

M e m o r a n d u m

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 29-30, 2016

Reference No.: 2.2c.(9)
Action

From: SUSAN BRANSEN
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE WALNUT AVENUE
PEDESTRIAN PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-16-45)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Walnut Avenue Pedestrian Project (Project) in Merced 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 County of Merced (County) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project will complete a number of improvements along the remaining unimproved portions of Walnut Avenue, specifically between Santa Fe Drive and California Street and a portion of California Street north of Walnut Avenue. Improvements will include a new curb, gutter, sidewalk, ADA ramps, Class II Bike Lanes, storm drainage and street lighting.

On September 11, 2012, the Merced County Board of Supervisors 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, cultural resources, hazardous materials and noise abatement. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: require a pre-construction breeding-season assessment survey, establish a non-disturbance buffer zone near nest sites, consult with an archaeologist and Native American representative on identification of prehistoric artifacts and materials, prepare a Construction Period Emergency Access Plan and limit construction activities between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM to minimize noise.

On April 26, 2016, the Merced County 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 \$2,630,000 and is fully funded through construction with Active Transportation Program (ATP) Funds (\$1,781,000) and Local Funds (\$849,000). Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2016/17.

Attachments

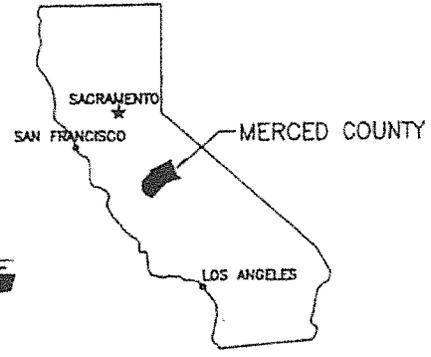
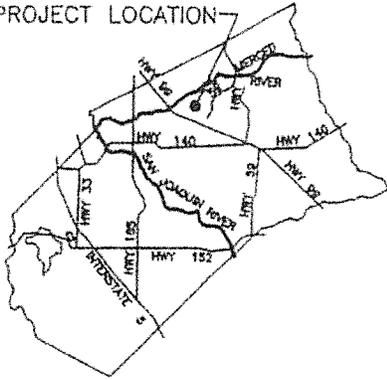
- Resolution E-16-45
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 10 – Merced County Resolution E-16-45

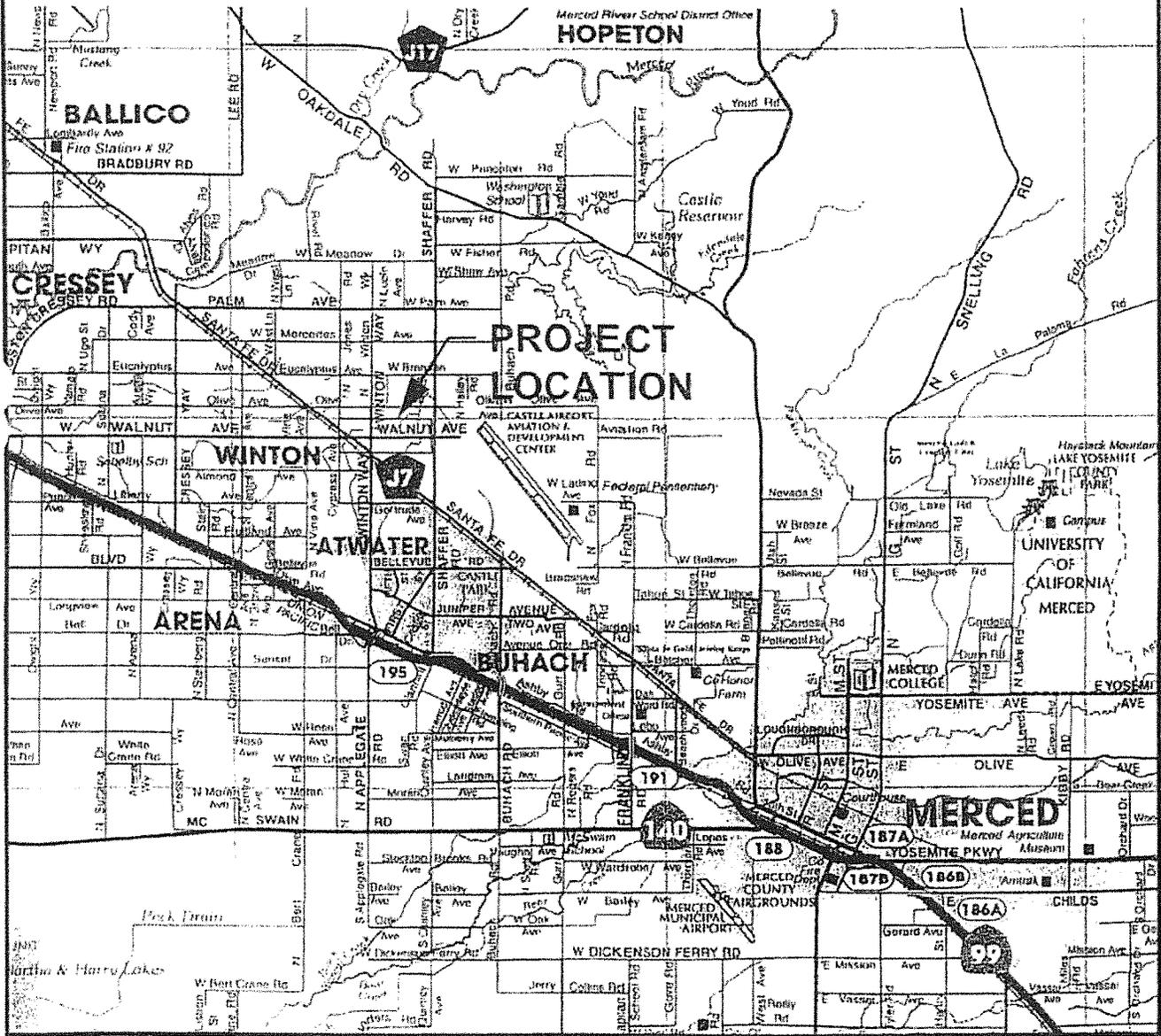
- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the County of Merced has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- Walnut Avenue Pedestrian Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the County of Merced has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project will complete a number of improvements along the remaining unimproved portions of Walnut Avenue, specifically between Santa Fe Drive and California Street and a portion of California Street north of Walnut Avenue. Improvements will include a new curb, gutter, sidewalk, ADA ramps, Class II Bike Lanes, storm drainage and street lighting; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the project is located on Walnut Avenue (between Santa Fe Drive and 200 feet East of Winton Way) in the town of Winton, Merced County; 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 Merced County Board of Supervisors found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation; and
- 1.7 **WHEREAS**, the Merced County Board of Supervisors 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.

PROJECT LOCATION



MERCED COUNTY

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE



VICINITY MAP

MERCED COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

WALNUT AVENUE SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS N.T.S.

