

Notice of Preparation

Notice of Preparation

To: _____

From: Caltrans District 11 Attn: Ellen Renker
4050 Taylor Street, MS 242
San Diego, CA 92110

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Caltrans District 11 will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study (is is not) attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice or by Friday November 20th, 2020. Comments can be submitted between **Monday October 19th, 2020** and **Friday November 20th, 2020**.

In addition to comments submitted to Ellen Renker at the address listed above, comments can also be emailed to SR78@KeepSanDiegoMoving.com or by voice mail at 888-547-1161.

A Virtual Public Scoping Meeting has been scheduled for October 29th, 2020 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. You can access the website at this link: www.KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/SR78

Project Title: Interstate 15/State Route 78 (I-15/SR 78) Managed Lanes Direct Connectors Project

Project Applicant, if any: Caltrans District 11

Date 10-16-2020

Signature 
Shay Lynn M. Harrison

Title Chief, Environmental Analysis

Telephone (619) 453-8481

Notice of Preparation – Attachment A

Title:

Interstate 15/State Route 78 (I-15/SR 78) Managed Lanes Direct Connectors Project (Project)

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to provide a reliable transportation option that reduces travel times, encourages multi-occupant vehicle usage, and reduces GHG and air pollution. The project also aims to improve access to key employment, residential, health, and educational centers in the corridor; while supporting state and regional transportation goals of improving person throughput and reducing vehicle miles traveled.

Need:

Over the past 25 years, the corridor has experienced a substantial amount of growth in its residential, job, and housing centers. This growth coupled with a lack of travel options has placed a strain on the I-15/SR 78 interchange and local streets in the cities of San Marcos and Escondido. The lack of improved local connections, managed facilities, and travel options are affecting travel times and air pollution, which are expected to increase while person throughput and mobility decrease.

Location:

In the Cities of Escondido and San Marcos. Interstate-15 Post Miles: R30.6/R32.0;
State Route 78 Post Miles: 12.0/R16.7

Description:

Construct a direct connector (northbound I-15 to westbound SR 78 and eastbound 78 to southbound I-15) from I-15 Express Lanes and extending approximately three miles of managed lanes onto SR 78 to San Marcos Boulevard. The project will also widen and realign Barham Drive from La Moree Drive to Woodland Parkway; remove and replace the Barham Drive eastbound on-ramp; widen the Woodland Parkway undercrossing; construct a westbound auxiliary lane from on SR 78 from Nordahl Drive to Woodland Parkway/Barham Drive; realign and interchange improvements on Rancheros Drive; and construct a bicycle facility on Barham Drive and Woodland Parkway.

Alternatives: Two Build Alternatives are being considered and a No Build.

- Alternative 1: Build Proposed Project and Extend Lanes as Express Lanes
 - Lanes will operate as an extension of the I-15 Express Lanes and allow Single Occupant Vehicles (SOVs) into the facility with a distance-based fee and transponder.
- Alternative 2: Build Proposed Project and Extend Lanes as HOV/Carpool Lanes Only
 - Lanes will only allow transit/carpoolers to access the facility. No SOVs will be allowed to price into the facility.
- Alternative 3: No Build
 - None of the project components will be built

Potential environmental effects would be analyzed for the following issues:

Socioeconomics:

- Relocations (Home and Business Displacements)
- Community Character and Cohesion
- Parks and Recreational Facilities
- Consistency with State, Regional, and Local Plans and Programs
- Land Use

Cultural Resources:

- Archeological Resources
- Historic Resources

Biological Resources:

- Resources Natural Communities
- Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S.
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Plant Species
- Animal Species
- Invasive Species

Cumulative and Growth

Visual/Aesthetics

Noise

Traffic and Transportation

Paleontology Resources

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases

Utilities and Emergency Services

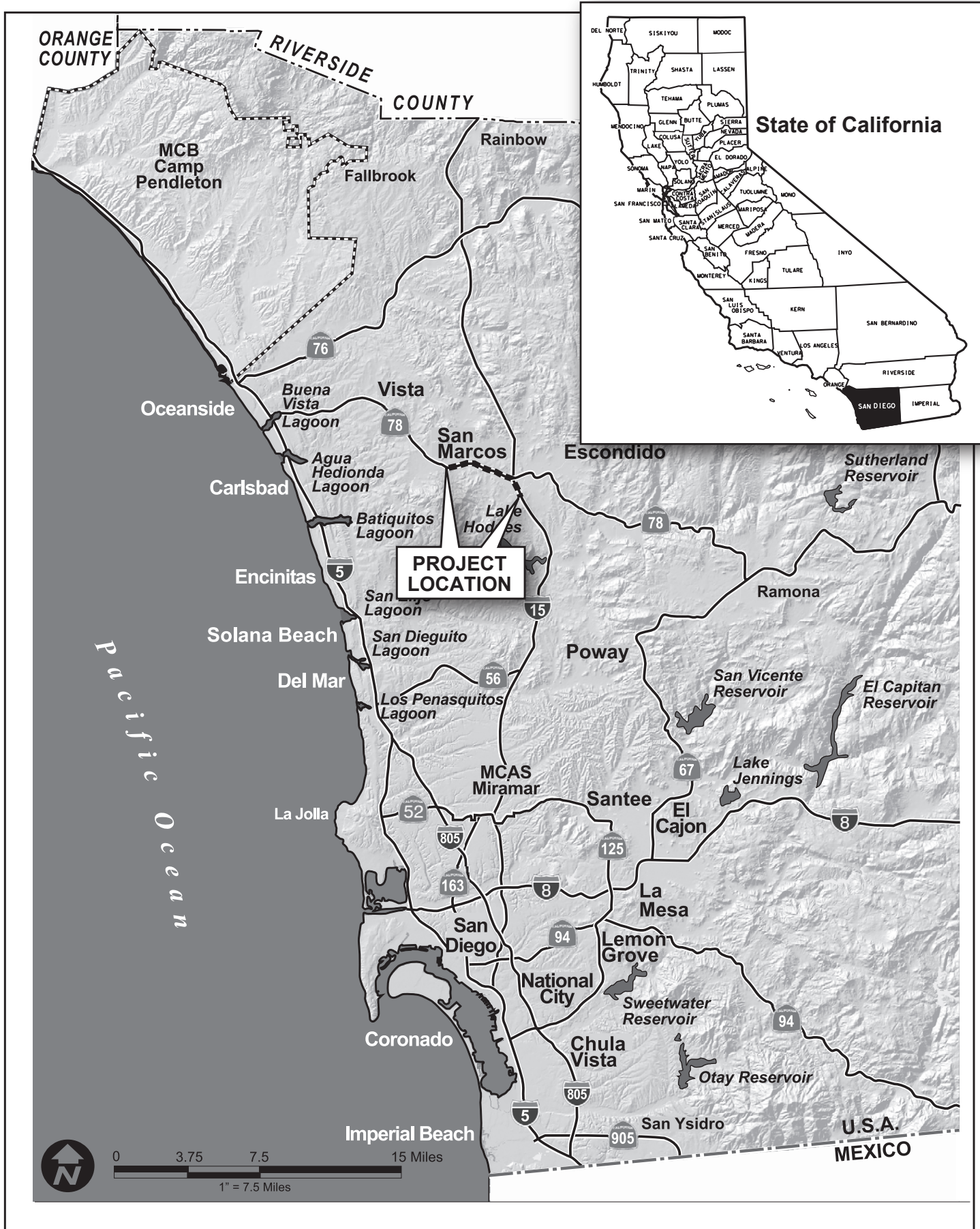
Hydrology and Floodplain

Water Quality and Stormwater Runoff

Geology and Soils

Hazardous Waste/Materials

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project and/or the public scoping process, please contact Ellen Renker at (619) 930-6763 or email ellen.renker@dot.ca.gov



I-15/SR 78 Managed Lanes Direct Connectors Project Location Map

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Interstate 15/State Route 78 (I-15/SR 78) Managed Lanes Direct Connectors Project

Lead Agency: Caltrans District 11 Contact Person: Ellen Renker
 Mailing Address: 4050 Taylor Street, MS 242 Phone: 619-930-6763
 City: San Diego Zip: 92119 County: San Diego

Project Location: County: San Diego City/Nearest Community: San Marcos/Escondido

Cross Streets: I-15/SR-78 Interchange Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ ° ' " N / _____ ° ' " W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: 78 Waterways: _____

Airports: _____ Railways: _____ Schools: _____

Document Type:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| CEQA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOP | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIR | NEPA: <input type="checkbox"/> NOI | Other: <input type="checkbox"/> Joint Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Early Cons | <input type="checkbox"/> Supplement/Subsequent EIR | <input type="checkbox"/> EA | <input type="checkbox"/> Final Document |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neg Dec | (Prior SCH No.) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Draft EIS | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mit Neg Dec | Other: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> FONSI | _____ |

Local Action Type:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Update | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Rezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Annexation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Prezone | <input type="checkbox"/> Redevelopment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Element | <input type="checkbox"/> Planned Unit Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Use Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Development Type:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Residential: Units _____ Acres _____ | Transportation: Type _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | Mining: Mineral _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | Power: Type _____ MW _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ | Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational: _____ | Hazardous Waste: Type _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational: _____ | Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____ | |

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetic/Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation/Parks | <input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Land | <input type="checkbox"/> Flood Plain/Flooding | <input type="checkbox"/> Schools/Universities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical | <input type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducement Coastal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Zone | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drainage/Absorption | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing Balance | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous | <input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Transportation

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The project will study the environmental impacts of constructing direct connectors from the I-15 Express Lanes and extending managed lanes in both directions onto SR 78 for approximately three miles to San Marcos Boulevard in San Diego County. Additional improvements include widening and realigning Barham Drive between La Moree Road and Woodland Parkway, realigning the Barham Drive Interchange which includes removal and replacement of the eastbound SR-78 onramp at Barham Drive, widening the Woodland Parkway undercrossing, adding a westbound auxiliary lane on SR-78 between Nordahl Drive and Woodland Parkway/Barham Drive, widening and realigning Rancheros Drive, and constructing a new bicycle facility along Barham Drive and Woodland Parkway.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with an "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # 9 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 10-19-2020 Ending Date 11-20-2020

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____ Applicant: _____
 Address: _____ Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Contact: _____ Phone: _____
 Phone: _____

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: *Shay Lynn M. Harrison* Date: 10-16-2020

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.