



PUBLIC NOTICE

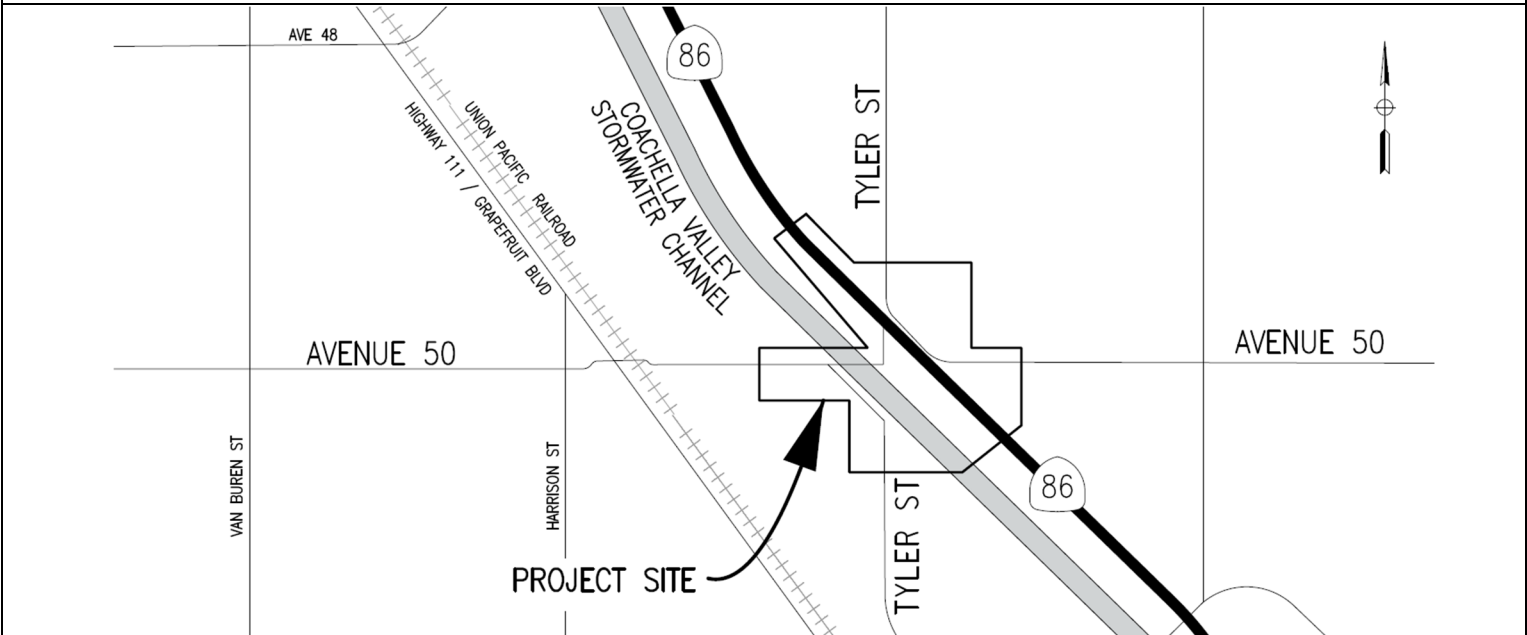
Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration
 Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment



Announcement of Public Hearing

for

State Route 86 / Avenue 50 New Interchange Project



WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?

The City of Coachella (City), in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), proposes the construction of a new interchange at State Route 86 (SR-86) (PM R19.2/R21.6) and Avenue 50, approximately 1.1 miles north of the existing SR-86/ Avenue 52 intersection and 1.95 miles south of the existing SR-86/Dillon Road interchange. The proposed project would convert a portion of SR-86 from an at-grade signalized intersection into a grade-separated full interchange with a new overcrossing bridge and access ramps. This new overcrossing would be up to approximately 326 feet long and 122 feet wide. It would be a 2-span structure to accommodate 3 through lanes in each direction and two left-turn pockets for the eastbound and westbound directions of Avenue 50. The project would also construct a new bridge structure over the Whitewater River/Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC). The new bridge structure over the CVSC would be approximately 605 feet long and 120 feet wide, would be a 5-span structure to accommodate 3 through lanes in each direction and a 14-foot-wide median on Avenue 50, and would replace the existing at-grade paved low water crossing. The construction of the bridge for Avenue 50 over the CVSC would also include realignment and widening of a portion of Avenue 50 from the existing two-lane roadway to a six-lane major arterial, and realignment of portions of Tyler Street on both the west and east sides of SR-86, respectively, and, the existing 1-lane in each direction road that is located within the limits of the CVSC would become a CVSC maintenance road. The project will be constructed in two phases.

Project-level conformity analysis shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis with interagency consultation for particulate matter (PM₁₀) required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. Pursuant to the interagency consultation requirement of 40 CFR 93.105 (c)(1)(i), the project completed interagency coordination via Southern California Association of Government's Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG), at two separate meetings due to the phasing of the project. The first meeting was held on June 28, 2016 [Project ID RIV110825] and the second meeting was held on March 27, 2018 [Project ID RIV061159 and RIV110825]. At these meetings, the TCWG determined that the proposed project is not a Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC). The project comes from a conforming Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Comment is requested regarding the project-level conformity analysis.

The proposed work will encroach upon wetlands and a floodplain. The project is being evaluated to determine if there are any practical alternatives to avoid this encroachment or, if not, to ensure that all practical measures are taken to minimize harm to the wetlands and floodplain.

WHY THIS NOTICE?

Caltrans has studied the effects this project may have on the environment. The studies show the project will not significantly affect the quality of the environment. The report that explains why is called an *Initial Study/Environmental Assessment*. This notice is to tell you of

	<p>the preparation of the <i>Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment</i> and of its availability for you to read.</p> <p>A public hearing is being held to provide an opportunity to ask questions of Project Team members regarding design features, the tentative schedule for the proposed project, including when potential acquisition of right of way may occur and when the project will be constructed, before the final design is selected.</p>		
WHAT IS AVAILABLE?	<p>Copies of the approved <i>Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment</i>, including associated maps, as well as the technical studies relied upon in conjunction with its preparation, are available for review at the following locations, during respective normal business hours:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> City of Coachella City Hall 1515 Sixth Street Coachella, CA 92236 </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> Coachella Library 1500 Sixth Street Coachella, CA 92236 </td> </tr> </table> <p>Additionally, the approved <i>Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment</i> may be accessed from the City of Coachella's website, at http://www.coachella.org/residents/avenue-50/.</p>	City of Coachella City Hall 1515 Sixth Street Coachella, CA 92236	Coachella Library 1500 Sixth Street Coachella, CA 92236
City of Coachella City Hall 1515 Sixth Street Coachella, CA 92236	Coachella Library 1500 Sixth Street Coachella, CA 92236		
WHERE YOU COME IN	<p>Do you have any comments about processing the project with a Mitigated Negative Declaration and the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment? Do you disagree with the findings of our study as set forth in the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration? Would you care to make any other comments on the project? If you cannot attend the public hearing, your written comments regarding the project are still welcome.</p> <p>Please submit your comments in writing no later than Friday, January 4, 2019, to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Shawn Oriaz, Senior Environmental Planner California Department of Transportation 464 West Fourth Street, 6th Floor, Mail Station 827 San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400 or via e-mail to: sr86-ave50interchange@dot.ca.gov Please include "State Route 86-Avenue 50 New Interchange Project" in the subject line.</p> <p>The date we will begin accepting comments is Tuesday, December 4, 2018. Comments regarding the <i>Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment</i> may also be submitted in person at the public hearing on December 19, 2018. If there are no major comments, the City, in cooperation with Caltrans, will proceed with the project's design.</p>		
WHEN AND WHERE	<p>The public hearing will be on Wednesday, December 19, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Coachella Library, 1500 Sixth Street, Coachella, CA 92236.</p> <p>Individuals who require special accommodation (American Sign Language interpreter, accessible seating, documentation in alternate formats, etc.) are requested to contact Mr. Jonathan Hoy, City Engineer, City of Coachella, Engineering Department, at (760) 398-5744 (Voice), at least three days prior to the scheduled public hearing date. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY), 1 (800) 735-2929 (Voice) or dial 711.</p>		
CONTACT	<p>For more information about this study or this project, please contact Mr. Jonathan Hoy, City of Coachella City Engineer at (760) 398-5744. Thank you for your interest in this important transportation project.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">EA 08-0C9700 (PN 0814000144)</p>		