

Public Notice

The Recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is available for the
Atwater-Merced Expressway

Public Comment Period – November 17, 2008 to January 5, 2009.

MCAG will accept comments on the adequacy of the Recirculated Draft EIR until
Monday, January 5th, 2009.

A Draft Environmental Impact

Report (Draft EIR) has been prepared by the **Merced County Association of Governments** (MCAG), for the Atwater-Merced Expressway (AME) Project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA requires a public review period of at least 45 days; MCAG has added 4 days to the review schedule to account for winter holidays.

The Draft EIR is available online at www.mcagov.org, or you may request an electronic copy (on CD-ROM) by calling (209) 723-3153. The Draft EIR is also available for viewing during normal business hours at these locations:

MCAG Offices 369 18th Street, Merced, CA

Merced County Library, Main Branch
2100 O Street, Merced, CA

Public Meeting:

December 16th, from 6-8pm
Atwater Community Center
760 E. Bellevue Rd, Atwater, CA

Attendees of the meeting will have the opportunity to view larger-scale project plans, talk to project staff, and submit oral or written comments on the Recirculated Draft EIR.

Written comments may also be submitted to:
Atwater-Merced Expressway Project EIR
Merced County Association of Governments
ATTN: Jesse Brown, Executive Director
369 18th Street
Merced, CA 95340

Comments can also be submitted electronically to: AMEcomments@mcagov.org

The Atwater-Merced Expressway (AME) is a proposed 7-mile-long roadway facility located in the northeast portion of Merced County. The AME project would provide motor-vehicle travel between State Route (SR) 59 at Bellevue Road and SR 140 at Gurr Road providing an alternative route to existing SR 59, which travels through downtown Merced.

The AME project would be a new four-lane divided access-controlled expressway with limited access cloverleaf style interchanges with major roadways (SR 99 and Santa Fe Drive) and signal-controlled intersections with local roads. The project would include the realignment of some existing roads, including a portion of SR 99, and the extension of some local roads to connect with the new expressway.

The AME Project is intended to:

- Provide additional north/south roadway capacity to accommodate existing, approved, and planned development within the Cities of Atwater and Merced Spheres of Influence, unincorporated portions of Merced County, and to the new University of California - Merced Campus;
- Improve access to the Castle Airport Development Center and the United States Penitentiary-Atwater located in unincorporated portions of Merced County;
- Create an alternate route for existing SR 59 to accommodate regional travel demand from north of Bellevue Road to SR 99 and along SR 140 from west of Gurr Road to SR 99;
- Reduce deficiencies and improve operational characteristics on SR 99 by closing the Buhach Road interchange and constructing a new interchange with the AME and SR 99.