



PUBLIC NOTICE AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY

Public Notice of Air Quality Conformity Analysis

State Route 60/Potrero Boulevard New Interchange Project – Phase 2



WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?

The City of Beaumont (City) in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to construct a new full access interchange and bridge overcrossing on State Route 60 (SR-60) for Potrero Boulevard.

The proposed project is located on SR-60 in the City of Beaumont, County of Riverside, California between Jack Rabbit Trail and the Interstate 10 (I-10)/SR-60 Junction. The Project includes the construction of a new interchange connection in two phases to SR-60 at Potrero Boulevard.

Phase 1 construction of the interchange overpass is complete (and open to the public) and this project, Phase 2 construction of the interchange (subject of this analysis) includes connection between SR-60 and Potrero Boulevard. Phase 2 construction of the interchange on- and off-ramps is scheduled to start in December 2025 and finish in November 2027.

Phase 2 includes the addition of six total westbound and eastbound entry and exit ramps (2 lanes plus HOV lane) off of SR-60, extended ramp acceleration/deceleration lanes as they enter SR-60, realignment of Western Knolls Avenue; and removal of Western Knolls Avenue connections to SR-60. A supplemental traffic study approved in 2022 showed that due to the decline in population growth and revised land use, the original traffic forecasts utilized in the 2010 traffic study are out of date and overestimated future traffic volumes at the Potrero interchange. Based on this traffic reduction, the future eastbound off-ramp has been modified from a two-lane ramp to a one-lane ramp and the eastbound auxiliary lane that would be required to accommodate a two-lane off-ramp has been eliminated from the design. A comparison between the 2019 and 2024 project site is shown above in the Figure. All other ROW and proposed improvements are consistent with prior analysis and approvals.

The City of Beaumont is in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB), which is under the jurisdiction of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as well as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for the project area.

This project, as currently proposed, is included in the SCAG 2025 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) under the project's FTIP ID, RIV050535A (Amendment #25-05) and fiscally constrained. The project is also included in the SCAG 2024–2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Project List under its RTP ID RIV050535 and FTIP ID RIV050535A. According to the FTIP, the project cost is estimated to be \$70 million and is proposed to be funded by agency and federal funds.

WHY THIS NOTICE?	<p>Air Quality Conformity requirements apply only in nonattainment and “maintenance” (former nonattainment) areas for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), and only for the specific NAAQS that are or were violated. United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) regulations at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 93 govern the conformity process. Conformity requirements do not apply in unclassifiable/attainment areas for NAAQS and do not apply at all for State standards regardless of the status of the area. The Project is located in an area that is extreme nonattainment for the 8-hour ozone (O₃), serious nonattainment for particles of 2.5 micrometers or smaller (PM_{2.5}), and attainment-maintenance for carbon monoxide (CO), particles of 10 micrometers or smaller (PM₁₀), and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). Therefore, a project-level air quality conformity analysis was required. The report that explains these findings was part of the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) and was made available for public review between May 17, 2012, and June 18, 2012. The IS/EA was approved on March 1, 2013, and subsequently Revalidation No. 1 was approved on December 29, 2016, and Revalidation No. 2 was approved on November 10, 2020.</p> <p><u>Not a Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC)</u></p> <p>Project-level conformity analysis shows that the Project will conform to the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis with interagency consultation for particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. This Project is not considered a Project of Concern regarding particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1). A detailed PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} hot-spot analysis was not completed because Clean Air Act and 40 CFR 93.116 requirements are met without an explicit hot-spot analysis. The Project comes from a conforming Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Comment is requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis. On December 3, 2024, the Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG) [which includes federal (USEPA and FHWA), State (CARB and Caltrans), regional (air quality management districts and SCAG), and sub-regional (county transportation commissions) agencies and other stakeholders] confirmed that the proposed SR-60/Potrero Boulevard New Interchange Project – Phase 2 (RIV050535A) is not a Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC).</p>
WHAT’S AVAILABLE	<p>Maps and other project information are available at https://www.rctc.org/projects/potrero-interchange/</p>
CONTACT	<p>For more information about this Project, contact Riverside County Transportation Commission at: David Lewis, Capital Projects Manager, info@rctc.org, (951) 787-7141, 4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor, Riverside, CA 92501. Please include “STATE ROUTE 60 POTRERO INTERCHANGE AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION” as the subject line. Comments and other inquiries can also be submitted at https://www.rctc.org/projects/potrero-interchange/</p> <p>To request alternative accommodations for accessing project information or for providing a comment, please contact the Caltrans District 8 Public Information Office at (909) 383-4631 or use California Relay Service 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY to Voice), 1 (800) 735-2922 (Voice to TTY), 1 (800) 855-3000 (Spanish TTY to Voice and Voice to TTY), 1-800-854-7784 (Spanish and English Speech-to-Speech) or 711.</p>

Project # PN0800020445

EA 08-34142