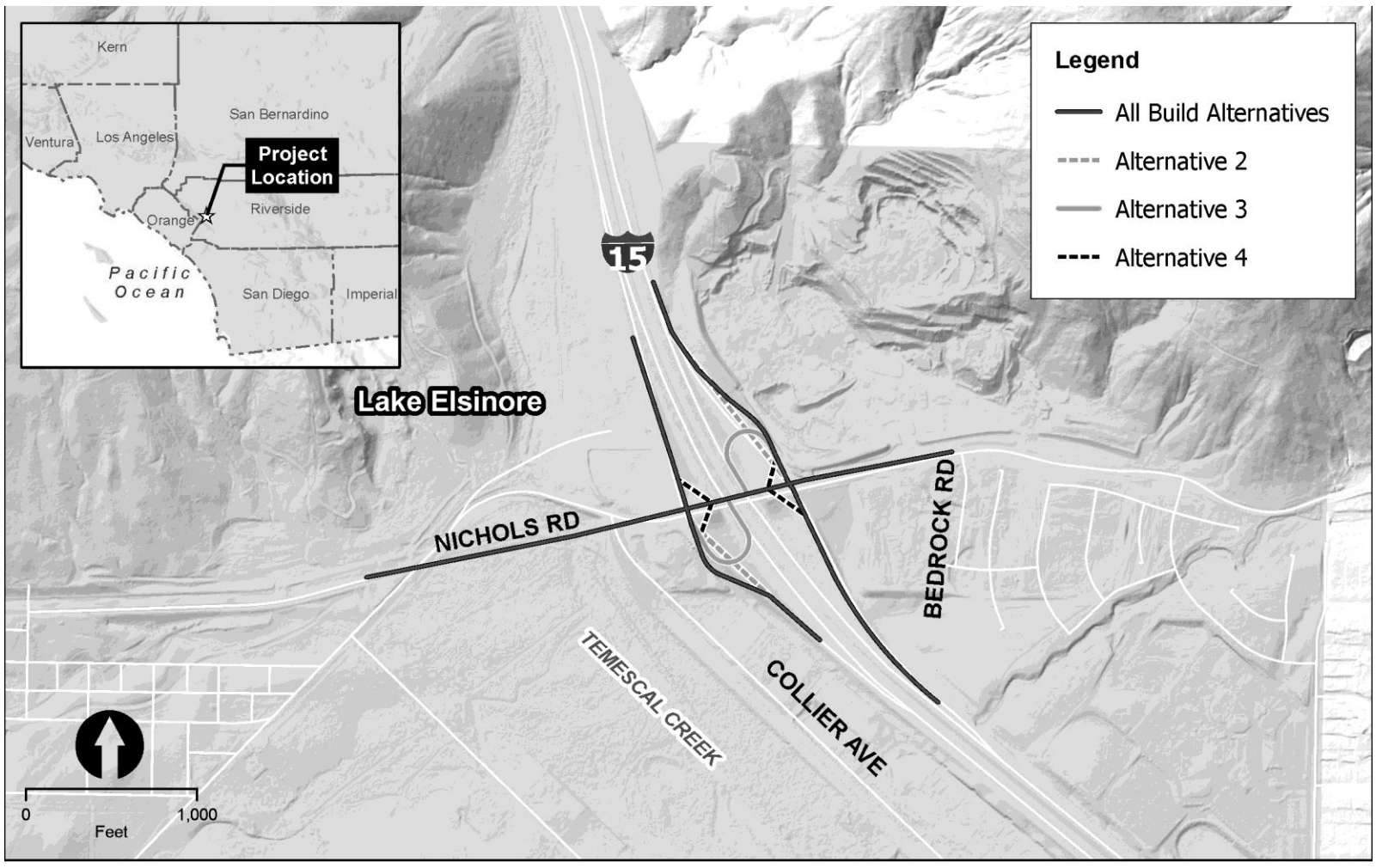
Public Notice

Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report and Announcement of Public Scoping Meeting

Interstate-15/Nichols Road Interchange Project



WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 8, in cooperation with the City of Lake Elsinore, proposes to study multiple alternatives to accommodate future traffic demands, improve freeway access for the traveling public, and support efficient goods movement to and from State Route (SR) 74 in conjunction with the nearby planned Ethanac Expressway Corridor Project within the identified Interstate (I-) 15 Nichols Road Interchange Project (Project) limits. The Project limits extend along I-15 from postmile 22.8 (0.5 mile north of Central Avenue) to postmile 24.5 (2.2 miles south of Lake Street) in Riverside County. The purpose of the Project is to improve the I-15/Nichols Road interchange to support economic development, regional mobility, future traffic demand, goods movement, emergency access, and multimodal connectivity.

WHY THIS PUBLIC NOTICE?

To notify you that a virtual PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING (see "When and Where" section below) will be held to give you the opportunity to provide input on the alternatives being considered and issues to be addressed in the environmental document. You are encouraged to provide comments regarding the Project at the public scoping meeting. Comments will become part of the public record and will be considered in defining the Project scope and developing the combined California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment (EA) environmental document.

WHAT'S AVAILABLE?

The Notice of Preparation (NOP) will be available from October 13, 2026, through November 12, 2026. The NOP will be available for review at the following locations:

California Department of Transportation, District 8
464 West 4th Street
San Bernardino, California 92401-1400
Available Monday–Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Lake Elsinore City Hall
130 South Main Street
Lake Elsinore, California 92530
Available Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lake Elsinore Library
600 West Graham Avenue
Lake Elsinore, California 92530
Available Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Tuesday from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

WHERE YOU COME IN

Please submit comments regarding the Project and/or NOP in writing no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 12, 2026 to: California Department of Transportation, District 8, Attention: Kourtney Graves, 464 West 4th Street, MS 827, San Bernardino, California 92401-1400 or by email to I15.Nichols.Interchange.Project@dot.ca.gov. There will also be an opportunity to provide your input/comments regarding the Project during the public scoping meeting.

WHEN AND WHERE

A public scoping meeting will be held on the following date and at the identified location.

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Cultural Center

183 North Main Street

Lake Elsinore, CA 92530

CONTACT

For more information about this Project, please contact Kourtney Graves, Senior Environmental Planner, California Department of Transportation, District 8, at (909) 501-5743 or I15.Nichols.Interchange.Project@dot.ca.gov. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, individuals who require special accommodations (American Sign Language interpreter, additional lingual interpreters, documentation in alternate formats, etc.) are requested to contact Kourtney Graves at least 7 days prior to the scheduled meeting date. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY to Voice), 1 (800) 735-2922 (Voice to TTY), 1 (800) 854-7784 (Spanish and English Speech to Speech), or dial 711.