



CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

For the U.S. 101/Prado Road Interchange Project
(EA 05-1H640 and Project ID Number 0516000105)

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has completed an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed U.S. 101/Prado Road Interchange Project.

The City of San Luis Obispo proposes to extend Prado Road over U.S. 101 to connect with Dalidio Drive and rebuild the existing U.S. 101 northbound on- and offramp connections to Prado Road to provide congestion relief, operational efficiency, and multimodal connectivity. The interchange is in the City of San Luis Obispo at post mile 26.8 on U.S. 101. The purpose of the project is to improve overall circulation and accessibility in the project area for all transportation modes. There is a need to provide better community connectivity between the existing and planned neighborhoods east and west of the U.S. 101 freeway and resolve forecasted operational deficiencies on State and city facilities. This connectivity need extends to all transportation modes.

The project limits extend from post mile 26.5 to post mile 27.3. U.S. 101 through the study area is currently a four-lane divided freeway with auxiliary lanes provided between Madonna Road and Marsh Street. Up to approximately 325,000 cubic yards of fill material would be imported to the project site for development of the project.

On the basis of this study, the proposed action will not have a significant effect on energy, greenhouse gas emissions, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, utilities and service systems, and wildfire. Based on implementation of mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, the project would have no significantly adverse effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, and tribal cultural resources. A petroleum pipeline from a Unocal site is present at the intersection of Elks Lane and Prado Road, and potential aerially deposited lead, pesticides and herbicides could result in hazards to the public or the environment during construction of the project. Required avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures would reduce these impacts to a less than significant level.

Reference copies of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration are available on the City's website at <https://www.slocity.org/government/department-directory/community-development/documents-online/environmental-review-documents>.

Additional copies of the document and the related technical studies are available for review at the Caltrans District 5 Office at 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401; at the City of San Luis Obispo, Public Works Department, 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401; and at the San Luis Obispo Library at 995 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93403. The required **30-day** public review period for the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration will extend from February 2nd, 2023 to March 6th, 2023. If you have any comments regarding the proposed project, please send your written comments to Caltrans by March 6th, 2023. Submit comments via U.S. mail to: Dianna Beck, Associate Environmental Planner, District 5 Environmental Division, California Department of Transportation, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401. Submit comments via email to: Dianna.Beck@dot.ca.gov.

A public meeting regarding the project will be held **Wednesday February 15, 2023, at 6:00 PM** at the **City of San Luis Obispo Corporation Yard, 25 Prado, San Luis Obispo, California**.