



Notice of Preparation

Date: April 29, 2026

To: Reviewing Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Interstate 5/State Route 78 Interchange Improvements Project

Caltrans District 11 will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) 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 described below. 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 May 29th, 2026. Comments can be submitted between **Wednesday April 29th, 2026** and **Friday May 29th, 2026**.

Please send your response to Caltrans at the address or email shown below. We will need the name of a contact person in your agency.

Project Title

Interstate 5/State Route 78 (I-5/SR-78) Interchange Improvements Project

Project Applicant (if any)

Caltrans, District 11

Project Description

The purpose of the Interstate 5/State Route 78 (I-5/SR-78) Interchange Improvement Project is to improve safety and traffic flow at the interchange. The project will focus on addressing the heavily traveled westbound SR-78 to southbound I-5 connection, as well as improving access to local communities, coastal resources and recreational destinations. These improvements aim to reduce congestion on SR-78, limit cut-through traffic on local streets, and improve travel conditions for residents, visitors, and regional commuters.

Project Location

The project passes through the City of Oceanside and the City of Carlsbad in San Diego County, California along I-5 from Carlsbad Village Drive Undercrossing, Post Mile (PM) R50.0, to Loma Alta Creek, PM R52.2, and along SR-78 from the I-5/SR-78 Separation, PM 0.0, to just east of the College Blvd. Undercrossing PM 3.58.

Probable Environmental Effects of the Project

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:

- Archeological Resources
- 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

Vehicle Miles Traveled

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

Public Scoping Meeting

Wednesday May 13th, 2026 from 6:00 to 7:30PM

South Oceanside Elementary School

1806 S Horne St.

Oceanside, CA 92054

Contact Information

General Project:

Email: 11-07890_paed@publicinput.com

Website: engage.dot.ca.gov/11-07890

Voicemail: (855) 925-2801, Project Code 8538

Environmental Division:

Attn: Amanda D’Elia

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Mail Stop 242

San Diego, CA 92110

Design Division:

Attn: Mohamad Khatib

Work Cell: (858) 688-1484

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Mail Stop 340

San Diego, CA 92110

Signature: *Koji Tsunoda*

Title: Chief, Environmental Analysis – Branch C

Attachments: Attachment A – Project Vicinity Map

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

Attachment A – Project Vicinity Map

