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11	Attorneys for Petitioner		
12	Yolo County Farm Bureau		
13			
14	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
15	FOR THE COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO		
16		DW1 V1 A V1	
17	CAPAY VALLEY COALITION) and YOLO COUNTY FARM BUREAU)	BY FAX	
)	Case No.	
18	Petitioners)		
19	v.)	VERIFIED PETITION FOR	
20)	WRIT OF MANDATE	
21	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, RANDELL H. IWASAKI,) Director; and, DOES 1 through 20;		
22			
23	Respondents		
24	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF		
25	TRANSPORTATION, FEDERAL HIGHWAY) ADMINISTRATION and, DOES 21-100;		
26	Real Parties in Interest		
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VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE

Petitioners CAPAY VALLEY COALITION and YOLO COUNTY FARM BUREAU ("Petitioners") allege:

- 1. By this action, Petitioners challenge Respondents California Department of Transportation's and Director Randell H. Iwasaki's ("Respondents" or collectively "CalTrans") December 7, 2009 certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report ("EIR") for State Route 16 Safety Improvement Project, required findings under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code, section 21000 et seq., and the approval of the State Route 16 Safety Improvement Project ("Project").
- 2. Petitioners seek a determination from this Court that CalTrans' approval of the Project is invalid and void and that the EIR prepared for the Project fails to satisfy the requirements of CEQA, and the CEQA Guidelines, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, section 15000 et seq.

PARTIES

3. Petitioner Capay Valley Coalition ("CVC") is a mutual benefit, non-profit corporation, whose members consists of residents, citizens and farmers in the Capay Valley working to protect and improve the environmental quality of the Capay Valley and its adjoining ecosystems. CVC exists for the purpose of preserving agricultural and natural resources and quality of life in the Capay Valley. To that end, it is involved in efforts to protect the resources of the Capay Valley, including air and water quality and the preservation of agricultural land. The environment and residents of the Capay Valley will be directly affected by the impacts of the Project. CVC's members, and members of the coalition live, work, travel and enjoy recreational activities in Yolo County, and in particular, the Capay Valley. These members have a particular interest in the protection of the environment of the Capay Valley, and are increasingly concerned about worsening environmental and land use conditions that detrimentally affect their well-being and that of other residents and visitors of the Capay Valley. CVC is composed of persons whose economic, personal, aesthetic, and property interests will be severely injured if the adoption of the project is not set aside pending full compliance with CEQA and all other environmental laws. CVC brings this petition on behalf of all others

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similarly situated who are too numerous to be named and brought before this court as petitioners. As a group composed of residents and property owners within the Capay Valley, CVC is within the class of persons beneficially interested in, and aggrieved by, the acts of respondents as alleged below. CVC participated in the administrative processes herein, and exhausted its remedies. Accordingly, the CVC has standing to sue.

4. Petitioner Yolo County Farm Bureau ("YCFB") is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership California corporation whose purpose is to work for the protection of agriculture and the rural environment in Yolo County and advocate for the men and women who provide food, fiber, and nursery products for our community, state, and nation. The YCFB supports responsible farming and respects the health and welfare of those in Yolo County. Its membership consists of more than 1,300 farmers and ranchers who live, farm and ranch throughout Yolo County, as well as non-farmers who support the preservation of viable agriculture and the quality of life in the county and its rural communities. The YCFB exists for the purpose of improving the ability of individuals engaged in production agriculture to utilize California resources to produce food and fiber in the most profitable, efficient and responsible manner possible guaranteeing our nation a domestic food supply. To that end, it is involved in efforts to protect the resources of Yolo County, including air and water quality and the preservation of agricultural land. The YCFB is composed of persons whose economic, personal, aesthetic, and property interests will be severely injured if the adoption of the Project is not set aside pending full compliance with CEQA and all other environmental laws. Members rely on and authorize the YCFB to represent their rights under Public Resources Code section 21167(a), with the aim of enforcing the provisions of CEQA. The YCFB brings this petition on behalf of all others similarly situated who are too numerous to be named and brought before this court as petitioners. As a group composed of residents and property owners within Yolo County, the YCFB is within the class of persons beneficially interested in, and aggrieved by, the acts of respondents as alleged below. The YCFB was an active and good-faith participant in the administrative processes herein, and exhausted its remedies. Accordingly, the YCFB has standing to sue.

- 5. Petitioners and their respective members have a direct and substantial beneficial interest in ensuring that Respondents comply with laws relating to environmental protection. Petitioners and their respective members are adversely affected by Respondents' failure to comply with CEQA in approving the Project.
- 6. Respondent California Department of Transportation ("CalTrans") is an agency of the State of California. CalTrans is the CEQA "lead agency" for the Project. As lead agency for the Project, CalTrans is responsible for preparation of an environmental document that describes the Project and its impacts, and, if necessary evaluates mitigation measures and/or alternatives to lessen or avoid any significant environmental impacts. CalTrans is responsible for implementing and complying with the provisions of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines with respect to the Project.
- 7. Respondent Randell H. Iwasaki is the Director of CalTrans. As Director, Mr. Iwasaki is responsible for the day-to-day management of CalTrans. Mr. Iwasaki is sued in his official capacity as Director of CalTrans.
- 8. Petitioners are unaware of the true names and capacities of Respondents identified as Does 1-20. Petitioners are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that Respondents Does 1-20, inclusive, are individuals, entities or agencies with material interests affected by the Project with respect to the Project or by CalTrans' actions with respect to the Project. When the true identities and capacities of these Respondents have been determined, Petitioners will, with leave of Court if necessary, amend this Petition to insert such identities and capacities.
- 9. Real Party in Interest United States Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration is an agency of the United States. The Federal Highway Administration is the federal lead agency for Project the under the National Environmental Policy Act.
- 10. Petitioners are unaware of the true names and capacities of Real Parties in Interest identified as Does 21-100. Petitioners are informed and believe, and on that basis alleges, that Respondents Does 21-100, inclusive, are individuals, entities or agencies with material interests affected by the Project or by CalTrans' actions with respect to the Project. When the VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE

true identities and capacities of these Real Parties in Interest have been determined, Petitioners will, with leave of Court if necessary, amend this Petition to insert such identities and capacities.

BACKGROUND FACTS

- 11. The Project includes widening the shoulders and realigning curves on State Route ("SR") 16 in Yolo County from Brooks to Interstate 505 ("I-505"). The Project will costs approximately \$58 million and is funded from the State Highway Operation and Protection Program.
- 12. The Project begins just east of Brooks near the Cache Creek Casino ("Casino"), passes through Capay, Esparto, and Madison, and ends just west of I-505. Within the limits of the proposed project, SR 16 is a two-lane conventional highway with 12-foot lanes and shoulders from 0 to 2 feet. From Brooks to Capay, the highway winds through rolling terrain, while the highway east of Capay to I-505 crosses through low-lying farmland and is subject to winter flooding.
- 13. Under the Project, CalTrans proposes to improve the safety of this section of highway by constructing 8 feet shoulders and removing fixed objects with a 20 foot clear recovery zone ("CRZ"), which includes the 8 foot shoulder area. The Project also provides left-turn channelization and intersection improvements at various public road connections, vertical and horizontal alignment improvements, and improved flood protection between Esparto and I-505. The Project does not include improvements in the towns of Capay and Esparto.
 - 14. The Project is divided into 6 segments:

Segment 1: from County Road ("CR") 78 to CR 78A, near the Casino

Segment 2: from CR 78A to CR 80

Segment 3: from CR 80 to CR 81, Taber's Corner

Segment 4: from CR 81 to Capay Canal Bridge (gap in project at the town of Capay)

Segment 5: from CR 85 to Parker Street (gap in project at the town of Esparto)

Segment 6: from CR 86A to South Fork Willow Slough Bridge

15. On December 8, 2005, CalTrans released for public review and comment a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment. CalTrans received comments from VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE

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the public and public agencies regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment, including comments from Petitioners.

- 16. On May 6, 2009, CalTrans released for public review and comment a Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment. CalTrans received comments from the public and public agencies regarding the Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment, including comments from Petitioners.
- 17. On December 7, 2009, CalTrans released the Final Environmental Impact Report and approved the Project, and found that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 18. On December 7, 2009, CalTrans filed with the State of California, Office of Planning and Research (State Clearing House) a Notice of Determination under Public Resources Code section 21152.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 19. This action arises under CEQA and its implementing regulations, which are prescribed by the Secretary of the California Resources Agency to be followed by all state and local agencies when undertaking projects subject to CEQA. (Pub. Resources Code § 21000 et seq.; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.) This Court has jurisdiction over the matters alleged in this Petition pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1085, and Public Resources Code section 21168.5. In the alternative, this Court has jurisdiction pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1094.5 and Public Resources Code section 21168.
- 20. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 394(a), venue is proper in "the county in which the city or local agency is situated." Venue is proper in this Court because CalTrans is located in the County of Sacramento.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES AND INADEQUACY OF REMEDY

21. Petitioners have performed any and all conditions precedent to filing the instant action and have exhausted any and all available administrative remedies to the extent required by law.

- 22. Petitioners have complied with the requirements of Public Resources Code, section 21167.5 by mailing written notice of this action to the Respondents. A copy of this written notice and proof of service are attached as Exhibit A to this Petition for Writ of Mandate.
- 23. Petitioners have complied with Public Resources Code section 21167.6 by concurrently filing a request concerning preparation of the record of administrative proceedings relating to this action.
- 24. Petitioners have no plain, speedy or adequate remedy in the course of ordinary law unless this Court grants the requested writ of mandate to require respondents to set aside their approval of the Project and certification of the EIR. In the absence of such remedies, CalTrans' approval will remain in effect in violation of State law.
- 25. This action has been brought within 30 days of CalTrans filing of the Notice of Determination as required by Public Resources Code section 21167(c).

STANDING

26. Petitioners have standing to assert the claims raised in this Petition because Petitioners and their members' aesthetic and environmental interests are directly and adversely affected by the CalTrans' approval of the Project.

CAUSE OF ACTION (Violation of the California Environmental Quality Act)

- 27. Petitioners reallege and incorporate by reference Paragraphs 1 through 26, inclusive, of this Petition, as if fully set forth below.
- 28. CEQA requires the preparation of an EIR in order to identify the significant effects on the environment of a project, so that measures to mitigate or avoid those effects, or alternatives that avoid those effects, can be devised. (Pub. Resources Code §§ 21002.1(a), 21060.) Compliance with the procedural requirements of CEQA sets the stage for development of mitigation measures and alternatives. Without a proper procedural foundation, a local agency cannot comply with CEQA's mandate that public agencies should not approve projects as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would

- 29. CEQA's fundamental goals are to foster informed decision-making and to fully inform the public about the project and its impacts. (CEQA Guidelines § 15003.)
- 30. An EIR must provide public agencies and the public in general with detailed information about the effect that a project is likely to have on the environment, to list ways in which the significant effects of a project might be minimized, and to indicate alternatives to such a project. (Pub. Resources Code § 21061.) California Code of Regulations, title 14 (CEQA Guidelines), section 15126.2, requires that the Final EIR identify the significant environmental impacts of the project, including direct and indirect impacts. CEQA Guidelines section 15126.4 requires that the Final EIR describe all feasible measures that can minimize significant adverse impacts of the project. CEQA does not allow an agency to defer analysis of impacts and mitigation measures. (CEQA Guidelines § 15126.4(a)(I)(B).)
- 31. Respondents committed a prejudicial abuse of discretion and failed to proceed in a manner required by law by relying on an EIR that fails to meet the requirements of CEQA for disclosure, analysis, and/or mitigation of significant project impacts. As discussed below, the deficiencies in the Final EIR include an inadequate project description, an inadequate alternatives analysis, an inadequate analysis regarding impacts to agricultural resources, air quality, land use, and traffic and circulation. The EIR also includes an inadequate analysis of the Project's cumulative impacts.

A. Project Description, Need for the Project and Project Objectives:

- 32. The EIR fails to provide an adequate description of the Project and fails to acknowledge existing environmental conditions.
- 33. The EIR misstates the need for and the objectives of the Project, and there is no substantial evidence in the record to support the conclusions regarding accident rates on State Route 16 in Yolo County.

34. The Project Description is also inadequate under CEQA because it fails to include adequate detail regarding how high State Route 16 would be raised to be in compliance with the requirements of a 100-year floodplain.

B. Impact Analyses

- 35. The EIR fails to provide adequate analysis of the Project's impacts, and improperly fails to provide sufficient detail regarding the foreseeable impacts that will arise from expansion and widening of State Route 16.
- 36. The EIR fails to comply with the requirements of CEQA in that it fails to adequately disclose, analyze and/or mitigate the Project's environmental impacts as required by law, and its conclusions regarding the Project's environmental impacts are not supported by substantial evidence. As a result, the Project will result in significant environmental impacts that the EIR failed to address or mitigate.
- a. The EIR failed to adequately disclose, analyze and/or mitigate the Project's inconsistency with Yolo County's General Plan and the Capay Valley General Plan.

 Specifically, the Project is inconsistent with the Agricultural Element of the County's General Plan and the policies of the Capay Valley General Plan regarding the protection of agricultural lands and resources.
- b. The EIR failed to adequately disclose, analyze and/or mitigate the Project's impacts associated with raising and elevating State Route 16. Additionally, the EIR failed to disclose how high the Project would raise SR 16. CalTrans has deferred all analysis of the design, elevation, and impacts of the increase in roadway height until after final Project approval and EIR certification, in direct conflict with the requirements of CEQA.
- c. The EIR failed to adequately disclose, analyze and/or mitigate the Project's growth inducing impacts and land use patterns.
- d. The EIR failed to adequately disclose, analyze and/or mitigate the Project's impact to agriculture, including conversion of farmland, conflicts with existing zoning for agricultural use, and access to agricultural lands.

e. The EIR failed to adequately disclose, analyze and/or mitigate the Project's impact to aesthetics, including the existing visual character of the surroundings and the creation of new sources of substantial light and glare.

C. Cumulative Impacts

37. The EIR fails to comply with the requirements of CEQA in that it fails to adequately disclose, analyze and/or mitigate the Project's cumulative environmental impacts as required by law, and its conclusions regarding the Project's cumulative environmental impacts are not supported by substantial evidence. The EIR fails to adequately disclose, analyze and/or mitigate the cumulative impacts associated with the Project such as air quality associated with increased vehicle miles traveled and increased traffic.

D. Alternative Analysis

- 38. The EIR fails to provide a selection and discussion of alternatives that fosters informed decision-making and informed public participation. The alternatives analysis in the EIR does not meet the requirement of a reasonable range of alternatives that lessen the Project's significant environmental impacts, and does not focus on alternatives that either eliminate adverse impacts or reduce them to insignificance, even if they would to some degree impede the Project's objectives, as required by CEQA.
- 39. The EIR failed to include feasible alternatives to the Project that were presented to CalTrans. Such alternatives include implementing traffic control measures without widening or elevating the roadway. Previous implementation of traffic control measures on State Route 16 have effectively reduced traffic accidents.

E. Procedural Requirements and Agency Findings

- 40. Prior to approving the Project, the Respondents failed to consider some of the public comments submitted during the environmental review process.
- 41. The responses to comments in the Final EIR fail to meet the requirements of CEQA in that they neither adequately dispose of all the issues raised, nor provide specific rationale for rejecting suggested Project changes, mitigation measures, or alternatives. CEQA requires that the lead agency evaluate and respond to all environmental comments on the Draft VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE

EIR that it receives during the public review period. The response(s) must describe the disposition of the issue(s) raised and must specifically explain reasons for rejecting suggestions and for proceeding without incorporating the suggestions. The Final EIR's responses to comments fail to meet this standard.

- 42. The Final EIR also failed to respond to comments on the Draft EIR and limited its response to comments to the Revised Draft EIR.
- 43. Where mitigation measures and alternatives to a project are not adopted, the CEQA findings must identify specific economic, legal, social and technological and other considerations that make infeasible the adoption of mitigation measures or alternatives. All CEQA findings must be supported by substantial evidence in the record and must disclose the analytical route by which approval of the project is justified. The findings regarding the impacts, mitigation measures, and alternatives relied upon by Respondent's approval of the Project are not supported by substantial evidence in the record, and the links between evidence and conclusions are not satisfactorily provided.
- 44. Respondents violated CEQA in that the findings they adopted in support of the approval of the General Plan Update ("GPU") and certification of the EIR are legally inadequate and not supported by substantial evidence. Inadequate findings include, but are not limited to, findings regarding Project-specific and cumulative impacts, mitigation measures, alternatives, and the statement of overriding considerations.
- 45. Respondents' Findings violate the requirements of the CEQA Guidelines. The Findings fail to identify the changes or alterations that are required to avoid or substantially lessen the project's significant environmental effects (CEQA Guidelines § 15091(a)(1); the Findings are not supported by substantial evidence (CEQA Guidelines, § 15091(b)); the Findings fail to adopt a mitigation monitoring program (CEQA Guidelines, § 15091(d)); and the Findings fail to specify the location and custodian of the record of proceedings (CEQA Guidelines, § 15091(e)).
- 46. Based upon each of the foregoing reasons, the EIR is legally defective under CEQA. CalTrans prejudicially abused its discretion in violation of CEQA in approving the VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE

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1	Project. As such, the Court should issue a writ of mandate directing CalTrans to set aside its		
2	certification of the EIR and approval of the Project.		
3	PRAYER FOR RELIEF		
4	WHEREFORE, Petitioners pray for judgment as follows:		
5 .	1. That this Court issue a perem	aptory writ of mandate ordering Respondents to:	
6	(a) vacate and set aside it	s certification of the EIR on the grounds that it	
7	violates the California Environmental Quality Act, Public Resources Code section 21000 et		
8	seq.		
9	(b) vacate and set aside in	ts December 7, 2009 approval of the Project;	
10	(c) withdraw the Notice of Determination for the Project;		
11	(d) prepare, circulate and	consider a new legally adequate EIR for the Project	
12	(e) suspend approval of a	any and all contracts for construction of the Project	
13	until the Respondents are in compliance with CEQA;		
14	(f) suspend all activity the	nat could result in any change or alteration to the	
15	physical environment until Respondents have taken such actions as may be necessary to bring		
16	their determination, findings or decision regarding the Project into compliance with CEQA;		
17	2. For Petitioners' costs associated with this action;		
18	3. For an award of reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure		
19	section 1021.5; and		
20	4. For such other and further re	lief as the Court may deem just and proper.	
21			
22	Dated: January 6, 2010	Respectfully submitted,	
23		LAW OFFICES OF DONALD B. MOONEY	
24			
25		By Alel Bollowey	
2627		Donald B. Mooney Attorneys for Petitioner Capay Valley Coalition	

CALIFORNIA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Kari E. Fisher

Attorneys for Petitioner Yolo County Farm Bureau

VERIFICATION

I, Anne McDonald, declare as follows:

I am the President of the Yolo County Farm Bureau, a non-profit corporation, and I am authorized to make this Verification on Yolo County Farm Bureau's behalf. I have read the foregoing document entitled VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE and know the contents thereof. I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters therein stated are true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 5th day of January, 2010, at Capay, California.

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VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE

VERIFICATION

I, TIM MIRAMONTES, declare as follows:

I am the President of the Yolo County Farm Bureau, a non-profit corporation, and I am authorized to make this Verification on Yolo County Farm Bureau's behalf. I have read the foregoing document entitled VERIFIED PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE and know the contents thereof. I am informed and believe and on that ground allege that the matters therein stated are true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 5th day of January, 2010, at Woodland, California.

By: TIM MIRAMONTES
President

EXHIBIT A

LAW OFFICES OF DONALD B. MOONEY

DONALD B. MOONEY

129 C Street, Suite 2 Davis, California 95616 Telephone (530) 758-2377 Facsimile (530) 758-7169 dbmooney@dcn.org

January 6, 2010

VIA FASCIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

Randell E. Iwasaki, Director California Department of Transportation 1120 "N" Street Sacramento, CA 95814

Jody Jones, Director District 3 California Department of Transportation 703 B Street Marysville, CA 95901

Re: NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE CEQA PETITION

Dear Mr. Iwasaki and Ms. Jones:

Please take notice that under Public Resources Code section 21167.5, that Petitioners Capay Valley Coalition and Yolo County Farm Bureau intend to file a petition for Writ of Mandate in Sacramento County Superior Court under the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act against you and the California Department of Transportation ("CalTrans"), challenging CalTrans' certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report for the State Route 16 Safety Improvement Project.

The petition for writ of mandate will request that the court direct respondents to vacate and rescind certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report and approval of the Project. Additionally, the petition will seek Petitioners' costs and attorney's fees associated with this action.

Very truly yours,

Donald B. Mooney

Attorney for Capay Valley Coalition

Kari E. Fisher

Attorney for Yolo County Farm Bureau

PROOF OF SERVICE

I am employed in the County of Yolo; my business address is 129 C Street, Suite 2 Davis, California; I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the foregoing action. On January 6, 2010, I served a true and correct copy of as follows:

Notice of Intent to File CEQA Petition – Public Resources Code section 21167.5

X (by mail) on all parties in said action listed below, in accordance with Code of Civil Procedure §1013a(3), by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope in a
United States mailbox in Davis, California.
(by overnight delivery service) via Federal Express to the person at the address set forth below:
\underline{X} (by facsimile transmission) and via Federal Express to the person at the address and phone number set forth below:

Randell Iwasaki, Director California Dept. of Transportation 1120 "N" Street Sacramento, CA 95814 916-654-6608

Jody Jones, Director District 3 California Department of Transportation 703 B Street Marysville, CA 95901 530-741-4100

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed January 6, 2010, at Davis, California.

Donald B. Mooney