



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Cleveland National
Forest

Trabuco Ranger District
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File Code: 2700

Date: February 29, 2008

Interested Party

SCOPING LETTER

RE: The geo-technical exploration for the Irvine-Corona Expressway project.

The US Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest, Trabuco Ranger District, proposes to authorize the Riverside County Transportation Commission to conduct a subsurface geo-technical exploration. The investigation will provide information to be used for the environmental analysis and defining site conditions that affect the feasibility of the "Six-Lane, Nearly Full-Length Tunnel" alignment.

Kleinfelder West, Inc. will perform the geo-technical field investigations and technical evaluations for the Irvine-Corona Expressway Project near the crest of the Santa Ana Mountains in the Cleveland National Forest, California. They are under contract with the Transportation Commission, the agency charged with providing contract procurement, management, and oversight services for the scope of work described herein on behalf of the Riverside-Orange Corridor Authority.

Seven potential sites (Alternates 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) have been identified for potential exploratory boreholes within the Cleveland National Forest (Figure 1). As many as five sites may be selected based on the findings of the environmental analysis, USFS permitting process, and the preferences of Transportation Commission and Corridor Authority.

The boreholes are estimated to range in depth from 750 to 2,130 feet below ground surface. They are located at various sites along the preferred alternative tunnel alignment (Corridor B-6) identified in the Riverside County-Orange County Major Investment Study that was completed in December 2005. All potential sites will be accessed by helicopter or an existing road. No road construction will occur. Cores from these boreholes will be removed for technical analysis.

The seven alternate sites have been selected based on access constraints, environmental considerations, and the expectation to have the highest groundwater elevation above the conceptual elevation of the tunnel. Based on these criteria, the alternative borehole locations are generally at a ridge crest that intersects the tunnel alignment. Locations also include areas of highest overburden at the crest of the Santa Ana Mountains.



If you have information you feel the Forest Service may not be aware of, or feel you have information regarding potential effects of the proposed geo-technical exploration, please send those comments in writing to the project leader, Virgil Mink, 1147 East 6th Street, Corona, CA 928790 on or before March 21, 2008. Significant issues identified in the responses may be used to develop alternatives to the proposed action.

Sincerely,



KEITH W. FLETCHER
District Ranger