

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: May 22, 2009

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (2)
Action

Ref: Mitigated Negative Declaration – Newman Downtown Plaza Project
(Resolution E-09-43)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Newman Downtown Plaza 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 purpose of the project is to redevelop an underutilized area in Downtown Newman to create a public plaza that connects State Route 33 to Main Street. The project includes converting an existing parking lot into a new pedestrian plaza with decorative paving, new seat walls and other seating, new lights and site furnishings to continue the established historical downtown theme, a variety of enhanced site walls, new decorative pergola and entry archway, a transit stop, public restrooms, and replacement of existing sidewalk and planting along State Route 33.

The City of Newman (City), as the lead agency for CEQA compliance, completed a MND for the project on April 22, 2008. The City determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. Mitigation measures required relate to construction related air quality measures, hazardous materials testing prior to demolition, archaeological resources and human remains, soil contamination monitoring during grading, installation of oil and grease filters in parking lot drainage systems, redesign of the project entrance at State Route 33 and incorporation of bicycle parking.

The project is fully funded. Construction costs are estimated to total \$2,900,000. The project is programmed with STIP TE (\$516,000) and local redevelopment funds. The City was recently notified that they will receive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for this project totaling \$1,250,000. These funds will be used in lieu of the local redevelopment funds. Construction is expected to begin in fiscal year 2009/10.

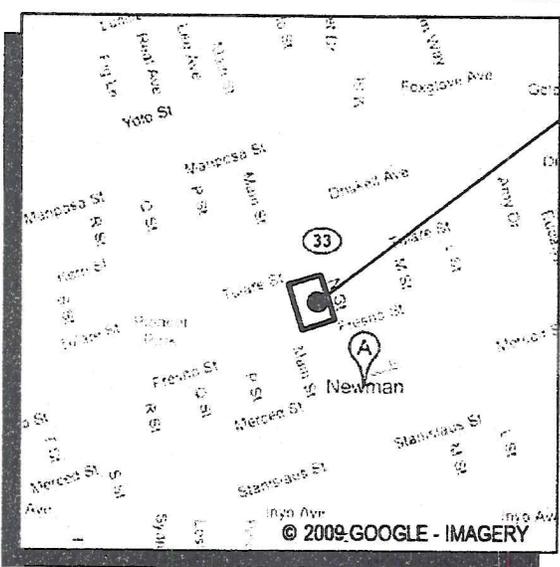
Attachments

- Resolution No. 09-43
- Project Location

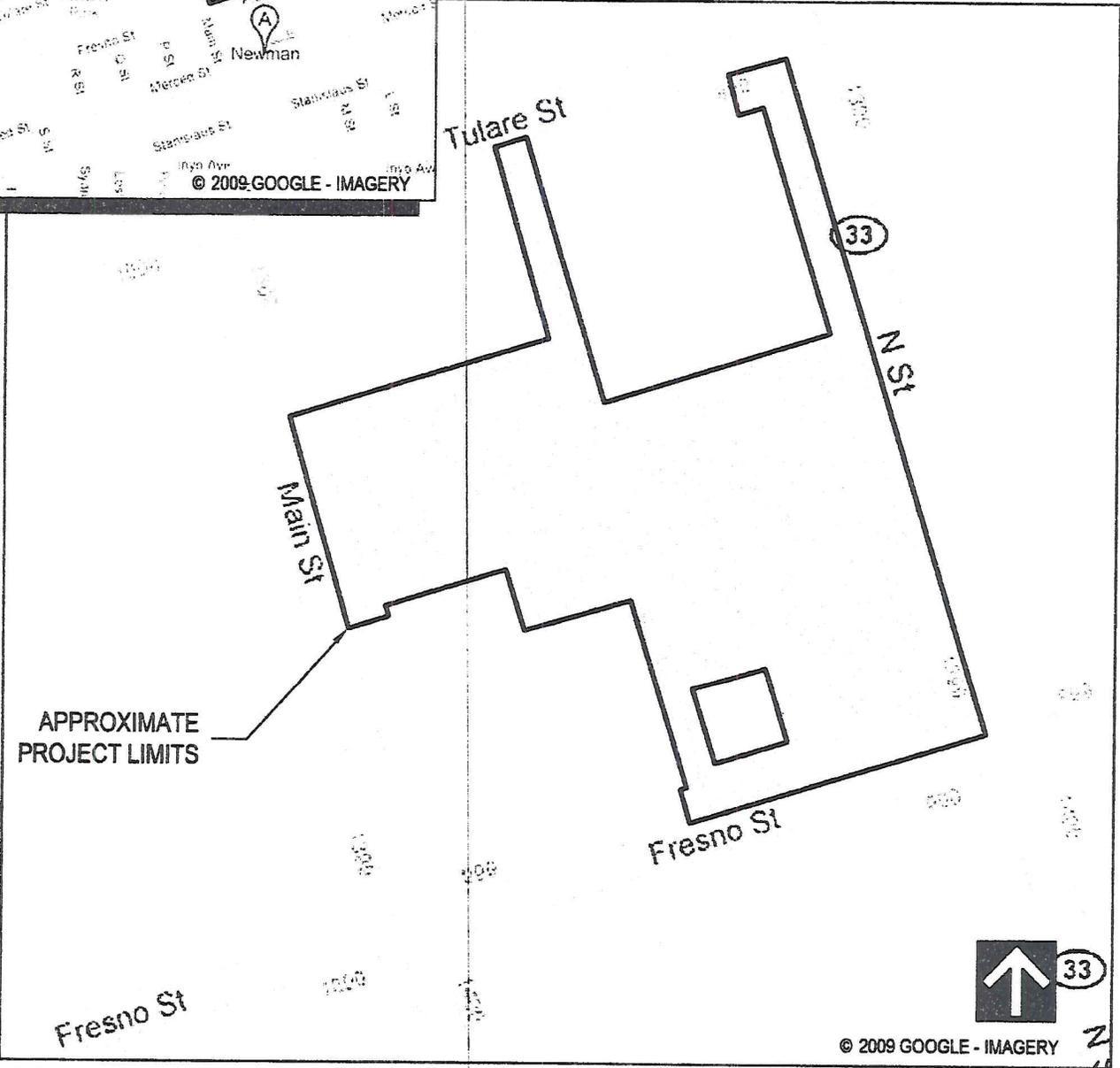
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 10-STAN-33, PM 0.75 Resolution E-09-43

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Newman has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- Newman Downtown Plaza Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Newman 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 redevelop an underutilized downtown area to create a public plaza that connects State Route 33 to Main Street in the City of Newman; 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.



SITE LOCATION



APPROXIMATE PROJECT LIMITS



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NEWMAN DOWNTOWN PLAZA

VICINITY MAP

Sheet No.	L-1
By	BEM
Checked	RSH
Date	APRIL 21, 2009
Job No.	1306540
Scale	1" = 100'