

SR-241/SR-91 Tolled Express Lanes Connector Project

ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

DISTRICT 12

12-ORA-241 PM 36.1/39.1

12-ORA-91 PM 14.7/18.9

08-RIV-91 PM 0.0/1.5

EA No. 12-0K9700

Project No. 1200020097

SCH No. 1989010410

Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement



**Prepared by the
State of California, Department of Transportation**

The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 USC 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 23, 2016, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.



January 2020

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General Information About This Document

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has prepared this Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the proposed project located in Orange County, California. Caltrans is the lead agency under both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The document tells you why the project is being proposed, what alternatives have been considered for the project, how the existing environment could be affected by the project, the potential impacts of each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures. The Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS was circulated to the public for 61 days between November 7, 2016, and January 9, 2017. Comments received during this period are included in Chapter 5. Elsewhere throughout this document, a vertical line in the margin indicates a change made since the draft document circulation. Minor editorial changes and clarifications have not been so indicated. Additional copies of this document and the related technical studies are available for review at Caltrans District 12, 1750 East Fourth Street, Suite 100, Santa Ana, California 92705; the TCA office, 125 Pacifica, Suite 120, Irvine, California 92618; and at:

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Construct a tolled direct connector between State Route 241 (SR-241) and the State Route 91 (SR-91) Tolled Express Lanes from Orange County (12-ORA-241 PM 36.1/39.1 and 12-ORA-91 PM 14.7/18.9 to 08-RIV-91 PM 0.0/1.5) to the Riverside County line.

FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code
(Federal) 42 USC 4332(2)(C), 49 USC 303 and/or 23 USC 138

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

Cooperating Agency:
United States Army Corps of Engineers

Responsible Agencies:

United States Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency
Regional Water Quality Control Board
County of Orange
California Transportation Commission

11/7/2020
Date of Approval


Ryan Chamberlain
District Director
California Department of Transportation
NEPA and CEQA Lead Agency

The following person may be contacted for more information about this document:

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Abstract: The purpose of the Proposed Project is to implement the build out of the Eastern Transportation Corridor (ETC), as approved in 1994. The overall objective of the ETC project was to accommodate traffic growth associated with planned and approved development in Orange County. The need for the Proposed Project is to address roadway deficiencies including: peak-hour demand exceeding capacity between the SR-241 and SR-91 connectors, lack of connectivity between tolled/managed facilities, and weaving between general purpose connectors and median lanes reducing traffic flow. Caltrans, in cooperation with the Foothill/Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency (F/ETCA), proposes to construct a tolled direct connector between SR-241 and the 91 Express Lanes. Currently, there is no direct connection between the SR-241 toll road and the 91 Express Lanes. A Preferred Alternative was identified by the Project Development Team, which is the Proposed Project (the Build Alternative) discussed in this document. The only substantial effects from the Proposed Project include impacts to paleontological resources and biological resources.

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