

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING FOR A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Date:** March 3, 2023

**To:** State Clearinghouse, Responsible and Trustee Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

**Subject:** Notice of Preparation and Public Scoping Meeting for a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment

**Project:** The Old Road over Santa Clara River and the Southern Pacific Transportation Company (SPT Co.) Bridge, Et Al.

**Lead Agency:** County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (CEQA), California Department of Transportation (NEPA)

**Review Period:** 30 days

Public Works will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Assessment (EA) for The Old Road over Santa Clara River and SPT Co. Bridge, Et Al., project. The County will be the lead agency for the proposed project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Caltrans will be the lead agency under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration. The County has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide agencies, organizations, and other interested parties with information describing the proposed project to identify potential environmental effects pursuant to State requirements.

Public Works is soliciting input from agencies and interested parties on the scope and content of the environmental information to be evaluated in the proposed project EIR/EA. In accordance with CEQA, agencies are requested to review the project description in this NOP and provide their comments on environmental issues related to the statutory responsibilities of the agency. The EIR/EA will be used by the Board when considering approval of the proposed project as well as any related discretionary actions. The proposed project location, description, and potential environmental effects are discussed below.

### PROJECT LOCATION

The project site includes the approximately two-mile stretch of existing The Old Road right-of-way between Henry Mayo Drive and Magic Mountain Parkway in western the County, as shown in Figure 1, Project Location Map. Additionally, the proposed project would include an approximately 0.58-mile extension of the County Multi-Purpose Regional River Trail on the southbound side of The Old Road from where the trail travels under The Old Road and Interstate 5 (I-5) just southeast of Rye Canyon Road to just northwest of the I-5 On- and off-ramps. The project site is contiguous to Henry Mayo Road, which forms the northern boundary of the project site; Rye Canyon Road, which intersects with The Old Road in the middle of the project site; Sky View Lane, which intersects with The Old Road in the southern portion of the project site; and Magic Mountain Parkway, which forms the southern boundary of the project site.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is being proposed to improve existing traffic operations and accommodate future traffic projections along the roadway. The improvements primarily consist of reconstruction and widening of The Old Road, replacement of two bridges, reconstruction and widening of Rye Canyon Road, and

reconstruction and widening of Sky View Lane, including reconfiguration of its intersection with The Old Road. The project would also extend the existing County Multi-Purpose Regional River Trail from its existing terminus just south of Rye Canyon Road to just northwest of the I-5 on- and off-ramps. Current traffic demand in the project area meets or exceeds roadway capacity for many arterial roadways. Increases in traffic demand are anticipated over the next few years concurrent with projected population growth in the area. As such, the widening of The Old Road to six lanes is critical to the passage of traffic and emergency vehicles in the area.

The Old Road over the Santa Clara River bridge is currently not high enough to allow the volume of water of Public Works' Capital Flood event (defined as a 50-year burned and bulked storm) to pass under it. Replacing the bridge at a higher elevation would provide a minimum freeboard of 2.5 feet to allow a Capital Flood event to pass under it. The bridge is currently classified as structurally deficient in accordance to the Federal Highway Administration standards. Replacing the bridge as part of this project would eliminate that classification. The Old Road over the abandoned Southern Pacific Transportation Company Railroad bridge would be reconstructed at a lower grade to improve roadway safety and to match the road elevation at Rye Canyon Road. Both of The Old Road bridge replacements would include additional roadway improvements, such as the addition of bicycle lanes, raised medians, sidewalks, and concrete barriers to separate pedestrians from traffic lanes.

## **POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

Based on a preliminary review of the proposed project consistent with Section 15060 of CEQA Guidelines, the County has determined that an EIR/EA should be prepared for this proposed project. In addition, consistent with Section 15082 of CEQA Guidelines, the County has identified the following potential environmental effects of the project, which will be addressed in the EIR/EA for this project:

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire

## **SUBMITTAL OF WRITTEN COMMENTS**

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, Section 15082, this NOP is being circulated for a 30-day comment period, starting March 6, 2023, and ending April 4, 2023. Interested parties must submit their comments in writing by 5 p.m. on April 4, 2023. Any comments provided should identify specific topics of environmental concern and your reason for suggesting the study of these topics in the EIR/EA. Comments must be submitted via postal or electronic mail to the following address:

Department of Public Works  
Attention Ms. Ebigalle Voigt  
P.O. Box 1460  
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460  
e-mail: [evoigt@dpw.lacounty.gov](mailto:evoigt@dpw.lacounty.gov)

## SCOPING MEETING

Public Works will hold a virtual scoping meeting for the The Old Road over Santa Clara River and SPT Co. Bridge, Et Al., project to receive comments on the scope and content of the EIR/EA. The scoping meeting will include a brief presentation providing an overview of the Proposed Project and CEQA process. The virtual scoping meeting will be held as follows:

**Date:** March 16, 2023  
**Time:** 6 p.m. PST  
**Location:** Online, via Zoom meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81799188445>  
Or via Zoom telephone number: (669) 900-6833  
Webinar ID: 817 9918 8445

## DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

This NOP can be viewed online at <https://pw.lacounty.gov/pmd/TheOldRoad-over-SantaClaraRiver/>. Future project documents, including the Draft and Final EIR/EA, will also be made available online.

The NOP will also be available at the following locations for viewing:

Public Works Transportation Planning and Programs Division, 11th Floor, 900 South Fremont Avenue, Alhambra, CA 91803

Questions regarding this notice should be directed to Ebigalle Voigt at (626) 458-3967 or [evoigt@pw.lacounty.gov](mailto:evoigt@pw.lacounty.gov), Monday through Thursday, between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Si necesita asistencia con la traducción a Español, por favor comuníquese con el representante del departamento de Obras Públicas del Condado de Los Angeles, Sr. Art Correa (626) 458-3948, 72 horas antes de la reunión.

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**ADA and Title VI Accommodations:** Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations, interpretation services, and materials in other languages or in an alternate format may contact the department coordinator at (626) 458-7901. Individuals with hearing or speech impairment may use California Relay Service 711.

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Source: Esri, 2023; Prepared By: AECOM, 2023.



0 500 1,000 Feet

-  Project Limit
-  Multi-Use Trail

**Figure 1**  
**Project Location Map**