

## **4.0 COMMENTS AND COORDINATION**

### **PUBLIC INVOLVMENT**

As part of the project, early coordination with the public was encouraged, and public participation for this study included a variety of formal and informal methods: public information meetings; interviews and briefings with community leaders, agencies, and elected officials; a media-relations program, public information repositories, newsletters, and an open house; and a public hearing. The open house and public information meeting was held on August 26, 1993. This meeting was advertised in advance, and approximately 1,000 notices were mailed to local residents and businesses. Several citizens shared concerns during the open house question-and-answer session. A public hearing was also held on December 7, 1995.

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Draft EIR circulated in March/April of 2002, which initiated the environmental review process for the proposed project, was distributed to Responsible Agencies, interested parties, and the public on January 17, 2001. The NOP comment period was from January 17 through February 17, 2001. A scoping meeting was also held on January 30, 2001 at the Barbara Comstock Morse Elementary School. A copy of the NOP with the included Initial Study (IS) is located in **Appendix A** of this document.

The Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft EIR and the Draft EIR itself were released March 15, 2002 and the comment period was from March 15 through April 25, 2002. The NOA specified that comments regarding the Draft EIR should be made in writing to the City's Environmental Coordinator or at the public meeting. A public hearing was held to receive comments on the Draft EIR on April 25, 2002. Comments from the public hearing and written comments on the Draft EIR can be referenced in **Exhibit A**.

The City of Elk Grove held a community workshop on January 22, 2004 to present the revised alternatives that are proposed. The community was able to view exhibits on the preliminary design alternatives and listen to a short presentation. There were representatives from the City of Elk Grove, Elk Grove's Consulting Engineering Design Team and Caltrans Environmental Management, Right-of-Way and Project Management. These representatives answered the public's questions directly on a one-on-one basis and during the presentation.

### **COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION**

The Native American Heritage Commission was contacted for consultation on the proposed project and to provide contact information for any interested individuals or parties. A total of nine notification letters were sent to interested parties that included members of the Miwok Indian Community of the Wilton Rancheria, the Ione Band of Miwok Indians, the Sierra Native American Council, the Elk Grove Historical Society, and three individuals. There were no response letters received from any of the contacted parties. Additionally, a Sacred Land Search was conducted for the proposed project site that determined that no Sacred Lands were in the vicinity or would be affected by implementation of the project.

Coordination with the USACOE was originally initiated in February 2002. The wetland delineation was submitted, but the USACOE requested additional information. Since the initial

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consultation the alternatives have changed and the wetland delineation was resubmitted in September of 2004.

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has been consulted regarding the methodology of the cultural resource studies that were prepared for this project. The SHPO's letter of concurrence is included as **Exhibit B**.

Formal consultation was initiated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in September 2004 regarding the projects potential impacts on species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

#### PEVIOUS PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

When the City of Elk Grove incorporated in July 2000 the City gained jurisdiction over the project. The City prepared and circulated a draft EIR dated March 2002, but it was not finalized due to the changes in the project alternatives and the presence of endangered species. This EIR evaluated the impacts associated with the proposed Sheldon Road/SR 99 Interchange Improvement project.

The majority of the proposed Sheldon Road/SR 99 Interchange Improvement project would be locally funded and would be subject to a cooperative agreement between the State of California, the City of Elk Grove, and the City of Sacramento. It is anticipated that federal funding would also be utilized for a portion of the project. As such, the project is being analyzed under NEPA.