

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

San Geronio Pass Area
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

February 5, 2021

February 8, 2021

File No.: 655.13886.17798

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Caltrans District 8
464 West 4th Street, 6th Floor (MS #823)
San Bernardino, CA 92401

RE: SCH# 2021010067

The San Geronio Pass Area of the California Highway Patrol (CHP) received the "Notice of Completion" of the environmental document for the proposed SR-74 Bridge Replacement Project for State Clearinghouse (SCH) #2021010067. After a thorough review, we have concerns with the potential impact this project could have on traffic congestion and safety.

Our concern relates to the proposed replacement of the Strawberry Creek Bridge (Bridge No. 56-0180) near Hemet, on SR-74, in Riverside County. At this location, SR-74 is a two-lane undivided highway with no shoulder access for vehicular travel. This is a major arterial route that connects Riverside County residents in the mountain communities near Idyllwild with larger cities, such as Hemet and Beaumont.

This project advises to create traffic delays which could last the length of the project (up to 12 months). This increase in congestion would have a negative impact on our operations. The increase in congestion would necessitate the need for additional traffic control measures to mitigate the potential increase in traffic collisions in the area. Additionally, this would increase response times to calls for service and emergency service operations, thereby providing a threat to public and officer safety. The Area recommends exploring the proposed project alternatives, which would seemingly impact concerns to a lesser degree.

If you have any questions regarding these concerns, please contact Lieutenant M. Vargas at (951) 769-2000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Knarr".

A. KNARR, Captain
Commander

cc: Border Division
Special Projects Section

