

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: November 18, 2009

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (12)
Action

Ref: Mitigated Negative Declaration – Realignment of Mainline Rail Tracks/Improvements to Southern Pacific Railroad Depot (Resolution E-09-101)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Realignment of Mainline Rail Tracks/Improvements to Southern Pacific Railroad Project (project) and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

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

BACKGROUND: The City of Sacramento (City) prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Sacramento Railyards Specific Plan. This EIR was adopted by the City in 2007 and was accepted by the Commission at the April 2009 Commission meeting for the Commission's approval of the project for future consideration of funding.

On June 2, 2009 the City approved the MND for the project and on September 10, 2009 the City approved an Addendum to the MND. The MND and Addendum were prepared to address project modifications that developed with respect to the Sacramento Intermodal Track Relocation and the Sacramento Valley Station Improvement Project subsequent to the preparation and adoption of the EIR for the Sacramento Railyards Specific Plan. In both the MND and the Addendum the project was determined to have no significant effects after mitigation.

Impacts related to air quality, transportation, biological resources, noise, cultural resources were found to require mitigation to be reduced to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures included, but were not limited to, adherence to the Sacramento Air Quality Management District requirements, optimizing traffic signalization, timing of construction during nesting periods, temporary barriers during construction to reduce noise, and adherence to a focused archaeological testing plan. As a part of approval of the MND and Addendum, the City adopted a mitigation monitoring and reporting plan for the project. The City also provided written commitment to the implementation of the air quality mitigation measures outlined in the FEIR and MND for impacts due to emissions from diesel or other particulates and related mitigation strategies.

The project scope of work covered by the MND and Addendum is programmed in the Proposition 1B TCIF program of projects. The Sacramento Intermodal Track Relocation Project is located between the I Street Bridge over the Sacramento River and the existing Seventh Street Overcrossing for a distance of approximately 3,300 feet. The project

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consists of the realignment and straightening of the existing mainline tracks, installation of passenger platforms and facilities and construction of pedestrian and bicycle tunnels.

The project is estimated to cost \$70,000,000 and is programmed with TCIF (\$25,300,000), FRA (\$1,300,000), ARRA (\$20,000,000), CMAQ (\$5,100,000), Amtrak (\$2,700,000), and Local (\$15,600,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin spring 2010.

Attachments

- Resolution No. 09-101
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Consideration of Funding 03-Sacramento Resolution E-09-101

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Sacramento (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Realignment of Mainline Rail Tracks/Improvements to Southern Pacific Railroad Depot
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum have been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project will realign and straighten the existing mainline tracks, installation of passenger platforms and facilities and construct pedestrian and bicycle tunnels; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the City found that all significant or potentially significant impacts can be reduced by mitigation measures to a less than significant level; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the City adopted a mitigation monitoring and reporting plan for the project; and
- 1.7 **WHEREAS**, the City approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

EXHIBIT A

Location Map for

TRACK RELOCATION PROJECT (T15029005)

