

Notice of Preparation

Notice of Preparation

To: _____ From: _____

(Address) (Address)

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

_____ 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.

Please send your response to _____ at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: _____

Project Applicant, if any: _____

Date 11/17/2020 Signature 
Title _____
Telephone _____

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the State Route 99 Delano to Pixley 6-lane Widening Project

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Lead Agency, is preparing an environmental document to address impacts associated with the proposed widening and facility improvements on State Route 99 in Fresno, California. The document will be prepared as a joint document pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Caltrans will be preparing an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for the project, which is known as the State Route 99 Delano to Pixley 6-lane widening project. As required by CEQA, Caltrans is distributing this Notice of Preparation and requesting comments from responsible and trustee agencies regarding the significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and reasonable mitigation measures that will be discussed in the EIR/EA. An Initial Study has not been prepared for this project and therefore, not attached to this Notice of Preparation.

Project Location

The project sits along State Route (SR) 99 between post miles 0.0 to 13.5 in Tulare County. The project would widen and rehabilitate 13 miles of SR 99 near the community of Earlimart from County Line Road Overcrossing to 0.7 mile north of Avenue 100 (Court Avenue) overcrossing. See Figure 1 for a location map and Figure 2 for a vicinity map of the project area.

Project Description

The project would widen State Route 99 from a 4-lane freeway to a 6-lane freeway and rehabilitate the existing lanes. The additional lanes will be added within the median by constructing an inside 12-foot lane and 10-foot inside shoulder in both directions. The existing lanes and outside shoulders will be rehabilitated with 0.20 foot of existing AC and overlay with 0.15 foot of hot-mix asphalt, capped with 0.10 foot of rubberized hot-mix asphalt

The existing ramp gore areas will be rehabilitated per Materials Engineering Recommendations. There will be modifications of the roadway profile under the structures to provide standard vertical clearance where required bet following postmiles: 6.05 to 6.25, 6.53 to 6.73, 7.07 to 7.27, and 12.0 to 13.0. The existing drainage system, pumping systems, and Transportation Management System will be upgraded within the project limit.

The culvert replacement at post mile 1.82 will be done by using the jack and bore method, which may require a temporary construction easement (TCE) from the Union Pacific Railroad Company right of way. Minor additional right of way and TCE may be required due to the anticipated utility relocations and proposed construction of sidewalks near Avenue 48 and Avenue 56 overcrossing.

All the oleanders within the project limit will need to be removed from the median to accommodate the additional lanes. Also, several Eucalyptus trees may be removed for the construction of v-ditches and for the clear recovery zone. Therefore, replanting of vegetation will be required after the project is completed.

Project Alternatives

There is a build alternative and a no-build alternative being considered for the project.

Potential Environmental Effects

Based on preliminary surveys and information, Caltrans has identified the following subject areas for analysis in the Environmental Impact Report:

Aesthetics

This project will cause noticeable visual change to the environment with the removal of vegetation within the project limit. A Minor Visual Impact Assessment will be required for this project.

Air Quality

Tulare County is nonattainment status for the State Ozone, PM 10, and PM 25 standard. A project level air conformity and a particle matter hot spot analysis is needed.

Operational and construction climate change emissions will need to be estimated, as the project is considered capacity-increasing.

This project will require interagency consultation and an air quality study.

Environmental Justice

The communities within proximity to the project area has a high population of individuals classified as 'Low-income' and/or 'Minority' as defined by Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice. Since the project proposes to remove oleanders and trees, this may cause a visual impact to these individuals. There could also be substantial air quality and noise impacts that would affect adjacent communities from widening State Route 99.

Greenhouse gas emissions

This project does not achieve the State's greenhouse gas emissions reductions for 2030. Capacity-increasing projects require a quantitative analysis using emission factors models developed from the air resources board to estimate greenhouse gas emissions.

Vehicle Miles Traveled

This project would likely lead to a measurable and substantial increase in vehicle travel on State Route 99. The project would need to quantify the amount of additional vehicle travel in order to assess air quality impacts, greenhouse gas emissions impact, energy impacts, and noise impacts. If those effects are significant, Caltrans will need to consider mitigation or alternatives. In the context of increased travel that is induced by capacity increases, appropriate mitigation and alternatives that Caltrans might consider include the following:

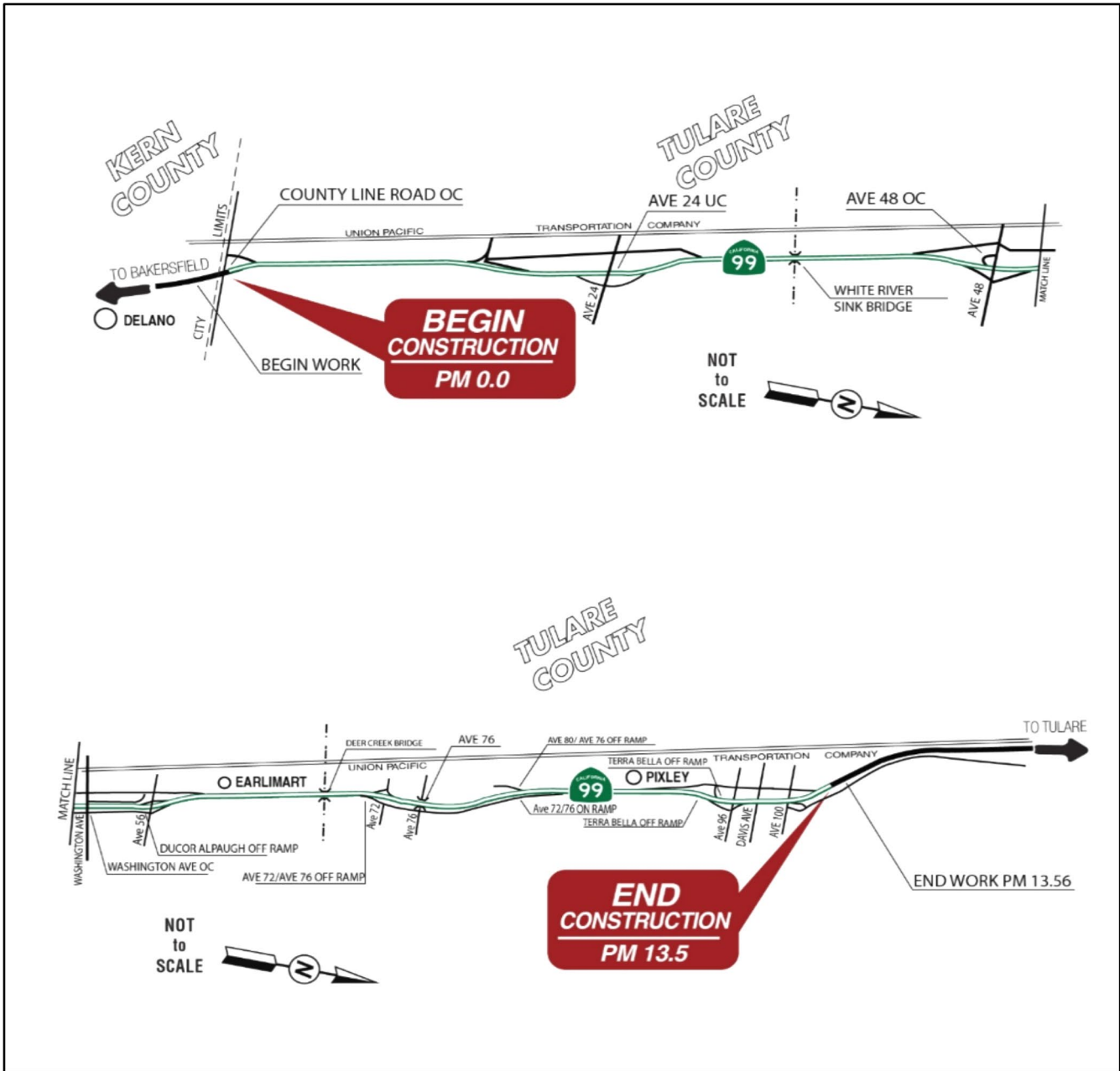
- Tolling new lanes to encourage carpools and fund transit improvement
- Converting existing general purpose lanes to HOV or HOT lanes
- Implementing or funding off-site travel demand management
- Implementing Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) strategies to improve passenger throughput on existing lanes.

Figures

Figure 1: Regional Location Map



Figure 2: Local Vicinity Map



Pete Vander Poel III, District 2 - Chairman
Tulare County Supervisors
2800 W. Burrel Ave
Visalia, CA 93291

Theodore Smalley, Executive Director
Tulare County Association of Governments
210 N. Church St. Suite B
Visalia, CA 93291

Amanda Ray, Asistant Commissioner
California Highway Patrol
601 North 7th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Peter Bond, Senior Environmental Planner
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Charlie Norman, Fire Chief
Tulare County Fire Department
835 S. Akers St
Visalia, CA 93277

Mike Boudreaux, Shieff
Tulare County Shieff's Office
833 S. Akers St.
Visalia, CA 93277

Samir Sheikh, Executive Director/APCO
San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District
1990 E. Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726

Tashia Clemons, Director, Planning &
Environment
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall, Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Thom Porter, Director
Cal FIRE
1416 9TH Street, P.O Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 95814

Jamie Robles, Superintendent
Earlimart School District
785 E. Center Ave
Earlimart, CA 93219

Nancy Ruble, Superintendent
Pixley Union School District
300 N. School St
Pixley, CA 93256

Reed Schenke, RMA Director
Tulare Co. Resource Mangement Agency
5961 South Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 93277

Andrew Lockman
Emergency Service Manger
Tulare Co. Office of Emergency Services
5957 S. Mooney Blvd
Visalia, CA 93277

Ashley Werner, Attorney
Leadership Counsel for Justice and
Accountability
764 P. Street, Suite 12
Fresno, CA 93721

Julie Vance, Regional Manager
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, CA 93710

Delano Ambulance Services
403 Main St
Delsano, CA 93215

Nesamani Kalandiyur
California Air Resources Board –
Transportation Projects
1001 Street P.O Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Paul Souza, Regional Director
Pacific Southwest Region
United States Fish & Wildlife Service
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825

Joe Aguirre, Council Member
City of Delano
1015 11th Ave
Delano, CA 93215

David Ray, District Commander
United Sates Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street Rm 1513
Sacramento, CA 95814

Patrick Pulupa, Executive Officer
Water Quality Control Board
1685 E Street
Fresno, CA 93706

Elizabeth Kipp, Tribal Chair
Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians
P.O Box 337
Auberry, CA 93602

Carol Bill, Chair
Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians
P.O. Box 209
Tollhouse, CA 93667

Judy E. Fink, Chairperson
North Fork Mono Rancheria
P.O. Box 929
North Fork, CA 93643

Ron Goode, Trial Chair
North Fork Mono Tribe
13396 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93619

Jennifer Ruiz, Chairwomen
Picayune Rancheria
P.O. Box 2226
Oakhurst, CA 93644

Robert Ledger, Sr, Chairman
Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government
2191 West Pico Avenue
Fresno, CA 93703

Ben Charley, Jr, Chairman
Dunlap Band of Mono Indians
P.O. Box 14
Dunlap, CA 93621

Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson
Eshom Valley Band of Indians/
Wuksachi Indian Community
1179 Rock Haven Court
Salinas, CA 93906

David Alvarez, Chairman
Traditional Choinumni Tribe
2415 Houston Ave
Fresno, CA 93720

Melissa Hurtado, State Senator
California State Senate
1201 E. California Avenue, Suite A
Bakersfield, CA 93307

Rosalina Rivera, Superintendent
Delano Union School District
1405 12th Ave
Delano, CA 93515

Devon Mathis, Assemblyman
California State Assembly
100 West Willow Plaze Suite 405
Visalia, CA 93291

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: _____

Lead Agency: _____ Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

Project Location: County: _____ City/Nearest Community: _____

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

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Land/Fire Hazard | <input type="checkbox"/> Septic Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Supply/Groundwater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archeological/Historical | <input type="checkbox"/> Geologic/Seismic | <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Capacity | <input type="checkbox"/> Wetland/Riparian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Minerals | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading | <input type="checkbox"/> Growth Inducement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Toxic/Hazardous | <input type="checkbox"/> Cumulative Effects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic/Jobs | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Facilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic/Circulation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

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

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 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 type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____
<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 # _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input 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 11/18/2020 Ending Date 12/20/2020

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

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

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 11/17/2020

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