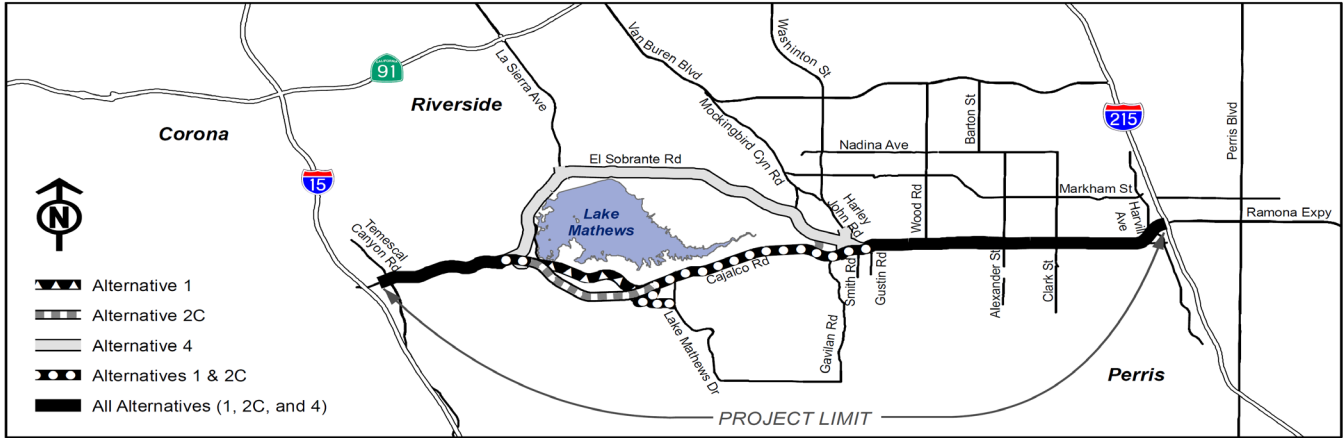




Public Notice



Availability of Draft Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation for Cajalco Road Widening and Safety Enhancement Project



WHAT IS AVAILABLE?

The California Department of Transportation (CALTRANS), in cooperation with the Riverside County Transportation Department (County), is proposing to widen approximately 15.7 miles of Cajalco Road, or a combination of Cajalco Road and El Sobrante Road, between Temescal Canyon Road to the west and Interstate 215 (I-215) to the east, in Riverside County. The proposed project would traverse and “use” (as defined under Section 4(f) of the United States Department of Transportation Act of 1966) lands from the Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve (LMR).

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, codified in federal law at 49 United States Code (USC) 303, declares that “it is the policy of the United States Government that special effort should be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites.” Section 4(f) specifies that the Secretary [of Transportation] may approve a transportation program or project ... requiring the use of publicly owned land of a public park, recreation area, or wildlife and waterfowl refuge of national, State, or local significance, or land of an historic site of national, State, or local significance (as determined by the federal, state, or local officials having jurisdiction over the park, area, refuge, or site) only if: 1) there is no prudent and feasible alternative to using that land; and 2) the program or project includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the park, recreation area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or historic site resulting from the use. The proposed project is a transportation project that would involve federal funding and/or discretionary approvals through the U.S Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA); therefore, documentation of compliance with Section 4(f) is required for the Cajalco Road Widening and Safety and Enhancement Project (Project).

WHY THIS AD?

CALTRANS, as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration, is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead agency, has studied the effects this Project may have on the LMR. This notice is to inform you of the preparation and availability of the *Draft Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation* for review.

The circulated *Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement/Section 4(f)* (Draft EIR/EIS/4(f)) for the Cajalco Road Widening and Safety Enhancement Project (Project) included the evaluation of the LMR with a Section 4(f) *de minimis* use. Upon further coordination with the official with jurisdiction for LMR, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Caltrans determined that an Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation would be more appropriate for the LMR. As a result, this *Draft Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation* was prepared following availability of the Draft EIR/EIS/4(f) for the Project and is therefore being made available separately.

WHERE IS IT AVAILABLE?

A downloadable version of the *Draft Lake Mathews Multiple Species Reserve Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation* is available for the public to download and review online at the Project website: <https://rcprojects.org/cajalco-road-widening>.

HOW MAY I COMMENT?

If you wish to comment on the Draft Individual Section 4(f) Evaluation, you may submit your written comments until **August 11, 2025**, to Caltrans District 8, Attn: Cajalco Draft LMR Section 4(f) Evaluation Comment Period, 464 W. 4th Street, San Bernardino, CA 92401. You may also email comments to cajalcoroad-rctd@rivco.org.

CONTACT

For more information about this study, and other matters on State highways, please contact CALTRANS at (909) 383-2841. Individuals who require special accommodation (American Sign Language interpreter, documentation in alternate formats, etc.) are requested to contact CALTRANS at (909) 383-2841. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service TDD line at 1-800-735-2929 or Voice Line at 1-800-735-2922, 1 (800) 855-3000 (Spanish TTY to Voice and Voice to TTY), 1-800-854-7784 (Spanish and English Speech-to-Speech) or 711.