

ED-89 PM 8.6–13.8

Water Quality Improvements

U.S. Highway 50/State Route 89 “Y” to Cascade Road
EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
DISTRICT 3–ED–89, PM 8.6/13.8
1A8420

Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration



Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation



December 2007

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

What's in this document:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study, which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the Project, located in El Dorado County, California. The document describes why the Project is being proposed, the existing environment that could be affected by the Project, and the potential impacts from the Project.

What you should do:

- Please read this Initial Study. Additional copies of this document, as well as its supporting technical studies, are available for review at the California Department of Transportation North Region Office of Environmental Management, 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833, and at the California Department of Transportation District 3 Office, 703 B Street, Marysville, CA 95901. A copy of the Initial Study is also available at the South Lake Tahoe Branch of the El Dorado County Public Library, 1000 Rufus Allen Boulevard, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150.
- We welcome your comments. If you have any comments regarding the Project, please send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline.

- Submit comments via postal mail to:

Jody Brown
Environmental Branch Chief
Attn: Christopher Carlton
California Department of Transportation
2800 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833

- Submit comments via email to christopher_carlton@dot.ca.gov.
- Submit comments by the deadline: January 21, 2008.

What happens next:

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans may: (1) give environmental approval to the Project, (2) undertake additional environmental studies, or (3) abandon the Project. If the Project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the Project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to the California Department of Transportation, Attn: Christopher Carlton, Office of Environmental Management, 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833; call (530) 741-4450; or use the California Relay Service 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY), 1 (800) 735-2929 (Voice), or 711.

State Route 89 Water Quality Improvements
From the U.S. Highway 50/State Route 89 "Y" to Cascade Road, PM 8.6 to PM 13.8
El Dorado County, California

INITIAL STUDY with Proposed Negative Declaration

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

December 18, 2007

Date of Approval



John D. Webb
Chief, Office of Environmental Services—South
California Department of Transportation

The following persons may be contacted for addition information concerning this document:

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Abstract

Caltrans proposes to implement water quality improvement measures along a segment of State Route 89 in El Dorado County to comply with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements and implement elements of the Lake Tahoe Basin Environmental Improvement Program. Potential impacts are described, especially with regard to traffic and circulation (temporary impacts), visual resources, wetlands, sensitive habitats, and plant and wildlife species.

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to improve the quality of stormwater runoff by collecting and treating the stormwater runoff from State Route 89 by implementing the following improvements where feasible and warranted: rehabilitate existing drainage systems and install new drainage systems, including infiltration basins and water conveyance systems; deploy treatment best management practices; provide rock slope protection; flatten and protect erodible slopes for erosion control; revegetate bare or erodible areas; where permitted by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, allow sheet flow off of roadways where longitudinal basins are proposed and spreading of runoff water where feasible in stream environment zone areas; pave all existing driveway connections within state right-of-way; pave some existing unsurfaced pullouts and construct new pullouts; place asphalt-concrete overlay (1.8 inches); and dig out failed pavement sections before overlay. Culverts in poor condition would be lined or replaced.

Determination

This proposed Negative Declaration (ND) is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt an ND for the Project. This does not mean that Caltrans' decision regarding the Project is final. This ND is subject to modification based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for the Project and, pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons.

The Project would have no impacts on agricultural resources, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and recreation.

In addition, the Project would have no significant impacts on aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems.

John D. Webb
Chief, Office of Environmental Services—South
California Department of Transportation

Date

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List of Abbreviated Terms

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	micrograms per cubic meter
208 Plan	<i>Water Quality Management Plan for the Lake Tahoe Region</i>
AB	Assembly Bill
ADL	aerially deposited lead
AP	Adopted Plan
APE	area of potential effects
ARB	California Air Resources Board
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
Basin Plan	<i>Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region</i>
BEMZ	Bald Eagle Management Zones
BEWH	Bald Eagle Wintering Habitat
BMP	best management practice
CAAQS	California ambient air quality standards
California CAA	California Clean Air Act
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	clean air plan
CCD	census county subdivision
CDFA	California Department of Food and Agriculture
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFG Code	California Fish and Game Code
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
CIA	community impact assessment
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	community noise equivalent level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CO ₂	carbon dioxide
Compact	Tahoe Regional Planning Compact
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CWA	federal Clean Water Act
dB	Decibel
dba	A-weighted decibel
dbh	diameter at breast height
Draft PEIR	draft program environmental impact report
EDR	Environmental Data Resources
EIP	Lake Tahoe Basin Environmental Improvement Program
El Dorado County General Plan	<i>2004 El Dorado County General Plan: A Plan for Managed Growth and Open Roads; a Plan for Quality Neighborhoods and Traffic Relief</i>
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	environmentally sensitive area
ESCP	erosion and sedimentation control plan
ESL	environmental study limit

FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
Forest Service	U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
FR	Federal Register
gC/m ² /yr	grams of carbon per meter squared per year
General Construction Permit	NPDES General Permit for Construction Activities
GHG	greenhouse gas
HRCAs	Home Range Core Areas
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IS	initial study
ISA	initial site assessment
LTAB	Lake Tahoe Air Basin
LTBMU	Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MOA	memorandum of agreement
mph	miles per hour
MS4	Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MTBE	methyl tertiary-butyl ether
MVP	maintenance vehicle pullout
MYLF	mountain yellow-legged frog
NAAQS	national ambient air quality standards
NCIC	North Central Information Center
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NES	Natural Environmental Study
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NO ₂	nitrogen dioxide
NO _x	Oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Units
OHWM	ordinary high water mark
PAC	potential areas of concern
PACs	Protected Activity Centers
PAS	plan area statement
PCWQCA	Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
PM	Post Mile
PM10	particulate matter 10 microns in diameter or less
PM2.5	particulate matter PM 2.5 microns in diameter or less
ppm	parts per million
PQS	Professionally Qualified Staff
PRC	Public Resources Code
Project	Water Quality Improvements Project (EA 03-1A8420; ED-89 PM 8.6–13.8
PSI	preliminary site investigation
PSR	project study report
Regional TMP	<i>Lake Tahoe Basin Regional Traffic Management Plan</i>
ROG	reactive organic gas

RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SEZ	stream environment zone
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SO ₂	sulfur dioxide
South Lake Tahoe General Plan	<i>1999 City of South Lake Tahoe General Plan</i>
SR	State Route
Sta.	Stationing
Statewide Permit	statewide NPDES permit
SWPPP	storm water pollution prevention plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TDS	total dissolved solids
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TMP	traffic management plan
TRPA	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
TRPA Regional Plan	<i>TRPA's Regional Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin: Goals and Policies</i>
U.S. 50	U.S. Highway 50
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USC	United States Code
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
Washoe Tribe	Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California
WDR	waste discharge requirement
WPCP	water pollution control plan

List of Technical Studies Available

The following technical studies were prepared to support the analysis contained in this Initial Study:

- Air Quality Analysis (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Archaeological Survey Report (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Community Impact Assessment (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Historic Property Survey Report (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Historic Resources Evaluation Report (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Hydrology and Water Quality Study (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Initial Site Assessment for Hazardous Waste (California Department of Transportation 2007)
- Natural Environment Study (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Noise Analysis (Jones & Stokes 2007)
- Visual Impact Assessment (California Department of Transportation 2007)

These studies are available for review at the California Department of Transportation North Region Office of Environmental Management, 2800 Gateway Oaks Drive, Sacramento, CA 95833, and at the California Department of Transportation District 3 Office, 703 B Street, Marysville, CA 95901. However, in order to protect the resources identified, and pursuant to Section 6254(r) of the Government Code, the Archaeological Survey Report is not part of the public record.