



PUBLIC NOTICE



Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment

SR 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder Improvements - Freedom Blvd. to State Park Drive - and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

Caltrans, in cooperation with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and the County of Santa Cruz, proposes to widen State Route 1 to include auxiliary lanes, accommodate bus-on-shoulder operations between the Freedom Boulevard and State Park Drive interchanges, and construct Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 in the community of Aptos, Santa Cruz County.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

Caltrans has studied the effect this project may have on the environment and prepared a Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment that identifies the project's potential impacts and potential avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures. The build alternative would result in significant and unavoidable impacts related to Aesthetics (loss of trees). Significant impacts related to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, and Paleontological Resources, would be reduced to less-than-significant levels after implementation of mitigation measures. The project site is not located on any list of hazardous materials waste sites compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

After the Project was approved and Final EIR certified, it was discovered that eight comment emails/letters were inadvertently omitted and were therefore not included in the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment approved on January 17, 2024. Therefore, on February 6, 2024, Caltrans requested that the Office of Planning and Research withdraw the Notice of Determination previously submitted on January 19, 2024 and notified that approval of the project had been rescinded. The updated document includes the previously missing letters as well as responses to all comments and has gone through the re-approval process including the required 10-day notice to all commenting agencies. As detailed in the responses to comments, responding to these comments did not require any changes to the Final EIR/EA or result in any new significant or substantially more severe impacts.

This is to advise you that a finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been made for this project by the California Department of Transportation as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327. A copy of the FONSI and the attached Environmental Assessment can be obtained from the California Department of Transportation office located at the above address or at the following website.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE

The Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment and other project information are available for review and copying at the Caltrans District 5 Office at 50 Higuera Street in San Luis Obispo on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The document is also available at the County of Santa Cruz Public Works at 701 Ocean Street, 4th Floor in Santa Cruz, and online at the Caltrans District 5 website: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5>. Electronic copies are also available at Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's website: <https://bit.ly/StatePark-FreedomBlvd>.

Responses to comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment are in Appendix I of the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment.

CONTACT

For more information about this project, please contact Lara Bertaina, Senior Environmental Planner, at (805) 779-0792 or lara.bertaina@dot.ca.gov. For other state highway matters in the area, please contact the Caltrans District 5 Public Information Office at 805-549-3318 or by email at info-d5@dot.ca.gov.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Individuals who require special accommodation (e.g., American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in alternate forms, etc.) are requested to contact the District 5 Public Affairs Office at 805-549-3318. Telecommunication Devices for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 711.