

Chapter 1 Proposed Project

Recirculated

Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment

Changes have been made to the Original *Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment* (IS/EA) since the public circulation of the Original IS/EA from June 16 to August 11, 2014. Public and agency comments received during the circulation and public review of the Original IS/EA, and at the public hearing held on July 31, 2014, resulted in refinements that have been incorporated into this Recirculated IS/EA. As such, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has fulfilled its responsibility to consider such comments. No new substantial impacts resulting from the proposed project and no new mitigation requirements were identified. A vertical line in the outside margin indicates changes to the text in relation to the corresponding part in the Original IS/EA.

If the public, government agencies, or other interested parties still have concerns in relation to this Recirculated IS/EA, a new comment articulating those concerns must be submitted during the comment period for this Recirculated IS/EA. Otherwise, Caltrans will view this Recirculated IS/EA as adequately addressing those prior concerns.

1.1 Introduction

Caltrans is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Caltrans is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), in cooperation with Caltrans, proposes to construct an eastbound truck-climbing lane and westbound truck-descending lane; along with inside and outside standard shoulders in both directions on State Route 60 (SR-60), in Riverside County between Gilman Springs Road Post Mile (PM) 22.10 and 1.369 miles west of Jack Rabbit Trail PM 26.61. The total length of the proposed project is 4.51 miles. Figures 1-1 and 1-2 show the project vicinity and location.

This proposed project is included in the 2015 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) as Project ID RIV120201. The 2015 FTIP was adopted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) on September 11, 2014 and approved for air quality conformity by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on December 15, 2014. It includes all federally funded and regionally significant projects.

The project limits identified for the project in the FTIP are being updated to cover shoulder work on the eastern end of the project. The updated project limits for the project will be included in an amendment to the 2015 FTIP, which is in the process of being approved by SCAG and FHWA. Final approval, which will be provided by FHWA, is anticipated to occur in November 2015. Except for the pending project limit update, the project information is consistent with the entry for the project in the 2015 FTIP. Improvements to the lanes of travel still end at 22.1 and 26.5.

The total project capital construction cost is estimated at ~~\$109,000,000~~ **\$112,840,000**. This is a Mixed Funded Project using Local Funds from RCTC as the main Project Sponsor and with participation from Caltrans, designated as the lead agency. Local Measure A (1/2 cent sales tax) funds will fund a