

Chapter 1 – Proposed Project

1.1 Introduction

The City of Calabasas proposes to replace the existing Lost Hills Road/ U.S. Highway 101 (US-101) overcrossing and modify the interchange (proposed project). The interchange is currently inadequate due to closely spaced intersections and the relatively high traffic flows. The proposed improvements would increase roadway widths to accommodate proper lane arrangements on the overcrossing; modify the existing northbound and southbound ramps and replace the existing overcrossing with a new one designed with increased vertical clearance and current seismic safety standards. Without the proposed project, traffic conditions would continue to worsen with time. California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is the lead agency for both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) regarding this project.

The design and environmental study of the Lost Hills Road Interchange is included in the Southern California Association of Government's 2008 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment #2 and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendment #08-24 (Proposed Project ID: LA0G208). At this time, this proposed project is not included in the FY 2007/2008-2011/2012 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (FSTIP) or the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP). Upon adoption of the next update to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) the construction of the Lost Hills Road Interchange will be included and the RTIP and STIP will be subsequently updated.

US-101 is a primary north-south route extending along the coastal area of the State of California. The segment of the highway that is within the proposed project area however, trends in an east-west direction and provides the primary regional access for the City of Calabasas and adjacent cities within the western part of Los Angeles County and the eastern part of Ventura County. The proposed project location and vicinity are shown in Figure 1.

The project area includes the bridge and the existing on- and off-ramps located at the Lost Hills Road / US-101 Interchange. The project area, shown on Figure 2, is intended to include the largest potential disturbance area.

The US-101 Freeway provides the primary regional access for the City of Calabasas and adjacent cities with the western part of the City of Calabasas served by the interchanges at Lost Hills Road and Las Virgenes Road. Lost Hills Road is a north-south arterial street that extends from the County landfill north of Canwood Street to Las Virgenes Road. There are signalized intersections at the on-ramp and off-ramp locations for the existing diamond interchange. The existing US-101 Freeway is an eight-lane facility, while Lost Hills Road has four lanes to the south of the overcrossing and two lanes to the north of the overcrossing.

The regional travelers use Lost Hills Road and its interchange with US-101 as a through route. The regional through travelers form what is referred to as the "Z" pattern. They flow between areas along US-101 north of Calabasas and areas along Pacific Coast Highway, generally east of Malibu Canyon Road (Las Virgenes Road becomes Malibu Canyon Road at Piuma Road near the south end of Calabasas).¹

¹ Proposed Project Study Report – Proposed Project Development Support, Athalye Consulting Engineers, March 2007.