The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Riverside County Transportation Commission, the City of Hemet, the City of San Jacinto, and the County of Riverside is proposing to realign approximately 18 miles of existing State Route 79 (SR 79) in the cities of Hemet and San Jacinto and unincorporated Riverside County. The Project would begin 1.26 miles south of Domenigoni Parkway and end south of Gilman Springs Road. The realigned highway would be approximately 12 miles long and constructed as a limited access, four-lane expressway, with two travel lanes in each direction separated by a median. Only significant new information relevant to environmental concerns is being evaluated in the Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (RDEIR/SDEIS).

Since the circulation of the Draft EIR/EIS, it was determined that refinements to Build Alternative 1b would be needed to mitigate impacts to a cultural property that would have been severely affected by the proposed Build alternatives, and for that reason Alternative 1br has been created.

Anticipated federal approvals include air quality conformity, Section 7 consultation for threatened and endangered species, and a Clean Water Act Section 404 Individual Permit. State approvals are also expected, including a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board and a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. Our studies show it will significantly affect the quality of the environment. This notice is to tell you of the preparation of the RDEIR/SDEIS. This RDEIR/SDEIS provides new information relevant to the proposed project, information that was not available when the Draft EIR/EIS was circulated for public review and comment in February 2013. This RDEIR/SDEIS only includes portions of the Draft EIR/EIS that contain new information. This notice is to advise the public of the availability of the Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, and the accompanying documents, and to offer the opportunity for public comments.

One Public Hearing will be held to give you an opportunity to talk about the new alternative and the proposed design of the project with Caltrans staff before the Preferred Alternative is selected.

You can review a hard copy of the Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement at the Caltrans District 8 office at 464 West Fourth Street, San Bernardino, CA, 92401 on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There are also hard copies available at the Riverside County Transportation Commission, 4080 Lemon Street, Third Floor, Riverside, CA 92501, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; during business hours at the Hemet Public Library, 300 E. Latham Avenue, Hemet, CA 92543, and the San Jacinto Public Library, 500 Idyllwild Drive, San Jacinto, CA 92583.

An electronic copy is available online at http://www.sr79project.info/.

Have the potential impacts been addressed? Do you have information that should be included?

Your comments will be part of the public record. If you wish to comment on the Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, submit your written comments by October 8, 2015 to Aaron Burton, California Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 12008, Riverside, CA 92502-2208 or submit through our website at www.sr79project.info.

A Public Hearing for the Partially Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be held on Thursday, September 10, 2015 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Valle Vista Community Center, 43935 E. Acacia Avenue, Hemet, CA 92544 in the gym.

For more information about this study or any transportation matter, call District 8 Public Affairs at (866) 383-4631 or (909) 383-4631.