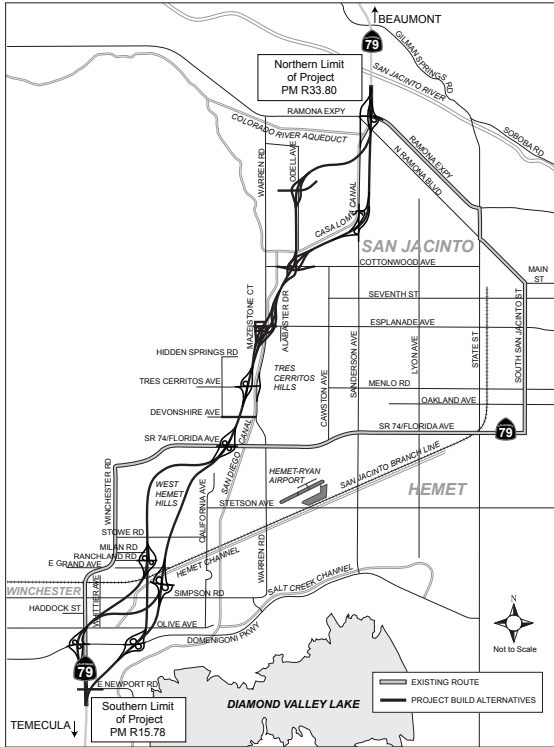




PUBLIC NOTICE

Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement Available for State Route 79 Realignment Project: Domenigoni Parkway to Gilman Springs Road Announcement of Public Hearing



What's Being Planned?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Riverside County Transportation Commission, the City of Hemet, the City of San Jacinto, and the County of Riverside is proposing to realign approximately 18 miles of State Route 79 (SR-79) in the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto and unincorporated Riverside County. The project would begin approximately 1.26 miles south of Domenigoni Parkway and end south of the San Jacinto River. The realigned highway would be constructed as a limited access, four-lane expressway, with two travel lanes in each direction separated by a median. Four Build alternatives, two design options, and a No Build Alternative are evaluated in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The four Build alternatives propose to realign SR-79 in different locations along the western portion of the San Jacinto Valley. The design options would have the same alignments as two of the Build alternatives, but would be lower in elevation from Domenigoni Parkway to Florida Avenue.

The proposed work may have an effect on historic properties that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Caltrans is evaluating alternatives to determine if the project can avoid adversely affecting the property(ies) or, if not, to identify adequate mitigation measures that can be incorporated into the project plans.

Anticipated federal approvals include air quality conformity, Section 7 consultation for threatened and endangered species, and a Clean Water Act Section 404 Individual Permit. State approvals are also expected, including a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Why This Ad?

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our studies show that it will significantly affect the quality of the environment. The results of these studies are explained in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This notice is to advise the public of the availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the accompanying documents, and to offer the opportunity for public comments.

Two open house hearings will be held to give you an opportunity to talk about the alternatives and proposed design of the project with Caltrans staff before the Preferred Alternative is identified.

What's Available?

You can review a hard copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement at the Caltrans District 8 office at 464 West Fourth Street, San Bernardino, CA, 92401 on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There are also hard copies available at the Riverside County Transportation Commission, 4080 Lemon Street, Third Floor, Riverside, CA 92501, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; during business hours at the Hemet Public Library, 300 E. Latham Avenue, Hemet, CA 92543; and the San Jacinto Public Library, 500 Idyllwild Drive, San Jacinto, CA 92583. An electronic copy is available online at <http://www.sr79project.info/>.

Where You Come In

Have the potential impacts been addressed? Do you have information that should be included? Your comments will be part of the public record. If you wish to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement, submit your written comment by March 25, 2013 to Aaron Burton, California Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 12008, Riverside, CA 92502-2208 or contact us through our website at www.sr79project.info/contact.

When and Where?

Open house hearings for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be held on Tuesday, February 26 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Wednesday, February 27 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Tahquitz High School, 4425 Titan Trail, Hemet, CA 92545 in the Multipurpose Room.

Contact

Individuals who require special accommodation (American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in alternate formats, etc.) are requested to contact Caltrans District 8, Aaron Burton at (951) 824-8706 prior to the scheduled open house hearing date. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service TTY line at 1 (800) 735-2929 or Voice Line at 1 (800) 735-2922. For more information about this study or any transportation matter, call District 8 Public Affairs at (866) 383-4631 or (909) 383-4631.