

## 2.0 Alternatives Definition

### 2.1 Introduction

The HCLE Corridor study is being conducted as a tiered environmental study, pursuant to the tiering provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1502.20) and CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15152). The Tier 1 action is a route location decision to select one alternative within the HCLE Corridor study area. This decision will allow local governments to preserve right-of-way for a future transportation facility. A subsequent Tier 2 project development phase will define an actual project to be constructed. No construction activities will occur as a result of the Tier 1 action. The Tier 2 evaluation process will consider specific proposed projects and alternatives related to transportation issues as well as issues contained within these documents. Final decisions will be made following the Tier 2 process.

As part of this Tier 1 action, it is the intent to secure concurrence from appropriate local, regional, state, and federal agencies on the alternative most likely to yield the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA). The identification of the LEDPA will be required to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit for the construction of the future transportation facility. The selected route location alternative within the HCLE Corridor will then be the subject of detailed construction level engineering and environmental studies in the Tier 2 environmental analysis (project development phase).

### 2.2 Alternative Development Process

The CETAP alternatives were developed through extensive involvement of local, state, regional, and federal agencies, stakeholder groups, and the public. Seven alternatives have been identified for detailed analysis in the HCLE Corridor, in addition to the No Build alternatives. The process for developing these alternatives included the following:

#### **C Identification of Issues and Solicitation of Ideas**

A series of general RCIP workshops was held in July 1999 which focused on the identification of issues to be addressed in the RCIP process, including transportation issues.

A series of eight public workshops was held as part of the outreach associated with the RCIP for both intra-county and inter-county transportation corridors. The workshops were held at various locations in western Riverside County in November and December, 1999.

The results of these two sets of workshops were summarized and distributed to committee members and interested parties participating in the RCIP process.