

# Memorandum

**To:** CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

**Date:** April 28, 2009

**From:** BIMLA RHINEHART  
Executive Director

**File:** Book Item 2.2c (9)  
Action

**Ref:** Mitigated Negative Declaration – Ellis Street Overcrossing Project (Resolution E-09-34)

**ISSUE:** Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Ellis Street Overcrossing Project (project) and approve the project to be considered for future funding?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Commission accept the MND and approve the project to allow for future consideration of funding.

**BACKGROUND:** The project includes construction of an overcrossing on State Route 99 between Avenue 17 and Cleveland Avenue in the City of Madera and a new roadway connecting Ellis Street on the east side of State Route 99 with Avenue 16 on the west side of State Route 99. The project will include a crossing over the freeway and railroad tracks to provide vehicular and pedestrian access to the residential and commercial areas east of the freeway and reduce the congestion at the Cleveland Avenue/Gateway Drive/County Club Drive intersection and at the SR99/Cleveland Avenue Interchange.

The City of Madera, as the Lead Agency for CEQA, adopted a MND for the project on September 30, 2008. The City determined that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation.

The project is estimated to cost \$16,596,000 and is funded with STIP (\$8,534,000), Proposition 1B Local Streets and Roads (\$1,746,000) and Local (\$6,316,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2009/10.

## Attachments

- Resolution No. 09-34
- Project Location
- Mitigated Negative Declaration

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

06-MAD-99

### Resolution E-09-34

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Madera has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- Ellis Street Overcrossing
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Madera 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 would include a crossing over the freeway and railroad tracks to provide vehicular and pedestrian access to residential and commercial areas; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.



## Mitigated Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

### *Project Description*

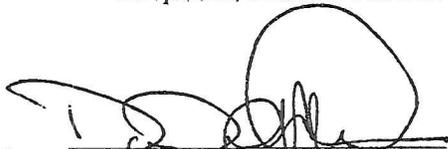
The City of Madera (City) proposes to construct a new roadway connecting Avenue 16 on the west side of State Route 99 to Ellis Street on the east side of State Route 99 north of the Avenue 16 interchange in the City and County of Madera. The structure built to cross State Route 99 would also span the Union Pacific Railroad tracks, Sharon Avenue, and Golden State Boulevard.

### *Determination*

City and Caltrans have prepared an Initial Study for this project and, following public review, has determined from this study that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons.

The project would have no significant effect on air quality, noise, animal species, water quality, geology/soil/seismic/topography resources, paleontology, visual resource, or relocations because the following minimization/mitigation measures would reduce potential effects to insignificance:

- The project would have no effect on air quality or noise except during construction. Construction impacts to air quality would be mitigated by compliance with air district regulations, and noise impacts would be mitigated by compliance with Caltrans' "Sound Control Requirements," standard specification Section 7-1.011.
- No animal species or endangered and threatened species were identified within the project limits during field surveys; however, the area provides marginal habitat for some species. Potential impacts during construction would be mitigated by the application of avoidance or minimization measures.
- The project would have a positive impact on utilities, emergency services, traffic and transportation by enhancing local circulation. Pedestrians and bicyclists would benefit by additional facilities; however, there is a potential for temporary disruption during construction of the project, which would be mitigated by developing a Traffic Management Plan.
- Impacts to water quality and geology/soil/seismic/topography resources would be mitigated through the use of erosion control practices.
- Impacts to paleontological resources would be mitigated through use of a monitoring and mitigation plan.
- Impacts to visual resources would be mitigated with landscaping.
- The project does not result in any residential or business relocation, but any right-of-way acquisition would use a process, consistent with federal and state law, for the acquisition of land.



David J. Merchen, Director  
Community Development  
City of Madera

9-30-08

Date