

Notice of Preparation

Notice of Preparation

To: Responsible/Trustee Agency

From: Department of Transportation, District 01

(Address)

1656 Union Street

Eureka, CA 95502-3700

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

California Department of Transportation, District 01 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.

Please send your response to Attn: Felicia Zimmerman, Felicia.Zimmerman@dot.ca.gov at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Eureka Slough Bridge Replacement

Project Applicant, if any: California Department of Transportation, District 01

Date 9/15/2023

Signature

Felicia Zimmerman

Title

Associate Environmental Planner

Telephone

707-815-5994

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

**Notice of Preparation
Eureka Slough Bridges Replacement Project
Availability of Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report**

Date: September 18, 2023

To: Public Agencies and Interested Parties

From: California Department of Transportation

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for Eureka Slough Bridges Replacement Project

Caltrans has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide the Office of Planning and Research, responsible and trustee agencies, and other interested parties with sufficient information describing the Project and its potential environmental effects.

The NOP will be circulated for a 30-day public review and comment period that begins on September 18, 2023, and ends on October 19, 2023. Caltrans welcomes public input during the review period. If Caltrans has not received either a response or a well-justified request for additional time by a responsible agency by the end of the review period, Caltrans may presume the responsible agency has no response (CEQA Guidelines Section 15082(b)(2)).

Please provide any written comments that you would like Caltrans to consider, along with the name of the appropriate contact person in your agency, to the contact shown below by October 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Felicia Zimmerman
Associate Environmental Planner
Caltrans, District 1
1656 Union Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Comments may also be submitted via email at Felicia.Zimmerman@dot.ca.gov . All comments must be received no later than October 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Project Title:

Eureka Slough Bridges Replacement Project; EA: 01-0M760

Project Location:

The Eureka Slough Bridges (04-0022 L/R) are located in Humboldt County on US 101 between Post Miles 79.5 and 80.2 at the northern end of the city of Eureka.

Project Background:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Lead Agency, is preparing an environmental document to address impacts associated with the proposed Eureka Slough Bridges Replacement Project on U.S. Highway 101. Both structures have exceeded their design life and have narrow shoulders that impede multimodal transportation.

The environmental document will be prepared as a joint document pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Caltrans will be preparing an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for the project. As required by CEQA, Caltrans is distributing this Notice of Preparation and requesting comments from responsible and trustee agencies regarding significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and reasonable mitigation measures that will be discussed in the EIR/EA. An Initial Study has not been prepared for this project, therefore is not attached to this Notice of Preparation.

Need:

The project is needed to address structural and geometric deficiencies in the northbound and southbound Eureka Slough Bridge structures. The southbound structure, built in 1943, has seismic deficiencies, is fracture critical, and has a non-standard profile which contributes to a collision rate at the bridge departure that is double the statewide average for similar facilities. The northbound structure, built in 1956, also has seismic deficiencies and has nonstandard bridge rails built on raised concrete curbs within the shoulders. The structures have exceeded their design life and impede multimodal transportation.

Purpose:

The purpose of this project is to improve the function and geometrics of the northbound and southbound Eureka Slough Bridges. Improvements would ensure uninterrupted traffic movement in the event of a collision or emergency incident, seismic event, or any other catastrophic event. The structures would be upgraded to current standards with separated pedestrian pathways that would promote and enhance mobility for all modes of transportation.

Project Description:

The project proposes to address seismic deficiencies and vertical curvature by replacing two existing bridges with two new structures. Each new bridge would have two traffic lanes,

standard inside and outside shoulders and a separated bicycle/pedestrian path on the outside edge. Work would include drainage, landscaping, cable barrier connection/continuation, and traffic management. Existing water and sewer mains fastened to the side of the northbound and southbound bridges would require relocation. Permits to enter and temporary construction easements would be required. Staging is expected to take place outside State right of way.

Alternatives:

The proposed project alternatives are currently being developed. The project alternatives may consist of:

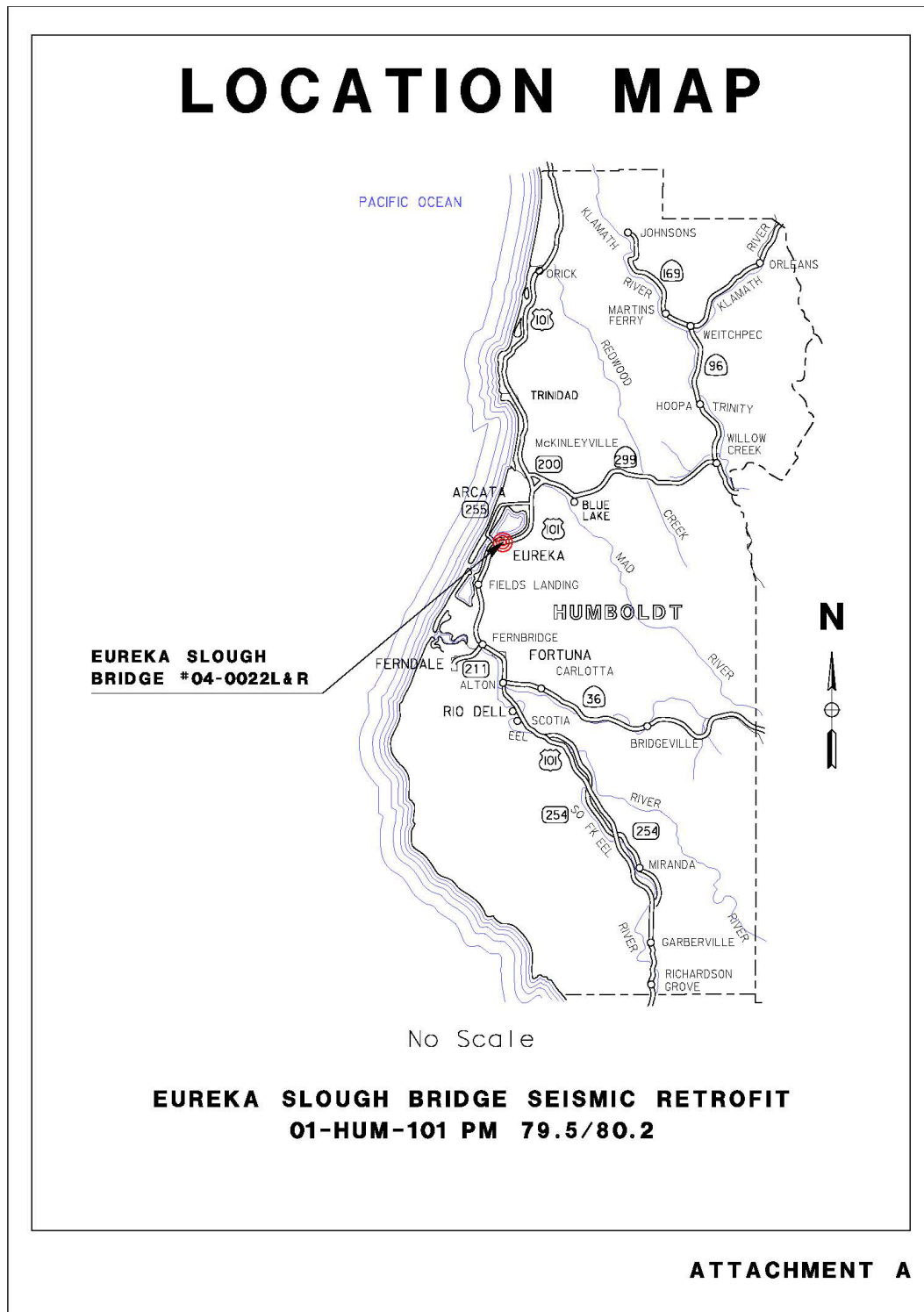
1. Retrofit of both existing structures.
2. Replace existing bridges with two new structures. Each new bridge would have two traffic lanes, standard inside and outside shoulders and a separated bicycle/pedestrian path on the outside edge.
3. Similar to Alternative 2, but with the addition of a third bridge to provide a local south/westbound connection from Jacobs Avenue to 6th Street in Eureka. The bicycle/pedestrian path would be constructed on the outside edge of the third bridge.
4. No build alternative. No change to current conditions.

Potential Environmental Effects of the Project:

The proposed project is expected to result in temporary and permanent environmental effects. The draft EIR/EA will determine what resources would be affected, the level of significance, and feasible measures to reduce impacts. Environmental effects anticipated for study include, but are not limited to:

- Aesthetics
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology / Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology
- Land Use
- Noise
- Public Services Recreation
- Transportation / Traffic
- Utilities

Eureka Slough Bridges Replacement Project



Eureka Slough Bridges Replacement Project on U.S. Highway 101 from Post Miles 79.5 to 80.2

