

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: May 12, 2009

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (3)
Action

Ref: Mitigated Negative Declaration – 7th Standard Road Widening Project (Resolution E-09-38)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the 7th Standard Road Widening Project (project) and approve the project to be considered for funding?

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

BACKGROUND: The City of Shafter (City) in cooperation with the County of Kern, Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration are proposing to widen 7th Standard Road west of State Route 99 in the City of Shafter from a two lane rural roadway to four lanes. The project includes widening existing and constructing new canal crossings, constructing a grade separation over the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) tracks, and providing other roadway improvements.

As the lead agency, the City was responsible for ensuring compliance with CEQA. On May 2, 2006 the City Council adopted the MND for the project in compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The City determined that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation.

Impacts that require mitigation pertain to aesthetics, short term air quality impacts during construction, wildlife and threatened and endangered species, community impacts due to right of way acquisitions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and floodplain, water quality, and noise. The City adopted a mitigation monitoring and reporting program to assign responsibility for the implementation, monitoring, and timing of each mitigation measure that was identified to reduce each identified environmental impact to a less than significant level.

The project will be constructed in two phases. The first phase will widen 7th Standard Road west of State Route 99 in the City of Shafter from two to four lanes. The second phase will construct a grade separation over the BNSF rail line. The second phase is programmed in the Highway Railroad Crossing Safety Account (HRCSA).

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The project is estimated to cost \$58,853,000. The first phase is estimated to cost \$30,000,000 and is programmed with STIP (\$11,624,000), Federal (\$3,000,000) and Local (\$15,376,000) funds. The second phase is estimated to cost \$28,853,000 and is programmed with STIP (\$576,000), Section 190 (\$5,000,000), HRCSA (\$9,926,000), Railroad (\$1,338,000), Local (\$3,424,000), County of Kern Bond (\$7,089,000) and Federal (1,500,000) funds. Construction for the first phase will begin in July 2009. Construction for the second phase is estimated to begin in Fall 2009.

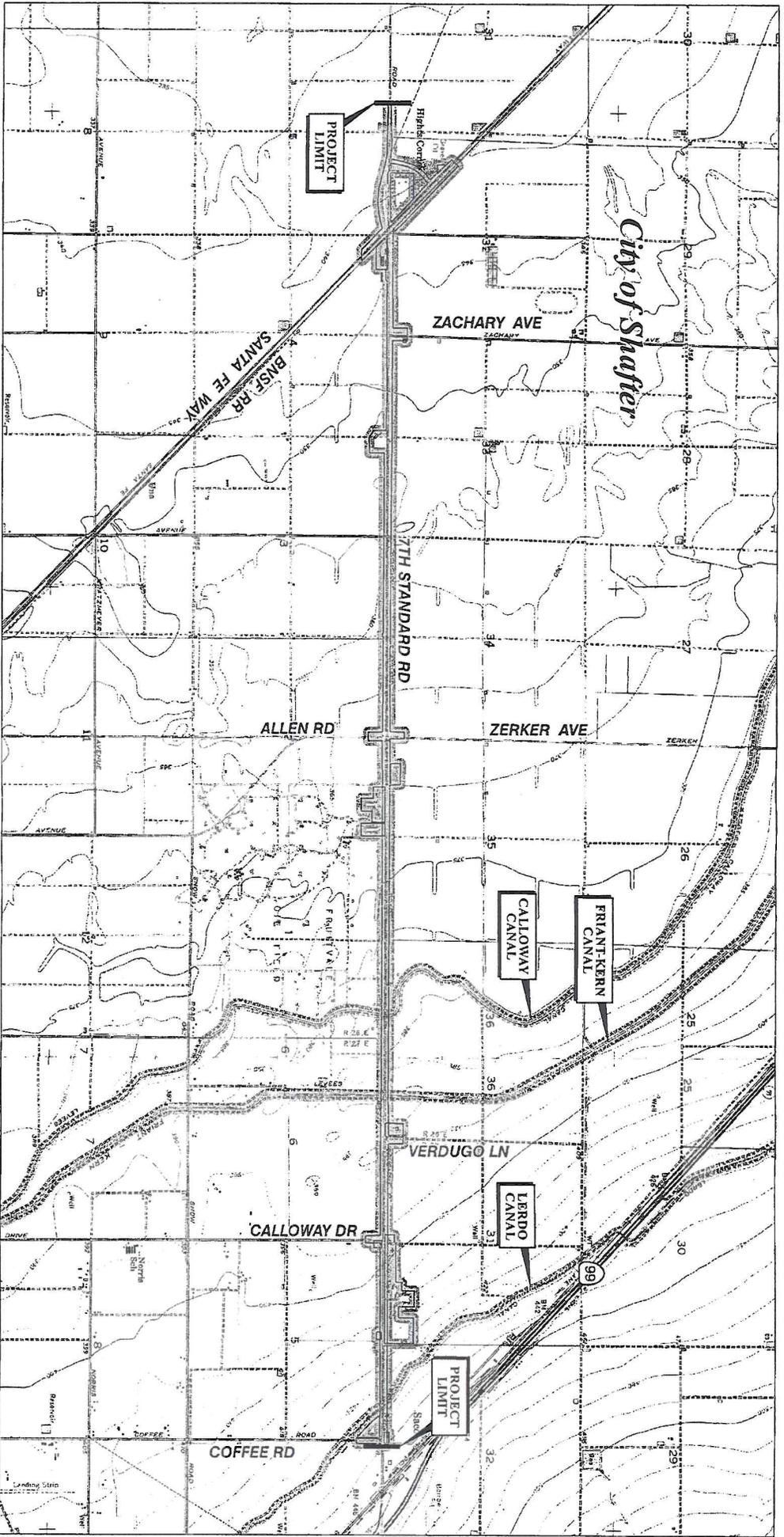
Attachments

- Resolution No. 09-38
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Consideration of Funding 06-KER-99, PM 8.85 KM Resolution E-09-38

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Shafter has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - 7th Standard Road Widening Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Shafter 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 widen 7th Standard Road from a two lane rural roadway to four lanes from Coffee Road to west of the Burlington Northern & Santa Fe Railroad and Santa Fe Way; 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 City has adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the implementation, monitoring, and timing of mitigation measures identified to reduce identified environmental impacts to a less than significant level; and
- 1.6 **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 consideration of funding.



LEGEND
 Project Study Area

PROJECT LOCATION MAP

7th Standard Road
 Project Location
 Project# 06-306-04

0 300 600 METERS
 0 1000 2000 FEET
 SOURCE: USGS 7.5 QUADS, ROSEDALE (1954) & OLDALE (1954), CA.
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FIGURE I-2