

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
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August 25, 2023

To whom it may concern:

As the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is pleased to report that the Draft Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment (Draft EIR/EA) for the proposed State Route (SR) 37 Flood Reduction Project (Project) has been released for public review and comment.

The purpose of the proposed Project is to build resiliency to the effects of projected 2130 sea level rise (SLR) and stormwater overtopping onto SR 37 from PM R11.2 to PM 13.8 in Marin County. The proposed Project would be constructed in two phases.

- **Phase 1:** Caltrans would replace the Novato Creek bridge with a longer structure at the elevation of 35 feet, install two temporary transition bridge structures tied into existing grades, improve two existing local access roads, replace culverts, and regrade an existing drainage channel. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2027.
- **Phase 2:** Caltrans would construct the rest of the causeway from the 101/37 intersection to Atherton Avenue Undercrossing to an elevation of 35 feet. Caltrans proposes to remove the existing Simonds Slough Bridge, reconstruct the on and offramps at Hanna Ranch Road, Marsh Drive, and Atherton Avenue, install Type 85 barriers, and replace two culverts. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2041, subject to funding availability.

The completed causeway would be 35 feet in elevation and consist of four 12-foot-wide lanes, a 22-foot-wide median with a 2-foot-wide median barrier, two 10-foot-wide inside shoulders, two 12-foot-wide outside shoulders, two 2-foot-wide outside barriers, and a 14-foot-wide bicycle or pedestrian path with a 2-foot-wide barrier, for a total roadway width of 114 feet.

The Draft EIR/EA for this Project is available at: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-popular-links/d4-environmental-docs>. We welcome your comments

on the Draft EIR/EA during the 45-day public review period from **August 25, 2023 through October 8, 2023**. Comments may be submitted via email to: SR37FloodProject@dot.ca.gov, via physical comment card during the upcoming public meeting, online through our Project website, or via mail to:

Caltrans, District 4


ATTN: Skylar Nguyen, Senior Environmental Scientist
P.O. Box 23660 **MS: 8B**, Oakland, CA 94623-0660

Caltrans is hosting a hybrid public meeting on **September 21, 2023**, from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. In this meeting, Caltrans will provide an overview of the Project and its purpose and need; the current build alternative; and the potential environmental impacts of the Project. Additionally, the meeting will include a question-and-answer session. To attend the public meeting virtually, please use this link: <http://bit.ly/3YZzIRP>. To attend the meeting in person on the date and time of the public meeting, please visit:

Margaret Todd Senior Center
1560 Hill Rd, Novato, CA 94947

If there are any questions, please contact me at (510) 506-9864 or Skylar Nguyen, Senior Environmental Scientist, at (510) 496-9551 or Skylar.Nguyen@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



(for) MAXWELL LAMMERT
Acting Office Chief
Office of Environmental Analysis, Caltrans D4