Notice of Preparation

To:

From: Caltrans District 11 Attn: Debra Soifer
4050 Taylor Street, MS 242
San Diego, CA 92110

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Caltrans District 11 will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study (☐ is ☒ is not) attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice or by Friday, February 19, 2021. Comments can be submitted between **Thursday, January 14, 2021** and **Friday, February 19, 2021**.

In addition to comments submitted to Ms. Debra Soifer at the address listed above, comments can also be emailed to D11.SR67Improvements@dot.ca.gov or by voice mail at (619) 688-4263.

A Virtual Public Scoping Meeting has been scheduled for January 27, 2021 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm PST. You can access the website at this link: https://dot.ca.gov/sr67-improvements

Project Title: State Route 67 Improvements Project

Project Applicant, if any: Caltrans District 11

Date 01/11/2021

Signature Shay Lynn M. Harrison

Title Chief, Environmental Analysis

Telephone (619) 453-8481

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Sections 15082(a), 15103, 15375.

Notice of Preparation – Attachment A

Title:

State Route 67 (SR 67) Improvements Project (Project)

Purpose:

The conceptual purpose of the State Route (SR-67) Improvements Project is to improve the safe and efficient movement of people and goods, utilizing various modes of travel, during both typical highway operations and emergencies such as wildfires.

The preliminary objectives of the proposed project are to:

- Enhance traveler safety
- Maintain or reduce travel times within the project limits
- Increase temporary emergency evacuation capacity during wildfires and other emergencies
- Encourage multimodal transportation by providing active options such as bike paths and/or lanes where feasible
- Facilitate recreational and wildlife movement along and across the route
- Actively preserve the human and natural environment along the route

Need:

Highway travelers experience increased travel times and an overall reduction in mobility during everyday highway operations. This condition is exacerbated during emergencies such as wildfires due to a lack of temporary evacuation capacity. In addition, multimodal infrastructure is lacking despite the public demand for bus, bicycle, and pedestrian accommodations.

The existing highway also presents an impediment to the movement of recreational users and wildlife, including many endangered species. Access to recreational areas along SR-67 have insufficient parking, few dedicated crossings, and limited connectivity of the trail networks. Moreover, there are only unprotected crossings for wildlife within the project limits.

Location:

Located along SR 67 (PM R5.48/21.35) from Mapleview Street to Highland Valley/Dye Road in the City of Poway and the unincorporated communities of Lakeside and Ramona in San Diego County, California.

Description:

The SR-67 Improvements Project is primarily an operational improvements project with an emphasis on mobility and safety for the traveling public and goods utilizing various modes of travel during typical and emergency highway conditions including emergency access,

recreational access, and wildlife connectivity. Within this effort, deficiencies in multimodal transportation and recreational and wildlife movement will be addressed. Multimodal transportation includes bus as well as active bicycle and pedestrian options.

Operational improvements include, but not limited to, the following elements:

- Two-way left turn lanes;
- Left/right turn pockets;
- Minimum standard shoulders;
- Slow vehicle turnouts;
- Centerline channelizers/concrete barrier;
- Increase temporary emergency evacuation capacity; and
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS).

Multimodal transportation improvements include, but not limited to, the following elements:

- Bus stops;
- Bike paths/lanes; and
- Sidewalks and signals/pedestrian bridges to connect communities.

Recreational access and movement include, but not limited to, the following elements:

- Additional parking lot(s) at trailheads;
- Scenic turnouts at vista points; and
- Culverts/pedestrian bridges connecting trails and other natural resources.

Wildlife movement include, but not limited to, the following elements as part of wildlife corridors:

- Culverts allowing wildlife to cross under the roadway; and
- Bridges and/or roadway tunnel allowing wildlife to cross over the roadway.

Potential environmental effects would be analyzed for the following issues:

Socioeconomics:

- Relocations (Home and Business Displacements)
- Community Character and Cohesion
- Parks and Recreational Facilities
- Consistency with State, Regional, and Local Plans and Programs
- Land Use

Cultural Resources:

- Archaeological Recourses
- Historic Resources

Biological Resources:

- Resources Natural Communities
- Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S.
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Plant Species
- Animal Species
- Invasive Species

Cumulative and Growth

Visual/Aesthetics

Noise

Traffic and Transportation

Paleontology Resources

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases

Utilities and Emergency Services

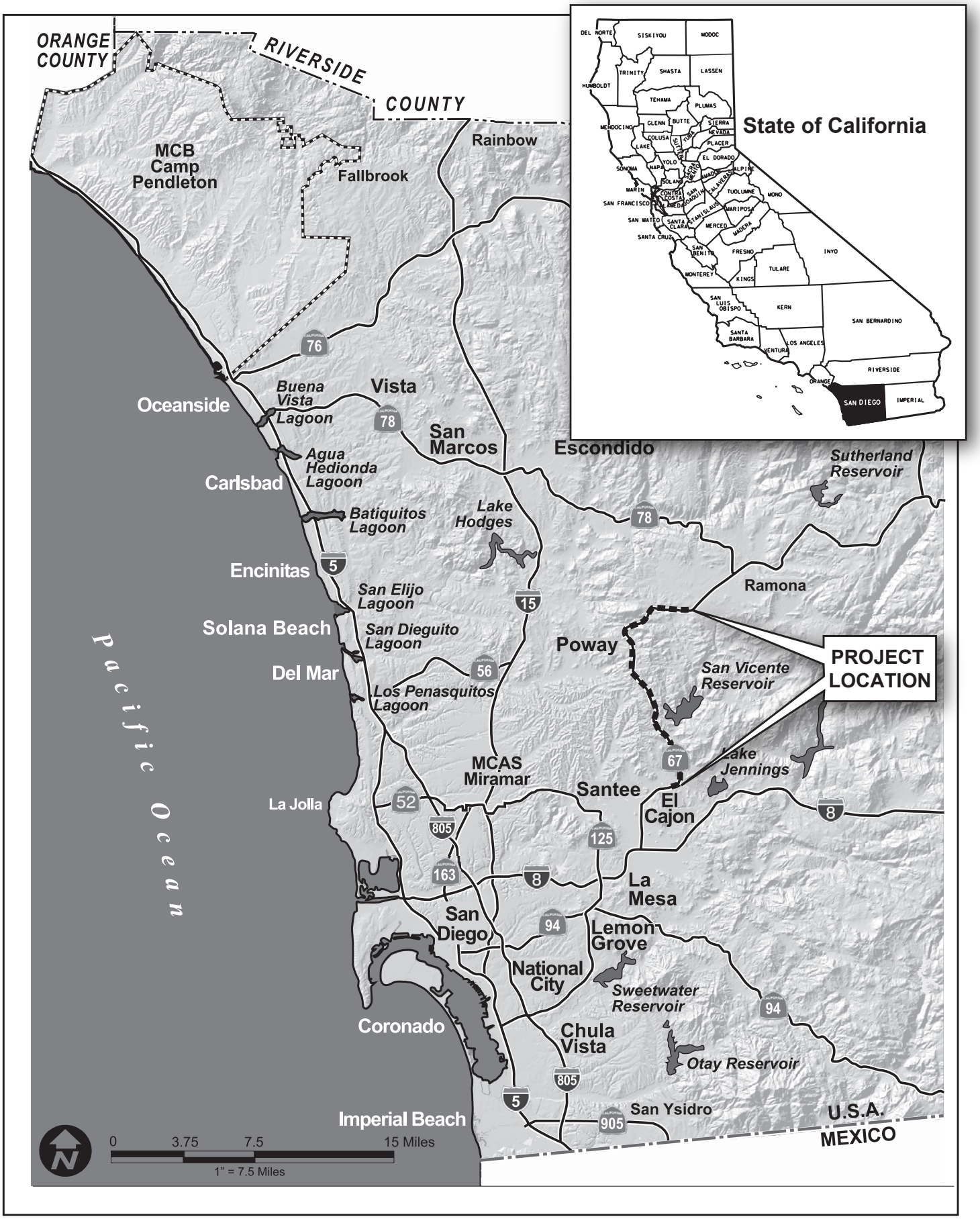
Hydrology and Floodplain

Water Quality and Stormwater Runoff

Geology and Soils

Hazardous Waste/Materials

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project and/or the public scoping process, please contact Debra Soifer at (619) 987-5962 or Debra.Soifer@dot.ca.gov.



SR 67 Improvements
Project Location Map