

**PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
ON THE TOWER BRIDGE ON CAPITOL MALL/WEST CAPITOL AVENUE,
BRIDGE NO. 22-0021
SACRAMENTO AND WEST SACRAMENTO
SACRAMENTO AND YOLO COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA**

03-Yol-275, KP 20.87 (PM 12.97)/Sac-275, KP 0.10 (PM 0.06)

EA 03-132-0C9700



**Final Environmental Impact Report,
Final Section 4(f) Evaluation, and
Finding of No Significant Impact**

State Clearinghouse Number 2004012020



May 2005



General Information about This Document

What's in this document?

This document is a Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR), Final Section 4(f) Evaluation, and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which responds to comments received on the Environmental Assessment (EA)/Draft EIR that was circulated in June, July, and August 2004. The EA/Draft EIR examined the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project located on State Route 275 over the Sacramento River in the City of Sacramento and the City of West Sacramento. This document responds to comments received during the public review period.

What happened before this?

In January 2004, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) issued an Initial Study and Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EA/EIR and circulated the document for public review. The Initial Study identified the following issues to be addressed in detail in the EA/EIR: cultural resources, alternatives to the proposed project, cumulative impacts to cultural resources, and Section 4(f) resources. Comments on the Initial Study were received from various members of the public and reviewing agencies. Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reviewed the comments and issued the EA/Draft EIR to document to address the issues identified in the Initial Study as well as respond to the comments received from the public and agencies.

In June 2004, Caltrans and FHWA circulated the EA/Draft EIR and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for public review. The public comment period for the draft environmental document was from June 18 to August 9, 2004. One open public workshop was held on July 20, 2004 to inform the public about the project and to provide an opportunity for the public to make comments on the draft environmental document. In addition, the City of Sacramento Design Review and Preservation Board (DRPB) met on August 4, 2004 to review and provide comments on the draft environmental document.

What should you do?

- Please read this document.
- We welcome your comments. If you have any concerns regarding the proposed project, please send your written comments as soon as possible to Caltrans, Attn: Karen McWilliams, Office of Environmental Management, 2389 Gateway Oaks Drive, Mail Stop 15, Sacramento, California, 95833 or via email at karen_mcwilliams@dot.ca.gov.

What happens after this?

After certification of this document, Caltrans may (1) approve the proposed project, (2) undertake additional environmental studies, or (3) abandon the project. If the project is approved and funding is appropriated, Caltrans may approve the design and construction of all or part of the proposed project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette, or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please write to Karen McWilliams, Caltrans Office of Environmental Management, 2389 Gateway Oaks Drive, Mail Stop 15, Sacramento, CA 95833, or call (916) 274-0568, or TDD at (800) 735-2922.

03-Yol/Sac-275
Tower Bridge #22-0021
EA 03-132-0C9700

**Tower Bridge
Pedestrian / Bicycle Improvements Project**

**Final Environmental Impact Report
and
Final Section 4(f) Evaluation**

Submitted Pursuant to:
(Federal) 42 USC 4332(2)(C) and 40 USC 303
(State) Division 13, Public Resources Code

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration

and

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

5/23/05

Date of Approval

Jody Jones

JODY E. JONES

District 3 Director, North Region
California Department of Transportation

**Finding of No Significant Impact
for the
Tower Bridge Pedestrian/Bicycle Improvements Project**

This project would widen the sidewalks on the Tower Bridge to accommodate increased pedestrian and bicycle use.

The Federal Highway Administration has determined that, after study and examination, the proposed project will have no significant impact on the human environment. This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the attached Final Environmental Impact Report and Final Section 4(f) Evaluation, the previously approved Environmental Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Report and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation dated June 2004, and associated technical studies. These documents have been independently evaluated by the Federal Highway Administration and determined to adequately and accurately discuss the need, environmental issues, and impacts of the proposed project and mitigation measures. The documents provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

The Federal Highway Administration has cooperated with the California Department of Transportation and takes full responsibility for the accuracy, scope, and content of the attached environmental document.

6/29/2005
Date

Ed W. Doy
for Gene K. Fong
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

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- Appendix B.** Memorandum of Agreement among the FHWA, the ACHP, Caltrans, and the Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento
- Appendix C.** Agency Consultation
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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AASHTO	American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
AC	asphalt concrete
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
Cities	Cities of Sacramento and West Sacramento
DRPB	City of Sacramento Design Review and Preservation Board
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FRP	fiber reinforced polymer
ft	foot/feet
LOS	level of service
m	meter/meters
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
PCC	Portland cement concrete
PDT	project development team
PUC	California Public Utilities Commission
SABA	Sacramento Area Bicycle Advocates
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SMUD	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
TMP	traffic management plan
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Preface

The Environmental Assessment (EA)/Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Tower Bridge Pedestrian/Bicycle Improvements Project was approved for public review on June 17, 2004. The public comment period for the draft environmental document was from June 18, 2004, to August 9, 2004. A public workshop was held on July 20, 2004, to inform the public about the project and to provide an opportunity for the public to make comments on the EA/Draft EIR.

This Final EIR, Final Section 4(f) Evaluation, and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) include revisions to the EA/Draft EIR and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation and incorporate the EA/Draft EIR and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation by this reference. This document includes comments from agencies, organizations, and individuals regarding the proposed project and/or the adequacy of the EA/Draft EIR. All of these comments were received either during or immediately after the public review period. This document also provides responses to substantive and significant comments per Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 15132.

Based on the findings of the technical studies conducted for the project, and the comments received during the public comment period, the FHWA has determined that the appropriate environmental determination is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

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