

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Title: Los Gatos Creek Bridge Replacement / South Terminal Phase III

Location: City of San Jose, Santa Clara County, California

APN: 22801002; 22801003; 22805003; 22806007

Contact Person / Phone Number: Hilda Lafebre, Manager, Capital Projects & Environmental Planning / (650) 622-7842

Review Period: December 3, 2013 to December 23, 2013

Project Description:

The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) which operates the San Francisco Bay Area's Caltrain passenger rail service proposes to replace the two-track railroad bridge that crosses Los Gatos Creek, in the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County, California. The purpose of the proposed project is to replace the structurally deficient Los Gatos Creek railroad bridge (owned and maintained by the JPB) and provide a tail track south of San Jose Diridon Station in order to:

- Ensure safe rail travel for Caltrain passengers and other users of the Los Gatos Creek railroad bridge;
- Improve operations at the San Jose Diridon Station and provide an efficient way for trains to change directions; and,
- Minimize system-wide delays by providing a temporary, emergency layover area.

Without the proposed project, the replacement of the Los Gatos Creek railroad bridge would not be completed and the bridge would continue to present a safety hazard to all users, operations at nearby San Jose Diridon Station would not be improved and system-wide delays would likely occur.

Project construction will take place in a series of stages to maintain existing rail services across the bridge. This will involve the construction of a third track to ensure that two tracks are always available to maintain existing rail service. Following construction of the two new tracks, the third track will be retained as a tail track to provide for improved operations at the San Jose Diridon Station just to the north of the project area. The ultimate alignment of the MT1 and the MT2 over the new bridge would be unaltered from their current configuration. The new bridge would be wider than the original with the expansion occurring on the west side to accommodate the new tail track.

Mitigated Negative Declaration:

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines, the JPB prepared a Revised Draft Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Los Gatos Creek Bridge Replacement / South Terminal Phase III Project that incorporates additional project details and the

responses to comments received on the Draft IS/MND circulated from September 3, 2013 through October 18, 2013.

Based on the Initial Study, staff determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment with implementation of mitigation measures as noted in the Revised Draft IS/MND. The proposed project replaces an existing structurally deficient railroad bridge that poses a safety threat and all potential environmental impacts that may result with implementation of the project can be mitigated to less than significant levels.

Public Comment Period:

December 3, 2013 to December 23, 2013

The public and all affected agencies are hereby invited to review the Revised Draft IS/MND and submit written comments. The Revised Draft IS/MND can be accessed at: www.caltrain.com/losgatos.

Comments are due December 23, 2013 and should be sent to Hilda Lafebre, Caltrain, P.O. Box 3006, San Carlos, CA 94070-1306 or lafebreh@samtrans.com.