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## Agencies release I-580 documents

### Environmental report to support eastbound lane addition project

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Inside Bay Area

Three transportation

agencies released an environmental document that will enable the proposed Interstate 580 eastbound high occupancy vehicle lane project to proceed as planned if approved after a public review period.

The Federal Highway Administration, California Department of Transportation and Alameda County Congestion Management Agency are collaborating on the project, which will extend from Hacienda Drive in Pleasanton to east of the Greenville Road exit in Livermore and be built in the median.

The addition of the lanes is aimed at reducing congestion and delays that occur during commute hours. I-580 through the Livermore Valley is part of a goods movement corridor that extends from the Port of Oakland to the Central Valley.

"This is the second most congested freeway segment in the entire Bay region," said Dennis Fay, executive director of the county agency. "The (HOV lanes) are just phase one of a series of improvements we expect to make on this segment of freeway."

The eastbound project was selected first because it could be built relatively more easily than lanes in the westbound direction, Fay said.

The environmental assessment and initial study reveals that some mitigation measures must be completed, such as replacement of shrubs and reconstruction of existing drainage facilities.

However, because the project will be constructed on the existing highway and no significant environmental impacts are anticipated, the transportation agencies will gauge whether there is a need for a public hearing before proceeding with the project.

"We are waiting to see what the interests are out there," said Brigetta Smith, Caltrans public information officer.

The first phase of the project, which will include ramp meters, traffic monitoring equipment and other preliminary work, is expected to begin later this year. The county agency is currently soliciting bids for the work. The construction of the lanes is poised to begin late next year.

A copy of the environmental assessment and initial study is available online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/envdocs.htm> or <http://www.accma.ca.gov> or at the following locations: Caltrans Public Library, 111 Grand Ave., Oakland; ACCMA Offices, 1333 Broadway, Suite 220, Oakland; Dublin Public Library, 200 Civic Plaza, Dublin; Livermore Public Library, 1188 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore; and the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton.

Written comments or requests for a public hearing must be received by 5 p.m. Oct. 5. Comments may be submitted to Ed Pang, Senior Environmental Planner, Caltrans Office of Environmental Analysis, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA 94623-0660; or Jean Hart, Deputy Director of Planning, ACCMA, 1333 Broadway, Suite 220, Oakland, CA 94612 or by fax to (510) 836-2185 or by e-mail to [jhart@accma.ca.gov](mailto:jhart@accma.ca.gov).