

City of Oceanside Economic Development Commission (EDC), Comments for the EIR for the widening of I-5.

1.2 Purpose for the Project

The proposed widening in combination with a future or simultaneous flyover from I-5 South to SR 78 east would eliminate the Cassidy and California St. I-5 on and off ramps, thereby minimizing the access of neighborhoods of Fire Mountain and South Oceanside. As it has been stated by Caltrans the widening of I-5 would not eliminate the Cassidy and California St. on and off ramps, but the future or simultaneous construction of a flyover from south bound I-5 to eastbound SR 78 would. Additionally, the elimination of the existing northbound loop ramp at the SR 78/I-5 ramps should be more clearly stated and analyzed so that the EIR could take the ultimate impact into account.

3.4.1 and 4.4.2 Community Character and Cohesion

Pedestrian and bicycle paths should be included on all bridges (both sides in each direction) and care given to adequately connect and provide freeway access from the neighborhoods located east and west of I-5 through improvement of the existing bridges for community character and cohesion.

4.4.1 Visual Aesthetics

The alternative of 8 lanes plus four, with buffer would not require as much property take and also would allow for some level of landscaping between the sound walls and the freeway.

The sound walls should be enhanced with bas relief/stone work or some other aesthetically appealing feature, and that there be landscaping between the toe of the sound walls and the freeway.

4.7 Mitigation Measures for Significant Impacts Under CEQA

The proposed pocket parks, created out of remainder parcels, should be eliminated and any funds attributed to the construction be assigned to improved aesthetics of bas relief or stone on the sound walls.

One of the proposed mitigation measures, a park at the City's community garden, is already a community garden and should not be considered as mitigation. In addition, that property was purchased from the City by the Housing Agency for an affordable housing project in the future.

Static signage on the freeway indicating hotels, beach, and harbor should be installed on the freeway to provide for the proposed changes to traffic distribution at the Mission Avenue interchange, Oceanside Blvd Direct Access Ramp and at Vandergrift Blvd./Camp Pendleton Front Gate.