



# CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

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GAVIN NEWSOM, GOVERNOR

CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

March 13, 2024

File No.: 340.16235.20674

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Mar 13 2024**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

State Clearinghouse  
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Environmental Document Review and Response SCH 2024020745

Dear Sir or Madam:

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) San Jose Area recently received a "Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal" for the proposed "Highway 17 Wildlife and Regional Trail Crossings and Trail Connections Project". After careful review, we have concerns with impact to local operations and public safety.

Specifically, the CHP has concerns related to the proposed construction of the "separate regional multi-use trail overcrossing" of State Route 17 (SR-17) near Lexington Reservoir, south of the Town of Los Gatos in Santa Clara County.

State Route 17 is a steeply inclined/declined curvaceous, narrow mountainous highway. SR-17 at Bear Creek Road consists of two traffic lanes in each direction with no center median and lacks a right shoulder in certain areas. SR-17 serves as the major arterial route connecting the greater Santa Cruz County area to the Silicon Valley. SR-17 currently experiences full or near-full capacity during commute hours.

In 2023, SR-17 experienced 389 reportable crashes, including two fatal crashes, and 116 injury crashes. There is a current need for additional traffic control measures to mitigate the increases in vehicle travel, traffic crashes, and emergency services within this specific area, as well as the surrounding surface streets, businesses, and residences.

*Safety, Service, and Security*

CHP 49 (Rev. 2-24) OPI 076

408-961-0900  
2020 Junction Avenue, San Jose, CA 95131

AN INTERNATIONALLY  
ACCREDITED AGENCY 

While this project aims to improve wildlife passage, habitat connectivity, and regional trail connections, it will most probably have a negative impact on the commuting public, California Highway Patrol traffic operations, and other emergency operations, due to proposed construction.

If you have any questions, please contact the CHP San Jose Area at (408) 961-0900.

Sincerely,



C. E. OLIVER, Captain  
Commander  
California Highway Patrol  
San Jose Area

Enclosures

cc: Golden Gate Division  
Special Projects Section

