
NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DATE: July 11, 2008

TO: Responsible Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: City of Elk Grove
Contact: Melissa D. Logue
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation for the Elk Grove Boulevard / SR99
Interchange Modification Project

In discharging its duties under Section 15021 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the City of Elk Grove (as Lead Agency) intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report, for the Elk Grove Boulevard / SR99 Interchange Modification Project. In accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City of Elk Grove has prepared this Notice of Preparation to provide Responsible Agencies and other interested parties with sufficient information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects.

The determination to prepare an Environmental Impact Report was made by the City of Elk Grove following circulation of a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project and circulated from April 18, 2007 to May 18, 2007. After release of the April 2007 Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration, it was discovered that the project's impacts related to traffic and circulation were potentially significant. An Initial Study has been prepared pursuant to CEQA Section 15063, which identifies the anticipated environmental effects of the project and provides the basis for the City's decision to prepare and circulate an Environmental Impact Report.

As specified by the CEQA Guidelines, the Notice of Preparation will be circulated for a 30-day review period. The City of Elk Grove welcomes public input during this review. In the event that no response or request for additional time is received by any Responsible Agency by the end of the review period, the Lead Agency may presume that the Responsible Agency has no response.

Comments may be submitted in writing during the review period and addressed to:

Melissa D. Logue
City of Elk Grove
8401 Laguna Palms Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758
mlogue@pmcworld.com

The comment period closes on August 11, 2008

A. PROJECT LOCATION, OWNERSHIP, AND CURRENT USE

The Elk Grove Boulevard/SR99 Interchange is located in the central region of the City of Elk Grove, California. Elk Grove is approximately 14 miles southeast of downtown Sacramento and approximately 12 miles north of the Sacramento County/San Joaquin County boundary. The proposed modifications would take place in the area of the existing Elk Grove Boulevard/SR99 Interchange.

B. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The following are objectives of the proposed project:

- Reduce congestion on Elk Grove Boulevard through the SR99 ramp intersections;
- Improve existing and anticipated traffic operational deficiencies at the existing interchange; and
- Provide two bus turnouts along East Stockton Boulevard.

C. PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

State Route 99 (SR99) is a highway originating south of Bakersfield and terminating at SR36 near the City of Red Bluff to the north. SR99 runs in a northwest/southeast direction through the City of Elk Grove and within the project limits is a four to six lane grade-separated freeway. Elk Grove Boulevard is an east/west arterial connecting Interstate 5 with Grant Line Road and currently varies from two to six lanes.

The existing Elk Grove Boulevard intersection on SR99 is a combination type L-1 and Type L-6 with direct connecting southbound ramps at a signalized ramp intersection, a direct northbound on-ramp at a signalized ramp intersection and a northbound hook off-ramp with stop sign control connecting to the frontage road (East Stockton Boulevard). Elk Grove Boulevard is a six-lane arterial with median including left turn lanes through the ramp intersections. East Stockton Boulevard is a frontage road with one lane south, two lanes north and a painted median through the ramp intersection. Elk Grove Boulevard and East Stockton Boulevard cross at a signalized intersection. The east side of East Stockton Boulevard has curb, gutter, and sidewalk; the west side does not. There are bus stops on both sides of East Stockton Boulevard. North of the ramp intersection there is a park and ride lot, but there are no pedestrian cross walks or traffic controls from the east side to the west side of Stockton Boulevard.

The City of Elk Grove is proposing to modify the Elk Grove Boulevard/SR99 Interchange by blocking off the left turn from eastbound Elk Grove Boulevard onto the northbound on-ramp with a raised median across the ramp intersection, eliminate the traffic signal, and lengthen the single left turn lane onto the southbound on-ramp. A new on-ramp onto northbound State Route 99 would be provided via a new hook on-ramp from East Stockton Boulevard, having two metered mix flow lanes and transition to a one lane freeway entrance.

The Elk Grove Boulevard/East Stockton Boulevard intersection would be modified to provide a free right turn lane from Elk Grove Boulevard to southbound East Stockton Boulevard. East

Stockton Boulevard would be widened on the west side between Elk Grove Boulevard and the northbound ramp intersection to provide one additional dedicated right turn lane, shoulders on both sides for future bike lanes, raised median, and curb, gutter, and sidewalk on the west side. The northbound off-ramp would be widened to provide two lanes at its intersection with East Stockton Boulevard, and signalized.

A bicycle lane would be added within the traffic lanes a short distance to the East Stockton Boulevard/SR99 ramps intersection to allow bicycle traffic through the intersection and a modified off-ramp intersection on East Stockton Boulevard would provide an access road to the shopping center on the east side. The existing bus stop northbound on East Stockton Boulevard, north of the ramp intersection would be modified to a bus turnout and a bus turnout would be provided south of the ramp intersection, going southbound on East Stockton Boulevard. Additionally, on East Stockton Boulevard, an intersection and access road would be provided to the former Caltrans parcel and Park and Ride Lot, allowing for only right turns in and out.

As a part of the project, the Elk Park Village Shopping Center entrance and a portion of the parking lot would be reconfigured. A soldier pile retaining wall would be installed along SR99 immediately south of the existing overcrossing bridge to avoid the existing cemetery. In addition, the former Caltrans equipment building and a shed would be demolished and removed.

D. REQUIRED APPROVALS

City of Elk Grove: Actions that would be required from the City Council and/or City staff may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Approval of the Final EIR prepared for the project; and
- Adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program prepared for the project.

Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region (RWQCB): Will issue 401 Water Quality Certification, pursuant to the California Clean Water Act.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Will issue Section 404 Permit, pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act.

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans): Responsible agency under CEQA and will issue an Encroachment Permit to allow construction of improvements within Caltrans right-of-way on State Route 99.

E. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The Initial Study identifies the following environmental areas that involve at least one impact from the project that is a “Potentially Significant Impact”:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality

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- Biology
 - Hazards and Hazardous Materials
 - Hydrology and Water Quality
 - Noise
 - Transportation/Traffic

The EIR will also include a discussion of cumulative impacts from the project.

See attached Initial Study or view Initial Study at:

- City of Elk Grove City Hall, Development Services-Planning Department 8401 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758 (Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday)
- City of Elk Grove Planning Website at <http://www.egplanning.org/environmental/>
- Elk Grove Branch of the Sacramento Public Library, 8962 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624

F. ISSUES SCOPED OUT FROM ANALYSIS IN THE EIR

Based on the analysis contained in the Initial Study, the following issues have been determined to be less than significant and will not be analyzed in the EIR:

- Agricultural Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Utilities and Services Systems