



PUBLIC NOTICE



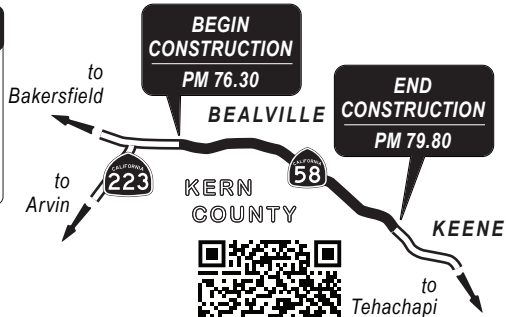
Notice of Intent to Adopt a MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION and ANNOUNCEMENT of a VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

(Study Results Available)

State Route 58 Truck Climbing Lane

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Comments will be accepted from:
Tuesday, March 21 to Wednesday, April 19, 2023
If there are no major comments,
Caltrans will proceed with the project's
design.



VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2023
Time: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Location: Look in 'What's Available' below or use QR Code

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in cooperation with the Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) proposes to construct a 12-foot-wide truck climbing lane to improve traffic flow and commuter travel on a steep grade section of eastbound State Route 58 in Kern County from post miles 76.3 to 79.8, approximately 10 miles west of the City of Tehachapi. The proposed project would also include operational improvements through removal of the Bena Road connection and modifying highway striping to provide an east bound acceleration for travelers exiting Bealville Road onto State Route 58. The proposed project will also improve wildlife connectivity by enhancing the Clear Creek Culvert and mitigating for impacts to wildlife connectivity by installing a wildlife under crossing and directional fencing within the limits of the Keene Pavement Project (post mile 77.2 – 88.5)

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our studies show the project will not significantly affect the quality of the environment. The report that explains why is called an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment. This notice is to inform you of the preparation of the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment and of its availability for you to read and comment on and to notify you of the virtual public meeting. Please visit the following website for more information:

<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-9/district-9-current-projects/58-truck-climbing-lane>

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

The Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment, maps, and other project information are available for review in the following ways:

1. Online at: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-9/district-9-current-projects/58-truck-climbing-lane>
2. Caltrans District 9 Office, 500 South Main Street, Bishop, California 93514, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
3. Kern County Library in Tehachapi: 212 south Green Street, Tehachapi, California
4. Kern County Library in Bakersfield: 1619-1629 S Street, Bakersfield, California

A virtual public meeting will be held on April 11, 2023 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM using the WebEx virtual platform. For information on how to join the virtual public meeting, go to the projects webpage located at:

<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-9/district-9-current-projects/58-truck-climbing-lane>

WHERE YOU COME IN?

Do you have any comments about processing the project with an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment? Do you disagree with the findings of our study as set forth in the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment? Would you care to make any other comments on the project? Please submit your comments in writing by U.S. Mail or email no later than Wednesday, April 19, 2023, to Caltrans, Attention: Kristopher Bason, Environmental Scientist, 500 South Main Street, Bishop, California 93514, or by email to kristopher.bason@dot.ca.gov. The date Caltrans will begin accepting comments is Tuesday, March 21, 2023. If there are no major comments, Caltrans will finalize the environmental document and proceed with the project's design.

CONTACT

For more information about this project, please contact Cecilia Boudreau, Senior Environmental Scientist, by email at Cecilia.boudreau@dot.ca.gov or by phone at 760-874-8330. For all other state highway matters in the area, please visit the Caltrans District 9 website at <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-9> or contact the District 9 Public Information Office at 1-760-872-0603 or by email at d9publicinfo@dot.ca.gov.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, individuals who require accommodation (American Sign Language Interpreter, accessible seating, documents in alternative formats, etc.) are requested to contact the Caltrans District 9 Public Information Office at 1-760-872-0603 or by email at d9publicinfo@dot.ca.gov. Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service line at 1-800-735-2929, Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922, or contact the California Relay Service Teletype Voice Line by dialing 711.