

**M e m o r a n d u m**

Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

Date: August 5, 2021

**August 09 2021****STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

To: Southern Division

From: **DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**  
Special Projects Section

File No.: 063.A10212.A18105.Nop.Doc

Subject: ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT REVIEW AND RESPONSE  
SCH# 2021080037

Special Projects Section (SPS) recently received the referenced "Notice of Preparation" environmental impact document from the State Clearinghouse (SCH).

Please use the attached checklist to assess its potential impact to local Area operations and public safety. If it is determined that departmental input is advisable, your written comments referencing the above SCH number must be sent to the lead agency and emailed to [state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov). Your written comments must be received by SCH no later than **September 1, 2021**. For reference, additional information can be found in General Order 41.2, Environmental Impact Documents.

For project tracking purposes, SPS must be notified of the assessment of the project (including negative reports). Please email a copy of the response to [EIR@chp.ca.gov](mailto:EIR@chp.ca.gov). For questions or concerns, please contact Blanca Enciso at (916) 843-3370.



L. NARVAEZ, SSM III  
Commander

Attachments: Checklist  
Project File



**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:** I-405 Sepulveda Pass ExpressLanes Project

Lead Agency: Caltrans, District 7

Contact Person: Karl Price

Mailing Address: 100 S Main Street, MS 16A

Phone: 213-266-3822

City: Los Angeles

Zip: 90012

County: Los Angeles

**Project Location:** County: Los Angeles City/Nearest Community: Los Angeles

Cross Streets: various Zip Code: various

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

Assessor's Parcel No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ Twp.: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Base: \_\_\_\_\_

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR 101, SR 2, I-10

Waterways: Los Angeles River, Ballona Creek

Airports: Santa Monica Airport, Van Nuys Airport

Railways: Expo Line, Amtrak

Schools: various

**Document Type:**

CEQA:  NOP  Draft EIR NEPA:  NOI Other:  Joint Document  
 Early Cons  Supplement/Subsequent EIR  EA  Final Document  
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) \_\_\_\_\_  Draft EIS  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mit Neg Dec Other: \_\_\_\_\_  FONSI \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Action Type:**

General Plan Update  Specific Plan  Rezone  Annexation  
 General Plan Amendment  Master Plan  Prezone  Redevelopment  
 General Plan Element  Planned Unit Development  Use Permit  Coastal Permit  
 Community Plan  Site Plan  Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Development Type:**

Residential: Units \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_  Transportation: Type highway/tollway  
 Office: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  Mining: Mineral \_\_\_\_\_  
 Commercial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  Power: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MW  
 Industrial: Sq.ft. \_\_\_\_\_ Acres \_\_\_\_\_ Employees \_\_\_\_\_  Waste Treatment: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD  
 Educational: \_\_\_\_\_  Hazardous Waste: Type \_\_\_\_\_  
 Recreational: \_\_\_\_\_  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water Facilities: Type \_\_\_\_\_ MGD \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Issues Discussed in Document:**

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

**Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:**

various

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

The Project proposes to improve traffic conditions on the I-405 starting in the south at I-10 and terminating in the north at US-101. The proposed project intends to reduce congestion, encourage carpooling and transit, improve trip reliability, reduce degradation of the carpool and general-purpose lanes, increase person throughput and apply technology to help manage traffic. The range of improvements may include, but are not limited to, converting existing HOV lanes to ExpressLanes or adding an additional ExpressLane in each direction and converting existing HOV lanes to ExpressLanes.

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 and "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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol	<input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # <u>7</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # <u>4</u>
<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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality
<input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission	<input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>5</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
<input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of	Other: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development	Other: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission	

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

Starting Date August 3, 2021 Ending Date September 1, 2021

### Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: <u>LSA</u>	Applicant: _____
Address: <u>20 Executive Park, Suite 200</u>	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: <u>Irvine, CA 92614</u>	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: <u>Allison Morrow, Associate</u>	Phone: _____
Phone: <u>(949) 553-0666</u>	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: Allison Morrow Digitally signed by Allison Morrow  
Date: 2021.08.02 11:19:50 -07'00' Date: 8/3/2021

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

# Notice of Preparation

## Notice of Preparation

To: Responsible and Trustee Agencies

From: California Department of Transportation, District 7, Division of Environmental Planning

(Address)

100 S Main Street, MS 16A

Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) 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 Ron Kosinski, Deputy District Director, Division of Environmental Planning at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: I-405 Sepulveda Pass Express Lanes

Project Applicant, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Date August 2, 2021

Signature Karl Price

Title Senior Environmental Planner

Telephone (213) 266-3822

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

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 7 as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), propose to improve traffic conditions on Interstate 405 (I-405) starting in the south at Interstate 10 (I-10) and terminating in the north at U.S. Highway 101 (US-101) in Los Angeles County. The proposed project intends to reduce congestion, encourage carpooling and transit, improve trip reliability, reduce degradation of the carpool and general-purpose lanes, increase person throughput, and apply technology to help manage traffic.

Caltrans will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project which would construct improvements that may include, but not be limited to, the conversion of the existing high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane into a high-occupancy toll (HOT), or ExpressLane, in each direction, or the conversion of the existing HOV lane to an ExpressLane and also adding a second ExpressLane in each direction. The purpose and objective of the proposed project is to improve the utilization of freeway capacity while addressing impacts to the environment and surrounding communities, including historically disadvantaged communities, within the project area.

Caltrans will be the lead agency for the Proposed Project under CEQA and NEPA as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

## **LOCATION OF STUDY AREA**

The Study Area includes portions of the cities of Santa Monica, Los Angeles, Culver City, and unincorporated areas in Los Angeles County, as indicated on the figure below.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The alternatives currently under consideration are described below.

### **Alternative 1 (No Build):**

The No Build Alternative does not include improvements to the existing lanes along I-405 between I-10 and US-101.

### **Alternative 2: Convert Existing HOV Lane to One ExpressLane (Standard Lane and Shoulder Widths)**

This build alternative would convert the existing HOV lane in each direction, along I-405 between I-10 and US-101, to an ExpressLane. The northbound and southbound directions of the freeway would be restriped within the existing footprint to accommodate one 12-foot wide ExpressLane with a 4-foot wide buffer separating the ExpressLane from the 12-foot wide general-purpose lanes. Dynamic pricing would be deployed in the ExpressLane to ensure trip reliability and traffic flow. Installation of toll and communication infrastructure and modification/installation of overhead signs is required. Alternative 2 proposes to widen the freeway, where necessary, to accommodate an additional

weave lane at ExpressLane ingress/egress locations and maintain stopping sight distance at curves. Non-standard inside shoulders would be maintained in a few locations where constraints exist, and standard 10-foot outside shoulders would be provided where possible. Retaining walls will be provided where required to minimize and avoid right-of-way (ROW) acquisition.

Other improvements include construction of retaining walls and sound walls, utility improvements, and drainage improvements.

### **Alternative 3: Convert Existing HOV Lane to Two ExpressLanes (Non-Standard Lane and Shoulder Widths)**

This build alternative would convert the existing HOV lane to an ExpressLane and add a second ExpressLane in each direction between I-10 and US-101. The freeway would be widened and restriped to accommodate the two ExpressLanes with a buffer separating the ExpressLanes from the general-purpose lanes. Dynamic pricing would be deployed in the ExpressLanes to ensure trip reliability and traffic flow. Installation of toll and communication infrastructure and modification/installation of overhead signs would be required. Alternative 3 proposes to widen the freeway to the outside in order to accommodate the proposed two-lane ExpressLane facility as described. Non-standard lanes and shoulders would be provided to accommodate for the addition of the new ExpressLanes as part of Alternative 3. Retaining walls would be provided where required to minimize and avoid ROW acquisition. The reduction of shoulder and lane widths allows for accommodation of the proposed two-lane ExpressLane facility without significant proposed roadway widening. However, in locations with the following conditions, additional roadway widening may be required:

- 12-foot wide weaving lane at ExpressLane ingress/egress locations
- Widening of inside/outside shoulders to maintain sight distance

Other improvements include construction of retaining walls and sound walls, utility improvements, and drainage improvements.

### **Alternative 4: Convert Existing HOV Lane to Two ExpressLanes (Standard Lanes and Shoulder Widths)**

This build alternative would convert the existing HOV lane, between I-10 and US-101, to an ExpressLane in each direction, and a second ExpressLane in each direction would also be added, while providing standard lane widths, shoulder widths and stopping sight distances. The freeway would be widened and restriped to accommodate the two ExpressLanes with a buffer separating the ExpressLanes from the general-purpose lanes. Dynamic pricing would be deployed in the ExpressLanes to ensure trip reliability and traffic flow. Installation of toll and communication infrastructure and modification/installation of overhead signs would be required. Alternative 4 proposes to widen the freeway to the outside in order to accommodate the proposed standard two-lane ExpressLane facility as described. Retaining walls would be provided where required to minimize and avoid ROW acquisition. Reconstruction of some existing freeway structures would be required to implement Alternative 4's standard roadway cross-section.

Other improvements include construction of retaining walls and sound walls, utility improvements, and drainage improvements.

**Alternative 5: Add an Additional HOV Lane (Non-standard Lane and Shoulder Widths)**

This build alternative would add an additional HOV lane, between I-10 and US-101, in each direction. The freeway would be widened and restriped to accommodate the two HOV lanes with a buffer separating the HOV lanes from the general-purpose lanes. Alternative 5 proposes to widen the freeway to the outside in order to accommodate the proposed two-lane HOV facility as described. Non-standard lanes and shoulders would be provided in order to accommodate for the addition of the new HOV lane as part of Alternative 5. Retaining walls would be provided where required to minimize and avoid ROW acquisition. The reduction of shoulder and lane widths allows for accommodation of the proposed two-lane HOV facility without significant proposed roadway widening. However, in locations with the following conditions, additional roadway widening may be required:

- 12-foot wide weaving lane at HOV ingress/egress locations
- Widening of inside/outside shoulder to maintain sight distance

Other improvements include construction of retaining walls and sound walls, utility improvements, and drainage improvements.

**POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

Various environmental and community resources are known to exist within the limits of the study area and will be studied in the EIR. Environmental effects anticipated for study include, but are not limited to: Land Use, Growth, Community Impacts, Utilities and Emergency Services, Traffic and Transportation/Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities, Visual/Aesthetics, Cultural Resources/Tribal Cultural Resources, Water Quality and Stormwater Runoff, Hydrology and Floodplains, Geology/Soils/Seismicity/Topography, Paleontology, Hazardous Waste/Materials, Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change, Noise, Wildfire, Energy, Biological Environment, and Cumulative Impacts.

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS:**

The formal scoping period will begin on August 3, 2021 and will close on September 1, 2021. Metro and Caltrans will be holding virtual public scoping meetings to provide an overview of the project, summary of the environmental process and issues addressed, and receive input regarding environmental issues and the suggested scope and content of the EIR. The virtual scoping meetings will be held on:

- Saturday, August 14, 2021, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.;
- Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 6 – 8 p.m.;

- Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

The link to the virtual public scoping meetings, as well as further information, can be found on the project website at [www.metro.net/405expresslanes](http://www.metro.net/405expresslanes). Scoping comments can be submitted via regular mail, email, online via comment form, or by phone. Mail comments to: Ronald Kosinski, Caltrans District 7, Division of Environmental Planning, 100 S. Main St., MS 16A, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Email comments to [405expresslanes@metro.net](mailto:405expresslanes@metro.net). Submit comments online at [www.metro.net/405expresslanes](http://www.metro.net/405expresslanes). Submit comments via phone at (213) 922-4860. Scoping comments must be submitted by September 1, 2021.



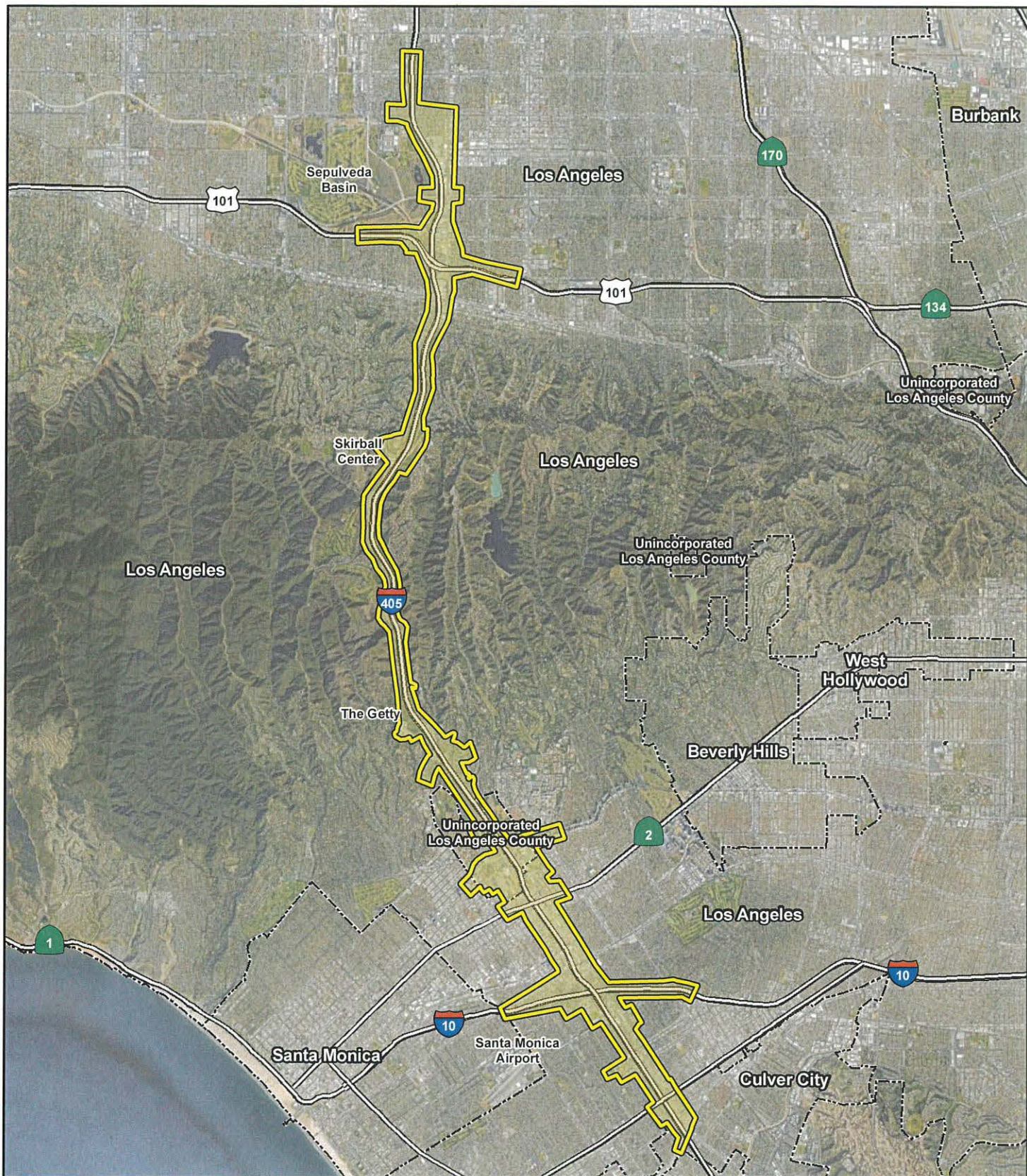


FIGURE 1



LEGEND

- Project Study Area
- City Boundary



SOURCE: Google Maps (2021); WSP (4/21/2020)

I:\WSP2003\GIS\MXD\Project\_Area.mxd (6/22/2021)

*Interstate 405 (I-405) Sepulveda Pass  
Express Lanes Project*  
Project Study Area

07-LA-405-PM 29.5/39.8  
EA 354330; EFIS 072000070