

# STATE ROUTE 4 (EAST) WIDENING PROJECT: LOVERIDGE ROAD TO STATE ROUTE 160



## Negative Declaration

Initial Study

## Final Environmental Assessment

State Route 4

From 1.3 kilometers (0.8 mile) west of Loveridge Road

To 1.2 kilometers (0.7 mile) east of Hillcrest Avenue

04-CC-04-KP 37.8/R47.6

(PM 23.5/R29.6)

04-228500

**August 2005**



SCH# 2004092135  
04-CC-4-KP 37.8/R47.6  
(PM 23.5/R29.8)  
04275/228500

Widen State Route 4, from the Loveridge Road Interchange, KP 37.8 (postmile 23.5) to KP R47.6 (postmile R29.8) just east of Hillcrest Avenue

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT / INITIAL STUDY

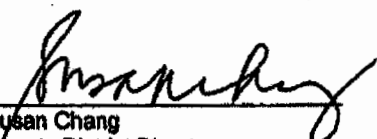
Environmental Assessment pursuant to  
National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC §4332) 49 USC Chapter 53, 16 USC §470, 23 CFR Part 771,  
23 CFR Part 450, Executive Order 12898.

Initial Study pursuant to  
California Environmental Quality Act, PRC 21000 *et seq.*; and the State of California CEQA Guidelines,  
California Administrative Code, 15000 *et seq.*

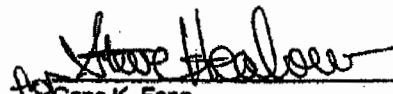
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
Federal Highway Administration, and

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Transportation

Aug 26, 2004  
Date of Approval

  
Susan Chang  
Deputy District Director  
Environmental Planning  
District 4  
California Department of Transportation

8-26-04  
Date of Approval

  
Gene K. Fong  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

## NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

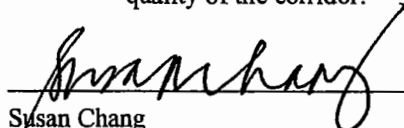
### ***Project Description***

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to widen State Route 4 (SR 4), its interchanges, and affected local roadways from approximately 1.3 kilometers (0.8 mile) west of Loveridge Road to approximately 1.2 kilometers (0.7 mile) east of Hillcrest Avenue to reduce existing traffic congestion, improve traffic operations, and encourage high occupancy vehicle use to accommodate travel demand anticipated through the year 2030.

### ***Determination***

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project, and following public review, has determined from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- The project will not have a significant effect on topography or erosion, or increase the potential for geologic or seismic hazards.
- There will be no significant impacts on air, water quality or hazardous waste, nor would the project significantly change the rate of use of any natural resource.
- The project will not significantly affect floodplains, wetlands or riparian vegetation, compensatory mitigation is included for wetlands impacts.
- There will be no significant impact on fish and wildlife, endangered species and habitat.
- There will be no significant impact on agriculture or scenic resources.
- There will be no significant impact on public facilities, neighborhoods, housing, business, economy or employment of the area.
- The project will not have a significant effect on land use and growth.
- Overall, there will be no significant adverse effects on traffic.
- The project will not have a significant effect on cultural resources, recreation, parkland, or open space.
- The project will not have a significant effect on land use and growth.
- The project would have no significantly adverse effect on visual/aesthetic quality or noise because the following mitigation measures would reduce potential effects to insignificance:
  - Noise barriers will reduce noise levels, and
  - Conformance to the *Visual Design Guidelines, Route 4 East Corridor* (CCTA 2003) and replacement planting will address any adverse visual impacts and enhance the overall visual quality of the corridor.

  
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Susan Chang  
Deputy District Director  
Environmental Planning  
District 4, California Department of Transportation

7/21/05  
Date

## **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have prepared this Negative Declaration / Initial Study / Environmental Assessment (ND/IS/EA), which examines the environmental impacts of the alternatives being considered for the proposed project located in Contra Costa County, California. The document describes why the project is being proposed, alternatives for the project, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, the anticipated impacts from the project, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

The Draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) was circulated for public and agency comments in October 2004, and a public hearing was held in Antioch on October 21, 2004. A 50-day comment period for the Draft EA/IS ended on November 23, 2004. All of the written comments received from federal agencies, state agencies, local and regional agencies, organizations, local businesses, and individuals during the public review period, as well as oral comments read into the project record at the public hearing are responded to in this ND/IS/EA; see Chapter 6.

Throughout this ND/IS/EA, where text revisions have been made in response to comments on the Draft EA/IS, these text revisions are shown in italics.

Copies of this document can be viewed at:

- Caltrans District 4 Office, 111 Grand Avenue, Oakland, California 94612, or website at [www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm)
- Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) offices at 3478 Buskirk Avenue, Suite 100, Pleasant Hill, California 94523, or website at [www.ccta.net](http://www.ccta.net)

Caltrans adopted this Negative Declaration, and FHWA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact for this project on July 21, 2005.