



# PUBLIC NOTICE



## Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Draft Section 4(f) De Minimis Finding

(Study Results Available)

### and Announcement of a Public Information Meeting

#### Highway 59 Phase 1 Widening and Widening Over Black Rascal Creek Project

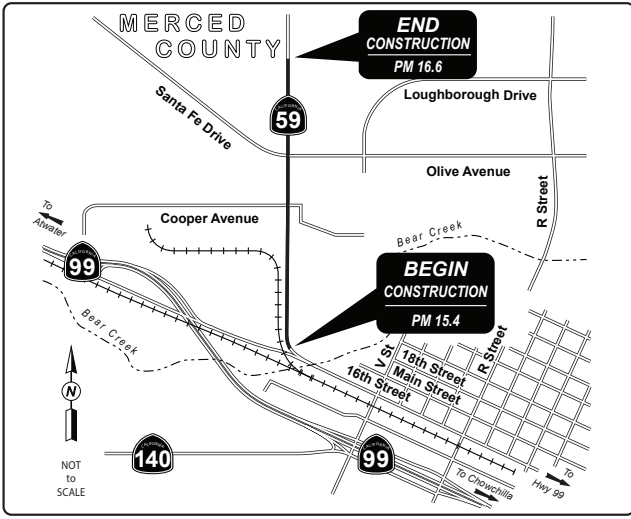
#### PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Comments will be accepted from September 26, 2023, to October 26, 2023. If there are no major comments, Caltrans and the City of Merced will proceed with the project's design.

#### WHEN AND WHERE?

#### PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Date:  
Tuesday, October 10, 2023  
Time:  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Where:  
City of Merced Civic Center  
Council Chamber  
at 678 West 18th Street,  
Second Floor  
Merced, California 95340



#### WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the City of Merced proposes to widen and improve State Route 59 from a two-lane roadway to four lanes from the 16th Street intersection to about 600 feet south of Buena Vista Drive. The Highway 59 Phase 1 Widening and Widening Over Black Rascal Creek project also proposes to replace the Black Rascal Creek Bridge and the South Fork Black Rascal Creek Bridge. Additional project features include standard shoulders, intersection improvements, Class 2 bicycle lanes, a striped two-way left-turn lane and median, and sidewalks.

#### 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. This notice is to inform you of the preparation of the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Draft Section 4(f) De Minimis Finding, and of their availability for you to read and comment on.

Project-level air quality conformity analysis shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis with interagency consultation for particulate matter (Particulate Matter 10 and Particulate Matter 2.5) required by 40 Code of Federal Regulations Section 93.116 and 93.123. This project is not considered a Project of Concern regarding particulate matter (Particulate Matter 10 and Particulate Matter 2.5) as defined in 40 Code of Federal Regulations Section 93.123(b)(1). A detailed Particulate Matter 10 and Particulate Matter 2.5 hot-spot analysis was not completed because Clean Air Act and 40 Code of Federal Regulations Section 93.116 requirements are met without an explicit hot-spot analysis. The project comes from a conforming Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. Comments are requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis.

A public meeting will be held to give you an opportunity to talk about certain design features of the project with Caltrans' staff before the final design is selected.

#### WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

You can view or obtain the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and other project information at the following locations:

- Caltrans District 10 Office at 1976 East Doctor Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard, Stockton, California 95205, weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The City of Merced Civic Center at 678 West 18th Street, Merced, California 95340, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The document is also posted online on the Caltrans District 10 website (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/d10/projects.html>) and the City of Merced website

(<https://www.cityofmerced.org/departments/planning-division/environmental-review-documents/-/folder-2508>).

#### WHERE YOU COME IN?

Do you have any comments about processing the project with an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration? Do you disagree with the findings of our study as set forth in the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration? 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 October 26, 2023, to Caltrans, Attention: C. Scott Guidi, District 10 Environmental Office Chief, 1976 East Doctor Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard, Stockton, California 95205, or by email to [Scott.Guidi@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Guidi@dot.ca.gov). The date Caltrans will begin accepting comments is September 26, 2023. If there are no major comments, Caltrans will proceed with the project's design.

#### CONTACT

For more information about this project or to request an electronic or hard copy version of the document, please contact C. Scott Guidi, District 10 Environmental Office Chief, at [Scott.Guidi@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Guidi@dot.ca.gov), or by phone at 209-479-1839. For all other state highway matters in the area, please contact the District 10 Public Information Office at [district10publicaffairs@dot.ca.gov](mailto:district10publicaffairs@dot.ca.gov), or by phone at 209-948-7543.

#### 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 10 Public Information Office at [district10publicaffairs@dot.ca.gov](mailto:district10publicaffairs@dot.ca.gov) or by phone at 209-948-7543. 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.