92866

Tustin Branch Library  
345 East Main Street  
Tustin, CA 92780

- Attend the public meeting on October 16, 2019.
- We'd like to hear what you think. If you have any comments about the proposed project, please attend the public meeting and/or send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline.
- Send comments via postal mail to:

Charles Baker, Senior Environmental Planner  
Department of Transportation, District 12  
Environmental Analysis – Specialist Branch  
1750 East 4th, Suite 100, Santa Ana, CA 92705

- Send comments via email to: [D12SR55NorthProject@dot.ca.gov](mailto:D12SR55NorthProject@dot.ca.gov)
- Send comments by the deadline: October 30, 2019

**What happens next:**

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans, as assigned by FHWA, may: (1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, (2) do additional environmental studies, or (3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the project.

**Alternative formats:**

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Department of Transportation, Attn: Charles Baker, Senior Environmental Planner, Department of Transportation, District 12 Environmental Analysis – Specialist Branch 1750 East 4th, Suite 100, Santa Ana, CA 92705; (657) 328-6000 Voice; or use the California Relay Service 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY), 1 (800) 735-2922 (Voice) or 711.”

SCH# \_\_\_\_\_  
12-ORA-55- PM 10.4/R17.9  
OK7200  
1213000149

Capacity and operational improvements on State Route 55 (SR 55) between Interstate 5 (I-5) and State Route 91 (SR 91) (Post Miles 10.4 to R17.9) in the Cities of Tustin, Santa Ana, Orange and Anaheim in Orange County, California.


**INITIAL STUDY WITH PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE  
DECLARATION/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code  
(Federal) 42 United States Code (USC) 4332(2)(C) and 49 USC 303

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Transportation

Responsible Agencies:  
California Transportation Commission

Sept 26, 2019  
Date of Approval

  
Christopher Flynn  
Deputy District Director  
California Department of Transportation  
District 12  
CEQA/NEPA Lead Agency

The following person may be contacted for more information about this document:

Charles Baker, Branch Chief, Environmental Analysis – Specialist Branch  
District 12  
1750 East 4th, Suite 100  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

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SCH Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

***Project Description***

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 12, in cooperation with the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), proposes capacity and operational improvements on State Route (SR) 55 in both directions from just north of the Interstate 5 (I-5)/State Route 55 (SR 55) interchange to just south of SR 91 between Post Miles 10.4 and R17.9 in the cities of Tustin, Santa Ana, Orange, and Anaheim in Orange County, California.

***Determination***

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt an MND for this project. This does not mean that Caltrans' decision regarding the project is final. This MND is subject to change based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project and, pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons: The proposed SR 55 project would have no effect on Agricultural and Forest Resources, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, and Recreation. The proposed SR 55 project would have less than significant effects to: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Public Services, Transportation and Traffic, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, Climate Change, and Energy. With the following mitigation measures incorporated, the proposed project would have less than significant effects to Biological Resources (BIO-1, BIO-2, and BIO-3) and Paleontological Resources (PALEO-1 and PALEO-2).

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Christopher Flynn  
Deputy District Director  
California Department of Transportation  
District 12  
CEQA/NEPA Lead Agency

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Date

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