

I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange Project

WHAT'S HAPPENING:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Solano Transportation Authority (STA), in cooperation with Solano County and the cities of Fairfield and Suisun City, evaluated a variety of alternatives to improve local and regional mobility and safety within the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange in a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/EIS), released in August 2010.

In 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a Final Transportation Conformity Rule that established requirements for transportation conformity and developed procedures to determine which transportation projects must be analyzed for local air quality impacts in fine particulate matter (PM2.5) nonattainment and maintenance areas. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is responsible for determining that projects included in the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan (including the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange) are in conformity with the State Implementation Plan for achieving the goals of the Clean Air Act.

Fine particulate matter (PM2.5) refers to particles smaller than 2.5 microns that can be inhaled deeply into lungs and cause damage to people's health. Particulate matter comes from combustion activities, including motor vehicles, and can cause dust from roads and highway construction to be re-suspended in the atmosphere.

In December 2009, EPA designated the Bay Area as nonattainment for the national 24-hour PM2.5 standard. Because preparation for the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange Draft EIR/EIS was underway at that time, PM2.5 analysis was not included as a part of that document. MTC published interagency guidelines for PM2.5 analysis in March 2010, after which analysis for the proposed project began.

Project-level conformity analysis for PM2.5 shows that the project will conform with the State Implementation Plan, including localized impact analysis for PM2.5 with interagency consultation required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. This project is considered a Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC) regarding PM2.5 as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b) (1). A detailed PM2.5 hot spot analysis was completed, as required by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123, based on U.S. EPA Guidance. Public comment is requested on the PM2.5 project-level conformity analysis that was completed for the I-80/I-680/SR12 Interchange project. Project-level conformity analysis was previously performed and approved for other pollutants for which the project area may be designated nonattainment or maintenance, and is not the subject of this request for comment.

Interagency consultation for the I-80/I-680/SR 12 Interchange is facilitated through the MTC's Air Quality Conformity Task Force. In accordance with the EPA's Final Transportation Conformity Rule, the proposed project was determined to be a POAQC, which requires a PM2.5 project-level qualitative hot-spot analysis. Caltrans has prepared the analysis, which was reviewed by the Conformity Task Force on December 8, 2010 and is now available for public review on the Caltrans website (www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm) and STA website (www.solanolinks.com).

The analysis addresses the construction of the proposed project, including components identified in the MTC's Transportation 2035 Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area. The assessment adheres to the Final Transportation Conformity rule and demonstrates that the proposed project meets the Clean Air Act conformity requirements and will not conflict with state and local measures to improve regional air quality.

WHERE YOU COME IN:

Written comments on the Draft PM2.5 Report may be submitted in writing. Comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2011 and may also be submitted via U.S. mail or e-mail to:

Caltrans District 4
Attn: Howell Chan
District Branch Chief
P.O. Box 23660, MS-8B
Oakland, CA 94623-0660
E-mail: Howell_chan@dot.ca.gov

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS OF THE DRAFT PM2.5 REPORT ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

- www.solanolinks.com
- www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST A COPY OF THE DRAFT PM 2.5 REPORT:

Individuals who would like to request a copy or who require portions of the report in alternative formats or translated are asked to contact Caltrans District 4 Public Information Center

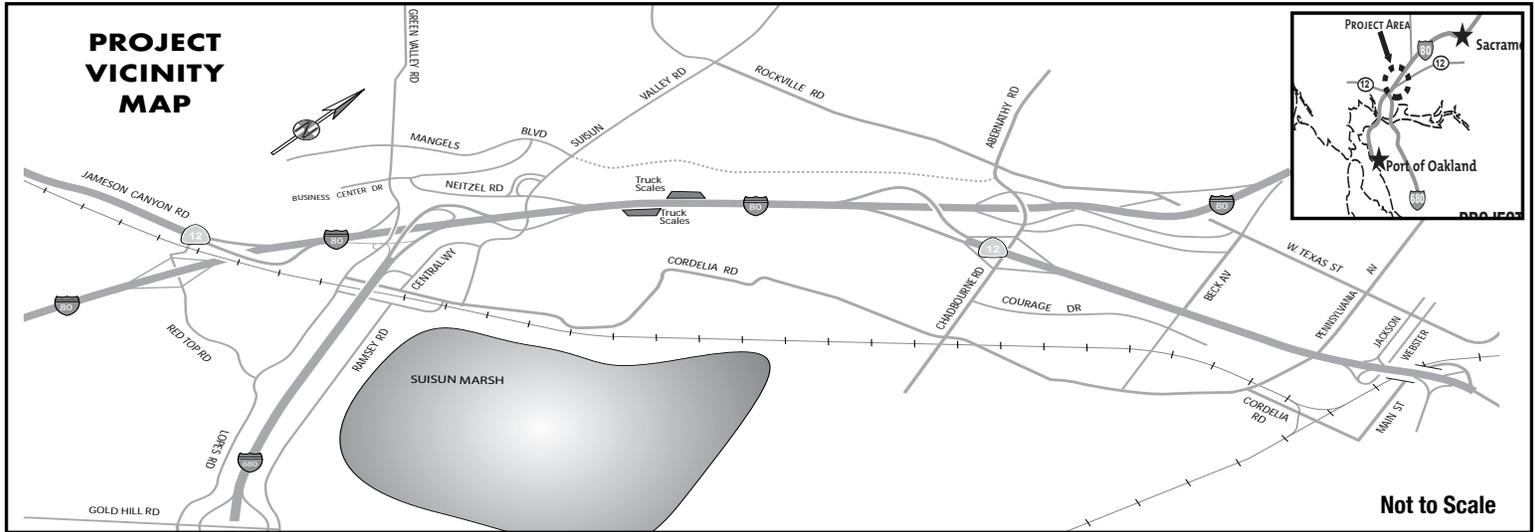
at (510) 286-4444, the Office of Environmental Analysis at (510) 286-5623, or the STA at (707) 424-6075. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 711.

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NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT FINE PARTICULATE MATTER (PM2.5) REPORT

WHY THIS AD:

This notice is to inform you that the Draft Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) Report is available on the Caltrans website (www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm) and STA website (www.solanolinks.com) for a 45-day review period. The Draft PM2.5 Report will be included in the Final EIR/EIS. Written comments received on the analysis will be included as part of the Final EIR/EIS Response to Comments.



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