DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
2015 EAST SHIELDS AVENUE, SUITE 100
FRESNO, CA 93726-5428
PHONE (559) 243-8232
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FILED
SEP 13 2010
INYO COUNTY CLERK

Flex your power!
Be energy efficient!

September 1, 2010

Mary A. Roper, County Clerk
Inyo County Clerk/Recorder
P.O. Drawer F
Independence, CA 93526

Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Document and Announcement of Public Hearing for the Olancha/Cartago Four-Lane Project

Dear Ms. Roper:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to convert approximately 12.6 miles of the existing U.S. Highway 395 from a two-lane conventional highway into a four-lane expressway of partial conventional four-lane highway from post mile 29.2 to post mile 41.8 in Inyo County. Additionally, a route adoption is proposed for U.S. Highway 395 and State Route 190.

This letter is to notify you that the Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment is available for public circulation. Enclosed you will find a copy of this document for your use. Comments on the document are being accepted until **October 1, 2010**. Please submit comments about the document to Stephen Ruiz at 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, CA 93726.

A Public Hearing will be held to present the status of this project and to obtain public input on the draft environmental document. At the Public Hearing, Caltrans will present maps and graphics of the project area and will summarize key results of the technical studies supporting the Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment. The date, time, and location of the meeting are listed below. The hearing will be informal and you may arrive at any time.

When: Wednesday, September 22, 2010
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Where: Olancha School
Multipurpose Room
123 School Road, Olancha, CA 93549

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Ruiz, Associate Environmental Planner at (559) 243-8250.

Sincerely,

Cedrik Zemitis

Cedrik Zemitis
Project Manager

Enclosure: Public Notice
Draft Environmental Document

10-00045

PUBLIC NOTICE

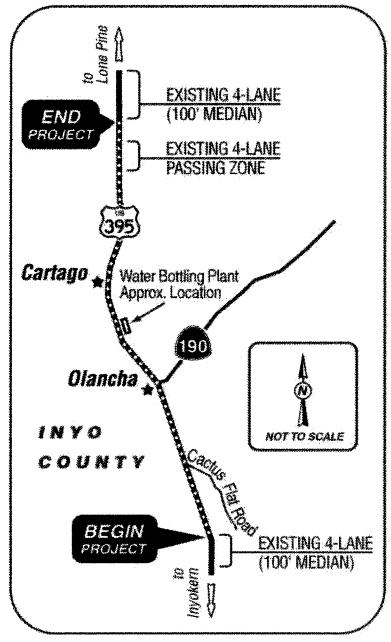
Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Announcement of Public Hearing/Open House

Study Results Available

US 395 Olancha/Cartago 4-Lane Project

WHERE AND WHEN?

Date: **Wednesday, September 22, 2010**
Time: **4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (Open House Format)**
Place: **Olancha School, Multipurpose Room**
123 School Road, Olancha, CA 93549



WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), as CEQA lead agency, and the Federal Highway Administration, as NEPA lead agency, and with support from the Inyo County Local Transportation Commission propose to convert approximately 12.6 miles of the existing U.S. Highway 395 from a two-lane conventional highway into a four-lane expressway or partial four-lane conventional highway conventional four-lane highway from post mile 29.2 to post mile 41.8 in Inyo County. The project proposes five build alternatives with varying amounts of construction on new alignments. The new facility would have four 12-foot lanes with a median of variable width. The proposed project would improve highway operation and safety for both the interregional and local traveler.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

CALTRANS has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our studies show it will not significantly affect the quality of the environment. The results of our studies are explained in a report called a Proposed Negative Declaration and Initial Study/Environmental Assessment. This notice is to tell you of the preparation of this report and of its availability for you to read.

A hearing will be held to give you an opportunity to talk about the report and proposed project alternatives with CALTRANS staff before the preferred alternative is selected. The tentative project schedule will be presented, including the environmental process and project construction.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

The Proposed Negative Declaration and Initial Study/Environmental Assessment are available for review and copying at the CALTRANS District 9 Office, 500 South Main Street, Bishop, on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The document is also available at the Lone Pine Library, located at the corner of Washington and Bush Streets in Lone Pine. The library is open at various times, so please call ahead at (760) 876-5031. The document is also available at the following web page: http://www.4Lane395.com.

WHERE YOU COME IN

Do you have any comments about processing the project with a Negative Declaration and the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment? Do you disagree with the findings of our study as set forth in the Proposed Negative Declaration? Would you care to make any other comments on the project? Please submit your comments in writing no later than October 1, 2010 to CALTRANS, 2015 E. Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, CA 93726-5428, Attention: Kirsten Helton. The date we will be accepting comments is September 2, 2010. If there are major comments, CALTRANS will respond in the final environmental document and will consider the recommendations when designing the project. If there are no major comments, CALTRANS will proceed with the project design.

CONTACT

For more information about this project, please contact Cedrik Zemitis, Project Manager, at 500 South Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514 or by email at cedrik_zemitis@dot.ca.gov. For all other State Highway matters, please contact District 9 Public Affairs Office at (760) 872-0603.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Individuals who require special accommodation (American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in alternate formats, etc.) are requested to contact District 09 Public Affairs Office at (760) 872-0603 at least 5 days before the scheduled hearing date. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 1-800-735-2929 or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922.

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