

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Availability of the Draft Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration and Virtual Public Meeting

WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes the State Route (SR) 116 Stage Gulch Road/Lakeville Highway Intersection Safety Project (Project) at post mile 39.27, approximately 1.2 miles southeast of Petaluma in Sonoma County. The purpose of the proposed Project is to reduce the number and severity of accidents and to improve traffic operations at the intersection. Two build alternatives are under consideration: signalization of the intersection or construction of a new roundabout. The Project also includes new asphalt-concrete pavement; removal of trees, additional signage, utility relocations, and drainage improvements. No existing structures will be affected.

WHY THIS AD?

Caltrans, as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead agency, has studied the potential effects that the proposed improvements may have on the environment. The results of these studies are summarized in a Draft Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration (IS/ND), also referred to as the Draft Environmental Document (DED). The Project is subject to and complies with the requirements of both CEQA and NEPA. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public of the availability of the Draft IS/ND, to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment, and to notify the public of a virtual public meeting and an opportunity for a question and answer (Q&A) session. Per CEQA Section 15073, Caltrans will circulate the Draft IS/ND for public review for 30 days from April 3, 2023, to May 3, 2023.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

The Draft IS/ND describes why Caltrans proposes the Project, how the existing environment could be affected by the Project, potential environmental impacts, and the project features and avoidance and minimization measures.

The Draft IS/ND, maps, and other Project information are available to download at the Caltrans District 4 website (<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-popular-links/d4-environmental-docs>). In addition, hardcopies of the Draft IS/ND will be made available at the following locations in the vicinity of the Project:

Sonoma County Regional Library
755 West Napa Street
Sonoma, CA 95476

Petaluma Regional Library
100 Fairgrounds Drive
Petaluma, CA 94952

WHERE YOU COME IN?

Please review the Draft IS/ND and attend the virtual public meeting on April 20, 2023 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm at the following Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/94744160403> to watch a live presentation about the project and the environmental review process, pose questions, and provide comments.

Attending the virtual public meeting is not required to comment on the Draft IS/ND.

We would like to hear what you think. Comments will be accepted during the 30-day public comment period from April 3, 2023, to May 3, 2023 via email at: sr116stagegulch@dot.ca.gov, or via postal mail to:

Caltrans, District 4, Maxwell Lammert, Office Chief, P.O. Box 23660, MS-8B, Oakland, CA 94623-0660

All comments must be received by 5:00 pm on May 3, 2023. Caltrans will consider the comments and will respond to them after the 30-day public review period. After comments have been received from the general public and responsible and trustee agencies, Caltrans may: (1) Grant environmental approval to the Project; (2) Conduct additional environmental studies; or (3) Abandon the Project.

If the Project is granted environmental approval and funding is obtained, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the Project.

CONTACT

For individuals with sensory disabilities, the IS/MND can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette. For individuals who require translation or who have sensory disabilities, the Draft IS/ND can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk by writing to the project team using the physical mailing address or email address (sr116stagegulch@dot.ca.gov) provided or by calling the **California Relay Service (800) 735-2929 (TTY), (800) 735-2922 (Voice), or 711.**