The official newsletter of the Campus Parkway project!

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Public Meeting Scheduled for April 28, 2005

A public meeting for the Campus Parkway project has been scheduled beginning at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM on Thursday, April 28, 2005 at the City of Merced Civic Center in the Sam Pipes Room, which is located at 678 W. 18th Street in Merced. Refreshments will be served.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIS-EIR) for the Campus Parkway project will be released on CD at no cost to attendees of this meeting.

This public meeting will be held in an open-house format. County staff will be available to help you understand the review and comment process. Instructions will be given on the best way to provide comments on the Draft EIS-EIR.

Public Hearing Scheduled for June 21, 2005

A Public Hearing to receive verbal and written comment on the Draft EIS-EIR for the Campus Parkway project has been scheduled for 5:30 PM on Tuesday, June 21, 2005 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, which is located on the 3rd floor of the County Administration Building at 2222 "M" Street in Merced.

Written comments on the Draft EIS-EIR will be accepted until July 5, 2005. ■

Get Your Copy of the Draft EIS-EIR

Beginning on April 28, 2005, you can get your own copy of the Draft EIS-EIR for the Campus Parkway project by contacting the Merced County Public Works Department at (209) 385-7601. The Draft EIS-EIR will be distributed at no cost to the public on CD in Adobe Acrobat format (pdf files).

A limited number of paper copies of the Draft EIS-EIR will be available for purchase at $50.00 per copy.

Beginning on April 28, 2005, paper copies of the Draft EIS-EIR will be available for review at the following locations:

- Merced County
  Public Works
  345 W. 7th Street, Merced
- Merced County Planning
  2222 "M" Street, Merced
- Merced County Library
  Main Branch
  2100 "O" Street, Merced
- MCAG
  369 W. 18th Street, Merced
- City of Merced Planning
  678 W. 18th Street, Merced

The technical documents that were prepared to support the Draft EIS-EIR are available on CD. The files on the CD are all in Adobe Acrobat format (pdf files). Paper copies of the technical documents are not being distributed. However, paper copies of the technical documents will be available for review beginning April 28, 2005 at the following location:

Merced County Public Works
345 W. 7th Street, Merced ■

PUBLIC NOTICE

Availability of Draft EIS-EIR
For
Campus Parkway Project

This Public Notice is provided in accordance with Section 15087 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A Draft EIS-EIR (joint Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report) has been prepared for the Campus Parkway project and will be available for public review beginning on April 28, 2005.

Project Description: Campus Parkway is a four-lane limited access expressway proposed to be located on the eastern side of the City of Merced. This new expressway is proposed to begin at the new Mission Avenue Interchange at State Route 99 and extend to Yosemite Avenue, a length of approximately 4.5 miles. At-grade intersections will be provided at Gerard Avenue, Childs Avenue, Olive Avenue and Yosemite Avenue. Campus Parkway will cross over the BNSF Railroad and State Route 140 with a typical overpass structure. A short hook-shaped ramp roadway will connect Campus Parkway with State Route 140. An overpass structure will cross over Bear Creek as well as North and South Bear Creek Drives. No connection with either North or South Bear Creek Drive will be provided.

Review Period: The length of the review period will be 60 days. The official review period will begin upon publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. It is our intent to have the Notice of Availability published on May 6, 2005. As a result, the review period will begin on May 6, 2005 and end on July 5, 2005. All comments on the Draft EIS-EIR must be received at the Merced County Department of Public Works by 5:00 PM on July 5, 2005. Comments that have been postmarked July 5, 2005 will also be accepted.

Public Meeting: A public meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2005 beginning at 6:00 PM in the Sam Pipes Room of the City of Merced Civic Center located at 678 W. 18th Street in Merced. The public meeting will be held in an open-house format. Attendees can expect to receive a general overview of the Draft EIS-EIR as well as obtain instruction on the best way to provide comment on the Draft EIS-EIR. The Draft EIS-EIR will be distributed on CD in Adobe Acrobat format at no cost to the attendees of this Public Meeting. Public comment will not be received at this public meeting.

Public Hearing: A public hearing will be held for this project. The public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2005 @ 5:30 PM. The public hearing will be held in the Merced County Board of Supervisors Chambers located on the 3rd floor of the County Administration Building at 2222 “M” Street in Merced. Both verbal and written comments to the Draft EIS-EIR will be received at the public hearing.

Project Effects: The major impacts of the project include: 1) the acquisition of agricultural croplands and orchards; 2) loss of foraging and roosting habitat for several species of bats, birds and raptors; 3) loss of elderberry shrubs; and, 4) noise. The displacement of one residence will occur as a result of the project. Permanent wetland impacts total less than 0.09 acres and impacts to waters of the U.S. total approximately 0.5 acres. Mitigation includes avoidance of biological species seasonal presence and habitat, elderberry planting, relocation assistance, and erosion and water quality measures.

Document Distribution: Beginning on April 28, 2005, the Draft EIS-EIR and technical study documents will be available on CD in Adode Acrobat format. Copies of the CD may be obtained (at no cost) for the Merced County Department of Public Works office (location listed in document review locations) or by contacting Steve Rough at (209) 385-7601 or e-mail me at srough@co.merced.ca.us.

Beginning April 278, 2005, a limited number of paper copies of the Draft EIS-EIR will be available for sale at the Merced County Department of Public Works office for $50.00 per copy. The technical study documents are only available on CD.

Document Review Locations: Beginning April 28, 2005, copies of the Draft EIS-EIR will be available for review during normal working hours at the locations listed in the following table. The technical study documents are only available for review at the Merced County Department of Public Works office.

Merced County Department of Public Works 345 W. 7th Street Merced, CA 95340 (Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM)	Merced County Planning Department 2222 "M" Street (2nd floor) Merced, CA 95340 (Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM)
Merced County Association of Governments 369 W. 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM)	Merced County Library – Main Branch 2100 "O" Street Merced, CA 95340 (Tuesdays, 12 Noon to 8:00 PM) (Wednesday, 12 Noon to 8:00 PM) (Thursday, 12 Noon to 8:00 PM) (Friday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM) (Saturday, 10:00 Am to 6:00 PM)
City of Merced Planning Department 678 W. 18th Street Merced, CA 95340 (Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM)	

Campus Parkway Draft Environmental Document (EIS-EIR) to be Released April 28, 2005

The Draft EIS-EIR for the Campus Parkway project will be released April 28, 2005. The public review period will begin upon publication of a Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS-EIR in the Federal Register, which we anticipate will occur on May 6, 2005. Given a sixty (60) day comment period, the official comment period will begin on May 6, 2005 and end on July 5, 2005. All comments must be received or postmarked no later than the last day of the comment period.

The draft environmental document examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Campus Parkway project. The Draft EIS-EIR was prepared by a consultant working for Merced County under the direction and review of Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration. The Draft EIS-EIR conforms to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Your review and comments on the Draft EIS-EIR are welcome and encouraged. Find out how to make comments on the Draft EIS-EIR by attending the April 28, 2005 Public Meeting. ■

Contact Information

If you have questions about the Campus Parkway project, we encourage you to contact the staff member listed to the right.

Steven E. Rough, Supervising Engineer
Phone: (209) 385-7601
e-mail: srough@co.merced.ca.us
Mailing Address:
Merced County DPW
345 W. 7th Street
Merced, CA 95340

CAMPUS PARKWAY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT TO BE RELEASED
Public Meeting April 28, 2005

PARKWAY PROGRESS
MERCED COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
345 W. 7th STREET
MERCED, CA 95340
******RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED******