

# Notice of Preparation

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## Notice of Preparation

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Comments can be submitted between **Monday October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020** and **Friday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.

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

A Virtual Public Scoping Meeting has been scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. You can access the website at this link: [www.KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/SR78](http://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 Recourses
- 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

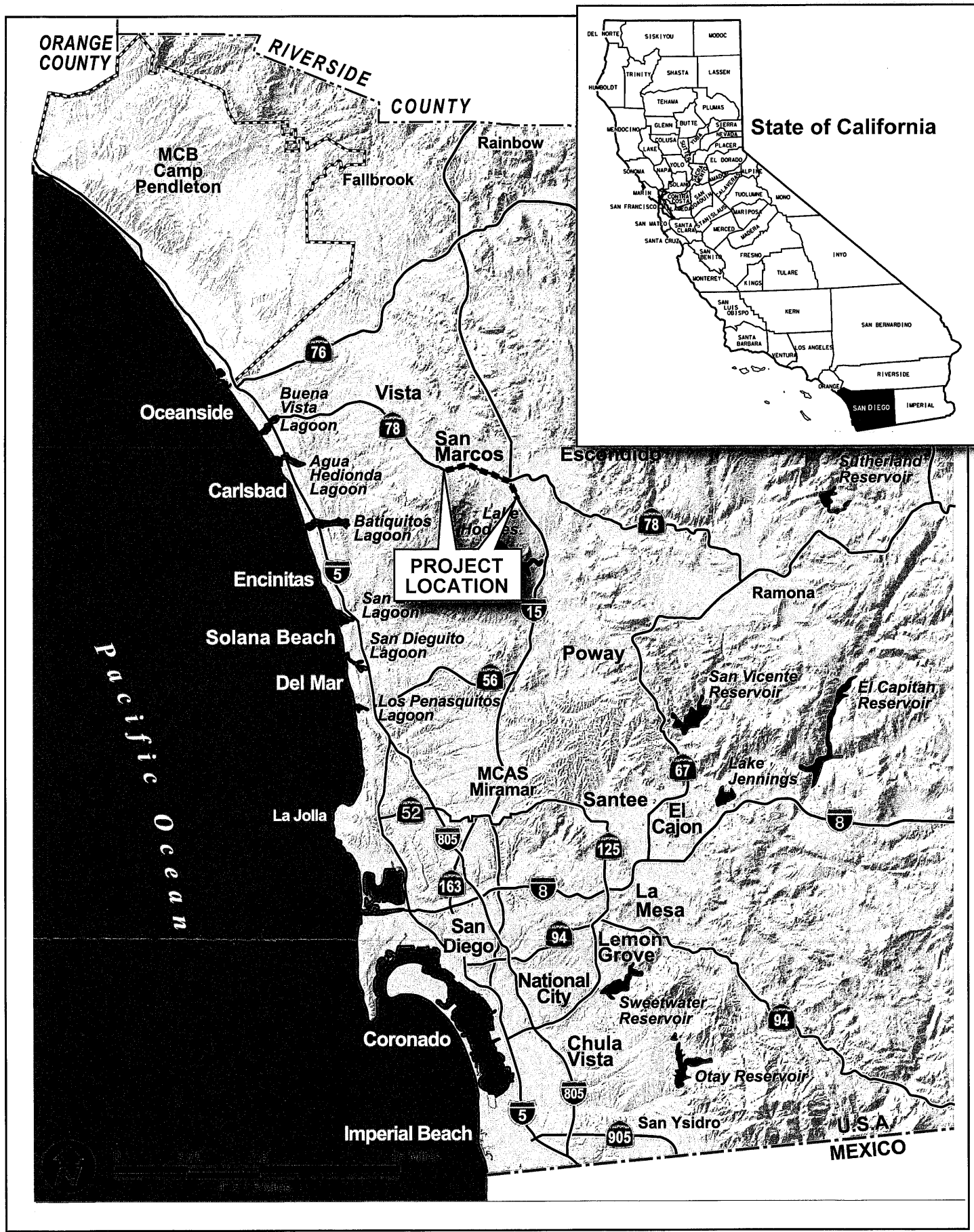
Hydrology and Floodplain

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](mailto:ellen.renker@dot.ca.gov)



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