

DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

125 South Sixth Street
Coalinga, CA 93210
(559) 935-2093
(800) 735-2929 (TT/TDD)
(800) 735-2922 (Voice)



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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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File No.: 495.14612.18096.KettlemanRoundabout.SCH

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

State Clearinghouse
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) recently received the "Notice of Completion" environmental impact document for the Kettleman Roundabout Proposed Project, SCH #2021080315. The CHP is the primary agency which provides traffic law enforcement, safety and management services within this portion of unincorporated Kings County. As a result of this project, we anticipate local CHP operations will be impacted.

The Kettleman Roundabout site is located on State Route 41 (SR-41) at the intersection with Bernard Drive, in a rural area of southwestern Kings County. This location is approximately one quarter mile north of Interstate 5 (I-5) and is primarily surrounded by restaurants, gas stations, and hotels. FedEx and UPS both have freight facilities in the area, which increases the number of commercial vehicles traveling through this location. Due to the types of businesses and services available, this area is a common stopping place for travelers along the I-5 corridor. As such, traffic volumes vary greatly from hour to hour based on the time of day, day of the week, and holiday travel.

Three main concerns with the Kettleman Roundabout project have been identified. There have been no current traffic counts obtained for peak holiday travel periods, there has been no information provided regarding the maximum flow rate of vehicles or capacity of the proposed roundabout, and if traffic volumes exceed the flow rate, the ability to conduct traffic control would be negatively impacted by a roundabout. We estimate traffic control would require double the amount of personnel resources to safely and effectively manage traffic flows, posing the potential to reduce the level of service to the motoring public. Thanksgiving week sees the largest increase in traffic volume and the CHP Coalinga Area has current traffic control operational plans in place to maintain the flow of traffic. During peak travel periods pedestrian traffic also increases with people crossing SR-41 to visit other businesses in the area. Since traffic volumes vary greatly hour to hour, the roundabout would need to be able to handle the highest levels of peak vehicle and pedestrian traffic.



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The CHP Coalinga Area is comprised of 24 patrol officers and a shared communications center located in the city of Fresno which services four geographically separate CHP Areas within the San Joaquin Valley. This project could have a negative impact on CHP Coalinga Area operations with additional calls for service and traffic control dependent upon the performance and capacity of the roundabout to handle peak levels of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Sergeant Jimmy Beeson at (559) 935-2093.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. M. Brunell". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "B" and a distinct "R".

R. M. BRUNELL, Lieutenant
Commander
Coalinga Area