

6th Street Viaduct Seismic Improvement Project

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
DISTRICT 7 – Bridge Nos. 53C-1880 and 53-0595

EA 25120K

Federal Project Number 5006 (342)

SCH#2007081005

Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement and Section 4(f) Evaluation

Prepared by

**City of Los Angeles
and**

State of California Department of Transportation

The environmental review, consultation, and any other action required in accordance with applicable Federal laws for this project is being, or has been, carried out by Caltrans under its assumption of responsibility pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 327.



May 2009

6TH STREET VIADUCT SEISMIC IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
AND SECTION 4(f) EVALUATION

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, Public Resources Code
(Federal) 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C), 49 U.S.C. 303, and 23 U.S.C. 327.

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City of Los Angeles (Local Lead Agency)
and
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation (Federal Lead Agency)

Date

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Abstract

The 6th Street Viaduct was constructed in 1932 using then state-of-the-art concrete technology and an onsite mixing plant. Over the last 75 years, concrete elements of the viaduct have cracked and deteriorated as a result of an internal chemical reaction called Alkali Silica Reaction (ASR).

The results of seismic vulnerability studies, completed in 2004, concluded that the viaduct, in its current state of material deterioration and lack of structural strength, has a high vulnerability to failure as a result of a major earthquake. In addition to its vulnerability to collapse under predictable seismic forces, the 6th Street Viaduct also has geometric design and safety deficiencies.

The proposed project would either retrofit the existing structure or replace it with a new structure to reduce the vulnerability of the 6th Street Viaduct in major earthquake events, to resolve design deficiencies in the viaduct, and to preserve 6th Street as a viable east-west link between Boyle Heights and Downtown Los Angeles. This joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) documents potential environmental impacts associated with proposed seismic improvement alternatives. Two build alternatives and a No Action Alternative are analyzed in this draft EIR/EIS. Notable impacts that have been identified consist of:

- Use of an historic site protected under Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and an adverse effect under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
- Displacement and relocation of active industrial and commercial activities
- Conversion of industrial/commercial land use to public and transportation use
- Air pollutant emissions during the construction period
- Traffic disruption during the construction period
- Emergency response delay during the construction period