

State of California  
Business Transportation & Housing Agency  
Department of Transportation

HIGHWAY ROUTE MATTERS  
Route Adoption/Relocation  
Adoption Resolution HRA 02-05  
08-Riv-79 KP 48.1/R54.5  
(PM 29.9/R33.9)  
CTC Meeting: July 18, 2002

Prepared by:  
Karla Sutliff  
Chief  
Division of Design  
(916) 654-3858

Reference No.: 2.3a.(4)

*Original Signed By:*  
ROBERT L. GARCIA  
Chief Financial Officer  
July 1, 2001

**ADOPTION OF LOCATION FOR STATE HIGHWAY**  
**As a Conventional Highway**

**Recommendation**

Submitted for transmittal to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) are Highway Route Adoption Resolution HRA 02-05 and the map of a location for the State Highway Route 79. The Department of Transportation recommends that the Commission approve the resolution and the route location map in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. This resolution adopts a 6.4 kilometer (4 mile) location for State Highway Route 79 along the Ramona Expressway in the City of San Jacinto and Sanderson Avenue in the County of Riverside.

A Proposed Transfer of Highway Location Report was approved on May 10, 2002. The project has been determined to be Categorically Exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Categorically Excluded from the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA).

Recommended by: BRENT FELKER, Deputy Director  
Project Development

## **Background**

Existing State Route 79 is a conventional highway from State Route 74 on the south to Interstate 10 on the north, providing inter-regional connectivity for the communities of Hemet, San Jacinto, Hot Springs and Gilman. It is included in the California freeway and expressway system, with the eventual facility anticipated to be an expressway some distance west of the current alignment, the alternatives for which will be the subject of a future environmental, project approval, and route adoption process.

In 1996, Riverside County widened Sanderson Avenue as it runs north from the Ramona Expressway to its junction with State Route 79, where a grade separation was constructed with Sanderson Ave. treated as the through mainline move onto the continuation of State Route 79. The completion of this project allowed a shift in normal traffic patterns. The majority of local and through traffic now departs from northbound State Route 79 at the Ramona Expressway heading west to Sanderson Avenue, then north to rejoin State Route 79 at the Sanderson Ave. SR-79 separation.

The State Route 79 segment proposed for relinquishment, from the Ramona Expressway intersection north to the intersection with Sanderson Avenue, consists of an aging conventional highway with predominantly non-standard shoulders, non-standard horizontal and vertical curves and an accident rate more than double that of similar state facilities.

Adjacent property owners along the existing State Route 79 have voiced the desire to aesthetically enhance the facility with landscaped improvements, to beautify the community, and to employ traffic calming measures, thus, preserving the rural character while reducing vehicular speeds. While these changes, as proposed, are not normally compatible with a state facility intended to provide inter-regional service, they are quite acceptable to the City and County and would further their goals to maintain the facility in context with the intended uses.

## **Proposal**

The District proposes to relinquish to the City of San Jacinto approximately 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) of existing State Route 79 from the Ramona Expressway north to the City/ County boundary, and to relinquish to Riverside County 4.8 kilometers (3 miles) from that boundary north and west to the intersection with Sanderson Avenue. Concurrent with the relinquishment, the District proposes to adopt the portion of the Ramona Expressway from the current intersection with State Route 79 west to Sanderson Avenue and Sanderson Avenue north from the Ramona Expressway to the current intersection with State Route 79, as the new alignment of the State Route 79 (see VICINITY MAP).

Because both facilities are in relatively equal condition, the State and the City of San Jacinto have agreed to accept each other's respective road segments "as-is". The County of Riverside has agreed to accept \$105,000 in lieu of the State bringing State Route 79 up to a state of good repair. The District proposes to reserve an additional approximately \$15,000 to provide for minor sign and striping modifications and to replace a traffic signal controller and cabinet ensuring compatibility with local agency systems. As a part of this route relocation, the District will cease work on SHOPP funded rehabilitation projects for the segment to be relinquished. They will then prepare project plans to rehabilitate the Ramona Expressway segment and submit them as a candidate for SHOPP funds.

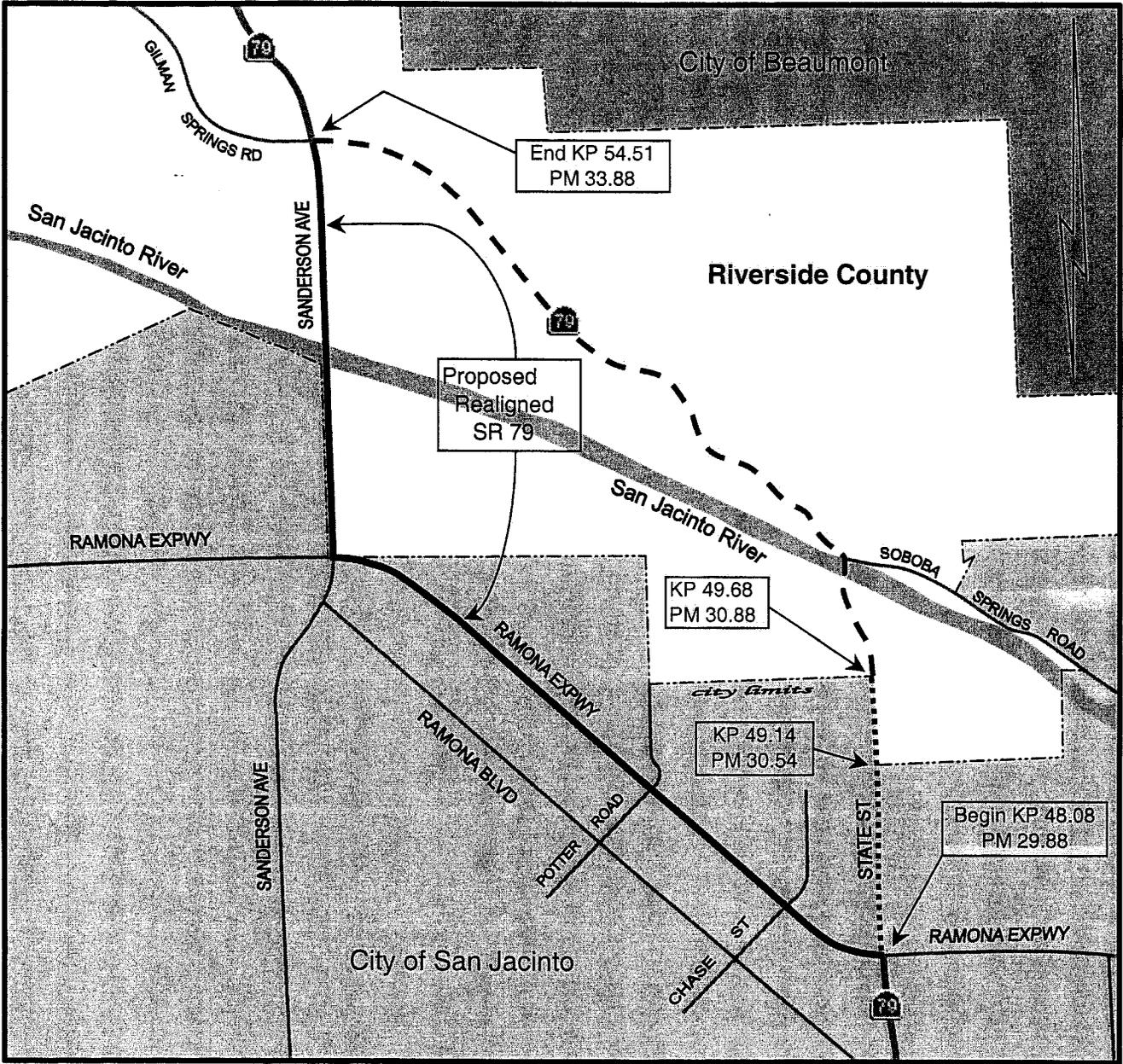
### **Coordination**

A maintenance agreement for continued City maintenance of Ramona Expressway landscaping has been signed. The cooperative agreements with the City and County have been executed detailing the conditions of the respective exchanges. Observed historical resources along the proposed relinquishment have been appropriately documented with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and a Categorical Exemption under CEQA has been prepared and approved for this route relocation.

### **Conclusion**

The proposed route relocation for State Route 79 is considered to be in the best public interest. The proposed Route Adoption reflects the current patterns of inter-regional traffic. The proposed relinquishment of the current State Route 79 segments will allow the City and County to pursue their goals of aesthetic enhancement in context with the needs and desires of their communities.

# VICINITY MAP



**Legend:**

- SR 79 to be Relinquished to the City of San Jacinto..... .....
- SR 79 to be Relinquished to the County of Riverside..... -----
- Proposed Transfer of Highway Alignment..... —————

CITY OF MORENO VALLEY

CITY OF BEAUMONT

RIVERSIDE COUNTY

CITY OF PERRIS

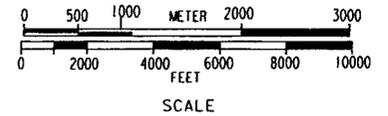
CITY OF SAN JACINTO

CITY OF HEMET

I hereby certify that this map was prepared pursuant to and under my direction and is a true and correct map of a section of proposed State Highway Route 79.

Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Design Engineer \_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Engineer License No. **C 45484**



RAMONA EXPWY

SAN JACINTO RIVER

END ROUTE ADOPTION  
KP R54.5 (PM R33.9)

79

79

79

79

ADOPTED ROUTE

KP 49.7  
PM 30.9

KP 49.1  
PM 30.5

BEGIN ROUTE ADOPTION  
KP 48.1 (PM 29.9)

I hereby certify that by resolution of the California Transportation Commission on \_\_\_\_\_ the alignment indicated on this map was selected, adopted and determined as the location for a section of State Highway Route 79.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director  
California Transportation Commission

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
MAP SHOWING



**08-RIV-79**  
**ROUTE ADOPTED**  
**RIV-79-KP-48.1/KP-R54.5**

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
Resolution Adopting a Conventional Highway Location  
8-Riv-79 KP 48.1/R54.5 (PM 29.9/R33.9)**

**Resolution HRA 02-05**

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Transportation, with input for from the City of San Jacinto and the County of Riverside, has completed studies and approved a Proposed Transfer of Highway Location report relative to the adopted location along the Ramona Expressway in the City of San Jacinto and along Sanderson Avenue in the County of Riverside; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Transportation has completed a Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion; and

**WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of San Jacinto has agreed to accept that portion of State Route 79 to be relinquished to it, in an “as-is” condition, in lieu of the State bringing it up to a state of good repair; and

**WHEREAS**, the State agrees to accept the Ramona Expressway from its intersection with existing State Route 79 to Sanderson Avenue in an “as-is” condition, in lieu of the City bringing it up to a state of good repair; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Riverside has agreed to accept \$105,000 in lieu of the State bringing to a state of good repair, that section to be relinquished to the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the State agrees to accept Sanderson Avenue from its intersection with the Ramona Expressway to its junction with current State Route 79 in an “as-is” condition, in lieu of the County bringing it up to a state of good repair; and

**NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED** by the California Transportation Commission that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby select, adopt and determine the location of that segment of State Highway Route 79, along the Ramona Expressway west from State Street to Sanderson Avenue, thence north along Sanderson Avenue to its junction with State Route 79, in Riverside County and officially designated as 8-Riverside-79, as said location is shown on the map submitted on July 1, 2002 by Karla Sutliff, Chief Design Engineer; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Commission has found and determined and hereby declares that such location of said State highway is for the best interest of the State.