

Memorandum

Tab 35

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 21, 2014

Reference No.: 2.2c (3)
Action

From: ANDRE BOUTROS
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE STATE ROUTE 41 MULTI-USE PATH
PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-14-14)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the State Route 41 Multi-Use Path (project) in San Luis Obispo County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission accept the MND and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Atascadero (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project is located south of State Route 41 (SR 41, also known as Morro Road) near Atascadero Lake Park in the City of Atascadero. The project will construct a Class 1, 2,710 foot long, 8 foot wide, ADA compliant paved multi-purpose path between Portola and San Gabriel Roads. The path will be constructed adjacent to SR 41/Morro Road, between the roadway and Atascadero Creek within right-of way owned by the City and Caltrans. The project will provide pedestrians and cyclists with separated access along SR 41/Morro Road and will connect Atascadero Lake Park with a recently completed Safe Routes to Schools project.

On April 15, 2014 the City adopted the final MND for the project and found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. On March 4, 2014 Caltrans determined that this project is categorically excluded from NEPA pursuant to 23 CFR 771.117(c-3).

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to a less than significant level relate to Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Air Quality, Geology & Soils, Hydrology & Water Quality, and Noise. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: minimum trimming and pruning of oak trees in the project area to maintain visual character of the corridor, in-kind

replacement of oak trees and measures to reduce tree impacts consistent with the City's tree ordinance; measures to reduce emissions from construction equipment and operations; avoidance measures for riparian habitat resources; measure to minimize the spread of invasive plant species; preconstruction surveys and establishment of buffer zones to minimize impacts to nesting birds; monitoring efforts for archaeological and paleontological artifacts during construction including measures to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources; implementation of erosion control and stormwater pollution prevention measures, development of a re-vegetation and landscape plan; installation of warning signage regarding trail drainage and flooding potential; and restricting construction hours to minimize noise disturbance.

On April 16, 2014 the City confirmed that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project scope of work programmed by the Commission.

The project is estimated to cost \$682,000 and is fully funded through construction with STIP-TE (\$526,000) and other (\$156,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2013/14.

Attachments

- Resolution E-14-14
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 05 – San Luis Obispo County Resolution E-14-14

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Atascadero has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- State Route (SR) 41 Multi-use Path Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Atascadero has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project will construct a Class 1, 2,710 foot long, 8 foot wide, ADA compliant paved path between Portola Road and San Gabriel Road, adjacent to SR 41/Morro Road, between the roadway and Atascadero Creek; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the City of Atascadero found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the City of Atascadero approved the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

Figure 1. General Location



Legend

- Study Area
- ★ Project Location

