

Memorandum

Tab 43

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 29-30, 2016

Reference No.: 2.2c.(5)
Action

From: SUSAN BRANSEN
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR BRANCIFORTE CREEK BRIDGE
AND MULTI-USE TRAIL PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-16-41)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Branciforte Creek Bridge and Multi-Use Trail Project (Project) in Santa Cruz County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION:

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

BACKGROUND:

The City of Santa Cruz (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project will construct a 12-foot wide, Class I, multi-use path along the east side of the San Lorenzo River. The path will extend south from the San Lorenzo Park to connect to an existing river levee path just south of Soquel Avenue.

On February 25, 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.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to biological resources. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: restrict construction activities to occur outside of the bird nesting season, conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status nesting avian species and postpone construction within 100 feet of special status birds designated under the Migratory Bird Act.

On May 9, 2016, the City confirmed that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project scope of work and programming by the Commission.

The project is estimated to cost \$2,200,000 and is fully funded through construction with Active Transportation Program (ATP) Funds (\$1,800,000) and Local Funds (\$400,000). Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2016/17.

Attachments

- Resolution E-16-41
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 05 – Santa Cruz County Resolution E-16-41

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Cruz has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Branciforte Creek Bridge and Multi-Use Trail Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Santa Cruz has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project will construct a 12-foot wide, Class I, multi-use path along the east side of the San Lorenzo River. The path will extend south from the San Lorenzo Park to connect to an existing river levee path just south of Soquel Avenue; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the project is located in the City of Santa Cruz on the East Side of the San Lorenzo River, north and south of Soquel Avenue; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz City Council found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation; and
- 1.7 **WHEREAS**, the Santa Cruz City Council approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 1.8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approves the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

FIGURE 2: Project Schematic

