



Department of Public Works

Environmental & Construction • Flood Control

Operations • Solid Waste Management

Surveyor • Transportation

Gerry Newcombe
Director

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INSTITUTION ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE PROJECT

The County of San Bernardino Department of Public Works (County) has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to address the reconstruction and maintenance of Institution Road, an existing paved road which was recently declared a County highway within the city limits of the City of San Bernardino. Institution Road is located in the City of San Bernardino, approximately 0.5 mile south-southwest of Interstate 215 (See attached Figure 1: Project Location). The County of San Bernardino Department of Public Works will act as the Lead Agency under CEQA and will obtain all necessary regulatory permits.

Institution Road was established as a County Highway in order for the County to maintain and/or improve continued access to the Sheriff's Department's Helen Rehabilitation Center and the Frank Bland Regional Training Center. The subject reach of Institution Road is physically located in the City, but has never been accepted by the City into its maintained street system.

Institution Road has experienced numerous closures after storm events have deposited large amounts of sediment across it. In addition, the surface of the road is in quite poor condition and there are safety issues with the uneven edges. As a County highway, the County will ensure the establishment and maintenance of Institution Road and maintain public safety by ensuring access to the Glen Helen Rehabilitation Center and the Frank Bland Regional Training Center. The project includes the reconstruction of Institution Road over a distance of approximately 5,400 feet to a uniform 26 foot paved width and a maximum 10 foot temporary disturbance at the shoulder areas (total of 20 feet). Existing pavement is between 24 feet to 28 feet wide, within an 80 foot wide road right-of-way (ROW). Reconstruction may include removing existing asphalt concrete surfacing, excavation of roadway, placement of new asphalt concrete over aggregate base, placement of Portland Cement Concrete, including cutoff walls and the painting of traffic striping and pavement markings. Regular and routine maintenance and repair activities will occur, such as debris removal, pothole patching, chip seal, fog seal, shoulder grading (up to 10 feet from pavement edge), storm clean-up (up to 20 feet from pavement edge), and repair, traffic control; maintenance of traffic signage, pavement striping and markings.

The proposed project site is comprised of the existing paved Institution Road. Institution Road connects to Verdemon Ranch Road (north-south) on the west and Cajon Boulevard (northwest-southeast) on the east. Institution Road also connects to Palm Avenue (southwest-northeast) east of the project site. The closest major highway with access to the proposed project site is Interstate 215, approximately 0.5 mile east-northeast of the proposed project site. Aside from Institution Road, the vicinity of the project area is natural habitat that varies from sparse sandy wash to mature sage scrub. The San Bernardino County Sheriff Training Facilities and Rehabilitation Center, the Glen Helen Off-road Vehicle recreation area and County Fire facilities are located west of the project site. Light industrial businesses exist east of the project site. Residential communities, including university housing exist further east. The Cajon Wash flows from north to south intercepting Institution Road, which runs south-southwest to north-northeast.

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The Draft MND details the proposed project; evaluates and describes the potential environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project, identifies those impacts that could be significant and presents mitigation measures, which avoid, minimize or mitigate these impacts. As provided for by CEQA Section 21064.5, a MND may be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when the project will not result in significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to a level below significance.

The draft MND is available for public review on the County project website: http://www.sbcounty.gov/dpw/public_notices/public_notices.asp. Copies of the draft MND are also available at the County office listed below.

In accordance with CEQA, a good faith effort has been made during the preparation of this draft MND to contact affected agencies, organizations, and individuals who may have an interest in this project. In reviewing the MND and initial study, affected public agencies and the interested public should focus on the sufficiency of the document in identifying and analyzing the possible impacts on the environment and ways in which the significant effects on the project area are proposed to be avoided or mitigated. The 30-day public comment period begins August 5, 2016 and ends September 6, 2016.

Comments may be made on the draft MND in writing before the end of the comment period. Following the close of the public comment period, the County Board of Supervisors will consider this MND and comments thereto in determining whether to certify the environmental document. Written comments on the draft MND should be sent to the following address no later than **September 6, 2016**:

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San Bernardino County's Board of Supervisors will consider this document for approval and certification during a future public hearing.