

SCH NO. \_\_\_\_\_

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
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From: California Dept. of Transportation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
100 S. Main Street, MS 16-A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**  
*Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.*

**Project Title: State Route 710 North Gap Closure Project**

**Project Location:** Depending on the alternative selected, this project would be located in the study area bordered by Interstate 10 to the south, Interstate 605 to the east, Interstate 210 to the north, and State Route 2 to the west, in Los Angeles County, California.

**Project Description:** The proposed project, depending on the results of a thorough environmental analysis of all possible transportation improvements during the NEPA/CEQA process, may include, but not be limited to: surface and subsurface highway/freeway construction, heavy rail and bus/light rail systems, local street upgrades, traffic management systems and a no build alternative. There currently is a gap in the I-710 corridor, for a distance of approximately 4.5 miles (7.2km), which extends between Valley Boulevard to the south and Del Mar Boulevard to the north. As originally identified in the April 13, 1998 Record of Decision for the Meridian Variation alignment, this gap contributes to congestion on local streets and the regional freeway system. The objective of this project is to relieve congestion and improve mobility within the study area.

This is to inform you that the California Department of Transportation will be the lead agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project described above. Your participation as a responsible agency is requested in the preparation and review of this document.

We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

A location map and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.

Caltrans will be holding public scoping meetings to provide an overview of the project, summary of the environmental process and issues addressed, and receive input regarding environmental issues and the suggested scope and content of the EIR. The Scoping meetings will be held in San Gabriel, Alhambra, Glendale, South Pasadena, El Sereno, and Pasadena. More information on the scoping meetings are in the attached materials.

A copy of the Initial Study ( is) ( x is not) attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please direct your response to Ron Kosinski, Deputy District Director Telephone (213) 897-0703 at the address shown above. Please supply us with the name for a contact person in your agency.

Date FEL 28, 2011

Signature Ronald Kosinski

Title DEPUTY DIST. DIR. ENV. PLANNING

**Scoping Meetings:** An Agency Scoping Meeting will be held in Los Angeles, March 14, 2011, 2pm to 4pm, Caltrans, District 7 Headquarters, RM 1.040 100 S. Main Street, 90012.

Public Scoping Meetings will be held at the following locations:

- **San Gabriel**, March 15, 2011, 6pm to 8pm Jefferson Middle School, 1372 East Las Tunas Drive, 91776
- **Alhambra**, March 16, 2011, 6pm to 8pm Civic Center Library, 101 S. First Street, 91801
- **Glendale**, March 22, 2011, 6pm to 8pm Glendale Community College, 1500 North Verdugo Road, 91208
- **South Pasadena**, March 23, 2011, 6pm to 8pm South Pasadena High School, 1401 Fremont Ave., 91030
- **El Sereno**, March 29, 2011, 6pm to 8pm LA Christian Presbyterian Church, 2241 N. Eastern Ave., 90032
- **Pasadena**, March 30, 2011, 6pm to 8pm Lake Avenue Church, 393 N. Lake Ave., 91101

**Impacts:**

Various environmental and community resources are known to exist within the limits of the study area. These resources include, but are not limited to: geotechnical, erosion, hydrology, air quality, water quality, noise, biology, public utilities, vehicle traffic patterns, parking, land use planning and hazardous waste. Displacement of businesses and homes is a significant issue. Soundwalls, relocation assistance, construction impact management and other mitigation measures will be incorporated into the proposed project.

It is anticipated that the proposed project may require the following federal approvals and permits: a Biological Opinion from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, approval of a PM10 and PM2.5 Hot Spot Analysis by the Conformity Working Group for transportation conformity determination under the Clean Air Act. Section 404 nationwide permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Section 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game, and encroachment permits from the various cities in which project construction would occur.