

## California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS)

February 3, 2023

**Subject:** Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration for the 03-3H590 Blue Canyon Rehabilitation Project.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared an Initial Study (IS) with proposed Negative Declaration (ND), which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the proposed project located in Placer County on Interstate 80 (I-80). Caltrans is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**Project Location:** The proposed project is located on Interstate 80 (I-80) in Placer County at the following three locations: Location 1 – PM R26.5 to 29.2, Location 2 – PM 39.5 to 41.3, and Location 3 – PM 53 – 55.1.

**Project Description:** Caltrans proposes to enhance and preserve the useful life of the existing pavement and to improve the ride quality on East Bound (EB) I-80 in Placer County between PM R26.5 and 55.1 by grinding and overlaying the mainline. Operational improvement of the general-purpose lanes will be accomplished by constructing EB truck climbing lanes at three locations. To accommodate the truck climbing lanes, the roadway would be widened and two structures, the Blue Canyon undercrossing (UC) (Br.#19-0115R) and Weimar overcrossing (OC) (Br.#19-0082), would be removed and replaced with wider structures. Several entrance and exit ramps would also be reconstructed with the latest signing/stripping standards for vehicles to properly merge into the new truck lane. Existing Traffic Management Systems (TMS) and Safety and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) elements would be relocated and upgraded to current standards to actively manage recurrent and non-recurrent traffic congestion. All Metal Beam Guardrails (MGBR) would be replaced with Midwest Guardrail Systems (MGS); median concrete barriers, drainage, lighting, sign panels, and fiber optic would be upgraded as needed; and wildlife crossing conflicts would be addressed with the construction of a wildlife crossing.

**Environmental Effects:** The project would have Less than Significant Impacts to Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forest Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards

and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Population and Housing, Transportation, and Wildfire.

**Availability of Document:** Pursuant to CEQA requirements, a draft IS ND is being made available for a public review period commencing on February 3, 2023, and ending on March 4, 2023. The document can be viewed digitally via Caltrans weblink: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-3/d3-programs/d3-environmental/d3-environmental-docs/d3-placer-county>

**Comments:** Caltrans will be accepting written comments on the Draft IS ND for consideration prior to adoption of the document. Comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 4, 2023, and can be submitted by mail to:

California Department of Transportation Environmental Management, M-3 Branch, 703 B Street, Marysville, CA 95901 Attn: Blue Canyon Pavement Rehabilitation

Submit comments via email to: [Blue.Canyon.PaveRehab@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Blue.Canyon.PaveRehab@dot.ca.gov)