

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	07-AFC-06C
Project Title:	Carlsbad Energy Center - Compliance
TN #:	203474
Document Title:	Details on Future I-5 Widening
Description:	This is a report of a conversation with Caltrans staff about the future widening of I-5.
Filer:	Andrea Koch
Organization:	CA Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Public Agency
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
REPORT OF CONVERSATION



**Siting, Transmission, and
 Environmental Protection
 Division**

FILE: 07-AFC-06C

PROJECT TITLE: Carlsbad Energy Center Project

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephone		<input type="checkbox"/> Meeting Location: NA (Phone Conference Call)
NAME:	Andrea Koch, David Flores, Kerry Willis, and Dick Ratliff of the CEC	DATE: 12/11/14
WITH:	Arturo Jacobo, I-5 North Coast Corridor Project Manager and Majid Kharrati, I-5 North Coast Corridor Design Manager (at Caltrans)	
SUBJECT:	Details and Timing of Future I-5 Expansion Near CECP Site	

PHONE CONVERSATION:

Mr. Jacobo answered CEC staff's questions regarding future I-5 expansion near the Carlsbad Energy Center Project (CECP) site. From the phone conversation, CEC staff gathered the following information:

- 1) The Final EIR/EIS for the I-5 North Coast Corridor Project was released in 2013. A Record of Decision is expected in the middle of January 2015.
- 2) The project extends from the city of San Diego at its southern end to the city of Oceanside at its northern end.
- 3) The Draft EIR/EIS released in 2010 included 4 direct access ramps (DARs) north of Cannon Road in the city of Carlsbad. (A DAR is an interchange connecting local streets to HOV lanes.) However, the city of Carlsbad did not know what plans for the Strawberry Fields would be, so Caltrans removed plans for the DARs in their Final EIR/EIS. Once the city knows the plans for the Strawberry Fields, Caltrans might include plans for the DARs in an additional environmental review, such as an Addendum to the EIR/EIS.
- 4) The final defined configuration of the I-5 improvements in the area of the CECP is shown on pages 2-113 to 2-115 of the Final EIR/EIS. In the area of the CECP site, this configuration includes 2 carpool (HOV) lanes in each direction, 4 general purpose lanes in each direction, and 1 auxiliary lane in each direction. (An auxiliary lane connects an on-ramp and off-ramp.)
- 5) Phase I of the I-5 expansion project in the CECP area consists of one new carpool (HOV) lane in each direction of the freeway from Manchester Avenue (in Cardiff) at the southern end to State Route 78 (in Oceanside) at the northern end. Preliminary design maps for this phase are expected to be available at the end of January 2015. Construction will begin in 2016.
- 6) Mr. Jacobo is not yet sure whether construction of Phase I will require removal of the

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eucalyptus trees along I-5. He thinks that it likely will, as the pavement will need to be expanded by 8 feet. The preliminary design maps will show whether any trees will need to be removed.

- 7) Phase II of the I-5 expansion project is the remainder of the project (the remaining new HOV lane in each direction and the new auxiliary lane in each direction). This phase will be constructed from 2025-2030.
- 8) Although the preliminary engineering shown in the Final EIR will be further refined during the design phase, Caltrans is committed to containing the expansion within the footprint shown in the Final EIR. Details such as whether a retaining wall or grading will be used at the border of the expansion are not yet known.
- 9) Mr. Jacobo is not commenting on the lawsuit challenging the San Diego Association of Government's (SANDAG's) 2050 Regional Transportation Plan, which CEC staff expects could possibly affect I-5 expansion plans. Mr. Jacobo stated that Caltrans will continue with the current plan for I-5 expansion in the absence of a court-ordered injunction against continuing.
- 10) Mr. Jacobo and Mr. Kharrati stated that they will send CEC staff the design files of the I-5 project's footprint on Friday, December 12th.
- 11) Caltrans is not proposing any landscaping between the I-5 expansion and the CECP site. The CECP owner will be providing the landscaping.

cc:	Signed:
	Name: Andrea Koch