

CASE STUDY

FCS Helps Improve Road Safety Conditions

PROJECT	STATE ROUTE IMPROVEMENTS
CLIENT	CONFIDENTIAL
LOCATION	LOS ANGELES, CA
INDUSTRY	GOVERNMENT
SERVICES	PLANNING & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

THE CHALLENGE

A Client proposed to improve safety conditions on an East-West Southern California highway by planning a multimodal facility connecting an existing portion of the freeway through the City of Palmdale and portions of Los Angeles County. The project was designed to improve safety, reduce accident rates, allow sufficient sight distances and renew any deteriorated asphalt pavement.

The key challenges of the project were traffic relocation, uninterrupted airport access and concurrent planned developments. In addition, the Client needed California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance and approval from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in order to proceed with their plans.

OUR SOLUTION

CDFW has regulatory responsibility for the protection of special-status plant and animal species. By conducting preconstruction surveys, FirstCarbon Solutions (FCS) assisted in identifying nine sensitive animal species on-site including the San Diego Desert Woodrat. Feasible measures were implemented to minimize impacts to those species.

The district also provided an overview of other ongoing planning efforts in the area. The socioeconomic and land use evaluation provided an overview of the affected environment and the potential environmental consequences associated with route selection for the highway.

Within the Purpose and Need chapter of the EIR, data were used to define the existing deficiencies and future travel needs for the Antelope Valley area in northern Los Angeles County, California, and the southeast portion of Kern County, California. The proposed project improvements met the transportation demands by increasing capacity and improving operational efficiency.

In order to identify the physical, biological, social and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project, the FCS technical team followed the CEQA impacts checklist. The findings on the CEQA impact levels ranged from "less than significant impact" to "no impact". Accordingly, the preconstruction survey allowed the Client to gain the CEQA approval needed for their project.

THE FCS ADVANTAGE

By studying the location, project design, materials gathering and other activities involved before implementation, FCS determines how your development plans will affect your natural and cultural resources. FCS' solutions, alternatives and mitigation programs will help you save time and associated costs by helping you take a proactive approach.

DELIVERABLES AND RESULTS

- Achieved CEQA Compliance
- Conducted on-site surveys
- Provided Environmental Impact Reports (EIR)
- Improved highway safety
- Submitted Purpose and Need chapter