Reading file

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

November 26, 2007

Gene Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
650 Capitol Mall Suite 4-100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the Interstate-5/Cosumnes River Boulevard Extension, Sacramento County, California (CEQ # 20070442)

Dear Mr. Fong:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act. EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and provided comments to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) on April 6, 2006. We rated the DEIS as Lack of Objections (LO) and encouraged FHWA to avoid and minimize potential adverse impacts, to the greatest extent practicable, to sensitive environmental, farmland, community, and cultural resources. In addition, we had several comments on Air Quality that have been resolved in the Final EIS (FEIS).

Since reviewing the DEIS for this project, EPA received and reviewed a Supplemental DEIS for the South Sacramento Corridor Phase 2 Project proposed by the Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT). A portion of the alignment of this proposed light rail extension appears to be adjacent or in the same right of way as a portion of the proposed Cosumnes River Boulevard Extension. EPA encourages FHWA to coordinate with RT on planning and construction of these projects. Of particular concern are the following:

- Minimizing and mitigating the cumulative construction impacts of the two projects on air quality, traffic, and the local community;
- Avoiding design conflicts between the two projects; and
- Providing sufficient pedestrian improvements as part of the Boulevard Extension to ensure a safe environment for pedestrians who may use the road to access nearby light rail stations.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. When the ROD is signed, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3846 or Carolyn Mulvihill of my staff at 415-947-3554 or mulvihill.carolyn@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Connell Dunning

FOR Nova Blazej, Manager
Environmental Review Office

cc: John Webb, Caltrans North Region
Jennifer Hageman, City of Sacramento
Diane Nakano, Sacramento Regional Transit District
Jerome Wiggins, Federal Transit Administration