

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: November 18, 2009

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (17)
Action

Ref: Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Challenger Drive Extension Project (Resolution E-09-106)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Challenger Drive Extension Project (project) in Kern County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

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

BACKGROUND: The City of Tehachapi (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project will extend Challenger Drive easterly from its current terminus to Dennison Road for a distance of approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to provide existing residents and business with an alternate access route. This project will address a significant public safety issue in terms of providing an alternative source of ingress and egress into the neighborhoods and business parks located north of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) line and will provide emergency vehicles better access opportunities.

On September 21, 2009, the City approved the MND. The City found that impacts related to cultural resources/archeological resources, air quality, airport compatibility, and farmland required mitigation to be reduced to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, discontinuing construction to retrieve and document cultural resources that are exposed or discovered during the construction phase; adherence to the Kern County Air Pollution Control District requirements; ensuring that future street lighting will meet the Dark Sky technology criteria in terms of light and glare; and installation of a cattle fence on the north side of Challenger Drive to prevent conflicts between wandering cattle and vehicles.

The project is estimated to cost \$1,665,000 and is funded with STIP (\$1,500,000), and Local (\$165,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in FY 2011/12.

On November 9, 2009, the City provided confirmation that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project scope of work programmed by the Commission in the STIP.

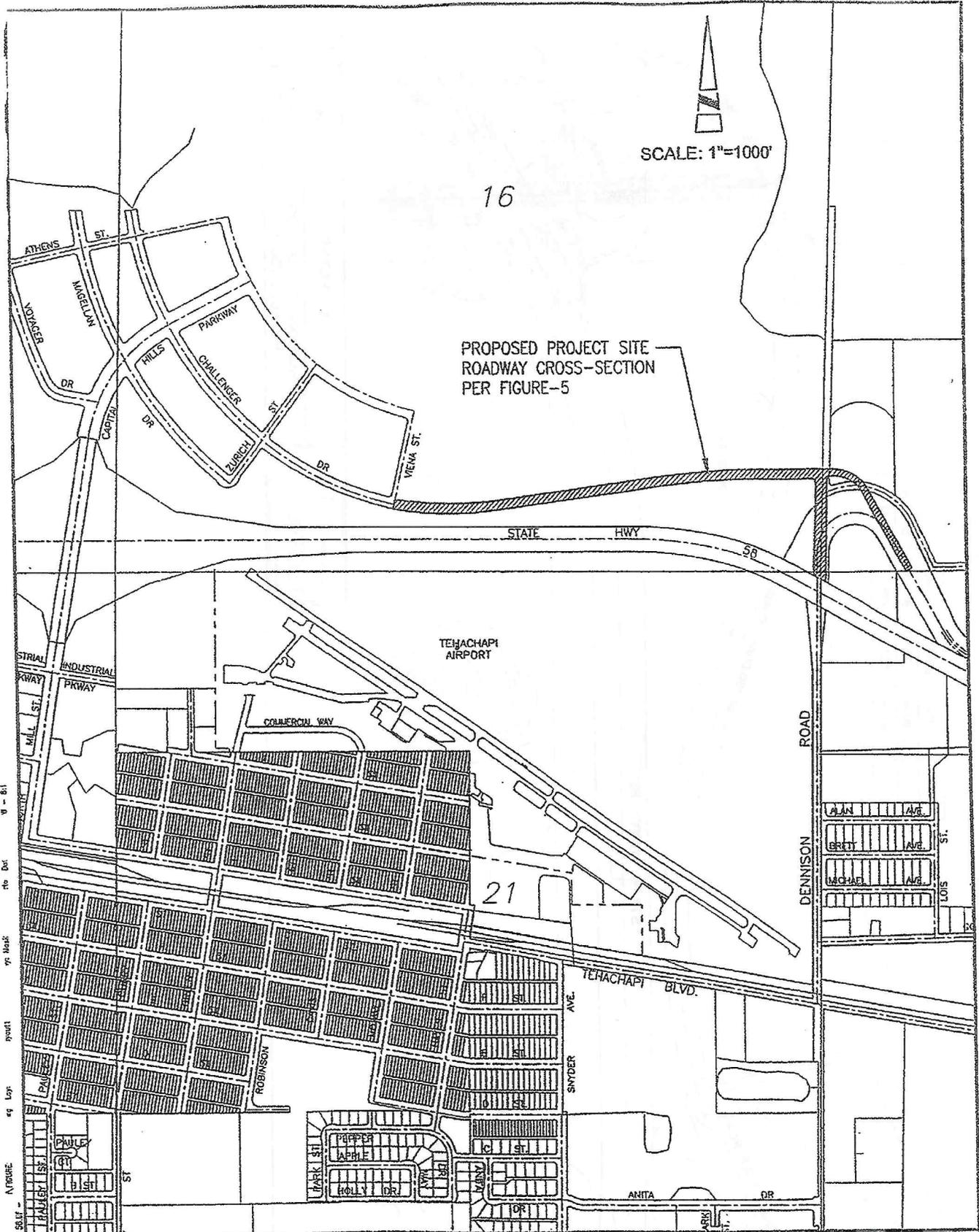
Attachments

- Resolution E-09-106
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 09-Kern Resolution E-09-106

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Tehachapi (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Challenger Drive Extension Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City 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 will extend Challenger Drive easterly from its terminus to Dennison Road to provide existing residents and businesses with an alternate access route; 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 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 approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 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.



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SCALE: 1"=1000'

PROPOSED PROJECT SITE
ROADWAY CROSS-SECTION
PER FIGURE-5

21

1/2" = 1000'
 1/4" = 500'
 1/8" = 250'
 1/16" = 125'
 1/32" = 62.5'
 1/64" = 31.25'
 1/128" = 15.625'
 1/256" = 7.8125'
 1/512" = 3.90625'
 1/1024" = 1.953125'
 1/2048" = 0.9765625'
 1/4096" = 0.48828125'
 1/8192" = 0.244140625'
 1/16384" = 0.1220703125'
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