

**NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

PROJECT TITLE: Draft Environmental Impact Report for Kern Transportation Authority Transportation Expenditure Plan and Retail Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance

PROJECT LOCATION: Corporate limits of Kern County, California, including 11 incorporated cities and all unincorporated areas

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: As the Kern Transportation Authority, Regional Transportation Planning Agency and Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Kern County region, Kern Council of Governments (Kern COG) is statutorily responsible for preparation and approval of the Transportation Expenditure Plan and Retail Transactions and Use Tax Ordinance. This Ordinance will be placed on the November 2006 ballot to establish a one-half of one percent local tax dedicated to transportation planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance within Kern County's boundaries. Specific safeguards in the Ordinance ensure that this funding will be used in accordance with specified voter-approved transportation project improvements and programs. The Kern Transportation Authority, as an arm of Kern COG, will request authorization to impose the sales tax ordinance for a 20-year period. Collection of the tax would begin April 1, 2007 and expire March 30, 2027.

The Expenditure Plan identifies the investment of \$900 million in funding over 20 years for major roads projects, local road reconstruction as well as air quality, transit, bicycle and other modal enhancements. Kern COG recertified its Program EIR in 2004 for the Destination 2030 Regional Transportation Plan, which analyzed potential projects that might be included in the Transportation Expenditure Plan and Retail Transaction and Use Tax Ordinance. Specific projects in the Expenditure Plan are located throughout Kern County, California, including the incorporated cities of Arvin, Bakersfield, California City, Delano, Maricopa, McFarland, Ridgecrest, Shafter, Taft, Tehachapi, and Wasco, as well as its unincorporated areas.

PUBLIC REVIEW:

The Draft EIR is available for review at the following locations:

Kern Council of Governments
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield CA 93301
Tel: 661/861-2191
Fax: 661/324-8215
E-mail: rbrummett@kerncog.org
Website: www.kerncog.org

All Kern County library branches, including;
Beale Memorial Main Library
701 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield
Tel: 661/868-00701

as well as branches located in Arvin, Bakersfield, Boron, Buttonwillow, California City, Delano, Frazier Park, Kern River Valley, Lamont, McFarland, Mojave, Ridgecrest, Rosamond, Shafter, Taft, Tehachapi, Wasco, and Wofford Heights.

The 45-day public review period for this Draft EIR begins Saturday, April 15, 2006, and ends May 30, 2006. Written comments must be received by Kern Council of Governments by 5:00 on May 30, 2006, in order to be addressed as part of the Final EIR . Please send your comments to:

Mr. Ron E. Brummett, Executive Director
Kern Council of Governments
1401 19th Street, Suite 300
Bakersfield CA 93301
E-mail: rbrummett@kerncog.org

Following the close of the public review period, a Final Environmental Impact Report will be prepared that will include all comments received on the Draft EIR, responses to those comments, a list of changes to the Draft EIR resulting from the comments received, and the mitigation monitoring program. In addition, Kern COG will prepare Findings and Overriding Considerations for those impacts that cannot be mitigated to a level of insignificance.

For further information, contact Marilyn J. Beardslee at 661/861-2191 or mbeardslee@kerncog.org