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**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY of the
 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
 for the
 U.S. HIGHWAY 50/MISSOURI FLAT ROAD INTERCHANGE PROJECT,

 and Supplemental EIR
 for the Missouri Flat Area Master Circulation and Funding Plan
 (limited to the modification of one drainage-related mitigation measure)**

DATE: December 17, 2003
TO: Interested Agencies and Individuals
FROM: El Dorado County Department of Transportation

Copies of a joint Draft Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Report for the U.S. Highway 50/Missouri Flat Road Interchange Project, and Supplemental EIR for the Missouri Flat Area Circulation and Funding Plan (limited to the modification of one drainage-related mitigation measure), a two-volume set, one volume being appendices, are now available for review and/or purchase. Public comment on this joint document is invited for a 45-day review period extending from December 22, 2003 through February 5, 2004. *A public hearing on the joint DEA/EIR and Supplemental EIR, occurring during the public review period, will be held on January 15, 2004.*****

With the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) acting as federal lead agency and El Dorado County (County) acting as state lead agency, this joint document has been prepared to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

The proposed "project" analyzed in the joint document under CEQA is more expansive than the "action" analyzed under the federal act. The CEQA proposed "project" is a 2-phase project, whereas the NEPA proposed "action" equates only with the first phase of that project. For CEQA purposes, Phase 1 of the project is an interim 4-lane tight diamond interchange, and the preferred Phase 2 (or the Ultimate Phase) configuration is a single point diamond interchange (SPDI). The County Board of Supervisors will only act on Phase 1 of this project at this time. The NEPA proposed action, in contrast, is only a 4-lane tight diamond interchange; this configuration is the same as the Phase 1 project for CEQA.

Volume I, of the joint document is organized, as follows:

- The Introduction describes the organization and approach for the joint document;
- The Summary chapter presents an overview of the proposed "project" under CEQA and the proposed "action" under NEPA;
- Chapter 1, "Project Objectives/Purpose and Need and Description of the Proposed Project/Action";
- Chapter 2, "Project Alternatives";
- Chapter 3, "Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation Measures";
- Chapter 4, "Cumulative Impacts";
- Chapter 5, "California Environmental Quality Act Evaluation";
- Chapter 6, "Summary of Public Involvement Process/Tribal Coordination";
- Chapter 7, "List of Preparers"; and
- Chapter 8, "References"

Volume II (separately bound), contains the following appendices:

- A. Title VI Policy Statement;
- B. Coordination and Consultation;
- C. Correspondence;
- D. Notice of Preparation (NOP), CEQA Checklist, and NOP comments;
- E. Public Involvement Process;
- F. Draft Mitigation Monitoring Program;
- H. General Plan Writ of Mandate;
- I. Relationship of Program-Level Mitigation measure Adopted as Part of the Missouri Flat Area Master Circulation and Funding Plan EIR and the Project-Level Mitigation Measures Recommended in this joint document for the U.S. 50/Missouri Flat Road Interchange Project; and
- J. Relationship of the Program-Level Mitigation Measures contained in the 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan the Project-Level Mitigation Measures Recommend in this joint document for the U.S. 50/Missouri Flat Road Interchange Project.

The joint DEA/EIR, and Supplemental EIR, is now available for public review or purchase at the public counter of the County Department of Transportation @ 2850 Fairlane Court in the County Administrative Center (Building C) in Placerville, California 95667 (530.621.5900). The document is available in hard copy (two volumes). Volume I can be purchased for \$42 and Volume II can be purchased for \$24, which is only the printing portion of the total publishing cost of the joint document. The joint document is also available for public review at the County Libraries in Placerville @ 345 Fair Lane (530.621.5540) and in Cameron Park @ 2500 Country Club Drive (530.621.5900).

You may submit comments on the joint DEA/EIR, and Supplemental EIR, during the 45-day public review period, which begins Monday, December 22, 2003 and ends Thursday, February 5, 2004, at 4:00 p.m. Written comments postmarked by February 5, 2004, will be accepted. Delivered, faxed, or e-mailed comments received by February 5, 2004, at 4 p.m. will be accepted. Please direct your comments to Kris Payne, Supervising Civil Engineer, El Dorado County Department of Transportation, 2850 Fairlane Ct, Placerville, CA 95667. The FAX number is (530) 295-2739. The e-mail address is kpayne@co.el-dorado.ca.us.

A public hearing will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2004, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the multi-purpose room at Herbert Green Middle School, 3781 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667 to accept oral comments on the joint DEA/EIR, and Supplemental EIR. This hearing will be video-recorded; however, there will be no transcription of comments. Those who wish to have their verbatim comments on the DEA/EIR, and Supplemental EIR, considered must submit them in writing.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and you need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in these hearings, please contact Pam Niebauer, Administrative Secretary to the Engineering Division of DOT at (530) 621-5986. Please make your request as early as possible, and at least one full business day before the start of the meeting.

For more specific questions about the joint **DEA/EIR, and Supplemental EIR**, please contact Kris Payne, Supervising Civil Engineer at (530) 621-5926.

End of Notice