

LAST CALTRANS PUBLIC MEETING FOR I-5 EXPANSION SEPTEMBER 9 : 5-8 PM

Your last chance to question CalTrans about their Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the proposed expansion of I-5 from La Jolla to Oceanside is September 9 in Oceanside. Information at the public hearing, the last of five, will be presented in an Open House format with staff available at large tables with enlarged copies of drawings, tables and data reports. Usually four staff are available at each table to answer questions about different aspects of the Report, for instance, project design, environment impacts, noise and condemned properties associated with the 27-mile project. You can move between the tables asking questions anytime between 5 and 8 p.m.

Some of the alternative designs call for ten single-vehicle traffic lanes plus four HOV (High Occupancy Vehicles such as car pools and buses) lanes that will encroach upon wetlands, including the San Dieguito Lagoon Restoration Project in the River Valley. The Department has informed the public in written notice that it intends to make a de minimis impact finding (will not adversely affect the activities, features or attributes qualifying for protection unless there is adequate mitigation) for eligible, i.e. public, properties. But CalTrans has specifically exempted right of way land to be taken for expansion in the Lagoon area because it is “privately” owned by Southern California Edison even though the property is part of the San Dieguito River Park and contains a public regional trail! This is just one of the environmental impacts we are reviewing. And we want you to get involved.

If you have not already attended one of these informational meetings we encourage you to do so and get answers to your questions. The best way to prepare for the hearing is to review the DEIR on line at www.keepsandiegomoving.com/I-5-Intro.html or at local libraries including Del Mar and Carmel Valley. If you live in Del Mar you may also attend workshop meetings at the Del Mar Annex. These meetings are posted on this website.

Your comments and concerns regarding the proposed project and potential impacts on the Lagoon and River Park are important. You may submit your written comments at the September 9 meeting; via regular mail to Shay Lynn M. Harrison, Branch Chief, Environmental Planning Branch C, CalTrans District 11, (MS 242), 4050 Taylor St., San Diego, CA 92110; or by e-mail via the keepsandiegomoving.com/I-5 website noted above. All comments are due no later than October 7, 2010. The last scheduled CalTrans public hearing will be held:

Thursday, September 9, 2010
5 to 8 p.m.
Oceanside High School

Multipurpose Room

1 Pirates Cove, Oceanside, CA 92054