



PUBLIC NOTICE

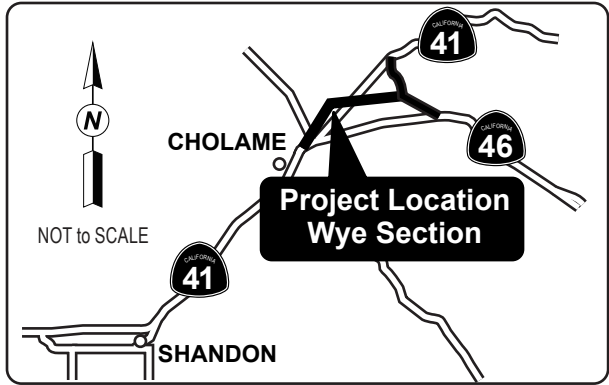


Notice of Intent to Adopt National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Project Level Conformity Determination [8-hour Ozone (O3)] for the Highway 46 Corridor Improvement Project – Wye Section

Do you have comments on the Project Level Conformity Determination in San Luis Obispo County for the Wye Section of the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project?

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Comments will be accepted through January 27, 2021. If there are no major comments, Caltrans will finalize this determination.



WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the San Luis Obispo County Council of Governments (SLOCOG) proposes to begin construction of the last section (Wye) of the Highway 46 Corridor Improvement Project in order to improve safety and congestion relief on State Route 46. Construction of the Wye Section, between postmile 54.0 and 57.8, will include creating an additional travel lane in each direction, separating the east and west-bound lanes by a median, improving inside and outside paved shoulder widths, and by providing left-turn channelization at all public road intersections within the Wye section project limits. Safety would also be improved in the Wye Section by eliminating the State Routes 46/41 junction, which is an at-grade intersection, and constructing an interchange for the connection.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

The Ozone attainment status of San Luis Obispo County has changed since the public circulation and approval of the project's Final Environmental Impact Report with Finding of No Significant Impact in 2006. Therefore, conformity analysis was re-performed for this project. The project is in the eastern portion of San Luis Obispo County which is designated as non-attainment for 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Ozone is a regional pollutant, meaning there are no project-level analyses to be performed for conformity purposes. However, since the project is not exempt from regional conformity per table 3 of 40 CFR 93.127, regional conformity applies. The project is listed in the most recent Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP 2019) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP 2019) prepared by SLOCOG.

The regional analysis performed by SLOCOG show that the projects listed in SLOCOG 2019 FTIP, and the 2019 RTP meet the emissions conformity tests for federal 8-hour ozone standards (2008 and 2015) based on the Transportation Conformity requirements found in the Federal Clean Air Act, Section 176(c) (42 U.S.C. 7506(c)), and Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 93, Subpart A for the San Luis Obispo County ozone non-attainment area.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

Do you have any comments about the findings from the conformity analysis reevaluated for this project that shows the project will support local area air quality goals? Please submit written comments by U.S. mail, no later than January 27, 2021 to Jason Wilkinson, Senior Environmental Planner, Caltrans, District 5, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401 or by email at: jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov. Comments on the 2006 Final Environmental Impact Report/Finding of No Significant Impact were previously requested and received. Therefore, Caltrans is only requesting comments on the conformity redetermination.

WHERE DO YOU COME IN?

Do you have any comments about the findings from the conformity analysis reevaluated for this project that shows the project will support local area air quality goals? Please submit written comments no later than January 27, 2021. Comments on the 2006 Final Environmental Impact Report/Finding of No Significant Impact were previously requested and received. Therefore, Caltrans is only requesting comments on the conformity redetermination.

CONTACT

For more information about this air conformity determination, please contact Jason Wilkinson, District 5 Environmental Branch Chief at (805) 542-4663 or by email at jason.wilkinson@dot.ca.gov. For all other State Highway matters, please contact Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at (805) 549-3318.

SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

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 5 Public Affairs Office by email: info-d5@dot.ca.gov or by phone: (805) 549-3318. Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) users may call 1-800-735-2929 or contact the California Relay Service TTY voice line by dialing 711.