

## **Appendix D**

### **Agency Consultation Comments**

## List of Correspondence

<u>Correspondence</u>	<u>Date of Correspondence</u>
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to FHWA	06/23/04
FHWA to Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	05/28/04
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FHWA to SHPO	04/23/04
FHWA to Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians	03/24/04
SHPO to FHWA	03/10/04
FHWA to USFWS	02/24/04
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FHWA to USEPA	04/17/01
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USFWS to FHWA	03/12/01
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USFWS to County of Riverside	03/12/01
FHWA to Caltrans	03/05/01
CDFG to County of Riverside	03/05/01
Mark Wills to Zully Smith	02/27/01
USFWS to FHWA	02/22/01
County of Riverside (Flood Control) to County of Riverside (Trans)	02/16/01
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*Preserving America's Heritage*

June 23 2004

Stephen Hallisy  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Highway Administration  
555 Zang Street, Room 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

REF: *Bautista Canyon Road (FHWA 010326A) Riverside County, CA.*

Dear Mr. Hallisy:

We received your notification and supporting documentation regarding the adverse effects of the referenced project, a property eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Based upon the information you provided, we do not believe that our participation in consultation to resolve adverse effects is needed. However, should circumstances change, please notify us so we can re-evaluate if our participation is required. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.6(b)(iv), you will need to file the Memorandum of Agreement, and related documentation at the conclusion of the consultation process. The filing of this Agreement with the ACHP is necessary to complete the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Thank you for providing us with your notification of adverse effect. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Legard at 303/969-5110 or via eMail at [clegard@achp.gov](mailto:clegard@achp.gov).

Sincerely,

Nancy Kochan  
Office Administrator/Technician  
Western Office of Federal  
Agency Programs

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

12136 West Bayaud Avenue, Suite 330 • Lakewood, Colorado 80228  
Phone: 303-969-5110 • Fax: 303-969-5115 • [achp@achp.gov](mailto:achp@achp.gov) • [www.achp.gov](http://www.achp.gov)



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**MAY 28 2004**

Refer to: HFHD-16

Mr. Don L. Klima, Director  
Office of Planning and Review  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, #809  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Klima:

**Subject: California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road**

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(a)(1), we are providing you with notification of an adverse affect finding for 21 historic properties that fall partially within the area of potential effects of the subject undertaking. The following information is provided pursuant to 36 CFR 800.11(e):

1. **Project description --** The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Central Federal Lands Highway Division, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the California Department of Transportation, and Riverside County, is proposing to improve FH 224. Forest Highway 224 is a 21.7-mile route in Riverside County between State Highway (SH) 74, at the town of Valle Vista, and SH 371, about 1.5 miles west of the community of Anza. The proposed action is for the reconstruction of a 13.2-kilometer 8.2-mile segment of Bautista Canyon Road, including the construction of a new bridge over Bautista Canyon Creek (see enclosed Figure 1.3-1). The road traverses through the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) and provides access to over 40,000 acres of National Forest, Indian Reservation, state, and private lands. It links the communities of Hemet and Anza to the southern portion of the SBNF. The project is being funded through the Public Lands Forest Highway Program and by Riverside County.
2. **Steps taken for the subject undertaking to identify historic properties are documented in the enclosed copies of correspondence with the California State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians.**

3. A description of the affected historic properties is provided in the following table:

### Bautista Canyon Road Existing Cultural Resources

CHRIS Designations	Field No(s)	SBNF No.	Within APE?	Eligibility for NREHP	Description
P-33-13174	-	05-12-55-238	yes	Yes	Bautista Canyon Archaeological District that includes 18 archaeological sites, and the Bautista Canyon Ethnobotanical TCP (Native American plant collecting areas, and an ethnographic landscape).
P-33-1889 CA-RIV-1889	-	05-12-55-27	no	Yes	Previously recorded lithic scatter located within CDF Bautista Conservation Camp.
P-33-3090 CA-RIV-3090	-	05-12-55-125	no	Yes	Previously recorded bedrock mortar located within CDF Bautista Conservation Camp.
P-33-3091 CA-RIV-3091	-	05-12-55-124	no	Yes	Previously recorded late-prehistoric seasonal camp located within CDF Bautista Conservation Camp.
P-33-3092 CA-RIV-3092	-	05-12-55-123	no	Yes	Previously recorded late-prehistoric seasonal camp and basketry plant collecting area located within CDF Bautista Conservation Camp.
P-33-13175 CA-RIV-7340	BC-7	05-12-55-239	yes	Yes	Activity area with a bedrock milling feature, 10 metates, 3 manos, an extensive lithic scatter including 2 biface fragments. Road through site leads to CA-RIV-3092.
P-33-13176 CA-RIV-7341	BC-8	05-12-55-240	no	Yes	Bedrock milling features (2).
P-33-13177 CA-RIV-7342	BC-9	05-12-55-241	yes	Yes	Lithic resource procurement and reduction area with shallow subsurface deposit.
P-33-13178 CA-RIV-7343	BC-6	05-12-55-242	no	Yes	Extensive midden area in with roasting features, subsurface deposit up to 50 cm (20 in) deep; bedrock mortar with pestle; large stands of <i>Juncus textilis</i>
P-33-13179 CA-RIV-7344/H	BC-10	05-12-55-243	no	Yes	Lithic scatter with historical-period bottle base.
P-33-13180 CA-RIV-7345H	BC-12	05-12-55-244	no	No	Early 20th century temporary camp consisting of scatter of cans and bottles; possibly associated with old road to Tripp Flats.
P-33-13181 CA-RIV-7346	BC-21	05-12-55-245	no	Yes	Lithic scatter from single reduction episode.
P-33-13182 CA-RIV-734/H	BC-4	05-12-55-141	yes	Yes	Bedrock milling feature, metate, and lithic scatter; tested, no subsurface deposit in APE; large area of <i>Juncus textilis</i> at east edge of site along creek.
P-33-13183 CA-RIV-7348	BC-13	05-12-55-246	yes	Yes	Bedrock milling feature with 2 mortars, 3 slicks, on large boulder dislodged during road construction.
P-33-13184 CA-RIV-7349	BC-14	05-12-55-247	no	Yes	Temporary camp consisting of bedrock milling features, midden, lithic scatter, and pottery.
P-33-13185 CA-RIV-7350	BC-15/ BC-20	05-12-55-248 (was -140, Lotus C)	no	Yes	Temporary camp with numerous bedrock features (mortars and metate slicks), pestle and several mano fragments, pottery sherd, and quartz flakes.

CHRIS Designations	Field No(s).	SBNF No.	Within APE?	Eligibility for NRHP	Description
P-33-13186 CA-RIV-7351	BC-3	05-12-55-140 Locs A and B	yes	Yes	Large habitation site on both sides of road but mostly on northeast side; contains midden thermal features, house pits, bedrock milling features, and artifact scatter; tested, cultural deposit to 50 cm (20 in) in depth.
P-33-13187 CA-RIV-7352H	BC-22	05-12-55-249	yes	Yes	Pre-1918 road alignment enters APE through BC-3.
P-33-13188 CA-RIV-7353	BC-16	05-12-55-250	no	Yes	Lithic scatter
P-33-13189 CA-RIV-7354	BC-1	05-12-55-103	yes	Yes	Lithic procurement and reduction site on both sides of road; large flaked stone scatter, cores, and bifaces.
-	BC-2	05-12-55-102	no	No	Bedrock milling feature and lithic scatter recorded by SBNF in 1980; not relocated.
P-33-13190 CA-RIV-7355	BC-18	05-12-55-251	yes	Yes	Lithic scatter.
P-33-13191 CA-RIV-7356H	BC-19	05-12-55-252	no	No	Early 20 <sup>th</sup> -century trash scatter with glass and cans.
P-33-13192 CA-RIV-7357H	BC-11	05-12-55-253	no	No	1950s automobile dump.
P-33-13193 CA-RIV-7358H	BC-17	05-12-55-254	yes	No	Early-mid-20th century farmstead.
P-33-13194 CA-RIV-7359H	BC-23	05-12-55-255	yes	Yes	Current road alignment constructed 1914-1917; portion of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail automobile route.

The eighteen prehistoric sites that comprise the Bautista Canyon Archeological District are eligible for the NRHP under criteria d. Bautista Canyon Road and the earlier pre-1918 road alignment are eligible under criteria a and b. The Bautista Canyon Ethno botanical Traditional Cultural Property is eligible under criteria c and d.

4. The proposed highway reconstruction project will directly impact a portion of each of the 18 prehistoric sites that constitute the Bautista Canyon Archeological District. Sites BC 22 and 23 that constitute the Anza National Historic Trail Transportation Corridor and the Bautista Canyon Ethno botanical Traditional Cultural Property will be subject to adverse visual impacts due to diminishment or alteration of the integrity of feeling, setting, and association with the historic landscape of Bautista Canyon.
5. 36 CFR 800.5(a)(2)(i) was found to be applicable given anticipated physical destruction of or damage to a portion of each prehistoric site, sites BC 22 and 23 that constitute the Anza National Historic Trail Transportation Corridor, and alteration of the Bautista Canyon Ethno botanical Traditional Cultural Property due to adverse visual impacts. Measures to totally avoid impacts to these properties were considered, but total avoidance is not feasible. Measures to minimize physical destruction and visual impacts include the following:
  - In consultation with Native American tribes, the SBNF, NPS, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the FHWA will prepare a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) according to the provisions of the NHPA (36 CFR 800.6).
  - The MOA will contain provisions for the FHWA the County of Riverside to prepare and implement mitigation measures for archaeological sites subject to direct adverse effects. The measures will address data recovery from imperiled features and cultural deposits in affected site areas, archaeological monitoring of sensitive areas for unanticipated discoveries during construction, Native American monitoring of project-related archaeological activities, and curation of all recovered cultural materials in a federally approved repository.
  - The MOA will also address issues of protecting archaeological sites and collecting areas for basketry materials from degradation by unauthorized uses, while providing for access to qualified researchers, traditional practitioners, and agency staff.
  - Any revegetation plan or visual treatment plan for the project will be prepared and implemented in consultation with traditional practitioners and designed to enhance the growth and distribution of desirable species and minimize changes in the canyon setting of the project.

- If human remains are discovered, work shall halt in that area and procedures set forth in the California Resources Code (§ 5097.98) and State Health and Safety Code (§ 7050.5) shall be followed by the archaeological monitor, after notification to the County coroner by the FHWA project engineer. If Native American remains are present, the County coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission to designate a Most Likely Descendant, who will arrange for the dignified disposition and treatment of the remains. Ground-disturbing activities shall be allowed to resume in the area of discovery upon completion of the above requirements, to the satisfaction of the FHWA project engineer.
6. Copies of the views of consulting parties are enclosed.
  7. A Memorandum of Agreement will be prepared by the FHWA and filed with the Council.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Stephen Hallisy, Environmental Protection Specialist at 303 716-2140 or write to the above address, Attention: HFHD-16, Environment.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Development Engineer

Enclosure

bc w/o enclosure:

S. Hallisy

S Holder

H. Hirsbrunner

Reading file

Central File – CA FH 224, Bautista Canyon Road *SH*

*jm* SHALLISY:jm:5/24/2004:L:\ENVIRONM\WP\CA224 Bautista Canyon\Tribal  
Consultation & Cultural Resources\achpadvaffectnotification.doc

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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April 29, 2004

In Reply Refer To  
FHWA010326A

T. Samuel Holder  
Project Development Engineer  
United States Department of Transportation  
Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: CONTINUING SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR THE CALIFORNIA FOREST HIGHWAY 224 (BAUTISTA CANYON ROAD) RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Holder:

Thank you for continuing consultation with me for the undertaking referenced above. You are contacting me on the basis of my March 10, 2004 comments regarding the FHWA's determination that CA-RIV-7359H (Bautista Canyon Road) and CA-RIV-7352H (a portion of an earlier road alignment) were not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). I acknowledge that on the basis of my earlier comments and recent phone conversations that you have had with the Project Review Staff Archaeologist assigned to this project, Blossom Hamusek, that you have re-evaluated and revised your determination of eligibility and finding of effect for these resources.

Your additional research has indicated that the historic landscape of Bautista Canyon is virtually intact and the historic transportation corridor throughout the Area of Potential Effects (APE) is virtually unchanged and possesses integrity of setting, feeling, and association with the Anza expedition. Consequently, FHWA has determined that those portions of sites CA-RIV-7359H (Bautista Canyon Road) and CA-RIV-7352H (historic wagon road segment) that are situated within the APE are considered contributing elements of a larger historic transportation corridor known as the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail under criteria a and b. The period of significance for CA-RIV-7359H extends from 1774 – 1917 and it is considered significant at a local, state and national level, while the period of significance for CA-RIV-7352H is from 1890 – 1925 where it is considered significant at a local level. Based on the submitted information, I concur with the FHWA's determination that both CA-RIV-7359H and CA-RIV-7352H are eligible for the NRHP under criteria a and b.

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(2), FHWA finds that CA-RIV-7359H (Bautista Canyon Road), CA-RIV-7352H (wagon road segment), the eighteen prehistoric sites designated as the Bautista Canyon Archaeological District (CA-RIV-1889, -3090, -3091, -3092, -7340, -7341, -7342, -7343, -7344/H, -7346, -7347/H, -7348, -7349, -7350, -7351, -7353, -7354, and -7355), and the Bautista Canyon Ethnobotanical Traditional Cultural Property, all of which are either completely or partially located within the APE, will be subject to adverse effects resulting from the physical destruction, damage, alteration and/or diminishment of the setting of these historic properties with the implementation of the proposed undertaking. On the basis of this, FHWA finds that

T. Samuel Holder  
April 29, 2004  
Page 2 of 2

an adverse effect finding is appropriate for this undertaking for all three project alternatives. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.5(d)(2), I concur with FHWA's Finding of Adverse Effect for this undertaking.

I understand that following the comment period, FHWA will be issuing notification to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation addressing the determination of adverse effects and will continue consultation with me in accordance with §800.6 in order to resolve adverse effects with the development of a Memorandum of Agreement. Thank you for seeking our comments and I look forward to continuing our consultation on the resolution of adverse effects.

Please do not hesitate to contact Blossom Hamusek, Project Review Unit Staff Archaeologist at (916) 651-6956 or at [bhamu@ohp.parks.ca.gov](mailto:bhamu@ohp.parks.ca.gov), if you have any questions or need clarification of any of my comments.

Sincerely,



Stephen D. Mikesell  
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**APR 23 2004**

Refer To: HFHD-16

Dr. Knox Mellon  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
PO Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Dr. Mellon:

Subject: California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road (FHWA 010326A)

We are contacting you at this time to continue consultation on the subject undertaking. On the basis of your comments of March 10, 2004, we have reevaluated our determination of eligibility and finding of effect for sites CA-RIV-7359H (Bautista Canyon Road), CA-RIV-7352H (wagon road segment), and the 8.2 miles automobile route of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

#### **Determination of Eligibility for the NRHP**

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(c), we have applied National Register criteria to sites CA-RIV-7359H (Bautista Canyon Road), CA-RIV-7352H (wagon road segment), and the 8.2 miles automobile route of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail as contributing elements of a historic transportation corridor. Because the historic landscape of Bautista Canyon is virtually intact, this historic transportation corridor is virtually unchanged and possesses integrity of setting, feeling, and association with the Anza expedition. Consequently, we have determined that these three properties are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as contributing elements to a historic transportation corridor under 36 CFR 60.4 criteria a and b.

#### **Finding of Effect**

In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d) (2), the FHWA finds that this historic transportation corridor comprised of sites CA-RIV-7359H (Bautista Canyon Road), CA-RIV-7352H (wagon road segment), and the 8.2 miles automobile route of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail will be subject to adverse effects resulting from altering and diminishing the setting of the historic transportation corridor with implementation of the proposed undertaking.

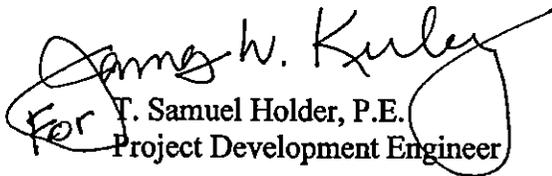
#### **Resolution of Adverse Effects**

Following the comment period, the FHWA will issue notification to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation addressing the determinations of adverse effects. We ask for your concurrence with our determination of eligibility and finding of adverse effect.



If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Stephen Hallisy, Environmental Protection Specialist at 303 716-2140 or write to the above address, Attention: HFHD-16, Environment. We look forward to consultations with your office.

Sincerely yours,

  
for T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Development Engineer

- cc: Ms. Mary Zambon, County of Riverside, Transportation Department, 4080 Lemon St, 8<sup>th</sup> floor, Riverside, CA 92501
- Mr. Mike Florey, USFS, 1824 South Commerce Center Circle, San Bernardino, CA 92408
- Mr. Daniel McCarthy, USFS, San Jacinto Ranger District, PO Box 518, Idyllwild, CA 92549
- Mr. Don Klima, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 12136 W. Bayaud Ave., Rm 330, Lakewood, CO 80228
- bc: S. Hallisy
- S. Holder
- H. Hirsbrunner

Reading file

Central file: CA FH 224, Bautista Canyon Road

SHALLISY:: 4/23/2004: L:\ENVIRONM\WP\CA224 Bautista Canyon\Tribal Consultation & Cultural Resources\23 April 04 SHPO Letter.doc



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**MAR 24 2004**

Refer to: HFHD-16

Ms. Rosemary Morillo  
Vice-Chairperson  
Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians  
PO Box 487  
San Jacinto, CA 92581

Dear Ms. Morillo:

Subject: California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road

Thank you for your review and comment on the Draft Cultural Resource Report for California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road. We would like to provide clarification to your specific concerns:

1) *The Soboba Tribe requests that they be named as contact or representative as to the interest of Luiseño and Cahuilla cultural resources and any Native American human remains that are uncovered during the development of this project.*

The FHWA recognizes the Soboba Tribe as a consulting party as are the Ramona and Cahuilla. The FHWA intends to initiate discussions regarding the content of a Memorandum of Agreement in consultation with all of the federally recognized tribes that have been participating. The identification of tribal monitors and contacts for other purposes will be established at that time.

2) *The Soboba requests that significance determinations be made in consultation with Soboba, Cahuilla, and Ramona Tribes.*

Significance determinations have been made in consultation with the Tribes.

3) *The Tribe believes there is high potential that other cultural resources and sacred sites exist within the project area.*

The FHWA agrees and includes "stop work" clauses in all FHWA construction clauses. The project MOA will include procedures to be implemented in the event an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources occurs.

4) *Soboba tribe believes that Native American monitors should be present during all ground disturbing activities, including further archaeological testing.*



The FHWA will consult with the Tribes to determine a procedure for enlisting Native American archaeological monitors for any required archaeological testing and data recovery. The FHWA performed a 100 percent pedestrian survey of the entire corridor and is confident that the MOA will establish satisfactory procedures for any inadvertent discovery.

- 5) *In the event human remains are discovered, Soboba intends to assert its rights under California Law as a likely descendant.*

In the event Native American human remains are uncovered during construction, the FHWA will follow California state law requiring notification of the County Coroner, who will refer the matter to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) if the remains are determined to be of Native American origin (Section 7050.5, Health and Safety Code). The NAHC will then make a determination and notify the Most Likely Descendants, who may recommend their preferred treatment to the San Bernardino National Forest (Section 5097.98, Public Resources Code).

- 6) *Soboba requests that Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), County, and San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) work with them to draft an agreement that addresses the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources, including human remains.*

The FHWA agrees.

- 7) *Soboba is consulting with their elders to determine if more cultural resources may be present than have been identified.*

The FHWA would be very appreciative of any additional information on the study area.

- 8) *Soboba would like to be a signatory to the MOA, and that the MOA cover the following:*

- a. *Treatment of cultural resources uncovered on the site in accordance with tribal customs and traditions*
- b. *Tribal monitoring and the return of ceremonial and sacred items back to the affiliated tribe for proper treatment, including possibly burying items back in place*
- c. *Treatment of Native American human remains. One elder has indicated that burials are in the area*

The FHWA agrees that the Soboba be a signatory to the MOA and will work with the Soboba in developing the MOA to address the above concerns.

- 9) *Soboba disagrees with curation of artifacts at the San Bernardino County Museum and feels artifacts should be turned over to the affiliated tribe.*

The Archaeological Resource Protection Act requires curation in a federally approved repository. If cultural items are claimed under Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), they must be human remains, associated funerary objects, unassociated funerary objects, sacred objects, or items of cultural patrimony that are culturally affiliated with the claimant. To our knowledge, none of the archaeological materials collected are cultural items as defined by NAGPRA.

*10) Soboba would like acknowledgement that Luiseno territory encompasses a larger area than noted on figure 8 of the cultural report and would like to provide a more accurate map. They feel that the project area was used by both tribes and Luiseno would like appropriate acknowledgement in any MOA.*

The FHWA considers Soboba a consulting tribe and will include them in the MOA process. We would appreciate any information on Luiseno territories that would be helpful for our process or would add knowledge to the understanding of peoples of southern California. The consultants who prepared the cultural resources report for FHWA and the County (Statistical Research, Inc. [SRI]) met with Ms. Morillo on November 22, 2003, as part of a field trip to review the project. At that time the question regarding the Map (Figure 8 in the report) was discussed. Ms. Morillo indicated that Soboba had a more accurate map and SRI requested it for inclusion in the final report. SRI followed up this request in a telephone call to Ms. Morillo on December 24, 2003 at which time she indicated she would ask her staff to send a map approved by the tribe. No map was ever received by SRI, although the text in the final report was updated to reflect Soboba's concerns (page 20), and the source of the map, a standard reference on California Indians, was clearly attributed in both the text and in the caption to the figure.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Stephen Hallisy, Environmental Protection Specialist at 303 716-2140 or write to the above address, Attention: HFHD-16, Environment.

Sincerely yours,



T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Development Engineer

cc: Mary Zambon, Senior Transportation Planner, Transportation Department, County of  
Riverside, 4080 Lemon St., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Riverside, CA 92502-1090  
Mike Florey, Forest Engineer, 1824 S. Commercenter Cr, San Bernardino, CA 92408-3430

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY  
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ARNOLD SCHWARTZENEGGER, Governor



March 10, 2004

In Reply Refer To  
FHWA010326A

Mike Vanderhoof  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
United States Department of Transportation  
Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR THE CALIFORNIA FOREST HIGHWAY 224 (BAUTISTA CANYON ROAD) RIVERSIDE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Dear Mr. Vanderhoof:

Thank you for your January 29, 2004 submittal that continues consultation with me regarding the undertaking referenced above. You are consulting with me in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f), as amended (Act). Specifically, the FHWA is requesting my concurrence with the following determinations of eligibility:

- Eighteen prehistoric sites, CA-RIV-1889, -3090, -3091, -3092, -7340, -7341, -7342, -7343, -7344/H, -7346, -7347/H, -7348, -7349, -7350, -7351, -7353, -7354, and -7355 are eligible under Criterion D for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) as contributing elements of an archaeological district;
- The floral resources of the canyon, including the locations for collecting basketry materials, have been determined to be important cultural resources that meet the NRHP criteria for eligibility under criteria C and D as a traditional cultural property (TCP);
- Historic Site, CA-RIV-7359H (Bautista Canyon Road and a portion of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail) and CA-RIV-7357H, -7345H, -7358H, -7356H, 7352H, BC-24 and BC-5 are not eligible for listing on the National Register under any of the criteria.

Your submittal included the following studies:

- *Along the Trail of Juan Babtiste and Juan Bautista de Anza – Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation of the Bautista Canyon Road Project (California Forest Highway 224), Riverside County, California* by Statistical Research Inc., December 2003; and,
- *Traditional and Contemporary Uses of Bautista Canyon Floral Resources* by Cultural Systems Research, Inc., April 2003.

By applying the National Register criteria (36 CFR Part 63) you have determined that CA-RIV-7357H, -7345H, -7358H, -7356H, BC-24 and BC-5 do not meet the criteria of integrity and are ineligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criteria A, B, C and D. Based on the information presented in the submitted materials, I concur with FHWA's determination that these resources are not eligible for the National Register.

I also concur with FHWA's determination that the eighteen prehistoric sites, CA-RIV-1889, -3090, -3091, -3092, -7340, -7341, -7342, -7343, -7344/H, -7346, -7347/H, -7348, -7349, -7350, -7351, -7353, -7354, and -7355 are eligible under Criterion D for listing on the National Register as contributing elements of an archaeological district which you have designated as the Bautista Canyon Archaeological District. I understand that the boundaries of the archaeological portion of the district are minimally defined as the limits of the 100-meter-wide study corridor covered in the archaeological survey for this undertaking, and also include previously recorded archaeological sites CA-RIV-1889, -3090, -3091, and -3092 which immediately adjoin the study area in the Bautista Conservation Camp.

Based on my review of the submitted documents, I concur that the floral resources of Bautista Canyon, including the locations for collecting basketry materials, are eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C as "representative of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction," namely, the "entire plant community," and Criterion D for its "history of yielding, or potential to yield, information important in prehistory or history." I understand the boundaries of the Traditional Cultural Property minimally includes the APE investigated for the ethnobotanical study and include an area that measures approximately 500 meters on each side of the road for the length of the undertaking.

At the present time I am unable to concur with the FHWA's determination that CA-RIV-7359H (Bautista Canyon Road) and CA-RIV-7352H (a portion of an earlier road alignment) are not eligible to the National Register. Based on the information submitted to me, it appears that if the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail were evaluated for its potential as a historic property, then the segment designated as CA-RIV-7359H, which the research has indicated closely converges as the actual route followed by Anza, and later as an "auto route," would be a contributing element to the prospective historic property as a whole. It is true that the road segments (CA-RIV-7359H and -7352H) within the APE would not be considered eligible as contributing elements to either the proposed Bautista Canyon Archaeological and Ethnobotanical District. The historic/prehistoric context, themes and areas of significance for these latter resources are obviously unrelated to the road segments. However, the significance of this portion of the Anza National Historic Trail as an early transportation route that is virtually unchanged from its appearance at that time, and as an intact historic landscape through which the expedition passed in 1774-1775, should be taken into consideration. These early road segments derive their importance from being a unified entity, and therefore, the individual resources should not be evaluated separately from the whole. While the FHWA may feel that these resources lack integrity individually, the National Register status of CA-RIV-7359H and -7352H remains unclear because the context of these road segments (i.e. contributing or non-contributing element) has not been developed.

Given that the National Register status of some properties within the APE remains unresolved, I prefer to reserve comment on the FHWA's Finding of Effect while our efforts to resolve the National Register status of the road segments pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(c)(1)-(2) continues. Finally, thank you again for seeking our comments on your undertaking. Please do not hesitate to contact Blossom Hamusek, Project Review Unit Staff Archaeologist at (916) 651-6956 or at [bhamu@ohp.parks.ca.gov](mailto:bhamu@ohp.parks.ca.gov), if you have any questions or need clarification of any of my comments.

Sincerely,



Dr. Knox Mellon  
State Historic Preservation Officer



FEB 24 2004

Refer to: HFHD-16

Mr. Jesse Bennett  
US DOI, Fish and Wildlife Service  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
6010 Hidden Valley Road  
Carlsbad, CA 92009

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Subject: CA Forest Highway 224 (Bautista Canyon Road)  
FWS-WRIV-1458.8

This information is being provided to supplement data in the Biological Assessment for CA Forest Highway (FH) 224.

**Traffic**

Existing traffic counts and traffic projections were obtained and prepared by Urban Crossroads, Inc. on behalf of Riverside County. The Urban Crossroads report and data are enclosed.

**Existing Traffic Counts**

There are three count locations: 1) Fairview Road near State Highway (SH) 74; 2) the paved section just north of the Conservation Camp; and, 3) the unpaved section just south of Tripp Flats. Location #1 represents the urban areas on the northern end of the project. Location #2 represents the paved section north of the route. Location #3 represents the currently unpaved section. The following are actual and projected average daily traffic counts for the FH 224 project.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Existing (01')</u>	<u>No Build* (25'***)</u>	<u>Build** (05')</u>	<u>Build (25'***)</u>
Fairview Road	346	779	600	1790
Conservation Camp	138	311	400	1320
Tripp Flats	61	137	300	1150

\* The no build takes existing traffic counts times 225 percent total projected regional growth.

\*\* The build alternatives result in a projected traffic diversion from other roads of 450 vehicles per day. The opening year diversion has been projected at 56 percent of the total. The 225 percent total growth rate was applied to the existing plus the full diversion rate to determine the 2025 build alternative traffic projection.

\*\*\* Comparisons to design year traffic (2025) should be between the no build projected 2025 level and the projected 2025 traffic if a build alternative is selected because traffic on this route is expected to increase regardless of whether the project is constructed.



Based on this data, roadway reconstruction will result in an immediate 1.5 to 5x increase in traffic that expands at a slightly higher rate than the county average of 225 percent as individuals become increasingly aware of the new roadway and the diversion reaches the projected full level of 450 vehicles per day. From that point, traffic would be expected to increase in line with County growth. Economic development can affect traffic growth; however, most of the project area is publicly owned and is not developable.

### **Nighttime Traffic**

Nighttime traffic is considered that which operates between 8 pm and 7 am. Nighttime traffic has been calculated as 19 percent of existing. Further, 44 percent of this nighttime activity occurs between the hours of 6 am to 7 am, which is after sunrise from March 22 to October 5. The remainder is spread throughout the night but decreases to near zero between 12 am and 3 am. The following projections list total nighttime traffic and, in parenthesis, the nighttime traffic excluding the 6-7 am period. Nighttime traffic is projected to remain very low, even in the design year 2025.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Existing (01')</u>	<u>No Build (25')</u>	<u>Build (05')</u>	<u>Build (25')</u>
Fairview Road	66 (37)	148 (83)	114 (64)	340 (190)
Conservation Camp	26 (15)	59 (33)	76 (43)	251 (141)
Tripp Flats	12 (7)	26 (15)	57 (32)	219 (123)

### **Vehicle Speed**

Vehicle speed in the current unpaved section has been projected to increase from approximately 20 mph to an average of 33 mph. Vehicle speed in the existing paved section will not change as a result of this project because roadway geometry will not change except for one 90-degree curve at the southern termini. The current design alternatives would reconstruct the roadway as a rural collector, which in this case will be a fairly low speed mountain road. A recent 8-year study performed in Yellowstone National Park (Gunther et al 1998) noted that actual vehicle speeds on roads of this nature are usually kept in check by the narrow curvilinear design of the roadway as opposed to larger, wider, higher design (more straight alignment) speed roads that had an average increase in actual vehicle speed of 16 mph. The Yellowstone study revealed that 85 percent of all road kills occurred in areas with speed limits greater than 45 mph. The relationship between speed and road kill was not linear. Large mammals were killed by vehicles significantly more than expected on roads with posted speeds of 55 mph and significantly less than expected on roads with posted speeds of 45 mph or less. Forest Highway 224 will have a curvilinear alignment and narrow typical section and would be posted with a speed limit of 30-35 mph depending on the final design.

Based on the above data, low traffic levels, and low design speed, the project is expected to result in minimal effects to wildlife populations as a result of vehicle related mortality. Regardless, and due to potential effects to habitat connectivity, the project proposes to install wildlife crossings at five locations, and to erect several hundred meters of toad exclusion near a known population of Arroyo Toad.

### **Noise**

Project-related noise can occur due to heavy equipment operating during construction and as traffic. Construction noise can be broken into different construction operations such as grading and paving. Construction noise can have a high intensity, but is temporary. Traffic noise on the other hand is long-term and often has a lower intensity.

### Traffic Noise

Noise impacts are considered great enough to require consideration of mitigation when projected traffic noise levels approach or exceed specific noise abatement criteria, or if the projected traffic noise levels substantially exceed the existing noise levels in the area (23 CFR 772). The criterion is 67 decibels for residential, picnic areas, parks, and schools. Most state highway agencies use either a 10- or 15-decibel increase in noise levels to define a "substantial increase," or they may use a sliding scale with greater allowance for increases from a lower base level (USDOT, 2000). This project is using an increase of 12 dBA as the threshold for the definition of substantial.

*Posted  
no trucks  
over 14K  
lbs.  
→ No semis*

Location	Traffic Noise Estimate			
	Existing Noise Levels (01')		Projected Noise Levels (Build 25')	
	50'	200'	50'	200'
Fairview	52dBA	42dBA	59dBA	49dBA
Conservation Camp	46dBA	36dBA	58dBA	48dBA
Tripp Flats	40dBA	31dBA	57dBA	47dBA

*Distance  
from  
C/L*

Noise has been calculated at two distances: 1) 50 feet to reflect roadside conditions, and 2) 200 feet to model noise at the distance of the closest known receptor, a house near the southern terminus. The table shows that noise 50 feet from the roadway edge at the northern location at Fairview increases from 52dBA to 59dBA, the paved section near the conservation camp increases from 46dBA to 58dBA, and the unpaved section can expect an increase from approximately 40dBA to 57dBA. Similar magnitude increases occur at 200 feet; however, noise levels are much lower.

### Construction Noise

It is difficult to predict construction noise. Heavy machinery, the major source, is constantly moving in unpredictable patterns and at varying speeds. This affects the intensity of the noise that is emitted by engines and other moving parts, which has an affect on the amount of noise that reaches a receptor. The duration and level of construction noise are dependent on the following phases of activity:

1. Ground clearing and removal of existing trees, rocks, and soil
2. Utility relocations
3. Excavation
4. Placement of foundations and roadbeds
5. Erection of structures including bridges and retaining walls
6. Finishing, including filling, grading, paving, landscaping, and cleanup operations

Typically the first three phases of construction generate the highest noise levels (and are performed earliest in the process). Construction noise represents a short-term impact on the noise environment.

Construction noise effects have been modeled based on ISO method 9613-2, Attenuation of Sound During Propagation Outdoors. Noise levels have been provided for Earthwork (Items 1 and 3), and Paving (Item 6). The receptor distances that were modeled are 50 to 1,320 feet (1/4 mile) from the proposed roadway. The 50-foot distance was used to provide a measure of noise level immediately adjacent to the construction area. The 200-foot distance is being used because

it represents the approximate distance of the nearest house. The 400- and 1,320-foot (1/4 mile) distances are provided to illustrate the decrease in noise energy with distance.

Activity	Construction Noise Estimate			
	50'	200'	400'	1320' (1/4 mile)
Earthwork	88dBA	72dBA	64dBA	50dBA
Paving	82dBA	66dBA	58dBA	44dBA

Unpaved Section only

This data reflects that substantial noise effects can be expected close to the road during the reconstruction of the unpaved section, which is the primary purpose of placing a 1/4 mile buffer around the known Southwestern willow flycatcher nest at Cottonwood Canyon. As indicated in the table, noise levels drop significantly with distance, and 1/4 mile should be more than sufficient to alleviate potential noise effects to breeding Southwestern willow flycatcher. Positive aspects of construction noise are that it is temporary, does not typically occur at night, and can be mitigated somewhat by ensuring that construction equipment is properly muffled.

16 mo. construction schedule

The paved section will not experience this construction related noise. Rather, noise levels in the paved section would be expected to increase somewhat over the existing levels due to higher truck and vehicular traffic from workers and materials entering the site.

If I can be of further assistance please feel free to contact me at (303) 716-2052.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Development Engineer

Enclosure

References:

Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report, CA Forest Highway 224, USDOT-FHWA, 2004

Factors Influencing the Frequency of Road-Killed Wildlife in Yellowstone National Park, Kerry A Gunther, Mark J. Biel, and Hillary L. Robinson, Bear Management Office, Yellowstone National Park, 1998

"Highway Traffic Noise in the United States - Problem and Response", U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Publication No. FHWA-EP-00-011 HEPN/6-00(5M)QE, April 2000.

bc: T. Samuel Holder  
Richard J. Cushing  
Michael Vanderhoof

Reading file

Central file: CA FH 224, Bautista Canyon Road

MVanderhoof:jm:2/24/04:L/environ/wp/ca224/biological resources/04Feb11Traffic&NoiseSupp

jm



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**JAN 29 2004**

Refer To: HFHD-16

Dr. Knox Mellon  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
PO Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Dear Dr. Mellon:

**Subject: California Forest Highway 224 (Bautista Canyon Road)**

This letter is a determination of eligibility and finding of effect for the proposed federal undertaking to reconstruct California Forest Highway (FH) 224 (Bautista Canyon Road). This is being submitted pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The effort to identify and evaluate all historic and archaeological resources within the APE, as defined by 36 CFR 800.16(d), has been completed and reported in the enclosed report entitled "Along the Trail of Juan Baptiste and Juan Bautista de Anza". The inventory and evaluation effort has been conducted in accordance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation* (48 Federal Register Part IV).

### **Background**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Central Federal Lands Highway Division, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the California Department of Transportation, and Riverside County, is proposing to reconstruct FH 224. Forest Highway 224 is a 21.7-mile route in Riverside County between State Highway (SH) 74, at the town of Valle Vista, and SH 371, about 1.5 miles west of the community of Anza. The road traverses through the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) and provides access to over 40,000 acres of National Forest, Indian Reservation, state, and private lands. It links the communities of Hemet and Anza to the southern portion of the SBNF. The project is being funded through the Public Lands Forest Highway Program and by Riverside County.

### **Consultation History**

The FHWA is the lead federal agency for this undertaking. On March 19, 2001, we submitted to your office, a preliminary cultural resources assessment and requested your input regarding the identification of interested parties, the identification of historic properties, and the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). On February 6, 2002, we submitted a work plan describing studies that were subsequently implemented to provide us with information necessary to determine eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and issue a finding of effect for historic properties within the APE of our improvement.

The route has been designated by the National Park Service as a portion of the automobile route of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. As a result, the FHWA has had ongoing consultation with the National Park Service since January 2001.

In March 2001, the FHWA initiated consultation by sending letters to five federally recognized Native American tribes that were provided by the SBNF Tribal Relations Program Manager. In April 2001, two of those tribes attended a cultural resource-scoping meeting. On April 9, 2001, the FHWA contacted the California Native American Heritage Commission and the SBNF to identify any additional potentially interested Native American Tribes. Twenty tribes were invited to participate and there has been ongoing consultation with four tribes and other interested Native American traditional practitioners.

#### **Determination of Eligibility for the NRHP**

Please see the enclosed report entitled "*Along the Trail of Juan Baptiste and Juan Bautista de Anza*", which documents cultural resource survey results and recommends eligibility for resources found in the project area. In consideration of the report recommendations and our consultation with the SBNF, NPS, and Native American Tribes, the FHWA has determined the eligibility of these resources for listing in the NRHP.

Cultural resources in the project area can be categorized as archaeological resources, floral resources used by Native Americans for traditional cultural purposes, and the roadway itself as a historical period resource.

#### Archaeological Sites

Archaeological sites have been divided into historical period and prehistoric sites. The prehistoric archaeological sites have been determined as eligible for listing in the NRHP as elements of an archaeological district. The historical-period sites do not meet the criteria for NRHP eligibility.

The table below lists the archaeological sites, their eligibility, location in APE, and a site description.

<u>CHRIS Trinomial</u> (Field No.)	<u>Eligible</u>	<u>Within APE</u>	<u>Historic (H)/</u> <u>Prehistoric (P)</u>	<u>Description</u>
RIV-7354 (BC-1)	Yes	Yes	P	Lithic procurement and reduction site on both sides of the road; large flaked stone scatter, cores, and bifaces.
RIV-3091 (BC-2)	Yes	No	P	Bedrock milling feature and lithic scatter with glass and cans
RIV-3092 (BC-3)	Yes	Yes	P	Large habitation Site on both sides of the road but mostly on the northeast side; contains midden, thermal features, house pits, bedrock milling features, and artifact scatter; tested, cultural deposits to 50 cm in depth.
RIV-7347H (BC-4)	Yes	Yes	P	Bedrock milling feature, metate, and lithic scatter; tested, no subsurface deposit in APE; large area of <i>Juncus textilis</i> at east edge of site along creek.

N/A (BC-5)	Yes	No	P	Complete olla found during firebreak construction in 1989 Bautista burns; collected by SBNF.
RIV-7343 (BC-6)	Yes	No	P	Extensive midden area with roasting features, subsurface deposit up to 50 cm deep; bedrock mortar with pestle; large stands of <i>Juncus textilis</i> .
RIV-7340 (BC-7)	Yes	Yes	P	Activity area with bedrock milling feature; 10 metates; 3 manos; an extensive lithic scatter, including 2 biface fragments. Road through site leads to RIV-3092, a habitation site outside the APE.
RIV-7341 (BC-8)	Yes	No	P	Two bedrock-milling features.
RIV-7342 (BC-9)	Yes	Yes	P	Lithic resource procurement and reduction area with shallow subsurface deposit.
RIV-7344H (BC-10)	Yes	No	P	Lithic scatter with historical period bottle base.
RIV-7357H (BC-11)	No	No	H	1950s automobile dump.
RIV-7345H (BC-12)	No	No	H	Early 20th century temporary camp consisting of scatter of cans and bottles.
RIV-7348 (BC-13)	Yes	Yes	P	Bedrock milling feature with 2 mortars and 3 slicks on large boulder.
RIV-7349 (BC-14)	Yes	No	P	Temporary camp consisting of bedrock milling features, midden, lithic scatter, and pottery.
RIV-7350 (BC-15/20)	Yes	No	P	Temporary camp with numerous bedrock (mortars and metate slicks), pestle and several mano fragments, pottery sgerd and quartz flakes.
RIV-7353 (BC-16)	Yes	No	P	Lithic scatter.
RIV-7358H (BC-17)	No	Yes	H	Early to mid-20th century farmstead.
RIV-7355 (BC-18)	Yes	Yes	P	Lithic scatter.
RIV-7356H (BC-19)	No	No	H	Early 20th century trash scatter with glass and cans
RIV-7346 (BC-21)	Yes	No	P	Lithic scatter from single reduction episode.
RIV-7352H (BC-22)	No	Yes	H	Pre- 1925 road alignment enters APE through BC-3.
RIV-7359H (BC-23)	No	Yes	H	Current road alignment constructed 1914-1917
N/A (BC-24)	No	Yes	H	Plumb Bob; collected.

### Floral Resources

Tribal consultation revealed that Native Americans consider the floral resources of Bautista Canyon, including locations for collecting basketry materials, to constitute a historic cultural landscape. As such, FHWA considers them eligible for listing in the NRHP as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). The actual boundary of the TCP likely extends for some distance and minimally includes the APE investigated for the ethno-botanical study, or 500m on each side of the proposed roadway. We have enclosed the report entitled *Traditional and Contemporary uses of Bautista Canyon Floral Resources*, which describes the culturally sensitive plants and their historic uses. The report was prepared to supplement and is cited in the primary cultural resource report: *Along the Trail of Juan Baptiste and Juan Bautista de Anza*.

In consideration of the results of the cultural resources and ethno-botanical studies outlined above, FHWA has determined that the prehistoric and proto-historic archaeological resources recorded for this project, as well as previously recorded sites RIV-1889, -3090, -3091, and -3092, and the basketry plant collecting areas and other floral resources of Bautista Canyon, are eligible for listing in the NRHP as a district. These resources collectively retain integrity of location, setting, materials, feeling, and association, and form a landscape that is little altered from its period of significance.

#### Existing Roadway

The existing roadway is not eligible for the NRHP as a feature or due to its designation on the automobile route of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

#### **Finding of Effect**

The FHWA has recently established enough preliminary design information to enable us to determine potential effects to historic properties (23 CFR 800.16[1]). As noted above, the two kinds of resources that are eligible for the NRHP and within the project APE are archaeological sites, and floral resources.

#### Archaeological Sites and District

The APE for Archaeological resources is the footprint of the improvement plus a 5 m (16ft) buffer for temporary construction access. Effects to the archaeological district will occur where the existing improvement APE intersects known archaeological sites. Sites RIV-7354 (BC-1), RIV-3092 (BC-3), RIV-7347H (BC-4), RIV-7340 (BC-7), RIV-7342 (BC-9), RIV-7348 (BC-13), and RIV-7355 (BC-18) are considered eligible for the NRHP and are located within the APE for archaeological resources. Archaeological sites within this APE will be subject to adverse effects resulting from the physical destruction or alteration of the resource such that the significance of the historical resource may be materially impaired in the affected portion of the site.

#### Floral Resources

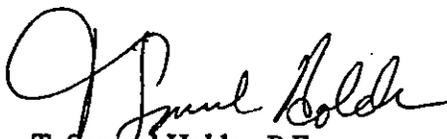
The APE for floral resources is the area within 500m on each side of the proposed roadway. Direct effects are expected in the area occupied by the footprint of the improvement plus a 5 m (16ft) buffer for temporary construction access. Indirect effects may extend to the 500 m APE boundary and include things like a change in the current access, and noise.

#### **Resolution of Adverse Effects**

Following the comment period, the FHWA will issue notification to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation addressing the determinations of adverse effects. In order for your comments to receive consideration, therefore, the FHWA encourages you to comment by March 1, 2004.

Please direct your comments to Mr. Michael E. Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist, at the address above. If you need additional information prior to issuing concurrence or comments, Mr. Vanderhoof may also be contacted by phone at (303) 716-2141 or by e-mail at [michael.vanderhoof@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:michael.vanderhoof@fhwa.dot.gov). We look forward to consultations with your office.

Sincerely yours,



T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Development Engineer

Enclosures: SRI study, CSRI study

cc w/o enclosure:

Ms. Mary Zambon, County of Riverside, Transportation Department, 4080 Lemon St,  
8<sup>th</sup> floor, Riverside, CA 92501

Mr. Mike Florey, USFS, 1824 South Commerce Center Circle, San Bernardino, CA  
92408

Mr. Daniel McCarthy, USFS, San Jacinto Ranger District, PO Box 518, Idyllwild, CA  
92549

Mr. Don Klima, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 12136 W Bayaud Ave.,  
Rm 330, Lakewood, CO 80228

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bc: Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist  
T. Samuel Holder

Reading file

MVANDERHOOF:jm:01/29/04:L/environm/wp/ca224/tribal consultation.../04 January 28 SHPO letter *ve*



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
6010 Hidden Valley Road  
Carlsbad, California 92009

JAN 12 2004

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS-WRIV-1458.5

T. Samuel Holder  
Project Manager  
Federal Highway Administration  
555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Re: Request for Formal Section 7 Consultation for the Proposed Reconstruction of Bautista Canyon Road on the San Bernardino National Forest

Dear Mr. Holder:

This letter acknowledges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) December 8, 2003, receipt of your December 4, 2003, letter and biological assessment requesting initiation of formal section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Your December 4, 2003, letter and biological assessment regarding the proposed reconstruction of Bautista Canyon Road requested formal section 7 consultation for the federally endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*) and arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*) and concurrence that the proposed project was not likely to adversely affect the federally endangered Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevini*), slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*).

Based on the lack of observations of the Nevin's barberry and slender-horned spineflower within the reconstruction area during surveys, the planned preconstruction surveys for the slender-horned spineflower, and the distance from the reconstruction area to known and potential downstream populations of slender-horned spineflower, we concur with your determination that the project as proposed is not likely to adversely affect the Nevin's barberry and slender-horned spineflower. Should the project plans change, or if additional information is found on the distribution of these species within the project area, this determination should be reconsidered.

Increased traffic levels and speeds are anticipated through occupied San Bernardino kangaroo rat habitat downstream of the reconstruction area. The December 4, 2003, biological assessment provides a rationale for why impacts to the San Bernardino kangaroo rat due to increased traffic levels and speeds will be minimized but does not provide sufficient rationale to conclude that effects will be avoided. Also, the road is in proximity to a known occupied southwestern willow flycatcher territory. Inadequate information was presented regarding the extent of the territory to conclude that the project, as proposed, is not likely to adversely affect the southwestern willow

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flycatcher. Moreover, no results from habitat assessments or appropriate presence/absence surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher in upstream or downstream areas that will be subject to increased traffic levels and speeds have been provided. Thus, we cannot concur with your “not likely to adversely affect” determinations for the San Bernardino kangaroo rat or the southwestern willow flycatcher and recommend that the consultation include these species.

Although surveys for the federally endangered least Bell’s vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*, “vireo”) were negative adjacent to the reconstruction project, any vireo occupying riparian areas upstream or downstream of the reconstruction project could be affected by the anticipated increase in traffic levels, traffic speed and traffic noise.

In summary, we have not received all of the information necessary to initiate formal consultation on the proposed Bautista Canyon Road reconstruction project as outlined in the regulations governing interagency consultations (50 CFR §402.14). To complete the initiation package, we request the following information:

1. A description of the action being considered.

We request timeframes for the start and completion of the proposed project activities including the road reconstruction and toad barrier construction activities.

2. A description of any listed species or critical habitat that may be affected by the action.

The December 4, 2003, biological assessment indicates that increased traffic levels and speeds are likely to occur north and south from the road reconstruction footprint due to this project. However, surveys and analysis for the Quino checkerspot butterfly were restricted to the area around the reconstruction footprint and did not include these north and south portions of Bautista Canyon Road. We recommend the completion of habitat assessments and appropriate presence/absence surveys for the Quino checkerspot butterfly for the areas north and south from the road reconstruction site that will be subject to increased traffic and/or speed levels. We also recommend habitat assessments and appropriate presence/absence surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell’s vireo upstream and downstream from the reconstruction area where traffic levels and/or speeds will increase.

The formal consultation process for the project will not begin until we receive all of the information, or a statement explaining why that information cannot be made available. We will notify you when we receive this additional information; our notification letter will also outline the dates within which formal consultation should be complete and the biological opinion delivered on the proposed action.

T. Samuel Holder (FWS-WRIV-1458.5)

3

If you have any questions about this consultation or the consultation process in general, please contact Jesse Bennett of my staff at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen A. Goebel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" and "G".

Karen A. Goebel  
Assistant Field Supervisor

cc: Gene Zimmerman (San Bernardino National Forest, San Bernardino)  
Laurie Rosenthal (San Jacinto Ranger District, Idyllwild)



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific West Region

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700

Oakland, California 94607

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DEC 29 2003

D18(PGSO-PP)

December 18, 2003

Michael Vanderhoof  
Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
Federal Highway Administration  
555 Zang, Room 259  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Dear Mr. Vanderhoof:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Administrative Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/EIR) for the California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road. Most of the National Park Service comments are included in the enclosed file using the format you provided. However, some of our comments on the Visual Resources section do not lend themselves to that format. Therefore, we have included those comments in this letter.

We appreciate the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) taking seriously the visual impacts of the proposed project on the character of Bautista Canyon and including a visual resource study in the draft EIS/EIR. The visual resources section does an accurate job of describing the existing visual environment of the road. It describes natural open space as the dominant landscape of the canyon, providing "visual relief from urban development and freeway corridors in Riverside County." (3.10.1, page 181) It notes that native vegetation along the road reduces the visual impact of the road and that users expect a scenic experience in using the road.

The assessment corroborates our statements in our January 16, 2002 letter to you as follows: "This segment of road is unique along the 1200-mile long Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (Anza Trail). It is the only place with an intact chaparral plant community that encompasses the entire view shed and is one of the few places along the trail available today that provides an experience of what the Anza expedition members might have seen. The narrow bench of the current dirt road, which is vegetated to its edges, provides an opportunity for the tourist on the Anza Trail to travel within this chaparral environment while also viewing the riparian vegetation of the canyon at several locations. It is one of the special places along the historic route to which the NPS directs visitors."

Therefore, we agree with the management prescriptions in the visual resource section for visual quality objectives (VQO) and viewer sensitivity. The VQO is "partial retention," meaning that the landscape character appears only slightly altered—the road "does not dominate the overall character of the landscape." Viewer sensitivity is classified at the highest level with a note that driving for pleasure is one of the most prevalent recreation experiences in the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF).

On the other hand, we do not understand the classification of the landscape character as "Variety Class C", defined as "landscapes where the landforms, vegetation patterns, and cultural land use have lower scenic value." (section 10.3.2) Our question would be, lower than what? As noted in the introductory paragraph to Section 3.10, page 178, "local values can confer visual significance on landscape features

scenic value.” (section 10.3.2) Our question would be, lower than what? As noted in the introductory paragraph to Section 3.10, page 178, “local values can confer visual significance on landscape features and areas that would otherwise appear unexceptional” (FHWA 1986). Given the relief from the surrounding urban development that traveling this canyon provides and the uniqueness of the intact ecosystem, it merits a higher classification. Also, the note that the dry stream adds “only a small amount of value to the overall scenic attractiveness” is a subjective judgement. The stream and its riparian vegetation add visual interest year round whether there is running water or not. We recommend a reconsideration of the classification for landscape character or at least a better description of the criteria used to classify it.

We find the simulations to be inadequate. First, Figure 3.10.1 “Project View shed and Landscape Units” does not help the reader understand just what part of the road is being viewed in the simulations. The alternative shown in the simulations is not identified. The simulations do not clearly show the road cross-section or how it would lie on the land. The reality of the grading is not represented accurately, but rather shows sharp angles on the fills and does not appear to show the extent of the fills. The representations of the revegetation are just a matter of pasting segments of the existing landscape onto the shape of the fill areas. It would better serve the public in evaluating this project if grading were shown at three periods: immediately after project completion, in five years, and in 20 years. Also, the Visual Resources section should estimate how much of the proposed new roadway is represented by each of the simulations. What percent of the entire project is represented by the extremely deep cuts in View 1 or the slightly less deep cuts of View 2? Does View 1 represent the greatest cut of 25 m (80 ft) in height? If not, what would that look like?

The Environmental Consequences section (3.10.4.1, page 186) concludes that the proposed road would be a dominant human-made feature that would change the scale of the landscape experience, that it would exceed human scale, that it would dominate the existing landscape in all aspects including form, line, color, and texture, and that large cuts composed of exposed rock could remain *an adverse visual impact for decades* (italics added). Our concern, of course, is with the visual experience from the road itself. The Environmental Consequences section states that “most of the visual impact would be seen from Bautista Canyon Road itself while traversing the canyon in either direction”(Section 3.10.4.1). We are hard pressed, therefore, to understand how the impacts of all the alternatives can be reduced to below the level of significance.

We are under the impression that the project design for all alternatives already includes the features of reseeding disturbed vegetation, colorizing the exposed rock faces, blending fill areas into the natural contours, and rounding back cut edges to the natural slope. One would suppose that the simulations would include these features. Alternative C includes steeper cut slopes and more of them than the other alternatives. Is Alternative C shown in the simulations? Steeper slopes increase the potential for visual impacts because the steeper slopes cannot be revegetated. Colorizing rock may have a cosmetic effect but it would not reduce the impacts to below a level of significance. It would be more accurate to say that the harshness of the visual impacts can be softened somewhat, but not mitigated to a level of insignificance.

The Environmental Consequences section (page 186) also notes that the VQO of the SBNF are not met by the proposed alternative, but with the mitigations they would be. Yet there is no evaluation of how partial retention would be achieved or how this road would not dominate the overall character of the landscape for the driver with the mitigations. The conclusions of the visual resources Environmental Consequences section of the draft EIS/EIR are perfunctory and not well supported.

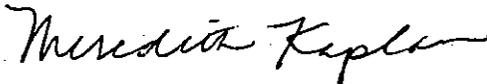
Michael Vanderhoof  
December 18, 2003  
Page 3

fact that this road project will have a huge and unmitigatable negative impact on the visual quality experienced by the road user.

As you see, this document has not changed our concerns expressed in our January 2002 letter as follows: "the extensive cuts and fills required to create a paved road design that meets American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards will completely change the visual character of the roadway and the experience of the user. Second, and related to the first, the cuts and fills will expose large areas of soil to invasion by exotic species that are noticeably absent from the canyon now. The potential establishment of these species along the roadway could threaten the integrity of the entire canyon ecosystem."

We continue to have great concern about the impact of this project on the visual and botanical resources of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

Sincerely,



Meredith Kaplan, Superintendent  
Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

Enclosure

cc:

Sam Holder, Project Manager, FHWA  
Mary Zambon, Senior Transportation Planner, Riverside County  
Gale Zimmerman, Forest Supervisor  
Mike Florey, Director, Engineering and Recreation, San Bernardino National Forest

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American People  
so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



US Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

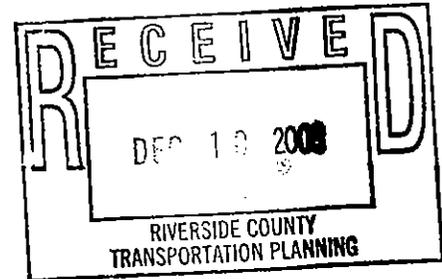
Central Federal Lands Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

DEC 04 2003

Refer to: HFHD-16

Mr. Jesse Bennett  
US Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
6010 Hidden Valley Road  
Carlsbad, CA 92009



Dear Mr. Bennett:

Subject: California Forest Highway 224 (Bautista Canyon Road)  
FWS-WRIV-1458.3

Enclosed is a copy of the Biological Assessment (BA) for the proposed reconstruction of 13.2 km (8.2 mi) unpaved segment of Forest Highway 224 (FH 224) also known as Bautista Canyon Road. The BA was developed, in part, through informal consultation with your office and coordination with the San Bernardino National Forest, the federal agency responsible for lands through which FH 224 travels. Informal consultation with your office consisted of attending project meetings and field reviews, written correspondence, and telephone conversations with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) staff or its representatives.

The FHWA greatly appreciates the time and energy that your agency has invested in the informal consultation portion of the Section 7 process and believes that the BA is a thorough and comprehensive document because of this effort.

In summary, the following effect determinations were made:

Plants	Federal Status	Determination
Nevin's Barberry	Endangered	<i>May effect, but not likely to adversely affect</i>
Thread-leaved Brodiaea	Threatened	<i>No effect</i>
Slender-horned Spineflower	Endangered	<i>May effect, but not likely to adversely affect</i>
Santa Ana River Woolly-Star	Endangered	<i>No effect</i>
Bear Valley Blue-grass	Endangered	<i>No effect</i>
<b>Animals</b>		
Quino Checkerspot Butterfly	Endangered	<i>May effect, and likely to adversely affect</i>
Arroyo Toad	Endangered	<i>May effect, and likely to adversely affect</i>
Mountain Yellow-legged Frog	Endangered	<i>No effect</i>
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	Endangered	<i>May effect, but not likely to adversely affect</i>
Coastal California Gnatcatcher	Threatened	<i>No effect</i>
Least Bell's Vireo	Endangered	<i>No effect</i>
San Bernardino Kangaroo Rat	Endangered	<i>May effect, but not likely to adversely affect</i>

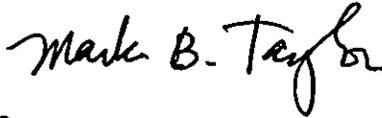


Since the BA determines that the project may affect, and is likely to adversely affect, two Federally endangered species, we are requesting initiation of formal consultation at this time. We request that you issue a draft Biological Opinion (BO) for our review and comment prior to issuing the final BO for the project.

We are planning to publish the Draft Environmental Impact Statement in March 2004, and it would be beneficial to include the results of this consultation. Therefore, we would appreciate notification of whether you find the document complete within 30 days of receipt of this Biological Assessment. If you find the document complete, we request the draft Biological Opinion within 90 days of that finding.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Michael E. Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 303-716-2141, or by email at [michael.vanderhoof@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:michael.vanderhoof@fhwa.dot.gov). The FHWA appreciates your time and assistance on this project and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely yours,



for  
T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Manager

Enclosures

cc w/o enclosure (BA):

Ms. Mary Zambon, County of Riverside, Transportation Department, 4080 Lemon St, 8<sup>th</sup> floor,  
Riverside, CA 92501

Mr. Mike Florey, US Forest Service, 1824 Commerce Center Circle, San Bernardino, CA 92408



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

NOV 13 2003

Refer to: HFHD-16

Mr. Dan Swenson  
Regulatory Project Manager  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Los Angeles District  
PO Box 532711  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-3401

Dear Mr. Swenson:

Subject: California Forest Highway 224 (Bautista Canyon Road)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Central Federal Lands Highway Division, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the California Department of Transportation, and Riverside County, is proposing to improve the 8.2 miles dirt portion of California Forest Highway (FH) 224 (Bautista Canyon Road) in Riverside County, California. From the town of Valle Vista, FH 224 extends south to the community of Anza. The dirt section begins approximately 10.3 miles south of Valle Vista.

Enclosed are a revised wetland delineation report and a summary of the current anticipated impacts to wetlands and other waters of the US for each improvement alternative. The report and impact estimates have been prepared based on your comments made during the January 27, 2003 wetland delineation field review. The FHWA has also conducted two design reviews that have reduced the overall impacts to wetlands and other waters, and will continue to attempt to reduce impacts when a preferred alternative has been selected and the proposal enters the final design phase.

The FHWA is the lead federal agency and will be the applicant for the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit for the improvement. The delineation report has been field verified and we request that the USACE provide written confirmation of the accuracy of the delineations. We are in the process of identifying compensatory replacement sites for unavoidable impacts and will submit a conceptual mitigation plan to you with a request for a field review when we are completed. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is also being prepared, which will be submitted to you for review and comment.



If you have any questions or comments regarding the report or the project, please feel free to contact Mr. Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 303-716-2141. (email: michael.vanderhoof@road.cflhd.gov).

Sincerely yours,

*15/ Mark B. Taylor*

*for* T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Manager

Enclosures

cc w/enclosure and report:

Adam Fischer, Environmental Specialist, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana Region, 3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501-3348

Raul Rodriguez, California Department of Fish and Game, 4775 Bird Farm Road  
Chino Hills, CA 91709

cc w/enclosure and w/o report:

Nova Blazej, USEPA - Region 9, Federal Activities Center, Mail Code: CMD-2,  
75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Mary Zambon, County of Riverside, Transportation Department, 4080 Lemon St, 8<sup>th</sup> floor,  
Riverside, CA 92501

Mike Florey, USFS, 1824 Commercecenter Circle, San Bernardino, CA 92408

bc: Mike Vanderhoof  
Sam Holder

Reading file

Central File - CA 224, Bautista Canyon Road

MVANDERHOOF:jm:L\environ\wp\ca224\corresp\03 November 20 USACE JD request *ms*

The following table provides an estimate of the current expected earthwork, total ground disturbance, and impacts to waters of the US for each build alternative. The project will balance earthwork so the earthwork quantity is equal to both the cut and the fill volumes required for each alternative. The ground disturbance estimate is the total amount of new disturbance (the area within the proposed limits of excavation not including the existing road).

The estimate of current unavoidable impacts to waters of the US have been separated into wetlands, waters of the US (drainages), and seeps. The current estimate of total impacts to all waters of the US combined ranges from 0.25 ha (0.62 ac) for Alternative A (40kmh) and the Combination alignment (55kmh/40kmh/55kmh), to 0.20 ha (0.49 ac) for Alternative B (55kmh).

Please note that while Alternative B (55 km/h) currently has less impact to waters of the US, it requires 78,000 cu. m (102,000 cu. yd) more earthwork than Alternative A, and 68,000 cu. m (89,000 cu. yd) more than Alternative C. Alternative B also has 1.3 ha (3.21 ac), and 1.6 ha (3.95 ac) more ground disturbance, respectively. The nearly equal impact estimates and higher standard of the Alternative C (Combination) support its selection as the preferred alignment for this improvement.

Description	Alternative					
	40 km/h		55 km/h		Combination	
Earthwork	225,000 cu. m	294,000 cu. yd	303,000 cu. m	396,000 cu. yd	235,000 cu. m	307,000 cu. yd
Ground Disturbance	16.1 ha	39.75 ac	17.7 ha	43.70 ac	16.4 ha	40.49 ac
Wetlands	0.08 ha	0.20 ac	0.05 ha	0.12 ac	0.07 ha	0.17 ac
Waters of the U.S.	0.10 ha	0.25 ac	0.12 ha	0.30 ac	0.11 ha	0.27 ac
Seeps	0.07 ha	0.17 ac	0.03 ha	0.07 ac	0.07 ha	0.17 ac
Total Wet & Waters	0.25 ha	0.62 ac	0.20 ha	0.49 ac	0.25 ha	0.62 ac

The following tables provide a detailed estimate of unavoidable impacts to wetlands, waters of the US, and seeps by their site identification numbers from the jurisdictional delineation report.

# **Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians**

P.O. BOX 487 • SAN JACINTO, CA 92581 • TELEPHONE (909) 654-2765

October 22, 2003

T. Samuel Holder, P.E., Project Manager  
US Dept. of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

Dear Mr. Holder:

The **SOBOBA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS** (hereinafter "Soboba Tribe"), a federally recognized Indian tribe and sovereign government, is formally submitting comments on the California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road, hereinafter "the Project".

The Soboba Tribe is not necessarily opposed to this Project, however we have certain concerns in regards to the existence of cultural resources and gathering sites in the area, as well as the potential for unknown cultural resources, and their protection and avoidance. The Soboba Tribe considers the proposed Project area as well as the surrounding area to be Luiseño and Cahuilla territory, and the Soboba Tribe considers any Luiseño and Cahuilla cultural items and any Native American human remains which may be found during the development of this project to belong to the ancestors of either Soboba, Cahuilla or Ramona tribal members. We are hereby requesting that for this Project the Soboba Tribe be named as contact or representative as to the interest of Luiseño and Cahuilla cultural resources and any Native American human remains that are uncovered during the development of this Project.

We have reviewed the Draft Cultural Resource Report completed for the Project. As the report shows, there are significant Cultural resources that exist within the Project area. Although determination has been made for "significance", such determination should be made in consultation with the Soboba, Cahuilla and Ramona Tribes. Given the significant number of sites located in and around the Project area, the Soboba Tribe believes there is a high potential that other cultural resources and sacred sites exist within the Project area.

Given the significant archaeological resources within the Project area, it is the position of the Soboba Tribe that Native American monitors should be required to be present during all ground-disturbing activities conducted in connection with the Project, including further archaeological testing.

According to the California Public Resources Code, § 5097.98, if Native American human remains are discovered, the Native American Heritage commission must name a "most likely descendant," who shall be consulted as to the appropriate disposition of the remains. Given the Project's location in Soboba Luiseño/Cahuilla territory, the Soboba Tribe intends to assert its right pursuant to California law with regard to any remains or items discovered in the course of this Project. And, accordingly, the Tribe further requests that the Federal Highway

Administration and County work with them to draft an agreement, which would address any inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources, including human remains.

While the Soboba Tribe agrees with the conclusion of the report that there are at least 8 sites identified as historic properties within the APE of the Project area, we are consulting with our elders to identify other cultural concerns and will identify further concerns during the consultation and comment opportunities within the final environmental report for the project.

Generally, we agree with the adoption of the Recommendations to Resolve Adverse Effects and we support the agency's adoption of such recommendations with some proposed additions and/or changes. We request that Soboba be an invited signatory to the MOA, and that the MOA contain culturally sensitive means for alleviating impacts such as: treatment of cultural resources uncovered on the site in accordance with tribal customs and traditions, tribal monitoring and the return of ceremonial and sacred items back to the affiliated tribe for proper treatment. Such treatment could include burial in place on the Project site if the Tribe deems it appropriate. We would also like the MOA to include provisions for treatment of any Native American human remains that are uncovered during construction as there are indications of midden areas in some of the sites and because one of the Cahuilla elders had indicated that some burials may be in the area.

With regard to the curation of items at the San Bernardino County museum, we are in complete disagreement with this provision. All ceremonial items, sacred items, milling features, flakes, tools, etc., should be turned over to the affiliated Tribe for appropriate treatment. We strongly believe the treatment of these Cultural and sacred items should be left to the Tribes, to follow our customs and traditions, which would be rightfully ours in accordance with the provisions of NAGPRA.

We are in agreement with the Recommendations to Resolve Adverse Effects that specifically address issues of protecting collecting areas. It is imperative to our Tribe that collection areas remain in a natural setting so that gathering ceremonies are not disturbed by the road alignment, traffic and noise pollution.

The Report states that the project study area is within the Cahuilla traditional territory. While we agree with that to a great extent, we believe the area is also traditional Luiseño territory, as is documented in the report as "environmental characteristics" that are Luiseño, which tells us that some of the cultural material is more indicative of Luiseño culture. Our Tribe is comprised of both Luiseño and Cahuilla decent whose ancestors were known to use and travel in the Project area. We believe this was a travel corridor where both Cahuilla and Luiseño cultural resources may exist and should be taken into consideration when the drafting of the MOA is completed. The Figure 8 on page 21 of the report depicts tribal traditional territories, we do not agree with the territory borders that are depicted on that figure, we believe the Luiseño territory encompasses a larger area and would like the opportunity to provide a more accurate map.

The Soboba Tribe appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on this Project. The Soboba Tribe looks forward to working together with the Federal Highway Administration, the County and other interested agencies in protecting invaluable Native American cultural and archaeological resources found in the Project area. Allowing active tribal participation early in the Project will prevent misunderstandings and help the project move forward smoothly.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kim Yearyean or myself at (909) 654-2765.

RESPECTFULLY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary Morillo".

Rosemary Morillo, Vice Chairperson  
**SOBOBA BAND OF LUISEÑO INDIANS**



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

SEP 22 2003

Refer to: HFHD-16, CA FH 224

See Addressees List:

Subject: California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road

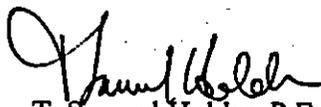
The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with Riverside County, San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) and the California Department of Transportation are developing a project to improve California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road.

Enclosed please find a draft cultural resource report for the project. The report, entitled *Along the Trail of Juan Babtiste and Juan Bautista de Anza*, describes the cultural history in the project area and evaluates potential project related effects to cultural resources in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

You are being provided a draft copy of the report for review and comment. We would also like to invite you to attend a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss and provide report comments to the project sponsors. The meeting will be held at the Valley Wide Recreation Center, at 43935 Acacia Avenue, Hemet, CA 92544.

We encourage you to participate in this meeting. However, if you are unable to attend, please feel free to provide written comments within 30 days of the date of this letter. We appreciate your involvement in the development of this improvement. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Steve Hallisy at 303-716-2140.

Sincerely yours,

  
T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Manager

Enclosure



## Addressees List:

Manuel Hamilton, Tribal Chairman  
 Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians  
 PO Box 391670  
 Anza, CA 92539

Antonio Heredia Jr.  
 Chairperson  
 Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians  
 PO Box 391760  
 Anza, CA 92539-1760

Rosemary Morillo, Tribal Council  
 Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians  
 PO Box 391760  
 Anza, CA 92539-1760

Robert Selgado, Tribal Chairperson  
 Soboba Band of Mission Indians  
 PO Box 487  
 San Jacinto, CA 92581-0487

Kim Yearyean  
 Land & Resource Manager  
 Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians  
 PO Box 487  
 San Jacinto, CA 92581

Rosemary Morillo  
 PO Box 127  
 San Jacinto, CA 92581

William Pink  
 626 E. Old Second Street  
 San Jacinto, CA 92583

Donna Largo  
 325 N. Western Avenue  
 Hemet, CA 92343

Ben Masiel  
 PO Box 2183  
 Temecula, CA 92503

Bill Madrigal  
 41565 Terwilliger Road  
 Anza, CA 92539

Rose Ann Hamilton  
 39440 Cary Road  
 Anza, CA 92539

Lori Sisquoc  
 3587 McKenzie Street  
 Riverside, CA 92504

Dr. Lowell Bean  
 Cultural Systems Research, Inc.  
 675 Roxbury  
 Palm Springs, CA 92262

John and Catherine Kitchen  
 PO Box 860  
 Anza, CA 92306

-----  
Addressees w/o enclosure:

Juan Perez  
 County of Riverside  
 Transportation Department  
 4080 Lemon St, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
 Riverside, CA 92501

Mike Florey  
 US Forest Service  
 1824 Commerce Center Circle  
 San Bernardino, CA 92408

Daniel McCarthy  
 Tribal Relations Program Manager  
 San Jacinto District Archaeologist  
 San Bernardino National Forest  
 PO Box 518  
 Idyllwild, CA 92549

Don Klima  
 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
 12136 W. Bayaud Avenue, Room 330  
 Lakewood, CO 80228

Meredith Kaplan, Superintendent  
 USDO, NPS, Pacific West Region  
 Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail  
 1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
 Oakland, CA 94607



# COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

## TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

### Transportation Department



George A. Johnson, P.E.  
Director of Transportation

September 18, 2003

Mr. Larry C. Smith, P.E.  
Division Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration  
Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street, Room 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**RE: FH 224, Bautista Canyon Road**

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter of August 27, 2003, wherein you outlined funding options to proceed forward on this project.

The County of Riverside Transportation Department has reviewed the two options and would propose that we proceed with Option 1, provided in your letter. As stated in Option 1, the FHWA will perform both the final design and construction contract administration. The program agencies will fund \$10 Million for construction. Riverside County will be responsible for the construction funding shortfall, which is now estimated to be \$2 Million.

Thank you for your attention and assistance on this project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Juan C. Perez at (909) 955-6740.

Sincerely,

George A. Johnson  
Director of Transportation

GAJ:FK:sa

cc: Supervisor Venable's Office  
Attn: Elaine Johnson  
Mike Florey, U.S. Forest Service  
Jim Stapleton, USDA Forest Service  
Dennis Jacobs, California Department of Transportation  
Sam Holder, FHWA  
Juan C. Perez, Riverside County Transportation Dept.  
Mary Zambon, Riverside County Transportation Dept.  
Farah Khorashadi, Riverside County Transportation Dept.



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

AUG 27 2003

Refer to: HFPP-16

Mr. George A. Johnson  
Director of Transportation  
County of Riverside  
4080 Lemon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502

RECEIVED

SEP 04 2003

Riverside County  
Transportation Dept.

Subject: FH 224, Bautista Canyon Road

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your reply concerning Riverside County's contribution of additional funds or resources to the above project. As stated in our April 10, 2003, letter, the two options offered for Riverside County to contribute to the project were:

- 1) "After the EIS is completed, the FHWA will pay for and perform both the final design and construction contract administration. The Program Agencies will fund \$10 million for construction. Riverside County shall fund the construction shortfall, which is now estimated to be \$2 million."
- 2) "After the EIS and the 30% design are completed, the project will be turned over to Riverside County to perform the final design and construction contract administration. The FHWA will retain an oversight role. Under this option, the Program Agencies will fund \$12 million for construction. Riverside County will fund the final design, contract administration, and any construction costs above \$12 million."

Your proposal is to use Option 2, except you have requested Forest Highway funds to proceed with the design. The Forest Highway construction commitment—\$12 million—would be reduced accordingly. We appreciate your desire to advance the project. We believe that, unless the County is willing to come up with its own funds to complete the design work, Option No. 1 meets our shared objective.

Unless we hear otherwise from you, we will continue to proceed in this manner. We hope you will find this approach to be acceptable and encourage Riverside County to continue pursuing other funding sources during this process. Please call Mr. Curtis Page, Forest Highway Program Coordinator, at 303-716-2057 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

  
for Larry C. Smith, P.E.  
Division Engineer



cc:

Mr. Jim Stapleton  
Acting Director of Engineering  
USDA Forest Service, Region 5  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

Mr. Dennis Jacobs  
Senior Transportation Engineer  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

AUG 27 2003

Refer to: HFPP-16

Mr. George A. Johnson  
Director of Transportation  
County of Riverside  
4080 Lemon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502

Subject: FH 224, Bautista Canyon Road

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Thank you for your reply concerning Riverside County's contribution of additional funds or resources to the above project. As stated in our April 10, 2003, letter, the two options offered for Riverside County to contribute to the project were:

- 1) "After the EIS is completed, the FHWA will pay for and perform both the final design and construction contract administration. The Program Agencies will fund \$10 million for construction. Riverside County shall fund the construction shortfall, which is now estimated to be \$2 million."
- 2) "After the EIS and the 30% design are completed, the project will be turned over to Riverside County to perform the final design and construction contract administration. The FHWA will retain an oversight role. Under this option, the Program Agencies will fund \$12 million for construction. Riverside County will fund the final design, contract administration, and any construction costs above \$12 million."

Your proposal is to use Option 2, except you have requested Forest Highway funds to proceed with the design. The Forest Highway construction commitment—\$12 million—would be reduced accordingly. We appreciate your desire to advance the project. We believe that, unless the County is willing to come up with its own funds to complete the design work, Option No. 1 meets our shared objective.

Unless we hear otherwise from you, we will continue to proceed in this manner. We hope you will find this approach to be acceptable and encourage Riverside County to continue pursuing other funding sources during this process. Please call Mr. Curtis Page, Forest Highway Program Coordinator, at 303-716-2057 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Original Signed by  
Terry Haussler  
Larry C. Smith, P.E.  
Division Engineer



cc:

Mr. Jim Stapleton  
Acting Director of Engineering  
USDA Forest Service, Region 5  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

Mr. Dennis Jacobs  
Senior Transportation Engineer  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814



# COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

## TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

### Transportation Department



George A. Johnson, P.E.  
Director of Transportation

July 25, 2003

Mr. Larry C. Smith, P.E.  
Division Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration  
Central Federal Lands Division  
555 Zang Street, Room 229  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**RE: FH 224, Bautista Canyon Road**

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter of April 10, 2003 (copy attached), wherein you outlined funding options to proceed forward on this project.

The County of Riverside Transportation Department has reviewed these options, and would propose that we proceed with Option 2 provided in your letter, with a modified approach as follows:

- 1) We understand that the project design is 30% complete. We propose that the project be turned over to Riverside County to perform the final design and construction contract administration at this stage. FHWA would retain an oversight role, which we understand would include review at the 70% and 95% plan stage and approval of the final plans.
- 2) We understand that the total commitment made by the Program Agencies to this project is \$12 Million. We are requesting that \$800,000 be allocated to the Transportation Department for our use in selecting a consultant for the completion of the design. We also request clarification from FHWA on what process we would need to follow with regards to consultant selection if Federal Highway funds are used.
- 3) The remaining \$11.2 Million would be allocated to project construction. We understand that the County would be responsible for obtaining the remaining construction funding, given that the estimated cost of construction is \$12 Million. We also request clarification from FHWA on what process we will need to follow to secure the disbursement of these funds (i.e., standard Caltrans process or some other variation).

As this will change the responsibilities and funding currently laid out in the Project Agreement, we understand your office will be drafting a revised Project Agreement for signature by the involved agencies.

In addition to the design, the other major work effort has been the preparation of the EIS. FHWA has provided a great deal of assistance in the preparation of the EIS, and the County is very appreciative of the involvement of the FHWA and the Forest Service (particularly Sam Holder and Mike Vanderhoff from FHWA, and Mike Floury from the Forest Service). Many of the major sections of the EIS are nearing completion and are ready for public circulation. An important element of the EIS process is the consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Informal consultation has taken place with all of the Resource Agencies. The Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation is being revised after multiple reviews by the FHWA, the Forest Service, and the Fish & Wildlife Service. The BA/BE will soon be ready to submit to the Fish & Wildlife Service. The County requests that FHWA initiate formal Section 7 consultation as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Juan C. Perez at (909) 955-6740.

Sincerely,



George A. Johnson  
Director of Transportation  
FK:sa

Cc: Supervisor Jim Venable  
Attn: Elaine Johnson  
Mel Teigen, Forest Service  
Dennis Jacobs, Caltrans  
Mike Florey, Forest Service  
Sam Holder, FHWA  
Juan Perez  
Farah Khorashadi  
Mary Zambon



US Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

Refer to: HFPP-16

Mr. David E. Barnhart  
Director of Transportation  
County of Riverside  
4080 Lemon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502-1090

APR 10 2003

RECEIVED

APR 17 2003

Riverside County  
Transportation Dept.

Subject: FH 224, Bautista Canyon Road

Dear Mr. Barnhart:

We appreciated the Riverside County presentation at the California Forest Highway meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Your staff did an outstanding job articulating the importance of this project and the progress that has been made to date.

We appreciate your efforts on the NEPA compliance to date. Your support, both political and financial, is essential for a successful project. We understand that your NEPA costs will exceed your original \$500,000 estimate by 50 percent or more. We also understand that the construction cost is now estimated at \$12 million. As you know, we have committed \$7.5 million in Forest Highway funds for this project.

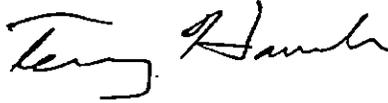
The Program Agencies agree that this is an important Forest Highway project and that Riverside County has worked hard to advance it. However, because this road serves many uses other than forest access, we believe that Riverside County should contribute more to the overall project cost. In addition to funding all remaining NEPA costs and the right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation costs that were previously agreed to, we believe that Riverside County should continue to pursue other funding sources for construction and/or engineering. We offer two options for Riverside County to contribute additional funds or resources:

- 1) After the EIS is completed, the FHWA will pay for and perform both the final design and construction contract administration. The Program Agencies will fund \$10 million for construction. Riverside County shall fund the construction shortfall, which is now estimated to be \$2 million.
- 2) After the EIS and the 30% design are completed, the project will be turned over to Riverside County to perform the final design and construction contract administration. The FHWA will retain an oversight role. Under this option, the Program Agencies will fund \$12 million for construction. Riverside County will fund the final design, contract administration, and any construction costs above \$12 million.



We appreciate your cooperation on this important project. We look forward to your response as we continue to work with you to advance the environmental studies and preliminary design. Please call Mr. Curtis Page, Forest Highway Program Coordinator, at 303-716-2057 if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,



*for* Larry C. Smith, P.E.  
Division Engineer

cc:

Mr. Mel H. Teigen  
Director of Engineering  
USDA Forest Service, Region 5  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

Mr. Dennis Jacobs  
Senior Transportation Engineer  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

JAN 17 2003

Refer to: HFHD-16

Mr. Jesse Bennett  
US Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
6010 Hidden Valley Road  
Carlsbad, CA 92009

Dear Mr. Bennett:

Subject: California Forest Highway 224 (Bautista Canyon Road)  
FWS-WRIV-1458.3

We are writing to continue informal consultation for the subject project. Enclosed please find an Informal Section 7 Consultation Document that has been prepared to identify federally listed species and their critical habitat, other sensitive species, and potential effects that would result from implementation of either of three proposed build alternatives.

A meeting has been scheduled for January 28 at 10:00 am to review these potential effects and solicit your agency's comments on the proposed build alternatives. The meeting will be held at the Riverside County Supervisor's office at 43950 Acacia, Hemet, CA 92544.

We appreciate your assistance in the development of this improvement. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist at 303-716-2141, or by email at [Michael.Vanderhoof@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:Michael.Vanderhoof@fhwa.dot.gov).

Sincerely yours,

/s/

T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Manager

Enclosure

cc w/o enclosures:

Mr. Rick Hoffman, County of Riverside, Transportation Department, 4080 Lemon St, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Riverside, CA 92501

Mr. Mike Florey, US Forest Service, 1824 Commerce Center Circle, San Bernardino, CA 92408

bc: M Vanderhoof

Reading file

MVANDERHOOF:jm:01/17/03:L\environ\wp\ca224\03 Jan 17 USFWS CDFG Invite *MEV*



Identical letter to:

Mr. Raul Rodriguez  
California Department of Fish and Game  
4775 Bird Farm Road  
Chino Hills, CA 91709

Mr. Marty Mushinske  
California Department of Fish and Game  
4775 Bird Farm Road  
Chino Hills, CA 91709

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
950 N. Ramona Blvd., Suite 6  
San Jacinto, Ca. 92582

909-654-7139  
FAX 909-654-5334

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December 17, 2002

T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Manager  
Federal Highway Administration  
555 Zane Street, Room 259  
Lakewood, Co. 80228

Subject: Completed 1006 Form for California Forest Highway 224

Dear Mr. Holder,

Enclosed is the completed 1006 form for the California Forest Highway 224. Just from a personal viewpoint, I have lived in the immediate area of this road for 52 years and find it hard to justify using Federal funds to pave this little used highway when these funds are needed on much more heavily traveled roads elsewhere in the valley. Was there a study done to determine the need for this work? If this road is paved, speeds will increase and accidents will go up as well. Guardrails and other safety items will be needed in many locations to keep vehicles from going over the side of the road and down the steep embankments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert S. Hewitt".

Robert S. Hewitt  
District Conservationist, San Jacinto



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

DEC 12 2002

Refer To: HFHD-16

Mr. Bob Hewitt  
US Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
950 Ramona Boulevard, Suite 6  
San Jacinto, CA 92582

Dear Mr. Hewitt:

Subject: California Forest Highway 224 (Bautista Canyon Road)  
Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Central Federal Lands Highway Division, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the California Department of Transportation, and Riverside County, is proposing to improve a portion of California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road.

The FH 224 is a 21.7-mile route in Riverside County between State Highway (SH) 74 at Valle Vista, and SH 371, about 1.5 miles west of the community of Anza (see enclosed map). The road traverses through the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF) providing access to over 40,000 acres of National Forest, Indian Reservation, State, and private lands. The proposed project is to reconstruct and pave an 8.2-mile unpaved segment of roadway.

We are preparing an Environmental Impact Statement that examines three build alternatives (Alternatives A-C), and one No Action (Alternative D). The Alternatives vary based on the design speed used for the alignment. Alternative A is a combination 55/40/55 kilometers per hour (kmh) (35/25/35 mph) alignment and is a combination of the Alternative B 40 kmh (25 mph) and Alternative C 55 kmh (35 mph) alternatives.

Enclosed please find a location map and a Form AD-1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form for processing pursuant to the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA). Please advise us if any of the land in the project area is subject to the FPPA and what efforts are required to ensure compliance. Please note the enclosed form identifies the total disturbance area for each alternative. The majority of the land required is within SBNF.



We appreciate your assistance in the development of this improvement. If you have any questions or require detailed information regarding alternative alignments, please feel free to contact Messrs. Samuel Holder, Project Manager, at 303-716-2052, or Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 303-716-2141.

Sincerely yours,

*1s/*

T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Manager

Enclosure

cc w/o enclosure:

Rick Hoffman, County of Riverside, Transportation Department, 4080 Lemon St, 8<sup>th</sup> floor,  
Riverside, CA 92501

Mike Florey, USFS, 1824 Commercecenter Circle, San Bernardino, CA 92408

bc w/o enclosure:

S. Holder

M. Vanderhoof

Reading file

MVANDERHOOF:jm:12/10/02:L\environm\wp\ca224\ad 1006 transmittal *mev*

# FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		Date Of Land Evaluation Request <b>12/10/02</b>	
Name Of Project <b>CA Forest Highway 224 (Bautista Canyon Road)</b>		Federal Agency Involved <b>Federal Highway Administration</b>	
Proposed Land Use <b>Roadway</b>		County And State <b>Riverside County, California</b>	
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		Date Request Received By NRCS	
Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? <i>(If no, the FPPA does not apply -- do not complete additional parts of this form).</i>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
		Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %	Amount Of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %	
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	Name Of Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS	

<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>	Alternative Site Rating			
	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	68.3	71.7	71.6	0.0
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
C. Total Acres In Site	68.3	71.7	71.6	0.0

<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland				
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland				
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted				
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value				

<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion</b> Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)	0	0	0	0
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<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b> Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))	Maximum Points				
1. Area In Nonurban Use					
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use					
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed					
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government					
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area					
6. Distance To Urban Support Services					
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average					
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland					
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services					
10. On-Farm Investments					
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services					
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use					
<b>TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	160	0	0	0	0

<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	260	0	0	0	0

Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Reason For Selection:

# FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

**PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)**

Name Of Project CA Forest Highway 224 (Bautista Canyon Road)	Date Of Land Evaluation Request 12/10/02
Proposed Land Use Roadway	Federal Agency Involved Federal Highway Administration
	County And State Riverside County, California
Date Request Received By NRCS	

**PART II (To be completed by NRCS)**

Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form).		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s) CITRUS, POTATOES, ROW CROPS		Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %		180 ac	
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used CALIF. STORIE INDEX		Name Of Local Site Assessment System		Amount Of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: %	
				Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS 12-17-02 RSA	

**PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)**

	Alternative Site Rating			
	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	68.3	71.7	71.6	0.0
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
C. Total Acres In Site	68.3	71.7	71.6	0.0

**PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information**

A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	○	○	○	○
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	○	○	○	○
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	○	○	○	○
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	○	○	○	○

**PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion**

Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)	0	0	0	0
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**PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency)**

Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))	Maximum Points				
1. Area In Nonurban Use					
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use					
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed					
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government					
5. Distance From Urban Bullup Area					
6. Distance To Urban Support Services					
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average					
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland					
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services					
10. On-Farm Investments					
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services					
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use					
<b>TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>	160	0	0	0	0

**PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)**

Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	100	0	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	160	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>	260	0	0	0	0

Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Reason For Selection:		



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

JUL 23 2002

Refer to: HFHD-16

Mr. Manuel Hamilton  
Tribal Chairman  
Ramona Band of Cahuilla Indians  
PO Box 391670  
Anza, CA 92539

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Subject: California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road

We are writing to invite you to a meeting scheduled for August 3, at 8:30 a.m. to discuss the proposed archaeological and ethno-botanical fieldwork for the project. The meeting will be held at the Valley Wide Recreation Center in Hemet, CA. The address is 43935 Acacia Avenue, Hemet, CA 92544.

The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss the location of archaeological sites to be investigated, scope and schedule of fieldwork, and the identification and participation of a Native American archaeological monitor. Riverside County's contractor, Statistical Research Inc. (SRI), has budgeted for one monitor to be onsite during all of their subsurface testing. SRI requested that Mr. David Largo be considered as the tribal monitor due to his experience working on other projects. We request your concurrence or further discussion regarding the participation of Mr. Largo.

The meeting will also review the scope of work and Native American participation in the proposed ethno-botanical study for the project. Dr. Lowell Bean, Cultural Systems Research, Inc., has been contracted by Riverside County to complete the work. We have invited Dr. Bean to discuss his plans for report preparation and the involvement of traditional practitioners.

We appreciate your involvement in the development of this improvement. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Michael Vanderhoof at 303-716-2141.

Sincerely yours,

*15/ Patrick D. Flynn*

For T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Manager



Identical letter to:

Mr. Antonio Heredia Jr., Chairperson  
 Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians  
 PO Box 391760  
 Anza, CA 92539-1760

Mr. Robert Selgado, Tribal Chairperson  
 Soboba Band of Mission Indians  
 PO Box 487  
 San Jacinto, CA 92581-0487

Ms. Patricia Byrd  
 Soboba Band of Mission Indians  
 PO Box 487  
 San Jacinto, CA 92581-0487

Mr. Don Klima  
 Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
 12136 W. Bayaud Ave., Rm 330  
 Lakewood, CO 80228

cc: Ms. Meredith Kaplan, Superintendent  
 US DOI, NPS, Pacific West Region  
 Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail  
 1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
 Oakland, CA 94607

Mr. Rick Hoffman  
 County of Riverside  
 Transportation Department  
 4080 Lemon St, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
 Riverside, CA 92501

Mr. Mike Florey  
 US Forest Service  
 1824 Commerce Center Circle  
 San Bernardino, CA 92408

Mr. Daniel McCarthy  
 US Forest Service  
 1824 Commerce Center Circle  
 San Bernardino, CA 92408

Bc: ~~M. Vanderhoof~~  
 MVANDERHOOF:jm:7/23/02:L:\environm\wp\ca224\August 3 cultural meeting invite2

MEU



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Rm. 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

JUL 23 2002

Refer To: HFHD-16

See Addressees Below:

Subject: California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road

You have been identified as an interested party in the improvement of California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road.

We are writing to invite you to a meeting scheduled for August 3, 2002 at 8:30 am to review the scope of work and schedule for proposed archaeological and ethnobotanical fieldwork. The meeting will be held at the Valley Wide Recreation Center in Hemet, CA. The address is 43935 Acacia Avenue, Hemet, CA 92544.

We appreciate your involvement in the development of this improvement. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Michael Vanderhoof at 303-716-2141.

Sincerely yours,

*for* Mark B. Taylor

*for* T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Manager

cc: M. Vanderhoof

Reading file

MVANDERHOOF:jm:7/23/02:L\environm\wp\ca224\basket meeting invite *mev ds*



## Addressees List:

Ms. Rosemary Morillo  
PO Box 127  
San Jacinto, CA 92581

Mr. William Pink  
626 E. Old Second Street  
San Jacinto, CA 92583

Ms. Donna Largo  
325 N. Western Avenue  
Hemet, CA 92343

Mr. Ben Masiel  
POBox 2183  
Temecula, CA 92503

Mr. Bill Madrigal  
41565 Terwilliger Road  
Anza, CA 92539

Ms. Rose Ann Hamilton  
39440 Cary Road  
Anza, CA 92539

Ms. Lori Sisquoc  
3587 McKenzie Street  
Riverside, CA 92504

Mr. Rick Hoffman  
County of Riverside  
Transportation Department  
4080 Lemon St, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Riverside, CA 92501

Mr. Mike Florey  
US Forest Service  
1824 Commerce Center Circle  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Mr. Daniel McCarthy  
US Forest Service  
1824 Commerce Center Circle  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Mr. Don Klima  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
12136 W. Bayaud Avenue, Room 330  
Lakewood, CO 80228

Ms. Meredith Kaplan, Superintendent  
US DOI, NPS, Pacific West Region  
Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail  
1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700  
Oakland, CA 94607

Dr. Lowell Bean  
Cultural Systems Research, Inc.  
675 Roxbury  
Palm Springs, CA 92262



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

July 22, 2002

Michael Vanderhoof  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street, MR 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

Dear Mr. Vanderhoof:

We are writing in regard to the proposal to **Improve California Forest Highway (FH)224, Bautista Canyon Road**, in Riverside County, California. The proposed action is to upgrade an unpaved segment of FH 224 between the communities of Valle Vista and Anza. The proposed project is 8.2 miles long.

EPA appreciates the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) efforts to solicit our additional input and to keep us informed as the project progresses. We have had the opportunity to review the April, 1994 Reconnaissance and Scoping Report on FH224 and have developed comments to assist you in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. We are glad to see that the proposed project will help reduce particulate matter emissions from unpaved road use and will improve existing erosion problems. Based on our review of the Reconnaissance and Scoping Report, we recommend that the EIS focus specifically on indirect project impacts and impacts to water resources. Our comments are listed below.

Water Resources

The Reconnaissance document states that a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit will be necessary for this project, and we understand that a wetland delineation report has just been completed by your office. If an Individual Permit is required for impacts to water resources, it may be appropriate to initiate the NEPA/Clean Water Act Section 404 Integration Process Memorandum of Understanding (NEPA/404 MOU). Through this integration process, future project delays can be avoided by coordinating the NEPA process and the Section 404 process early on in project development. EPA strongly recommends engaging in the NEPA/404 MOU process where appropriate. In addition, we recommend that if wetlands are impacted, the EIS identify the value/function/type of wetland and includes a description of proposed mitigation.

Protection of Bautista Creek

The Reconnaissance document recommends that the entire 8.2 miles of the project be reconstructed. Reconstruction of this segment of FH 224 presents an opportunity to minimize impacts to Bautista Creek from FH 224. EPA supports actions that will achieve this end, such as realigning the facility away from the creek and the county recommendation to use a minimum surfaced with of 28 feet.

Indirect Impacts

The proposed project has the potential to result in indirect impacts related to 1) new development, 2) average daily traffic increases as it becomes easier to connect from Hemet to Anza, 3) new parking lots, and 4) associated increases in recreation activity, including Off Highway Vehicle use. The EIS should detail the impacts of these indirect effects.

Invasive Species

The proposed project will include new road cuts, and, presumably, new landscaping. Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species calls for the restoration of native plant and tree species. To the extent that this project will entail new landscaping, the EIS should describe how the project will meet the requirements of Executive Order 13112 by using native species.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. We look forward to our continued coordination with you on this project. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 415-972-3846 or [blazej.nova@epa.gov](mailto:blazej.nova@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



Nova Blazej  
Federal Activities Office

cc: Dan Swenson, ACOE  
Sally Parry, USFWS  
Leonidās Payne, EPA



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street  
Mail Room 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

JUL 03 2002

Refer To: HFHD-16

Mr. Dan Swenson  
Regulatory Project Manager  
US Army Corps Of Engineers  
Los Angeles District  
PO Box 532711  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-3401

Dear: Mr. Swenson

Subject: California Forest Highway 224 (Bautista Canyon Road)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Central Federal Lands Highway Division, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the California Department of Transportation, and Riverside County, is proposing to improve the 8.2 miles dirt portion of California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road in Riverside County, California. The highway (FH 224) extends from the town of Valle Vista south to the community of Anza. The dirt section begins approximately 10.3 miles south of Valle Vista. We have enclosed a reconnaissance and scoping report that will help describe the project.

In summary, project related coordination was initiated with your office in December 2000 through an interagency natural resource scoping meeting. The meeting was introductory and is described in the enclosed Government Inspection Report. A Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement was issued on January 12, 2001, and public scoping meetings were held on January 30 and 31, 2001 in the communities of Anza and Hemet, respectively. A request for the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to be a cooperating agency in the development of the improvement was sent to your office on February 14, 2001. Ms Susan Sturgess, USACE, contacted us verbally and declined the request. Since that time, we have performed a wide range of resource surveys and would like to continue coordination with your office.

Enclosed is a wetland delineation report for the project. The delineations were conducted using the guidelines in the USACE 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual. The FHWA is the lead federal agency and will be the applicant for the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit for the improvement. The FHWA is requesting the USACE verify the accuracy of the delineations and issue a jurisdictional determination. We would also like to meet with you in the field to discuss

the delineations, our potential impacts to waters of the U.S., and how we should proceed with the assessment of impacts and identification of compensatory replacement sites.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the report or the project, please feel free to contact Mr. Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 303-716-2141 (email: mevander@road.cflhd.gov).

Sincerely yours,

*TS/*

T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Manager

Enclosures

cc w/o enclosure:

Rick Hoffman, County of Riverside, Transportation Department, 4080 Lemon St, 8<sup>th</sup> floor,  
Riverside, CA 92501

Mike Florey, USFS, 1824 Commercecenter Circle, San Bernardino, CA 92408

Kelly Schmoker, Environmental Specialist, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Santa Ana  
Region, 3737 Main Street, Suite 500, Riverside, CA 92501-3348

Sally Parry, US DOI, Fish and Wildlife Service, 2730 Loker Ave West, Carlsbad, CA 92008

Nova Blazej, USEPA - Region 9, Federal Activities Center, Mail Code: CMD-2,  
75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

bc w/o enclosure:

~~Mike Vanderhoof~~

Sam Holder

Central File – CA 224, Bautista Canyon Road

Reading file

MVANDERHOOF:jm:7/2/02:L\environm\wp\ca224USACE JD Request June 28, 2002.doc

*TSU*



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Ecological Services  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
2730 Loker Avenue West  
Carlsbad, California 92008



In Reply Refer To:  
FWS-WRIV-1458.4

JUN 20 2002

Michael E. Vanderhoof  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Highway Administration  
Central Federal Lands Division  
555 Zang Street  
Lakewood, CO 80228

Re: Request for an Updated List of Proposed, Threatened, or Endangered Species Potentially Occurring Along California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road, Riverside County, California (HFHD-16)

Dear Mr. Vanderhoof:

We have reviewed the information provided in your letter received by our office on May 20, 2002, to assess the potential presence of federally listed species along California Forest Highway 224. We do not have site-specific information for your project site. However, we are providing the attached list of species that occur within the general vicinity of your project to assist you in evaluating if the proposed project may affect federally listed species. We recommend that you seek assistance from a biologist familiar with your project site and listed species to further assess the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative effects likely to result from the proposed activity. You should also contact the California Department of Fish and Game regarding State-listed species that may occur with the project area. Please note that State-listed species are protected under the provisions of the California Endangered Species Act.

The proposed project area occurs outside the boundary of the *Habitat Conservation Plan for the Stephen's Kangaroo Rat in Western Riverside County, California*, March 1996, but within the known range of the Stephen's Kangaroo Rat (SKR). The regional incidental take permit will not cover impacts to the SKR in this area.

If it is determined that the proposed project may affect a federally listed species or designated critical habitat, you should initiate consultation (or conference for proposed species or critical habitat) with us pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (Act), as amended. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve conflicts with respect to federally listed species prior to a written request for formal consultation.

Should you have any questions regarding the species listed or your responsibilities under the Act, please call Sally Parry of my staff at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,

  
for Karen A. Evans  
Assistant Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Jeff Drongeson (California Department of Fish and Game, Chino Hills)  
Mike Florey (U.S. Forest Service, San Bernardino)  
Kelly Cohen (Caltrans)  
Rick Hoffman (County of Riverside Transportation Department, Riverside)

Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Proposed Species that may occur along  
California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road,  
Riverside County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
<u>AMPHIBIANS</u>		
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	T
arroyo toad	<i>Bufo californicus</i>	E, CH
mountain yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana muscosa</i>	E
<u>BIRDS</u>		
bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T
coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	T
least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	E
southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E
<u>MAMMALS</u>		
San Bernardino kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	E, CH
Stephen's kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	E
<u>PLANTS</u>		
Nevin's barberry	<i>Berberis nevinii</i>	E
Slender-horned spineflower	<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	T
<u>INVERTEBRATES</u>		
Quino checkerspot butterfly	<i>(Euphydryas editha quino)</i>	E, CH

T = Threatened  
E = Endangered

PT = Proposed Threatened  
PE = Proposed Endangered

PD = Proposed for de-listing  
CH = Critical Habitat



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street  
Mail Room 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**MAY 15 2002**

Refer To: HFHD-16

Mr. Jeff Newman  
US Department of Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
2730 Loker Avenue West  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Attn: Karin Cleary-Rose

Dear Mr. Newman:

Subject: California Forest Highway 224 (Bautista Canyon Road)  
FWS-WRIV-1458.3

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Central Federal Lands Highway Division, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the California Department of Transportation, and Riverside County, is proposing to improve the 8.2 miles dirt portion of California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road.

The lead agency, in accordance with 50 CFR §402.07, is the FHWA. On March 12, 2001, we received a letter (FWS-WRIV-1458.3) identifying federally listed or proposed species that occur in our general project area. We would like to request an updated list so that we may ensure that all relevant species and critical habitat have been considered. Enclosed is a copy of the March 12 letter and a general location map.

We appreciate your involvement in the development of this improvement. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mr. Michael Vanderhoof at 303-716-2141.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

T. Samuel Holder, P.E.  
Project Manager

Enclosure



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific West Region

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

1111 Jackson Street, Suite 700

Oakland, California 94607

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18(PGSO-PP)

January 16, 2002

Michael Vanderhoof  
Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
Federal Highway Administration  
555 Zang, Room 259  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Dear Mr. Vanderhoof:

We appreciate the thoroughness with which the Central Federal Lands Highway Division Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is conducting the environmental assessment of the proposed Bautista Canyon Road alignment. Thank you for including us in site review on December 11-12, 2001. This letter reiterates the concerns shared with you at the site.

Prior to receiving the FHWA plans on December 7, 2001, we envisioned that the existing roadway would be paved with some minor changes that would not substantially affect the visitor experience at Bautista Canyon. The plans and the site visit have now clarified that the proposed road project will have significant impacts to the visual and landscape character of Bautista Canyon.

This segment of road is unique along the 1200-mile long Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (Anza Trail). It is the only place with an intact chaparral plant community that encompasses the entire viewshed and is one of the few places along the trail available today that provides an experience of what the expedition members might have seen. Bautista Canyon has the status of being one of the few federal protection components of the national historic trail (See the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 et. seq.), and its character should be protected in perpetuity. The narrow bench of the current dirt road, which is vegetated to its edges, provides an opportunity for the tourist on the Anza Trail to travel within this chaparral environment while also viewing the riparian vegetation of the canyon at several locations. It is one of the special places along the historic route to which my staff and I direct visitors.

The National Park Service (NPS) has three major concerns with the proposed project. First, the extensive cuts and fills required to create a paved road design that meets American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards at the proposed design speeds will completely change the visual character of the roadway and the experience of the user.

Second, and related to the first, the cuts and fills will expose large areas of soil to invasion by exotic species that are noticeably absent from the canyon now. The potential establishment of these species along the roadway could threaten the integrity of the entire canyon ecosystem. Protecting the native environment is superior to revegetation. Third, the new road design will exclude recreational users—hikers and equestrians—who now use the roadway to get through the canyon.

Given the expected major impacts to the viewshed and the integrity of the plant community, we wonder if the purpose and need of the project could be met in ways other than paving the road. We hope that the environmental impact statement will include at least one viable alternative that does not include paving the road, but instead relies on measures such as improvements to existing roads.

For the project as proposed, we recommend that FHWA explore these added measures:

- Consider a design speed reduced below the 25 and 35 mph design speeds now proposed. Reasons given for paving the road do not seem dependent upon the speed of travel. A lower design speed of 20 mph or even 15 mph would not affect the availability of the road as an alternate escape route in case of emergency and would still provide fire access for the USDA Forest Service, and it would likely reduce impacts to the character of the canyon.
- Extend revegetation beyond erosion control to reestablishing the native plant communities now present.
- Consider shaping and coloring cuts to reduce visual impacts.
- Consider the use of retaining walls to reduce the extent of fill areas.
- Consider the shaping of the fills to emulate the existing topography.

Clearly, there is no potential for including a recreational trail along the road in the project area. As a replacement for this use, in a June 9, 2001 letter, the Forest Service agreed to consider an off-road, non-motorized, shared use trail through Bautista Canyon in its Forest Plan Revision process. It would seem that funding for implementing such a trail should be included in the roadway project as a possible mitigation measure for significant impacts of the road project. That way, the current use would not be displaced and could be improved in the future.

FHWA has also offered to include in the plans roadway turnouts for interpretive purposes. One such site was located during the onsite visit and will be evaluated for its appropriateness in the visual analysis. We appreciate this consideration.

Michael Vanderhoof  
January 16, 2002  
Page 3 of 3

We hope these suggestions are helpful. The NPS looks forward to continuing involvement in this project. You can contact me by telephone at 510/817-1438 or by mail at the letterhead address. The NPS e-mail is currently unavailable.

Sincerely,



Meredith Kaplan, Superintendent  
Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

cc:

Sam Holder, Project Manager, FHWA  
Mary Zambon, Senior Transportation Planner, Riverside County  
Gale Zimmerman, Forest Supervisor  
Mike Florey, Director, Engineering and Recreation, San Bernardino National Forest

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American People  
so that all may experience our heritage.

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U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street  
Mail Room 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

OCT 17 2001

Refer To: HFHD-16

Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
Mr. Alberto Ramirez  
PO Box 1160  
Thermal, CA 92274

Dear Mr. Ramirez:

Subject: CA FH 224, Bautista Canyon Road

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter and a cultural resources background report sent to you on August 1, 2001. We are re-sending the material because we have not received a response and want to make sure that you have the opportunity to review our project.

Please review the enclosed information and contact us if you have any concerns. We encourage you to participate in the project by giving us your comments. You may send comments to Messrs. Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist, or Sam Holder, Project Manager, at the address noted above. They may be contacted for questions at (303)716-2141 and (303)716-2152, respectively.

Sincerely yours,

RS/

Richard Cushing, P.E.  
Environmental Planning Engineer

Enclosure

bc: M Vanderhoof  
R. Cushing

yc: reading file

MVANDERHOOF:jm:09/26/01:L\environm\wp\ca224

*jm*

Identical letter to:

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians  
Anthony Madrigal  
Cultural Specialist  
46-200 Harrison Place  
Coachilla, CA 92236

Pechanga Band of Mission Indians  
Ben Maciel  
PO Box 1477  
Temecula, CA 92593

Pauma & Yuima  
Christobal C. Devers, Chairperson  
PO Box 369  
Pauma Valley, CA 92061

Pala Band of Mission Indians  
Lenore Volturmo  
PO Box 50  
Pala, CA 92059

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians  
John A. James, Chairperson  
84-245 Indio Springs Drive  
Indio, CA 92201

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Tom Davis  
960 E Tahquitz Way, #106  
Palm Springs, CA 92262

Anthony J Andreas, Jr.  
3022 W Nicolet Street  
Banning, CA 92220

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 384  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 653-4082  
Fax (916) 657-5390  
Web Site [www.nahc.ca.gov](http://www.nahc.ca.gov)



May 4, 2001

Michael Vanderhoff  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street, Mail Room 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

RE: Proposed Bautista Canyon road Project (SCH#200101110) Riverside County.

Sent By Fax: (303) 969-5903  
Pages Sent: 3

Dear Mr. Vanderhoff:

A record search of the sacred lands file has failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area. The absence of specific site information in the sacred lands file does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Enclosed is a list of Native Americans individuals/organizations who may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. The Commission makes no recommendation or preference of a single individual, or group over another. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated. If they cannot supply information, they might recommend other with specific knowledge. A minimum of two weeks must be allowed for responses after notification.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from any these individuals or groups, please notify me. With your assistance we are able to assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 653-4040.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Wood".

Rob Wood  
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

**NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS**  
**Riverside County**  
**May 5, 2001**

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians  
Richard Milanovich, Chairperson  
360 E. Tahquitz Way, #106 Cahuilla  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
(619) 325-5673  
(619) 325-0593 Fax

Pala Band of Mission Indians  
Robert Smith, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 43 Luiseno  
Pala, CA 92059 Cupeno  
(760) 742-3784  
(760) 742-1411 Fax

La Jolla Band of Mission Indians  
Jack Musick, Chairperson  
22000 Highway 76 Luiseno  
Pauma Valley, CA 92061  
(760) 742-3771/72

Pauma & Yuima  
Christobal C. Devers, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 369 Luiseno  
Pauma Valley, CA 92061  
(760) 742-1289  
(760) 742-3422 Fax

Cabazon Band of Mission Indians  
John A. James, Chairperson  
84-245 Indio Springs Drive Cahuilla  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-2593  
(760) 347-7880 Fax

Pechanga Band of Mission Indians  
Mark Macarro, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 1477 Luiseno  
Temecula, CA 92593  
(909) 676-2768  
(909) 699-6983 Fax

Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians  
Michelle Salgado, Spokesperson  
P.O. Box 391760 Cahuilla  
Anza, CA 92539  
(909) 763-5549  
(909) 763-2808 Fax

Ramona Band of Mission Indians  
Joseph Hamilton, Representative  
P.O. Box 391670 Cahuilla  
Anza, CA 92539  
(909) 487-0822

Morongo Band of Mission Indians  
Mary Ann Andreas, Chairperson  
11581 Potrero Rd. Cahuilla  
Banning, CA 92220  
(909) 849-4697/98  
(909) 849-4425 Fax

Rincon Band of Mission Indians  
John Currier, Chairperson  
P.O. Box 68 Luiseno  
Valley Center, CA 92082  
(760) 749-1051  
(760) 749-8901 Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 1087.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 1007.92 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regards to the cultural assessment for the proposed Baupstein Canyon Road Project (SCH# 2001P1110), Riverside County.

**NATIVE AMERICAN CONTACTS**  
**Riverside County**  
**May 5, 2001**

Soboba Band of Mission Indians  
 Carl Lopez, Chairperson  
 P.O. Box 487 Luiseno  
 San Jacinto, CA 92381  
 (909) 654-2765  
 Fax: (909) 654-4198

Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
 Ernest Morreo  
 PO Box 1160 Cahuilla  
 Thermal, CA 92274  
 (760) 397-0300  
 (760) 397-8146 Fax

Torres-Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians  
 Art Lopez, Chairperson  
 PO Box 1160 Cahuilla  
 Thermal, CA 92274  
 (760) 397-0300  
 (760) 397-8146 Fax

Anthony J. Andreas, Jr.  
 3022 W. Nicolet Street Cahuilla  
 Banning, CA 92220  
 (909) 849-3844

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians  
 Dean Mike, Chairperson  
 46-200 Harrison Place Luiseno  
 Coachella, CA 92236 Chemehuevi  
 (760) 775-5566  
 (760) 775-4639 - Fax

Santa Rosa Band of Mission Indians  
 Anthony Largo, Spokesman  
 325 N. Western Avenue Cahuilla  
 Hemet, CA 92343

Alvino Siva  
 2034 W. Westward Cahuilla  
 Banning, CA 92220  
 (909) 849-0450

San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians  
 Henry Contreras, Cultural Resources Representative  
 1763 Chapulin Lane Luiseno  
 Fallbrook, CA 92028 Cupeno  
 (760) 728-6722 - Home  
 (760) 207-3618 - Cell

Katherine Saubel  
 P.O. Box 373 Cahuilla  
 Banning, CA 92220  
 (909) 849-8304

San Luis Rey Band of Mission Indians  
 Russell Romo, Captain  
 2302 Carriage Circle Luiseno  
 Oceanside, CA 92056 Cupeno  
 (760) 724-8505  
 (760) 757-6749 - Fax

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 3007.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 6007.09 of the Public Procurement Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regards to the cultural assessment for the proposed Bantua Canyon Road Project (SCH# 200101110), Riverside County.



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific West Region

Pacific Great Basin Support Office

600 Harrison Street, Suite 600

San Francisco, California 94107-1372

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DI8(PGSO-PP)

April 27, 2001

Gene Zimmerman  
Forest Supervisor  
U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
San Bernardino National Forest  
1824 Commercenter Circle  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

We had hoped to discuss the Bautista Canyon Road paving project with the USDA Forest Service at the April 16, 2001, meeting held by the Federal Highway Administration in Hemet. Since no Forest Service representative attended the meeting, we hope to initiate discussions with this letter.

The National Park Service (NPS) and other federal agencies share responsibility for the 1200-mile Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (Anza Trail) in those areas where the trail crosses federal land. According to the National Trails System Act, when the U.S. Congress authorized the trail in 1990, only federal segments automatically became official components of the trail. (Nonfederal segments become a part of the national trail through a certification process.) Even though the NPS administers the Anza Trail, management of the trail remains with the local managing agency or landowner. This cooperative management system by federal trail managers was bolstered by a recent memorandum of understanding signed by the NPS, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Federal Highway Administration, and the National Endowment for the Arts. A copy is enclosed for you review.

Bautista Canyon Road is identified in the *Comprehensive Management and Use Plan (CMP)* for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail (Anza Trail) as a "high potential" federal trail segment because it is on the historic route and its natural setting has the power to evoke a sense of what the expedition members may have encountered. Contributing to this evocativeness is the fact that part of the road is dirt and feels more like a trail than an automobile thoroughfare. Few places directly on the historic route and having a similar landscape setting remain along the entire Anza route. For these reasons, we have been particularly interested in the proposed paving project along Bautista Canyon Road.

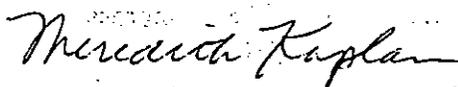
Gene Zimmerman  
April 27, 2001  
Page 2 of 2

The *CMP* for the Anza Trail calls for two kinds of continuous commemorative routes on or closely parallel to the historic route: an auto route and a non-motorized recreational route. A continuous auto route has been identified, and plans are underway with the County of Riverside and the California Department of Transportation to mark Bautista Canyon Road as a portion of the auto route for the Anza Trail. However, we expect that road paving will increase the amount and speed of traffic on the road, changing the character of the experience. Therefore, we would like the USDA Forest Service to consider including pullouts with interpretive information, perhaps with an overlook of Bautista Creek, that would allow the traveler better appreciation of the experience of the Anza expeditions.

Finding a continuous recreation route is a greater challenge than finding a continuous auto route. During the development of the *CMP*, local proponents indicated that the dirt section of the road reduced and slowed traffic making it a potential recreational route. Paving the road would remove that potential. As an alternative, we would like the USDA Forest Service to consider including an off-road, non-motorized, shared use trail through Bautista Canyon during preparation of its Forest Plan, which we understand is underway now. If such a trail alignment were shown on the plan, then we could seek funds to implement it at a later date.

We would like to discuss these and other options to recognition of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail that you might propose. You can contact me by telephone at 415/427-1438, by e-mail at [meredith\\_kaplan@nps.gov](mailto:meredith_kaplan@nps.gov), or by mail at the letterhead address.

Sincerely,



Meredith Kaplan, Superintendent  
Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

Enclosure

cc:

Mike Florey, Forest Engineer

Michael E. Vanderhoof, FHA

T. Samuel Holder, FHA

Paul Fransden, Riverside County Parks and Open Space District

Jeannie Gillen, Amigos de Anza

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U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration

Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street  
Mail Room 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

APR 17 2001

Refer to: HPD-16

US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9  
Federal Activities Center, Mail Code: CMD-2  
Ms. Elizabeth Varnhagen  
75 Hawthorne  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Dear Ms. Varnhagen:

Subject: California Forest Highway 224 -- Bautista Canyon Road

We appreciate your interest in this proposed improvement. Enclosed please find a copy of our project Reconnaissance and Scoping Report. This document was used to help establish a game plan for preliminary engineering and environmental studies. Although the data in this report will be updated as newer information is obtained, it contains an explanation of how and why the project is being proposed.

We hope that you find this information useful. We are available to meet, anytime, if you would like additional information regarding this project. We will contact you and invite you to our next interagency project meeting when the date and location have been determined.

If you have any questions, please call Mr. Michael Vanderhoof at 303-716-2141.

Sincerely yours,

Richard J. Cushing  
Environmental Planning Engineer

Enclosure

Bc: ~~M. Vanderhoof~~  
R. Cushing

Yc: reading file

Central File: CA FH 224, Bautista Canyon Road

MVANDERHOOF:jm:4/16/01;L\environm\wp\ca224\usepa.doc

*AGL fuv*



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

San Bernardino  
National Forest

1824 S Commercenter Circle  
San Bernardino, CA 92408  
909-383-5588 (Voice)  
909-383-5770 (FAX)  
909-383-5616 (TTY)

File Code: 7740

Date: April 2, 2001

Mr. James W. Keeley, P.E.  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
Central Federal Lands Highway Division  
555 Zang Street, Room 259  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228.

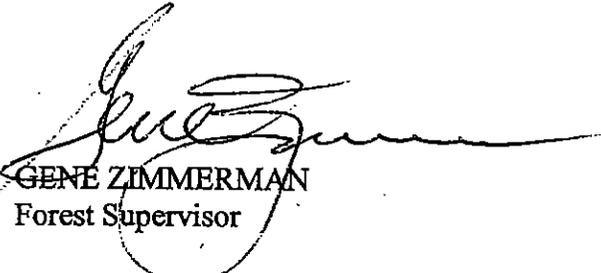
Dear Mr. Keeley:

This is in response to your February 14, 2001 letter requesting the US Forest Service to participate as a cooperating agency in the Bautista Canyon Forest Highway Project, FH 224. We apologize for any misunderstanding as to our status, since we were signatory to the original project proposal in 1990, and supported the reintroduction of this project into the Forest Highway Program in 2000, our assumption was the we were already a cooperating agency.

Director of Engineer and Recreation, Mike Florey, will be the designated San Bernardino National Forest lead contact for this project. The following employees of the San Bernardino National Forest, or other designees, will be included on the SEE Team on an as-needed basis:

Doug Pumphrey, District Ranger San Jacinto Ranger District  
Jon Regelbrugge, District Resource Officer, San Jacinto Ranger District  
Anne Poopatanapong, District Biologist, San Jacinto Ranger District  
Steve Loe, Forest Biologist, Supervisor's Office  
Melody Lardner, Forest Botanist, Supervisor's Office  
Daniel McCarthy, Acting Forest Archaeologist, Supervisor's Office

Please accept our apologies for the delay in response due to our misunderstanding of your request.

  
GENE ZIMMERMAN  
Forest Supervisor





United States Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
2730 Loker Avenue West  
Carlsbad, California 92008



In reply refer to:  
FWS-WRIV-1458.3

MAR 12 2001

Michael E. Vanderhoof  
Environmental Protection Specialist  
Federal Highway Administration  
Central Federal Lands Division  
555 Zang Street  
Lakewood, CO 90228

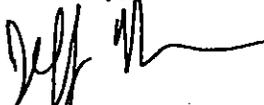
Re: California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road, Riverside County, California (HPD-16.5)

Dear Mr. Vanderhoof:

We have received your electronic mail dated February 15, 2001, requesting an evaluation for the potential of federally listed species to occur in the vicinity of the proposed project in Riverside County. We have also reviewed project information provided by your letter dated February 14, 2001. To assist you in evaluating the potential effects of the proposed project on federally listed or proposed species and designated or proposed critical habitat, we are providing the attached list of species that occur in the general project area. We recommend that you seek assistance from a biologist familiar with the proposed project and listed species in the project area to more definitively assess the potential for direct, indirect, and cumulative effects likely to result from the proposed activity. You should also contact the California Department of Fish and Game for State-listed and sensitive species that may occur in these areas. Please note that the State-listed species are protected under the provisions of the California Endangered Species Act.

If it is determined that the proposed project may affect a listed or proposed species, you should initiate consultation (or conference for proposed species) with the Service pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve conflicts with respect to listed species prior to a written request for formal consultation.

Should you have any questions regarding the species listed or your responsibilities under the Act, please contact Karin Cleary-Rose or Jill Terp at our office at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,  
  
Jeff Newman  
Acting Assistant Field Supervisor

Attachment

cc: CDFG, Jeff Drongesen  
Caltrans, Kelly Cohen

Listed endangered, threatened, and proposed species  
that may occur in the vicinity of the  
California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road Project Area  
Riverside County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*
<u>Plants</u>		
Slender-horned spineflower	<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	E
Santa Ana River woolly-star	<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i>	E
<u>Invertebrates</u>		
Quino checkerspot butterfly	<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	E (PCH)
<u>Amphibians</u>		
Mountain yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana muscosa</i>	PE
Arroyo toad	<i>Bufo californicus</i>	E (CH)
<u>Birds</u>		
Coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	T (CH)
Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	E
<u>Mammals</u>		
San Bernardino kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	E (PCH)
Stephens' kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	E

\*Status

E = endangered

PE = proposed endangered

T = threatened

CH = designated critical habitat (near project area)

PCH = proposed critical habitat (near project area)



United States Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
2730 Loker Avenue West  
Carlsbad, California 92008



In reply refer to:  
FWS-WRIV-1458.1

Mary Zambon  
Senior Transportation Planner  
Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency  
4080 Lemon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, California 92502

MAR - 2 2001

Re: Notice of Preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for Improvement to California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road, Riverside County, California.

Dear Ms. Zambon:

We have reviewed the notice of preparation (NOP) for a draft environmental impact report/environmental impact statement for Improvement to California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road (DEIR/EIS), dated January 22, 2001, and received by our office January 24, 2001; and the accompanying project description. The proposed project is the paving of an 8.2 mile section of Bautista Canyon Road. Bautista Canyon Road is a 21.7 mile road in Riverside County running between the town of Valle Vista and State Highway 371, about 1.5 miles west of the community of Anza through the San Bernardino National Forest.

In 1985 the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) granted Riverside County (County) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture an easement across USFS lands, consequently, the County is responsible for the maintenance of the road. The road's functional classification is rural collector. The combined 13.5 miles of the road on each side of the 8.2 mile proposed project segment are paved. Bautista Canyon Road provides access to over 40,000 acres of National Forest, Indian Reservation, State and private land.

We offer the following comments and recommendations regarding project-associated biological impacts based on our review of the NOP and our knowledge of declining habitat types and species within Riverside County. We provide these comments in keeping with our agency's mission to work "with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people." Specifically, we administer the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Section 7 of the Act requires Federal agencies to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) should it be determined that their actions may affect federally listed threatened or endangered species. Section 9 of the Act prohibits the "take" (e.g., harm, harassment, pursuit, injury, kill) of federally listed wildlife.

"Harm" is further defined to include habitat modification or degradation where it kills or injures wildlife by impairing essential behavioral patterns including breeding, feeding, or sheltering. Take incidental to otherwise lawful activities can be authorized under the provisions of sections 7 (Federal consultations) and 10 (habitat conservation plans) of the Act. We also provide comments on public notices issued for a Federal permit or license affecting the Nation's waters pursuant to the Clean Water Act.

To facilitate the evaluation of the proposed project from the standpoint of fish and wildlife protection, we request that the DEIR/EIS contain the following specific information.

1. A description of the environment in the vicinity of the project from a local and regional perspective. This description should include a vegetation/habitat map of the project area and surrounding areas.
2. A complete discussion of the purpose and need for the project and each of its alternatives.
3. A complete description of the proposed project, including the limits of the project area. This project description should include all practicable alternatives that have been considered to avoid and minimize project impacts, to the maximum extent practicable, to sensitive habitats, (e.g., coastal sage scrub, wetlands), and endangered, threatened, or sensitive species; and measures to mitigate unavoidable impacts.
4. Quantitative and qualitative assessments of the biological resources and habitat types that will be impacted by the proposed project and its alternatives. An assessment of direct, indirect, and cumulative project impacts to fish and wildlife associated habitats of the project (e.g., increased population, increased development, and increased traffic). All facets of the project (e.g., construction, implementation, operation, and maintenance) should be included in this assessment.

This assessment should include a list of Federal candidate, proposed, or listed species; State-listed species; and locally sensitive species that are on or near the project site, including a detailed discussion of these species and information pertaining to their local status and distribution. Therefore, we recommend comprehensive, current biological surveys be performed on the project site, including directed surveys for all potentially occurring Federal and State-listed species using standard survey protocols. Investigators conducting surveys for federally listed species must be qualified biologists. We are particularly interested in any and all information and data pertaining to potential impacts to populations of federally listed or proposed species and their proposed critical habitats, including the endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*, "Quino"), arroyo toad (*Bufo microscaphus californicus*), San Bernardino kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys merriami parvus*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), slender-horned spine flower (*Dodecahema leptocercas*) and Santa Ana River woolly-star (*Eriastrum densifolium* ssp. *sanctorum*), the threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*

*californica*) and the proposed endangered mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*). In the project area, critical habitat has been designated for arroyo toad and proposed for the Quino checkerspot butterfly, and San Bernardino kangaroo rat. The DEIR/EIS should disclose all impacts to these sensitive resources including those incurred from changes in hydrology and increased human access to the forest. Project related impacts may occur outside of the area directly affected by the proposed project. We recommend that you make your cumulative impacts analysis broad enough to include the effects of future State, tribal, local, or private actions that are reasonably certain to occur in the area affected by the direct and indirect effects of your project.

5. Proposed measures to be taken to avoid, minimize, and mitigate significant impacts to biological resources should be discussed in detail.
6. Maps and tables summarizing specific acreages and locations of all habitat types, and the number and distribution of all Federal candidate, proposed, or listed species; State listed species; and locally sensitive species, on or near the project site that may be affected by the proposed project or project alternatives should be included in the DEIR/EIS
7. A detailed analysis of impacts of the proposed project on the movement of wildlife, and proposed measures to avoid and minimize impacts, and mitigate unavoidable impacts.
8. An assessment of potential impacts to wetlands and jurisdictional waters of the United States. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act prohibits the unauthorized discharge of dredged or fill material into such waters, including wetlands. This section also provides that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) may issue permits for discharges of dredged or fill material into jurisdictional waters and wetlands. Potential areas of Corps jurisdiction should be evaluated and wetlands should be delineated using the methodology set forth in the Corps' Wetland Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987). The DEIR/EIS should disclose all impacts to jurisdictional waters and wetlands, and proposed measures to be taken to avoid and minimize impacts, and mitigate unavoidable impacts.
9. A hydrological analysis of Bautista Creek identifying existing and post project conditions should be included. In areas where the proposed project would encroach upon normal (up to 100 year events) creek flows, the effects of the road on hydrologic functions should be identified and mitigation measures to alleviate those effects should be identified. Analysis should also be conducted to determine the effects of this project on fluvial processes and riparian scrub, woodland and alluvial fan sage scrub communities occupied by the San Bernardino kangaroo rat, arroyo toad, mountain yellow legged frog, least bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher. We encourage the County to design the project to keep the road and its stream crossings out of the 100 year flood plain.
10. Completion of the proposed project will provide the most direct and fastest route between the community of Anza and the Hemet area. The DEIR/EIS should include a discussion

Mary Zambon

of changes in level of use of the road and the need for future improvements to the road as its level of service increases.

- 11. Identification of methods to be employed to prevent the discharge and disposal of toxic and/or caustic substances, including oil and gasoline, on the project site during and after construction. Specifically effects to water quality from road runoff should be addressed.
- 12. A discussion assessing the effects of the proposed project on the western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Planning (MSHCP) effort. The proposed project occurs within conservation area identified in the MSHCP proposed Alternative 1. Project related effects to wildlife movement and conservation management within Alternative 1 should be addressed given project related increases in vehicular traffic and human access.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the referenced NOP for potential impacts on sensitive and endangered species, wildlife and wetlands. If you should have any questions pertaining to these comments, please contact Karin Cleary-Rose of my staff at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,



Jim A. Bartel  
Assistant Field Supervisor

- cc: Glenn Black (CDFG Chino Hills)
- Kate Kramer (CDFG Chino Hills)
- Richard Lashbrook (Riverside County TLMA)
- Jerry Jolliffe (Riverside County Planning Department)



United States Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office  
2730 Loker Avenue West  
Carlsbad, California 92008



In reply refer to:  
FWS-WRIV-1458.2

MAR 12 2001

James W. Keeley, P.E.  
Project Development Engineer  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration  
555 Zang Street, Room 259  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Attn: Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist

Re: California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road, Riverside County, California  
(HPD-16.5)

Dear Mr. Keeley:

We have received your request dated February 14, 2001, to be a cooperating agency per 40 CFR 1501.6 of the implementing regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (as amended) in preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement on the above referenced project. Due to concerns regarding our participation as a cooperating agency, we are unable to be a formally cooperating agency. However, we are available to continue to work with you throughout the planning stages of the proposed project to provide technical assistance. Please contact Karin Cleary-Rose or Jill Terp at our office regarding this project at (760) 431-9440.

Sincerely,

Jeff Newman  
Acting Assistant Field Supervisor

Listed endangered, threatened, and proposed species  
that may occur in the vicinity of the  
California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road Project Area  
Riverside County, California

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status*
<u>Plants</u>		
Slender-horned spineflower	<i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	E
Santa Ana River woolly-star	<i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i>	E
<u>Invertebrates</u>		
Quino checkerspot butterfly	<i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	E (PCH)
<u>Amphibians</u>		
Mountain yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana muscosa</i>	PE
Arroyo toad	<i>Bufo californicus</i>	E (CH)
<u>Birds</u>		
Coastal California gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>	T (CH)
Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	E
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	E
<u>Mammals</u>		
San Bernardino kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys merriami parvus</i>	E (PCH)
Stephens' kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys stephensi</i>	E

\*Status

E = endangered

PE = proposed endangered

T = threatened

CH = designated critical habitat (near project area)

PCH = proposed critical habitat (near project area)



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Central Federal Lands  
Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Room 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**MAR 05 2001**  
In Reply Refer To:  
HPD-16.5

Mr. Louis Flores  
California Department of Transportation  
464 W Fourth Street, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, MS 1030  
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400

Dear Mr. Flores:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Central Federal Lands Highway Division, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA-FS), the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), and Riverside County, is proposing to improve a portion of California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road.

FH 224 is a 21.7-mile route in Riverside County between State Highway (SH) 74, at the town of Valle Vista, and SH 371, about 1.5 miles west of the community of Anza (see attached map). The road traverses through the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF). Bautista Canyon Road provides access to over 40,000 acres of National Forest, Indian Reservation, State, private lands and various forest multiple use functions. It links the communities of Hemet and Anza to the southern portion of the SBNF. The project proposes to pave an 8.2-mile segment of this roadway, which is currently an unpaved dirt road.

The 8.2-mile segment of the route was recommended for reconnaissance and scoping during the November 9, 1993, California Public Lands Highways (PLH) program meeting. The Reconnaissance and Scoping Report for FH 224 was prepared in 1994 as a guide for PLH agencies, which includes the USDA-FS, CALTRANS, and the FHWA. These three agencies are responsible for administering the Public Lands Highway (PLH) program and are collectively referred to as the "Tri-Agencies." Following development of the Reconnaissance and Scoping Report for FH 224, the project was identified for funding and is currently in the project development phase.

To guide this project through the environmental process, a Social, Economic, and Environmental (SEE) Study Team consisting of representatives from the FHWA, USDA-FS, CALTRANS and Riverside County was formed in December 2000. The initial SEE Team meeting was held on December 13, 2000. Public meetings regarding the proposed project were held on January 30 and 31, 2001 in Anza and Valle Vista, respectively.

The FHWA, as the lead agency, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 8.2-mile proposed highway project, following the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) "Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy

Act (NEPA)" of November 29, 1978, 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508. In accordance with CEQ REG 1501.6, the FHWA is requesting that your agency become a cooperating agency in the development of this project.

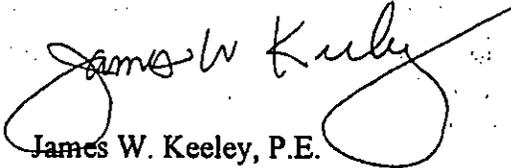
The views of cooperating agencies will be sought through all stages of the development of the EIS. This coordination is intended to preclude any subsequent and duplicative review by cooperating agencies. This coordination will also aid in identifying all reasonable alternatives; any social, economic, and environmental impacts; and measures to minimize adverse impacts which may result from this highway improvement.

Enclosed is a copy of FHWA's "Guidance on Cooperating Agencies" which outlines the responsibilities of FHWA and of cooperating agencies. More specific responsibilities related to this project may have to be worked out during the project's scoping process.

We are requesting cooperating agency status from the following agencies: the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Santa Ana Regional Water Control Board, the California Department of Transportation and Riverside County.

We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency on this project. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 303-716-2141.

Sincerely yours,

  
James W. Keeley, P.E.  
Project Development Engineer

Enclosure

bc w/o enclosure  
HPD-16.5

*RJC Vanderhoof - file*  
Central files CA FH 224, Bautista Canyon Road

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**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

Eastern Sierra - Inland Deserts Region  
4775 Bird Farm Road  
Chino Hills, California 91709  
(909) 597-5043



March 5, 2001

Mary Zambon, Project Planner  
Riverside County Transportation Department  
4080 Lemon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502

**Re: Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report  
for the Bautista Canyon Road Project – SCH # 2001011110**

Dear Ms. Zambon:

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project with regards to impacts to biological resources. The proposed project is the improvement of California Forest Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road. The project consists of paving an 8.2-mile segment of Bautista Canyon Road which currently is an unimproved, dirt road. The road provides access between Hemet and Anza. The main need for this project is to provide the Anza area with specific measures to improve fire protection, law enforcement, and medical response times in the event of an emergency. The portion that is proposed for improvement begins 10.3 miles southeast of Valle Vista and extends 8.2 miles to a point 3.2 miles northwest of State Highway 371, west of Anza.

The Department is responding as a Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources (Fish and Game Code section 711.7 and 1802 and CEQA Guidelines section 15386) and as a Responsible Agency regarding any discretionary actions (CEQA Guidelines section 15381).

Based on the information provided to the Department, the project may require an incidental take permit from the Department, as well as notification to the Department for a Streambed Alteration Agreement, pursuant to 1600 *et seq.* of the Fish and Game Code. If the issuance of a permit and/or Agreement is required, the Department has specific duties as a Responsible Agency in the CEQA process (Section 15096, CEQA Guidelines).

The proposed project has the potential to affect many sensitive plant and wildlife species as well as sensitive natural communities. A review of records from the California Natural Diversity Database and other available biological information indicates that many sensitive species and sensitive habitat types occur in the project vicinity and potentially could occur on site or adjacent to the site. These include: Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*), foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*), red-legged frog (*Rana aurora aurora*), arroyo toad (*Bufo microscaphus californicus*), mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana muscosa*), red diamond rattlesnake (*Crotalus ruber ruber*), black swift (*Cypseloides niger*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*), California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*), San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*

*blainvillei*), San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus bennettii*), northwestern San Diego pocket mouse (*Chaetodipus fallax fallax*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), orange-throated whiptail (*Cnemidophorus hyperthrus*), rosy boa (*Lichanura trivirgata*), two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*), slender-horned spineflower (*Dodecahema leptoceras*), southern skullcap (*Scutellaria bolanderi austromontana*), Payson's jewel-flower (*Caulanthus simulans*), Nevin's barberry (*Berberis nevinii*), thread-leaved brodiaea (*Brodiaea filifolia*), Riversidean Sage Scrub and Willow Scrub.

Because this particular project has the potential to have significant environmental impacts on sensitive species and habitats, including State and Federally listed endangered species, critical aspects of the DEIR should include an alternatives analysis which focuses on environmental resources and specific mitigation measures for impacts identified as significant, including avoidance, minimization (including, but not limited to a reduced scope alternative), and in-kind compensation. To enable Department staff to adequately review and comment on the proposed project, we recommend the following information be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

1. A complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the project area, with particular emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, and locally unique species and sensitive habitats.
  - a. A thorough assessment of rare plants and rare natural communities, following the Department's May 1984 Guidelines (revised August 1997) for Assessing Impacts to Rare Plants and Rare Natural Communities (Attachment 1).
  - b. A complete assessment of sensitive fish, wildlife, reptile, and amphibian species. Seasonal variations in use of the project area should also be addressed. Focused species-specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable, are required. Acceptable species-specific survey procedures should be developed in consultation with the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
  - c. Rare, threatened, and endangered species to be addressed should include all those which meet the CEQA definition (see CEQA Guidelines, § 15380).
  - d. The Department's California Natural Diversity Data Base in Sacramento should be contacted at (916) 324-3812 to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitat, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12 of the Fish and Game Code.
2. A thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely affect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts.
  - a. CEQA Guidelines, § 15125(a), direct that knowledge of the regional setting is critical to an assessment of environmental impacts and that special emphasis should be placed on resources that are rare or unique to the region.
  - b. Project impacts should be analyzed relative to their effects on off-site habitats. Specifically, this should include nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural

habitats, and riparian ecosystems. Impacts to and maintenance of wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitat in adjacent areas, should be fully evaluated and provided.

- c. The zoning of areas for development projects or other uses that are nearby or adjacent to natural areas may inadvertently contribute to wildlife-human interactions. A discussion of possible conflicts and mitigation measures to reduce these conflicts should be included in the environmental document.
  - d. A cumulative effects analysis should be developed as described under CEQA Guidelines, § 15130. General and specific plans, as well as past, present, and anticipated future projects, should be analyzed relative to their impacts on similar plant communities and wildlife habitats.
  - e. If applicable, the document should include an analysis of the effect that the project may have on completion and implementation of regional and/or subregional conservation programs. Under § 2800-§ 2840 of the Fish and Game Code, the Department, through the Natural Communities Conservation Planning (NCCP) program, is coordinating with local jurisdictions, landowners, and the Federal Government to preserve local and regional biological diversity. Coastal sage scrub is the first natural community to be planned for under the NCCP program. The Department recommends that the lead agency ensure that the development of this and other proposed projects do not preclude long-term preserve planning options and that projects conform with other requirements of the NCCP program. Jurisdictions participating in the NCCP program should assess specific projects for consistency with the NCCP Conservation Guidelines.
3. A range of alternatives should be analyzed to ensure that alternatives to the proposed project are fully considered and evaluated. A range of alternatives which avoid or otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources should be included. Specific alternative locations should also be evaluated in areas with lower resource sensitivity where appropriate.
- a. Mitigation measures for project impacts to sensitive plants, animals, and habitats should emphasize evaluation and selection of alternatives which avoid or otherwise minimize project impacts. Off-site compensation for unavoidable impacts through acquisition and protection of high-quality habitat elsewhere should be addressed. Mitigation measures should not be deferred to other regulatory agencies. Avoidance, minimization, or compensation should be included within the EIR to reduce the impacts to a level below significance.
  - b. The Department considers Rare Natural Communities as threatened habitats having both regional and local significance. Thus, these communities should be fully avoided and otherwise protected from project-related impacts (Attachment 2).
  - c. The Department generally does not support the use of relocation, salvage, and/or transplantation as mitigation for impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. Department studies have shown that these efforts are experimental in nature and largely unsuccessful.

4. A California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit must be obtained, if the project has the potential to result in "take" of species of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the project. CESA Permits are issued to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore State-listed threatened or endangered species and their habitats. Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to a project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit. Revisions to the Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, may require that the Department issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of a 2081 permit unless the project's CEQA document addresses all project impacts to listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of a 2081 permit. For these reasons, the following information is requested:
  - a. Biological mitigation monitoring and reporting proposals should be of sufficient detail and resolution to satisfy the requirements for a CESA Permit.
  - b. A Department-approved Mitigation Agreement and Mitigation Plan are required for plants listed as rare under the Native Plant Protection Act.
  
5. The Department opposes the elimination or alteration of watercourses, whether intermittent or perennial, and their associated riparian/wetland habitat. Alterations include, but are not limited to: conversion to subsurface drains, placement of fill or building of structures within the wetland, and channelization or removal of materials from the streambed. All wetlands and watercourses, whether intermittent or perennial, should be retained and provided with substantial setbacks which preserve the riparian and aquatic values and maintain their value to on-site and off-site wildlife populations.
  - a. Under Section 1600 et seq of the Fish and Game Code, the Department requires the project applicant to notify the Department of any activity that will divert, obstruct or change the natural flow or the bed, channel, or bank (which may include associated riparian resources) of a river, stream or lake, or use material from a streambed prior to the applicant's commencement of the activity. Streams include, but are not limited to, intermittent and ephemeral streams, rivers, creeks, dry washes, sloughs, blue-line streams, and watercourses with subsurface flow. The Department's issuance of a Streambed Alteration Agreement for a project that is subject to CEQA will require CEQA compliance actions by the Department as a responsible agency. The Department, as a responsible agency under CEQA, may consider the local jurisdiction's (lead agency) Negative Declaration or EIR for the project. However, if the EIR does not fully identify potential impacts to lakes, streams, and associated resources (including, but not limited to, riparian and alluvial fan sage scrub habitat) and provide adequate avoidance, mitigation, monitoring and reporting commitments, additional CEQA documentation will be required prior to execution (signing) of the Streambed Alteration Agreement. In order to avoid delays or repetition of the CEQA process, potential impacts to a lake or stream, as well as avoidance and mitigation measures need to be discussed within this CEQA document. The Department recommends the following measures to avoid subsequent CEQA documentation and project delays:
    - 1) Incorporate all information regarding impacts to lakes, streams and associated habitat within the DEIR. Information that needs to be included within this document includes: (a) a delineation of lakes, streams, and associated habitat that will be directly or indirectly impacted by the proposed project; (b) details on

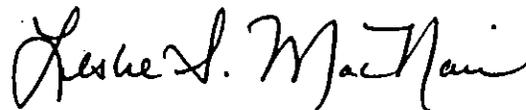
the biological resources (flora and fauna) associated with the lakes and/or streams; (c) identification of the presence or absence of sensitive plants, animals, or natural communities; (d) a discussion of environmental alternatives; (e) a discussion of avoidance measures to reduce project impacts; and (f) a discussion of potential mitigation measures required to reduce the project impacts to a level of insignificance. The applicant and lead agency should keep in mind that the State also has a policy of no net loss of wetlands.

2) The Department recommends that the project applicant and/or lead agency consult with the Department to discuss potential project impacts and avoidance and mitigation measures. Early consultation with the Department is recommended, since modification of the proposed project may be required to avoid or reduce impacts to fish and wildlife resources. Pre-project meetings are held every Monday at the Department's Chino Hills office. To schedule a pre-project meeting or to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement Notification package, please call (562) 590-5880.

- b. A discussion of potential adverse impacts from any increased runoff, sedimentation, soil erosion, and/or urban pollutants on streams and watercourses on or near the project site, with mitigation measures proposed to alleviate such impacts must be included.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please contact me at (949) 458-1754 if you have any questions regarding this letter and/or need to coordinate further on these issues.

Sincerely,



Leslie S. MacNair  
Acting Supervisor  
Habitat Conservation - West

cc: Jeff Newman, USFWS, Carlsbad

**From:** Wills, Mark  
**To:** Smith, Zully  
**Date:** 2/27/01 10:47AM  
**Subject:** New Construction Permit for Lake Elsinore & San Jacinto Watersheds

Zully,

Your recent letter to Mary Zambon made me realize I haven't properly updated you on the Santa Ana Regional Board's most recent permit action - Order No. 01-34.

On January 18, the SARWQCB adopted a new Regional General Permit (Order No. 01-34) for construction activities > 5 Ac. for projects that are within either the Lake Elsinore or San Jacinto Watersheds, i.e. projects which drain to Canyon Lake or Lake Elsinore.

This new Permit supercedes the existing State-wide Construction Activities General Permit. It will be administered locally by the SARWQCB (NOI and filing fee goes to SARWQCB; not SWRCB). Under the new Permit, SARWQCB staff must review and approve the applicant's SWPPP prior to initiating ground disturbance. The SWPPP must address Best Management Practices to be implemented both during the active construction phase and during the post-construction phase. Some form of stormwater monitoring program will also be required in most cases.

Additional info and permit available at <http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/~rwqcb8/pdf/01-34.pdf>.

Also, fyi, the SRWCB is in the process of amending the Statewide Construction General Permit to include stormwater monitoring under specified circumstances (direct discharge to 303(d) listed water bodies).

Sorry about the delay. Call me if you need any more info.

Mark

**CC:** Rawson, Michael, Couwenberg, Coen, Zambon, Mary, Johnson, John, Stump, Steve, Johnson, Clyde, Mooman, Shaheen, Sheppard, Randy, Dawson, Brett



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
911 NE 11th Avenue  
Portland Oregon 97232-4181

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
AES/HC

February 22, 2001

*RL*

Mr. Riek Cushing, Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration  
555 Zang Street, Room 259  
Lakewood, Colorado 80228

Subject: Review of ER-01/0044 NOI for Improvements to California Forest  
Highway 224, Bautista Canyon Road, from Valle Vista to SH-371 west of Anza

Dear Sir:

In response to your January 12, 2001, Notice, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offers no comment on the subject document. Please refer any comments to Julie Concannon, Regional Environmental Specialist at (503) 231-6154.

Sincerely,

*MARK BAGANZ*

*FER* Regional Director



RIVERSIDE COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL  
AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
February 16, 2001

Ms. Mary Zambon  
Senior Transportation Planner  
County of Riverside Transportation Department  
4080 Lemon St., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502

Dear Ms. Zambon:

Re: Bautista Canyon Road Project

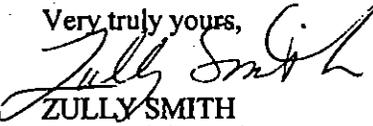
This letter is written in response to the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement for the improvement to California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road. The portion that is proposed for improvement begins 10.3 miles southeast of Valle Vista and extends southeast 8.2 miles to a point 3.2 miles northwest of State Highway 371, west of Anza.

The following issues should be addressed in the Initial Study:

1. Construction projects that result in the disturbance of 5 or more acres of land (or less than 5 acres if part of an overall plan of common development) may require coverage under the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activity (Construction Activity General Permit). Copies of the Construction Activity General Permit and Fact Sheet may be obtained from the SWRCB website ([www.swrcba.ca.gov](http://www.swrcba.ca.gov)).
2. The SAR-DAMP has been prepared to meet the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Permit issued by the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board to the municipalities in the Santa Ana River basin of Riverside County.

The District and the NPDES Co-Permittees also prepared Supplement "A" entitled "New Development Guidelines" and the attachment to Supplement "A", entitled "Selection and Design of Stormwater Quality Control". These documents complement the DAMP by providing additional guidance in the selection and implementation of best management practices. The above mentioned documents should be used during the evaluation of potential stormwater quality impacts and appropriate mitigation measures that may be needed to address such impacts. Enclosed are the copies of these documents. Any questions regarding the above mentioned documents or the District's NPDES program should be directed to Mark Wills of the District's NPDES Section at 909.955.1273.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement. Please forward any future environmental documents regarding the project to my attention at this office. Any further questions concerning this letter may be referred to me at 909.955.1233 or Brett Dawson at 909.955.4643.

Very truly yours,  
  
ZULLY SMITH  
Senior Civil Engineer

Enclosures

c: Bob Cullen  
Mark Wills

BD:slj



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Central Federal Lands  
Highway Division

555 Zang Street, Room 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**FEB 14 2001**

In Reply Refer To:  
HPD-16.5

Mr. Rick Hoffman  
County of Riverside  
Transportation Department  
4080 Lemon St, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Central Federal Lands Highway Division, in cooperation with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA-FS), the California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), and Riverside County, is proposing to improve a portion of California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road.

FH 224 is a 21.7-mile route in Riverside County between State Highway (SH) 74, at the town of Valle Vista, and SH 371, about 1.5 miles west of the community of Anza (see attached map). The road traverses through the San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF). Bautista Canyon Road provides access to over 40,000 acres of National Forest, Indian Reservation, State, private lands and various forest multiple use functions. It links the communities of Hemet and Anza to the southern portion of the SBNF. The project proposes to pave an 8.2-mile segment of this roadway, which is currently an unpaved dirt road.

The 8.2-mile segment of the route was recommended for reconnaissance and scoping during the November 9, 1993, California Public Lands Highways (PLH) program meeting. The Reconnaissance and Scoping Report for FH 224 was prepared in 1994 as a guide for PLH agencies, which includes the USDA-FS, CALTRANS, and the FHWA. These three agencies are responsible for administering the Public Lands Highway (PLH) program and are collectively referred to as the "Tri-Agencies." Following development of the Reconnaissance and Scoping Report for FH 224, the project was identified for funding and is currently in the project development phase.

To guide this project through the environmental process, a Social, Economic, and Environmental (SEE) Study Team consisting of representatives from the FHWA, USDA-FS, CALTRANS and Riverside County was formed in December 2000. The initial SEE Team meeting was held on December 13, 2000. Public meetings regarding the proposed project were held on January 30 and 31, 2001 in Anza and Valle Vista, respectively.

The FHWA, as the lead agency, will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the 8.2-mile proposed highway project, following the Council on Environmental Quality's (CF

"Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)" of November 29, 1978, 40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1508. In accordance with CEQ REG 1501.6, the FHWA is requesting that your agency become a cooperating agency in the development of this project.

The views of cooperating agencies will be sought through all stages of the development of the EIS. This coordination is intended to preclude any subsequent and duplicative review by cooperating agencies. This coordination will also aid in identifying all reasonable alternatives; any social, economic, and environmental impacts; and measures to minimize adverse impacts which may result from this highway improvement.

Enclosed is a copy of FHWA's "Guidance on Cooperating Agencies" which outlines the responsibilities of FHWA and of cooperating agencies. More specific responsibilities related to this project may have to be worked out during the project's scoping process.

We are requesting cooperating agency status from the following agencies: the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the Santa Ana Regional Water Control Board, the California Department of Transportation and Riverside County.

We look forward to your response to this request and your role as a cooperating agency on this project. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 303-716-2141.

Sincerely yours,

*/s/*  
James W. Keeley, P.E.  
Project Development Engineer

Enclosure

Identical letters sent to:

Mr. Mike Florey  
United States Forest Service  
1824 Commercecenter Circle  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

Ms. Kelly Schmoker  
Environmental Specialist  
Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board  
3737 Main Street, Suite 500  
Riverside, CA 92501-3348

Ms. Karin Cleary-Rose  
US DOI Fish and Wildlife Service  
2730 Loker Ave West  
Carlsbad, CA 92008

Ms. Susan Sturges  
Regulatory Project Manager, Los Angeles District  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,  
911 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 90017-3401

Ms. Elizabeth Varnhagen  
US EPA - Region 9  
Federal Activities Center, Mail Code: CMD-2  
75 Hawthorne St.  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

bc w/out enclosure  
HPD-16.5  
MVANDERHOOF:la:02/13/01  
Central files CA FH 224  
MS/

---

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

Riverside Unit  
Bautista Conservation Camp  
33015 Bautista Road, Hemet Ca 92545  
(909) 927-3639



Mary Zambon  
Senior Transportation Planner  
4080 Lemon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502-1090

February 13, 2001

Subject: Notice of Preparation, Bautista Canyon Road

Dear Mary,

On behalf of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and Riverside County Fire Department, I would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to have input on this proposed project. My response will reflect my joint areas of responsibility as the Division Chief in charge of Bautista Conservation Camp and as the Division Chief responsible for the San Jacinto Valley and Mountain Battalions of CDF/Riverside County Fire Department.

**Issues, concerns, opportunities as it relates to Bautista Camp**

The following is a joint response prepared with my counterpart in the California Department of Corrections, Lieutenant Rod Miller.

In terms of opportunities, paving the road up to Anza will greatly enhance the ability of our fire crews to travel to Anza and the surrounding area more quickly with less wear and tear on our vehicles. This includes emergency responses and routine trips to non-emergency projects.

In terms of concerns, we realize that paving the road will likely increase the amount of traffic traveling up and down the road. This will require our drivers to be all the more cautious, especially when they are driving Crew Carrying Vehicles either up or down the canyon. Since the camp is not fenced, there is perhaps increased potential for contraband drop-offs or other unapproved public contact.

One issue that we would like to be considered is the approach to the driveway leading into Bautista Camp from Bautista Canyon Road. We would request that you consider putting some kind of signage indicating the intersection ahead with slow moving vehicles entering the roadway. In addition, a left-turn lane into Bautista's driveway for downhill traffic coming into the camp would probably be a good idea. We would like to see centerline striping to help keep drivers on their side of the road if the road design allows that. Eventually we would like to see the entire road striped all the way to Fairview.

There are two other items of note that may not be affected either way by the paving of the road, but are important related issues. Some of the rocky cliffs along the roadway below Bautista Camp readily cast both small and large rocks onto the roadway after nearly every rainstorm. The other item is the detestable amount of illegal dumping happening along Bautista Canyon Road, both in and out of the USFS boundary.

#### **Issues, concerns, opportunities as it relates to CDF/County Fire**

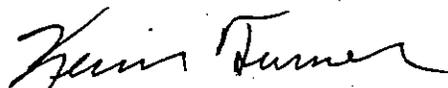
Paving Bautista road up to Anza will allow fire department apparatus to move more quickly and with less wear and tear between Anza and Val Vista. During major fires in the area, fire equipment from all agencies will benefit from the upgrade in road quality.

Currently Val Vista Engine #72 serves the lower half of Bautista Canyon Road. Units out of Anza Station #29 service the upper half. Paving the road should cut down on the response times to traffic collisions within the canyon. However, increased traffic may also result in more accidents to respond to.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you again for the opportunity to have input.

Respectfully,

Tom Tisdale,  
Chief, CDF Riverside Unit  
Riverside County Fire Department

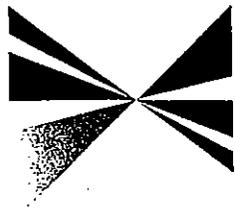


By: Kevin Turner  
Bautista Division Chief



Lt. Rodney Miller  
Camp Commander  
Calif. Dept. of Corrections

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



**ASSOCIATION of  
GOVERNMENTS**

**Main Office**

818 West Seventh Street

12th Floor

Los Angeles, California

90017-3435

t (213) 236-1800

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[www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)

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San Bernardino County: Bill Alexander, Rancho Cucamonga • Jim Bagley, Twentynine Palms • David Eshleman, Fontana • Lee Ann Garcia, Grand Terrace • Glenn Norron-Perry, Chino Hills • Judith Valles, San Bernardino

Ventura County: Judy Mikels, Ventura County • Donna De Paola, San Buenaventura • Glen Becerra, Simi Valley • Tuni Young, Port Hueneeme

Riverside County Transportation Commission: Robin Lowe, Hemet

Ventura County Transportation Commission: Bill Davis, Simi Valley

February 5, 2001

Ms. Mary Zambon  
Senior Transportation Planner  
County of Riverside  
Transportation Department  
4080 Lemon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502

RE: **Comments on the Notice of Preparation for a Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement for the Bautista Canyon Road Project - SCAG No. I 20010032**

Dear Ms. Zambon:

Thank you for submitting the Notice of Preparation for a Draft Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement for the Bautista Canyon Road Project to SCAG for review and comment. As areawide clearinghouse for regionally significant projects, SCAG assists cities, counties and other agencies in reviewing projects and plans for consistency with regional plans.

In addition, The California Environmental Quality Act requires that EIRs discuss any inconsistencies between the proposed project and the applicable general plans and regional plans (Section 15125 [d]). If there are inconsistencies, an explanation and rationalization for such inconsistencies should be provided.

Policies of SCAG's Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide and Regional Transportation Plan, which may be applicable to your project, are outlined in the attachment. We expect the Draft EIR/EIS to specifically cite the appropriate SCAG policies and address the manner in which the Project is consistent with applicable core policies or supportive of applicable ancillary policies. Please use our policy numbers to refer to them in your Draft EIR/EIS. Also, we would encourage you to use a side-by-side comparison of SCAG policies with a discussion of the consistency or support of the policy with the Proposed Project.

Please provide a minimum of 45 days for SCAG to review the Draft EIR/EIS when this document is available. If you have any questions regarding the attached comments, please contact me at (213) 236-1867. Thank you.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY M. SMITH, AICP  
Senior Planner  
Intergovernmental Review

**COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL TO DEVELOP A  
DRAFT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR THE  
BAUTISTA CANYON ROAD PROJECT  
SCAG NO. I 20010032**

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The proposed Project considers road improvements to California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road. The project consists of paving a 8.2-mile segment of Bautista Canyon Road, which is currently an unimproved, substandard dirt road.

**CONSISTENCY WITH REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND GUIDE POLICIES**

The **Growth Management Chapter (GMC)** of the Regional Comprehensive Plan and Guide (RCPG) contains the following policies that are particularly applicable and should be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS for the Project.

*3.01 The population, housing, and jobs forecasts, which are adopted by SCAG's Regional Council and that reflect local plans and policies, shall be used by SCAG in all phases of implementation and review.*

**Regional Growth Forecasts**

The Draft EIR should reflect the most current SCAG forecasts which are the 1998 RTP (April 1998) Population, Household and Employment forecasts for the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) subregion, unincorporated Riverside County, and the City of Hemet. These forecasts follow:

**WRCOG**

**Subregion**

<b>Forecasts</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>
Population	1,315,300	1,564,900	1,814,100	2,033,900	2,264,000
Households	424,600	504,800	585,000	647,800	730,900
Employment	366,700	464,800	563,200	644,900	740,300

**Unincorporated  
 West Riverside  
 County**

<b>Forecasts</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>
Population	465,300	554,700	644,100	723,000	805,500
Households	155,200	184,700	214,300	237,400	288,000
Employment	94,600	132,700	170,800	202,400	236,900

**City of Hemet**

<b>Forecasts</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2020</b>
Population	60,500	75,600	90,800	104,100	118,000
Households	26,700	33,600	40,600	46,000	53,200
Employment	19,200	25,200	31,200	36,200	42,200

3.03 *The timing, financing, and location of public facilities, utility systems, and transportation systems shall be used by SCAG to implement the region's growth policies.*

The **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)** also has goals, objectives, policies and actions pertinent to this proposed project. This RTP links the goal of sustaining mobility with the goals of fostering economic development, enhancing the environment, reducing energy consumption, promoting transportation-friendly development patterns, and encouraging fair and equitable access to residents affected by socio-economic, geographic and commercial limitations. Among the relevant goals, objectives, policies and actions of the RTP are the following:

Core Regional Transportation Plan Policies

4.01 *Transportation investments shall be based on SCAG's adopted Regional Performance Indicators.*

Mobility - *Transportation Systems should meet the public need for improved access, and for safe, comfortable, convenient and economical movements of people and goods.*

- *Average Work Trip Travel Time in Minutes – 22 minutes*
- *PM Peak Highway Speed – 33 mph*
- *Percent of PM Peak Travel in Delay (All Trips) – 33%*

Accessibility - Transportation Systems should ensure the ease with which opportunities are reached. Transportation and land use measures should be employed to ensure minimal time and cost.

- Work Opportunities within 25 Minutes – 88%

Environment - Transportation Systems should sustain development and preservation of the existing system and the environment. (All Trips)

- Meeting Federal and State Standards – Meet Air Plan Emission Budgets

Reliability - Reasonable and dependable levels of service by mode. (All Trips)

- Transit – 63%
- Highway – 76%

Safety - Transportation Systems should provide minimal, risk, accident, death and injury. (All Trips)

- Fatalities Per Million Passenger Miles – 0.008
- Injury Accidents – 0.929

Livable Communities - Transportation Systems should facilitate Livable Communities in which all residents have access to all opportunities with minimal travel time. (All Trips)

- Vehicle Trip Reduction – 1.5%
- Vehicle Miles Traveled Reduction – 10.0%

Equity - The benefits of transportation investments should be equitably distributed among all ethnic, age and income groups. (All trips)

- Low-Income (Household Income \$12,000) Share of Net Benefits – Equitable Distribution of Benefits

Cost-Effectiveness - Maximize return on transportation investment. (All Trips)

- Net Present Value – Maximum Return on Transportation Investment
- Value of a Dollar Invested – Maximum Return on Transportation Investment

- 4.02 Transportation investments shall mitigate environmental impacts to an acceptable level.
- 4.04 Transportation Control Measures shall be a priority.
- 4.16 Maintaining and operating the existing transportation system will be a priority over expanding capacity.

### **GMC POLICIES RELATED TO THE RCPG GOAL TO IMPROVE THE REGIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE**

The Growth Management goals to attain mobility and clean air goals and to develop urban forms that enhance quality of life, that accommodate a diversity of life styles, that preserve open space and natural resources, and that are aesthetically pleasing, and preserve the character of communities, enhance the regional strategic goal of maintaining the regional quality of life. The evaluation of the proposed project in relation to the following policies would be intended to provide direction for plan implementation, and does not allude to regional mandates:

- 3.18 *Encourage planned development in locations least likely to cause environmental impact.*
- 3.20 *Support the protection of vital resources such as wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, woodlands, production lands, and land containing unique and endangered plants and animals.*
- 3.21 *Encourage the implementation of measures aimed at the preservation and protection of recorded and unrecorded cultural resources and archaeological sites.*
- 3.22 *Discourage development, or encourage the use of special design requirements, in areas with steep slopes, high fire, flood, and seismic hazards.*
- 3.23 *Encourage mitigation measures that reduce noise in certain locations, measures aimed at preservation of biological and ecological resources, measures that would reduce exposure to seismic hazards, minimize earthquake damage, and to develop emergency response and recovery plans.*

### **GMC POLICIES RELATED TO THE RCPG GOAL TO PROVIDE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL EQUITY**

The Growth Management Goal to develop urban forms that avoid economic and social polarization promotes the regional strategic goal of minimizing social and geographic disparities and of reaching equity among all segments of society. The evaluation of the proposed project in relation to the policy stated below is intended guide direction for the accomplishment of this goal, and does not infer regional mandates and interference with local land use powers.

- 3.27 *Support local jurisdictions and other service providers in their efforts to develop sustainable communities and provide, equally to all members of society, accessible and effective services such as: public education, housing, health care, social services, recreational facilities, law enforcement, and fire protection.*

### **AIR QUALITY CHAPTER CORE ACTIONS**

The **Air Quality Chapter** core actions related to the proposed project includes:

- 5.07 *Determine specific programs and associated actions needed (e.g., indirect source rules, enhanced use of telecommunications, provision of community based shuttle services, provision of demand management based programs, or vehicle-miles-traveled/emission fees) so that options to command and control regulations can be assessed.*
- 5.11 *Through the environmental document review process, ensure that plans at all levels of government (regional, air basin, county, subregional and local) consider air quality, land use, transportation and economic relationships to ensure consistency and minimize conflicts.*

### **WATER QUALITY CHAPTER RECOMMENDATIONS AND POLICY OPTIONS**

The **Water Quality Chapter** core recommendations and policy options relate to the two water quality goals: to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's water; and, to achieve and maintain water quality objectives that are necessary to protect all beneficial uses of all waters.

- 11.02 *Encourage "watershed management" programs and strategies, recognizing the primary role of local governments in such efforts.*
- 11.07 *Encourage water reclamation throughout the region where it is cost-effective, feasible, and appropriate to reduce reliance on imported water and wastewater discharges. Current administrative impediments to increased use of wastewater should be addressed.*

### **CONCLUSIONS**

All feasible measures needed to mitigate any potentially negative regional impacts associated with the proposed project should be implemented and monitored, as required

February 5, 2001  
Ms. Mary Zambon  
Page 7

by CEQA.

---  
**ENDNOTE**

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**

*Roles and Authorities*

SCAG is a **Joint Powers Agency** established under California Government Code Section 6502 et seq. Under federal and state law, SCAG is designated as a Council of Governments (COG), a Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), and a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). SCAG's mandated roles and responsibilities include the following:

SCAG is designated by the federal government as the Region's **Metropolitan Planning Organization** and mandated to maintain a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process resulting in a Regional Transportation Plan and a Regional Transportation Improvement Program pursuant to 23 U.S.C. '134(g)-(h), 49 U.S.C. '1607(f)-(g) et seq., 23 C.F.R. '450, and 49 C.F.R. '613. SCAG is also the designated **Regional Transportation Planning Agency**, and as such is responsible for both preparation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) under California Government Code Section 65080.

SCAG is responsible for developing the demographic projections and the integrated land use, housing, employment, and transportation programs, measures, and strategies portions of the **South Coast Air Quality Management Plan**, pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 40460(b)-(c). SCAG is also designated under 42 U.S.C. '7504(a) as a **Co-Lead Agency** for air quality planning for the Central Coast and Southeast Desert Air Basin District.

SCAG is responsible under the Federal Clean Air Act for determining **Conformity** of Projects, Plans and Programs to the Air Plan, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. '7506.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65089.2, SCAG is responsible for **reviewing all Congestion Management Plans (CMPs) for consistency with regional transportation plans** required by Section 65080 of the Government Code. SCAG must also evaluate the consistency and compatibility of such programs within the region.

SCAG is the authorized regional agency for **Inter-Governmental Review** of Programs proposed for federal financial assistance and direct development activities, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12,372 (replacing A-95 Review).

SCAG reviews, pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 21083 and 21087, **Environmental Impact Reports** of projects of regional significance for consistency with regional plans [California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Sections 15206 and 15125(b)].

## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

915 CAPITOL MALL, ROOM 364

SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

(916) 653-4082

(916) 657-5390 - Fax



February 1, 2001

Mary Zambon  
Riverside County Transportation Department  
4080 Lemon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502

RE: SCH# 2001011110 – Bautista Canyon Road Project

Dear Ms. Zambon:

The Native American Heritage Commission has reviewed the above mentioned NOP. To adequately assess the project-related impact on archaeological resources, the Commission recommends the following action be required:

- ✓ Contact the appropriate Information Center for a records search. The record search will determine:
  - Whether a part or all of the project area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
  - Whether any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the project area.
  - Whether the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located within the project area.
  - Whether a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.
- ✓ If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage of is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey.
  - Required the report containing site significance and mitigation be submitted immediately to the planning department.
  - Required site forms and final written report be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the Information Center.
- ✓ Contact the Native American Heritage Commission for:
  - A Sacred Lands File Check.
  - A list of appropriate Native American Contacts for consultation concerning the project site and assist in the mitigation measures.
- ✓ Provisions for accidental discovery of archeological resources:
  - Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude the existence of archeological resources. Lead agencies should include provisions for accidentally discovered archeological resources during construction per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5 (f).
- ✓ Provisions for discovery of Native American human remains
  - Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5 (e), and Public Resources Code §5097.98 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery and should be included in all environmental documents.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 653-4040.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rob Wood".

Rob Wood  
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

CC: State Clearinghouse



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pacific West Region

Pacific Great Basin Support Office

600 Harrison Street, Suite 600

San Francisco, California 94107-1372

IN REPLY REFER TO:

D18(PGSO-PP)

January 30, 2001

Mary Zambon  
Senior Transportation Planner  
County of Riverside Transportation Department  
4080 Lemon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, California 92502

Dear Ms. Zambon:

Thank you for sending us of the **Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bautista Canyon Road Project (NOP)**. The National Park Service interest in the project relates to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

After reviewing the primary environmental issues listed in attachment 1 of the NOP, we suggest that two other issues should be added: historic resources and recreational resources. Bautista Canyon is the historic route of the 1774 and 1775-1776 Anza expeditions and provides to this day a sense of the landscape encountered at the time. It is identified in the *Comprehensive Management and Use Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail as a "high potential" segment and a significant link in a recreational retracement trail, which would extend from Nogales, Arizona, to San Francisco, California. Since the road is on U.S. Forest Service land, it is automatically a component of the national trail. In 1999, the trail was designated a National Millennium Trail, a project of the U.S. Department of Transportation.

The existing dirt portion of the road slows and reduces automobile traffic, thereby contributing to the recreational experience. The EIR/EIS should describe the historic setting of the Canyon in relation to the Anza expeditions and evaluate the impacts of paving the road to the experience of the historic setting for the recreational user. If the impacts are significant, some sort of mitigation should be proposed such as an off-road shared use trail that would replace the current recreational experience.

Mary Zambon  
January 30, 2001  
Page 2 of 2

Please continue to keep us informed of the status of the project. If you have any questions or concerns you can contact me by telephone at 415/427-1438, by mail at the letterhead address, or by e-mail at [meredith\\_kaplan@nps.gov](mailto:meredith_kaplan@nps.gov).

Sincerely,



Meredith Kaplan, Superintendent  
Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

cc: Jeannie Gillen, Amigos de Anza

The National Park Service cares for special places  
saved by the American People  
so that all may experience our heritage.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA



Gray Davis  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse



Steve Nissen  
ACTING DIRECTOR

Notice of Preparation

January 25, 2001

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: Bautista Canyon Road Project  
SCH# 2001011110

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Bautista Canyon Road Project draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

Mary Zambon  
Riverside County Transportation Department  
4080 Lemon Street, 8th Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH-number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan  
Project Analyst, State Clearinghouse

Attachments  
cc: Lead Agency



# COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

## TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY

### Transportation Department



David E. Barnhart  
Director of Transportation

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

TO: Robert Prohaska  
AMEC Earth &  
Environmental  
5510 Morehouse Drive  
San Diego, Ca 92121  
(858) 458-9044

FROM: County of Riverside  
Transportation Department  
4080 Lemon St., 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Riverside, CA 92502  
(909) 955-6759

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact  
Report/Environmental Impact Statement

The County of Riverside Transportation Department will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for the project identified below. The Department requires your input as to the scope and content of the environmental information that is relevant to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to refer to the EIR prepared by the Department when considering your permit or other approval for this project.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with the San Bernardino National Forest, will be the lead agency in the preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS).

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens. Public scoping meetings will be held on:

**January 30, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Anza Community Center  
Anza, CA 92539**

**January 31, 2001 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Valley Wide Parks and Recreation Facility  
43935 E. Acacia,  
Hemet, CA 92544.**

Robert Prohaska  
AMEC Earth & Environmental  
Page 2

A brief project description is contained in Attachment 1. A copy of the initial study has not been prepared because the lead agencies have determined that an EIR/EIS will be prepared for the project.

Due to the time constraints mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but **not later than 30 days** after receipt of this notice.

Please send your responses to **Mary Zambon**, Senior Transportation Planner, (909) 955-6759, at the address shown above. Additionally, please provide a point of contact for your agency along with your responses.

**Project Title:** Bautista Canyon Road Project

**Project Applicants:** County of Riverside, Transportation Department

Date: January 22, 2001

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Edwin D. Studor, Administrative Manager

**Attachments:** Project Description, Project Area Map, Agency NOP Distribution List



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Central Federal Lands  
Highway Division

555 Zang St, Rm 259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

JAN 05 2001

In Reply Refer To:  
HPD-16

Office of the Federal Register  
National Archives and Records Administration  
7<sup>th</sup> and Pennsylvania N.W.  
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find three original signed copies of a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. These are being provided so that they may be published in the Federal Register at your earliest possible convenience.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Mr. Michael Vanderhoof at 303-716-2141.

Sincerely yours,

James W. Keeley, P. E.  
Project Development Engineer

Enclosures (3 NOI)

cc: Mary Zambon, Senior Transportation Planner, County of Riverside Transportation  
Department, 4080 Lemon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Riverside, CA 92501 (w/enclosure)  
Mike Florey, Forest Engineer, San Bernardino National Forest, 1824 Commerce Center  
Circle, San Bernardino, CA 92408 (w/enclosure)  
Louis Flores, Caltrans, D8 Local Assistance Engineer, 464 W. Fourth Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
MS 1030, San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400 (w/enclosure)

bc: Sam Holder, Project Manager  
Michael Vanderhoof, Environmental Protection Specialist

yc: reading file

Central file: CA PFH 224, Bautista Canyon

MVANDERHOOF:jm:01/05/01:L\environm\wp\ca224\NOI cover.wpd *MV*



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

Central Federal Lands  
Highway Division

555 Zang Street  
Mail Room #259  
Lakewood, CO 80228

**OCT 16 2000**

In Reply Refer To:  
HPA-16.3

Mr. David E. Barnhart  
Director of Transportation  
County of Riverside  
P.O. Box 1090  
Riverside, CA 92502

Attn: C. Scott Staley

Dear Mr. Barnhart:

Enclosed are three copies of a proposed Forest Highway (FH) Agreement. We require a FH agreement before we start the development of a new project or route (i.e., FH-224, Bautista Canyon Road). The agreement formalizes the general requirements for the following:

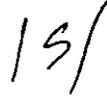
- Forest Highway Routes,
- Project Selection,
- Project Agreements,
- Compliance with Federal-aid Procedures and the Direct Federal Nationwide Action Plan in, Project Development,
- Survey, Design, and Construction,
- Rights-of-Way and Rights-of Entry,
- Utility Relocation, and
- Maintenance.

The significance of the list in Enclosure 1 is that these are the routes in Riverside County eligible for FH and emergency relief-federally owned (ERFO) funding.

Please note, the agreement will not be binding on any specific route until we expend federal funds on the route.

If you agree with the provisions of the agreement, please have the appropriate official(s) sign and date each copy. We will then sign and return a fully executed copy for your files. If signing the agreement requires action by the Board of Supervisors, please include a copy of the resolution. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Larry Klockenteger at 303-716-2021.

Sincerely yours,



W. Larry Klockenteger, P.E.  
Transportation Planning Engineer

Enclosures

c.c. w/agreement

Mr. Timothy Craggs  
Design and Local Programs, MS 29  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
P.O. Box 942874  
Sacramento, CA 94274-0001

Mr. Melroy Teigen  
Director of Engineering  
USDA Forest Service, Region 5  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

bc

Sam Holder, HPD-16 w/ copy of agreement  
Craig Actis w/ copy of agreement

File: SP-03 (CA-Riverside County)

WLKLOCKENTEGER:wlk:1/24/2000 0 



**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE**  
**TRANSPORTATION AND**  
**LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

**Transportation Department**

November 15, 1995

*David E. Barnhart*  
Director of Transportation

Mr. Larry C. Smith, P.E.  
Division Engineer  
Federal Highway Administration  
P.O. Box 25246  
Denver, Co. 80225-0246

Re: California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road  
HPD-16

Dear Mr. Smith:

*Cindy*

This is in response to your recent request that we designate a member of our staff to participate in the SEE Study Team for the above referenced road improvement project. We are pleased to see that the Federal Highway Administration is planning to proceed with this project, and we will be glad to participate. We have designated Mr. Atef Zaki, Senior Civil Engineer, as our Project Manager. He should be your primary liaison with our department and can be reached at (909) 275-6787. However, if you should have questions or concerns specifically related to environmental issues, you may feel free to directly contact Mr. Ed Studor, Transportation Planning Manager, at (909) 275-6767. Both of these gentlemen can be reached at our Post Office Box as shown below.

Thank you for inviting our participation. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

*David E. Barnhart*  
David E. Barnhart  
Director of Transportation

ES/es

cc: Tek Tanaka  
Ed Studor  
Atef Zaki

**From:** Anne Brunick  
**To:** BBIRD, DGEDEON  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 1995 9:37 am  
**Subject:** Bautista Canyon

I sent out a letter (dated Oct. 27) to the Forest Service, Riverside County, and the State, asking for SEE team members. Bob Munsell has asked that we do nothing more on this project until we hear from him, probably after the program meeting in January. The Forest Service has asked the County to take responsibility for the NEPA compliance. The FS feels that this project is of great benefit to the County and that they should have some financial commitment. The County has not agreed to any commitments so far; and nothing more should be done to further the project until some agreement has been reached.

**CC:** BMUNSELL



**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
TRANSPORTATION AND  
LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY**



October 31, 1995

**Transportation Department**

David E. B.  
Director of Transport

Mr. Mike Florey  
Forest Engineer  
United States Department of Agriculture  
San Bernardino National Forest  
1824 S. Commercenter Circle  
San Bernardino, CA 92408

OPTIONAL FORM 95 (7-80)

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)  
**FAX TRANSMITTAL**

To C. Klockenteger	From R. Barnhart
Dept./Agency R. Barnhart	Phone # 570 025
Fax # 303-962-6499	Page #

NSN 7540-01-317-7268 5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Re: Bautista Road - 7740

Dear Mr. Florey:

Reference is made to your letter dated September 25, 1995 requesting our commitment to fund and complete the environmental assessment and acquire the needed rights-of-way for the Bautista Road improvement project.

We have many other higher priorities for the nominal amount of funds presently available for road improvements in Riverside County.

Since we do not have resources for use on this project, the preparation of the environmental document will have to be performed by FHWA staff, funded by ISTEA. Our staff can be made available to perform this work if State or Federal funding is provided.

The only feasible means of perfecting the right-of-way would be if the underlying property owners waived their rights of just compensation.

Otherwise, I am afraid that the only recourse is to withdraw the project from the program.

Sincerely,

David E. Barnhart  
Director of Transportation

TT:gh

cc: Kay Ceniceros  
Ed Studor  
George Johnson

OCT 27 1995

In Reply Refer To:  
HPD-16

Mr. Melroy Teigen  
Director of Engineering  
Forest Service, Region 5  
Pleasant Hill Engineering Center  
2245 Morello Ave.  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-1897

Dear Mr. Teigen:

Subject: California Forest Highway (FH) 224, Bautista Canyon Road

The Forest Highway Program Agencies have agreed that this office will proceed with preliminary engineering studies (environmental, geotechnical, and design) on the above project. The Bautista Canyon Road is a 21.7-mile route in Riverside County between State Highway (SH) 74, at the town of Valle Vista, and SH 371, about 1.5 miles west of the community of Anza. The 8.2-mile portion to be improved extends from a point 10.3 miles southeast of SH 24 and Valle Vista to a point 3.2 miles northwest of SH 371.

In considering the design of this proposal and its environmental impacts, we will follow the procedures included in the Nationwide Action Plan and the Project Development and Design Manual written for Federal Lands Highway projects. The procedures call for establishing a Social, Economic, and Environmental (SEE) Study Team to guide the project through its development stages.

Ms. Anne Brunick, Environmental Protection Specialist, and Mr. Dave Gedeon, Design Project Manager, have been appointed as the Central Federal Lands Highway Division members and cochairpersons of the SEE Study Team. Ms. Brunick will coordinate the SEE aspects of the proposal, and Mr. Gedeon will coordinate the engineering activities.

We ask that you designate a member to the SEE Study Team who has authority to call on available disciplines within your agency that are needed during project development. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Ms. Anne Brunick at 303-969-5912.

Sincerely yours,



Larry C. Smith, P.E.  
Division Engineer



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**

# Memorandum

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Reconnaissance and Scoping Report  
California Forest Highway 224  
Bautista Canyon Road

Date: April 18, 1994

Reply to  
Attn. of: HPC-16

From: Project Scoping Engineer  
Denver, Colorado

To: See Addressees Below

Attached is the final report for the subject project.

*Robert N. Munsell*

Robert N. Munsell

Attachment

Addressees:

William R. Bird (3 copies)  
Rich Coco  
Charmaine Farrar  
Dave Gedeon (2 copies)  
Ron Hall  
Larry D. Henry  
Charles R. Houser  
James W. Keeley  
W. Larry Klockenteger  
Ted Nguyen  
James D. Roller  
Bob H. Welch