Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: I-15 Nichols Road Interchange Project

Lead Agency: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 8 Contact Person: Kourtney Graves

Mailing Address: 464 W. 4th Street, MS-827 Phone: 909-472-1362

City: San Bernardino Zip: 92401-1400 County: San Bernardino

Project Location: County: Riverside City/Nearest Community: Lake Elsinore

Cross Streets: I-15 and Nichols Road Zip Code: 92532

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 33 ° 42 ′ 11.52 ″ N / -117 ° 21 ′ 11.98 ″ W Total Acres: Approximately 124

Assessor's Parcel No.: See attached Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: SR-74 Waterways: Temescal Creek

Airports: N/A Railways: N/A Schools: See attached

Document Type:

CEQA: ☒ NOP ☐ Draft EIR NEPA: ☐ NOI Other: ☐ Joint Document
☐ Early Cons ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR ☐ EA ☐ Final Document
☐ Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ ☐ Draft EIS ☐ Other: _____
☐ Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ ☐ FONSI _____

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ Specific Plan ☐ Rezone ☐ Annexation
☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ Master Plan ☐ Prezone ☐ Redevelopment
☐ General Plan Element ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Use Permit ☐ Coastal Permit
☐ Community Plan ☐ Site Plan ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) ☒ Other: Transportation

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
☐ Educational: _____
☐ Recreational: _____
☐ Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____

☒ Transportation: Type Interchange Improvements
☐ Mining: Mineral _____
☐ Power: Type _____ MW _____
☐ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
☐ Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual ☒ Fiscal ☒ Recreation/Parks ☒ Vegetation
☒ Agricultural Land ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding ☒ Schools/Universities ☒ Water Quality
☒ Air Quality ☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☐ Septic Systems ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater
☒ Archeological/Historical ☒ Geologic/Seismic ☐ Sewer Capacity ☒ Wetland/Riparian
☒ Biological Resources ☒ Minerals ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☒ Growth Inducement
☐ Coastal Zone ☒ Noise ☐ Solid Waste ☒ Land Use
☒ Drainage/Absorption ☒ Population/Housing Balance ☒ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Cumulative Effects
☐ Economic/Jobs ☒ Public Services/Facilities ☒ Traffic/Circulation ☒ Other: GHG Emissions, Energy, Wildfire

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Transportation, Commercial and Services, Vacant Land, Education

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*

The City of Lake Elsinore, in cooperation with the Caltrans District 8, is proposing to improve the Interstate 15 (I-15)/Nichols Road interchange located within the city of Lake Elsinore, 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 Project proposes to widen the Nichols Road Overcrossing and ramps to improve storage capacity and increase shoulder widths to standard; add a segment of auxiliary lane on I-15 in the northbound direction; add complete streets elements such as sidewalks, crosswalks, Americans with Disabilities Act--compliant curb ramps, and bicycle lanes; and add or upgrade intersection traffic control devices. The Project would be implemented primarily along Nichols Road within and adjacent to the I-15 interchange area, with associated improvements on portions of Collier Avenue. Other Project improvements include realigning Nichols Road and providing a new bridge over Temescal Creek, west of the interchange.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

X	Air Resources Board	X	Office of Historic Preservation
	Boating & Waterways, Department of		Office of Public School Construction
	California Emergency Management Agency	X	Parks & Recreation, Department of
X	California Highway Patrol		Pesticide Regulation, Department of
S	Caltrans District # 8	X	Public Utilities Commission
	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	X	Regional WQCB # 8
X	Caltrans Planning		Resources Agency
	Central Valley Flood Protection Board		Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy		S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
	Coastal Commission		San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
	Colorado River Board		San Joaquin River Conservancy
X	Conservation, Department of		Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
	Corrections, Department of		State Lands Commission
	Delta Protection Commission		SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
	Education, Department of	X	SWRCB: Water Quality
	Energy Commission		SWRCB: Water Rights
X	Fish & Game Region # 6		Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
	Food & Agriculture, Department of	X	Toxic Substances Control, Department of
X	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	X	Water Resources, Department of
	General Services, Department of		
	Health Services, Department of	X	Other: South Coast Air Quality Management District
	Housing & Community Development	X	Other: California Transportation Commission
X	Native American Heritage Commission		

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 10/13/2026 Ending Date 11/12/2026

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: ICF Environmental, Inc.
Address: 300 Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 400
City/State/Zip: Irvine, CA 92618
Contact: Monica Corpuz
Phone: 805-279-9284

Applicant: Caltrans District 8, Attn: Kourtney Graves
Address: 464 W. 4th Street, MS-827
City/State/Zip: San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400
Phone: 909-472-1362

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: **Date:** 10/9/26

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Notice of Completion and Environmental Document Transmittal Continuation Sheet

I-15 Nichols Road Interchange Project

Lake Elsinore Quadrangle	Section 24 Township 5S Range 5W Section 25 Township 5S Range 5W Section 26 Township 5S Range 5W Section 30 Township 5S Range 4W Section 31 Township 5S Range 4W Section 36 Township 5S Range 5W

Accessor's Parcel Numbers:

347-291-011	389-080-057	389-200-027	389-860-008	389-860-035
347-291-012	389-100-010	389-200-028	389-860-009	389-860-036
347-291-013	389-100-032	389-200-030	389-860-010	389-860-037
347-291-016	389-100-034	389-200-031	389-860-011	389-860-038
347-291-017	389-100-035	389-200-032	389-860-012	389-860-039
347-291-018	389-110-010	389-200-042	389-860-013	389-860-040
347-292-004	389-110-011	389-200-046	389-860-014	389-861-003
347-292-005	389-110-012	389-200-048	389-860-015	389-861-004
347-292-006	389-110-014	389-200-053	389-860-016	389-861-005
347-292-007	389-110-015	389-200-060	389-860-019	389-861-006
378-020-004	389-110-016	389-200-062	389-860-020	389-861-007
378-020-024	389-110-017	389-200-063	389-860-021	389-861-008
378-020-028	389-110-018	389-210-039	389-860-022	389-862-010
378-020-029	389-110-019	389-210-063	389-860-023	389-862-011
378-020-030	389-161-002	389-210-067	389-860-024	389-862-012
378-020-032	389-161-003	389-210-068	389-860-025	389-862-013
378-020-033	389-162-001	389-220-001	389-860-026	389-862-014
378-020-034	389-162-002	389-220-002	389-860-028	389-862-015
378-020-044	389-162-003	389-220-003	389-860-029	390-200-016
378-020-054	389-162-004	389-220-004	389-860-030	390-230-008
378-020-055	389-162-005	389-220-006	389-860-031	390-270-004
378-020-070	389-162-006	389-860-005	389-860-032	390-270-005
378-020-071	389-200-025	389-860-006	389-860-033	390-270-007
378-020-075	389-200-026	389-860-007	389-860-034	390-270-009

Schools within 2 miles of the project limits

- Temescal Canyon High
- Earl Warren Elementary
- Elsinore Elementary
- Elsinore Middle
- Keith McCarthy Academy
- Ortega High
- Machado Elementary
- Rice Canyon Elementary
- Terra Cotta Middle
- Alberhill Elementary