



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS SELECTS ALTERNATIVE 1 FOR 405/101 CONNECTOR

LOS ANGELES –The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has completed the Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) and has selected Design Alternative 1 for a project to improve the southbound San Diego Freeway (I-405) connector to the Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101). A Negative Declaration (ND) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been approved.

The project will involve a new, upgraded 50 mph two-lane connector that would replace the existing 20 mph single-lane connector, and require right-of-way from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers near the Sepulveda Dam.

Alternative 1 calls for removal of both existing connectors from southbound I-405 to U.S.-101 and construction of a new, elevated, connector bridge that spans the spillway of the Sepulveda Dam, eliminating the sharp turn radius curve of the existing connector. It will reconstruct the Burbank Boulevard on-ramp to southbound I-405 to pass underneath the new connector structure, eliminating access to U.S. 101 in both directions. Caltrans has determined that, after mitigation, this alternative will have no significant impact on the environment.

All formal comments received during the public IS/EA comment period, including Caltrans' responses, can be viewed in the appendices section of the document, at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/resources/envdocs>. CDs are also available upon request.

The new connector will improve traffic flow at the U.S. 101/I-405 Interchange, particularly during peak periods.

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