

**MONTAGUE EXPRESSWAY
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
[U.S. 101 to just East of Interstate 680]
Santa Clara County, California**

NEGATIVE DECLARATION [CEQA]

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code, State of California

Project Description

The Montague Expressway Improvement Project would consist of the following improvements on Montague Expressway in Santa Clara County, California: 1) widen the existing 6-lane Montague Expressway to eight lanes between U.S. 101 and just east of Interstate 680 (i.e., South Park Victoria Drive/Morrill Avenue); 2) modify the Montague Expressway interchanges with U.S. 101 and Interstate 880; 3) construct additional lanes at the intersection of Montague Expressway and Mission College Boulevard; 4) construct a partial grade separation at the intersection of Montague Expressway and Trimble Road; and 5) construct a full grade separation at the intersection of Montague Expressway and McCarthy Boulevard/O'Toole Avenue.

Determination

An Environmental Assessment/Initial Study has been prepared by the Santa Clara County Roads & Airports Department. On the basis of this report, it is determined that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described in the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study have been added to the project. This conclusion is based on the following reasons:

1. The project will improve traffic circulation in the area, including reducing congestion and decreasing travel times along Montague Expressway.
2. At locations where existing parking will be impacted, replacement parking will be provided and/or financial compensation to the affected property owner(s) will be provided.
3. The project will have a substantial effect on two businesses: Napredak Hall and Conway Western Trucking. Given the magnitude and types of impacts at these two businesses, it may turn out that adequate mitigation is infeasible or impractical. If this turns out to be the case, either or both of the businesses would be purchased at fair market value and relocation would

occur. The County's acquisition and relocation procedures conform to the requirements of the federal Uniform Relocation & Real Property Acquisition Act.

4. In the vicinity of De La Cruz Boulevard, where post-project noise levels will approach or exceed the Noise Abatement Criteria of Caltrans/FHWA, new soundwalls will be constructed as part of the project for noise abatement purposes.
5. The project will not result in a significant impact on existing floodplains and/or floodways.
6. Impacts to riparian habitat at the Guadalupe River, Coyote Creek, and Penitencia East Channel will be mitigated at a mitigation site along Coyote Creek in south San Jose.
7. Mature trees impacted by the project will be replaced.
8. Potential impacts to threatened species of fish in Coyote Creek and the Guadalupe River will be avoided/minimized by measures to be implemented during construction.
9. Potential impacts to red-legged frogs, burrowing owls, nesting raptors, and/or nesting swallows will be avoided/minimized. Specific measures will be implemented just prior to the start of - and during - construction.
10. The project will not result in any significant air quality impacts.
11. All short-term, construction-related, impacts (e.g., noise, air quality, and water quality) will be reduced to less-than-significant levels by mitigation included in the project.
12. The project will not affect any known historic or prehistoric resources.
13. The project will not impact any prime or unique farmlands.
14. Right-of-way to be acquired for the project will undergo study/testing to ensure that it is free of hazardous materials contamination. If contamination is present, remediation will occur in accordance with applicable regulations.



Michael J. Murdter, Director
Santa Clara County Roads & Airports Dept.

10/8/02
Date