

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CENTRAL REGION
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FILED

AUG 07 2015

INYO CO. CLERK
KAMMI FQOTE, CLERKBY  DEPUTY

*Serious drought.
 Help save water!*

August 5, 2015

**Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Document
 for the Olancha/Cartago Four-Lane Project**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as CEQA lead agency, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), as NEPA lead agency, 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 conventional four-lane highway from post mile 29.2 to post mile 41.8 in Inyo County. The project proposes six alternatives with varying amounts of construction on new alignments.

An Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment was publically noticed and circulated for comments from September 2, 2010 to October 22, 2010. Caltrans and FHWA have subsequently determined that an Environmental Impact Report is warranted for the project. This letter is to inform you that the project's Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment with Section 4(f) Evaluation and technical reports are available for public review at the following locations:

- Caltrans District Office, District 9, 500 South Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514
- Lone Pine Public Library, 127 West Bush Street, Lone Pine, CA 93545
- Olancha Post Office, 100 South Highway 395, Olancha, CA 93549
- Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center located at the junction of U.S. Highway 395 and State Route 136 (one mile south of Lone Pine)
- Online: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist9/projects/olancha>

The Draft Environmental Document will be in the public circulation phase from August 12, 2015 through October 10, 2015. Public comments will be accepted until October 10, 2015. Please send your comments to Kirsten Helton, Senior Environmental Planner, 855 "M" Street, Suite 200, Fresno, CA 93721, or email them to kirsten.helton@dot.ca.gov.

As part of the circulation process, Caltrans will hold a Public Hearing to obtain public input on the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment with Section 4(f) Evaluation. Caltrans will present preliminary design plans, environmental study information, discuss concerns, and answer questions. The Public Hearing will be informal and interested parties may arrive at any time.

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2015
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Location: Olancha Fire Station
 689 Shop Street
 Olancha, CA 93549

If you have any questions, please contact me or Cedrik Zemitis, Project Manager, at (760) 872-5250.

Sincerely,



KIRSTEN HELTON
 Senior Environmental Planner

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system
 to enhance California's economy and livability"*

15-00028



PUBLIC NOTICE



Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment with Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Olancha/Cartago Four-Lane Project

Announcement of Public Hearing

WHEN AND WHERE?

Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2015	Place: Olancha Fire Station 689 Shop Street Olancha, CA 93549
Time: 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) propose to convert approximately 12.6 miles of the existing U.S. Highway 395 from a two-lane conventional highway to a four-lane expressway or partial conventional four-lane highway from post mile 29.2 to post mile 41.8 in Inyo County. The project proposes six alternatives with varying amounts of construction on new alignments.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our findings are contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment with Section 4(f) Evaluation. This notice is to tell you of the completion of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment with Section 4(f) Evaluation and its availability for you to read. A hearing will be held to give you an opportunity to discuss the project with Caltrans staff before a final alternative is selected.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

You can look at or obtain a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment with Section 4(f) Evaluation at the Caltrans District 9 Office at 500 South Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514. There are also copies available at the Lone Pine Public Library, 127 West Bush Street, Lone Pine, CA 93545; the Olancha Post Office, 100 South Highway 395, Olancha, CA 93549; the Eastern Sierra Interagency Visitor Center located at the junction of U.S. Highway 395 and State Route 136 (one mile south of Lone Pine); and online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist9/projects/olancha>.

WHERE YOU COME IN

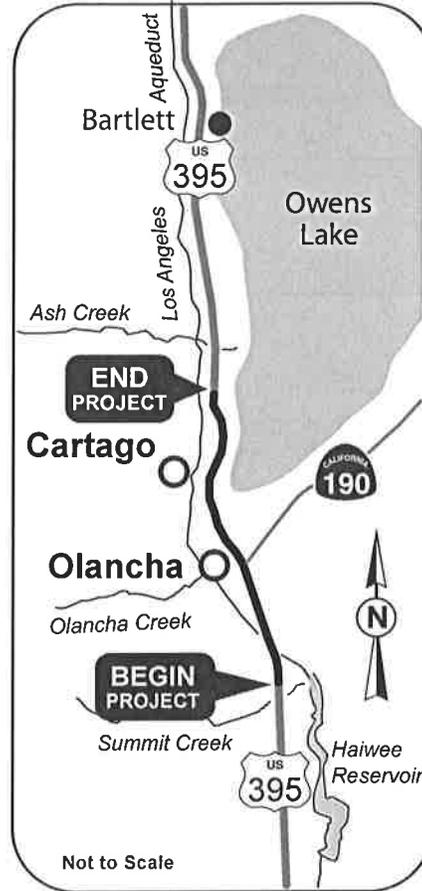
Have the potential impacts been addressed? Do you have information that should be included? Your comments, both those made on the 2010 Initial Study and any made on this document, will be part of the public record. If you wish to make a comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment with Section 4(f) Evaluation, please submit your written comments by October 10, 2015, to Caltrans Environmental Planning, Attention Kirsten Helton, 855 M Street, Suite 200, Fresno, CA 93721.

CONTACT

For more information concerning this project, please contact Cedrik Zemitis, Project Manager, at (760) 872-5250, or cedrik.zemitis@dot.ca.gov. You may also contact Kirsten Helton, Senior Environmental Planner, at (559) 445-6461, or email kirsten.helton@dot.ca.gov. For other state matters, please contact District 9 Public Affairs at (760) 872-0603.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Special accommodations: Individuals who require special accommodation are requested to contact the District 9 Public Affairs Office at (760) 872-0603. 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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