

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: February 24-25, 2010

Reference No.: 2.2c.(9)
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Jay Norvell
Division Chief
Environmental Analysis

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
03-YOL-16, PM 18.6/31.7
RESOLUTION E-10-14**

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-10-14.

ISSUE:

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) has been completed:

- Route 16 in Yolo County. Construct roadway improvements to Route 16 from County Road 78 to the South Fork Willow Slough Bridge near the town of Madison. (PPNO 8655)

This project in Yolo County would reconstruct a portion of Route 16 from County Road 78 near the town of Brooks to the South Fork Willow Slough Bridge near the town of Madison. Reconstruction will bring this portion of Route 16 to current design standards resulting in improved safety. The project is fully funded in the 2008 State Highway Operation and Protection Program. The total estimated project cost is \$77,392,000 for capital and support. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2011-12.

A copy of the FEIR has been provided to Commission staff. The project will involve construction activities resulting in potential impacts to cultural and biological impacts. There is also community opposition to the project. As a result, an Environmental Impact Report was completed for this project.

The Department has approved this project for construction. This approval and the filing of the Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research will satisfy the environmental requirements for this stage of the project planning process.

Attachments

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

03-Yol-16, PM 18.6/31.7

Resolution E-10-14

- 1.1** **WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- Route 16 in Yolo County. Construct roadway improvements to Route 16 from County Road 78 in the town of Brooks to the South Fork Willow Slough Bridge near the town of Madison. (PPNO 8655)
- 1.2** **WHEREAS**, the Department has certified that the Environmental Impact Report has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3** **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Environmental Impact Report; and
- 1.4** **WHEREAS**, the Environmental Impact Report did not identify significant effects after mitigation; and
- 1.5** **WHEREAS**, Findings were made pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines.
- 2.1** **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Findings of Fact that support approval of the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

FINDINGS

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FINDINGS FOR THE SR 16 SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT YOLO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA PM 18.6/31.7, EA 0C470 December 2009

The following information is presented to comply with State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 15901) and the Department of Transportation and California Transportation Commission Environmental Regulations (Title 21, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 11, Section 1501). Reference is made to the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the project, which is the basic source for the information.

The following effects have been identified in the EIR as resulting from the project. Effects found not to be significant have not been included.

Visual Resources

Adverse Environmental Effects:

This project will require extensive tree removal (317 native trees and as many as 1763 orchard trees). The design and construction of all the elements of this project would be implemented so as to minimize and mitigate impacts to the natural environment and visual resources, and to blend in with the natural indigenous landscape.

Findings:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Statement of Facts:

In addition to avoidance and minimization measures, a draft Revegetation Plan (RP) has been prepared that will be finalized following final design. The RP would be used by Caltrans staff to direct revegetation efforts. Mitigation funds have been set aside and would be used to perform the required planting after project construction. The RP serves to mitigate for both visual and biological impacts and will be jointly prepared by a landscape architect and biologist. The RP would include measures to replace any existing native trees that are removed or indirectly affected by construction of the proposed project. The RP would include planting and irrigation plans and specifications, riparian restoration plans, wetland planting plans, plant species, sizes and quantities, planted screening for residences to reduce light and glare, grading, monitoring, success criteria and remedial actions. Re-vegetation within clear recovery zones would consist of native grasses and shrubs to facilitate sight distance requirements, reduction of obstacles and erosion concerns.

Cultural Resources

Adverse Environmental Effects:

In accordance with 36 CFR 800, a Finding of Adverse Effect has been determined for site CA-YOL-125/H.

Findings:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Statement of Facts:

Mitigation for the adverse effect to CA-YOL-125/H would be required and would be implemented, in accordance with the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The MOA provides detailed instructions for the Data Recovery Plan which will be used to direct the recovery, research, and curation of artifacts and monitoring during construction.

Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB)

Adverse Environmental Effects:

Construction of the proposed project would directly affect the VELB due to the removal of a total of 21 elderberry shrubs.

Findings:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Statement of Facts:

Caltrans would purchase credits sufficient to compensate for the transplanting of the 21 elderberry shrubs and planting of 312 elderberry shrub seedlings and 486 associated native plantings from a USFWS approved conservation bank that services the proposed project area.

Swainson's hawk foraging habitat

Adverse Environmental Effects:

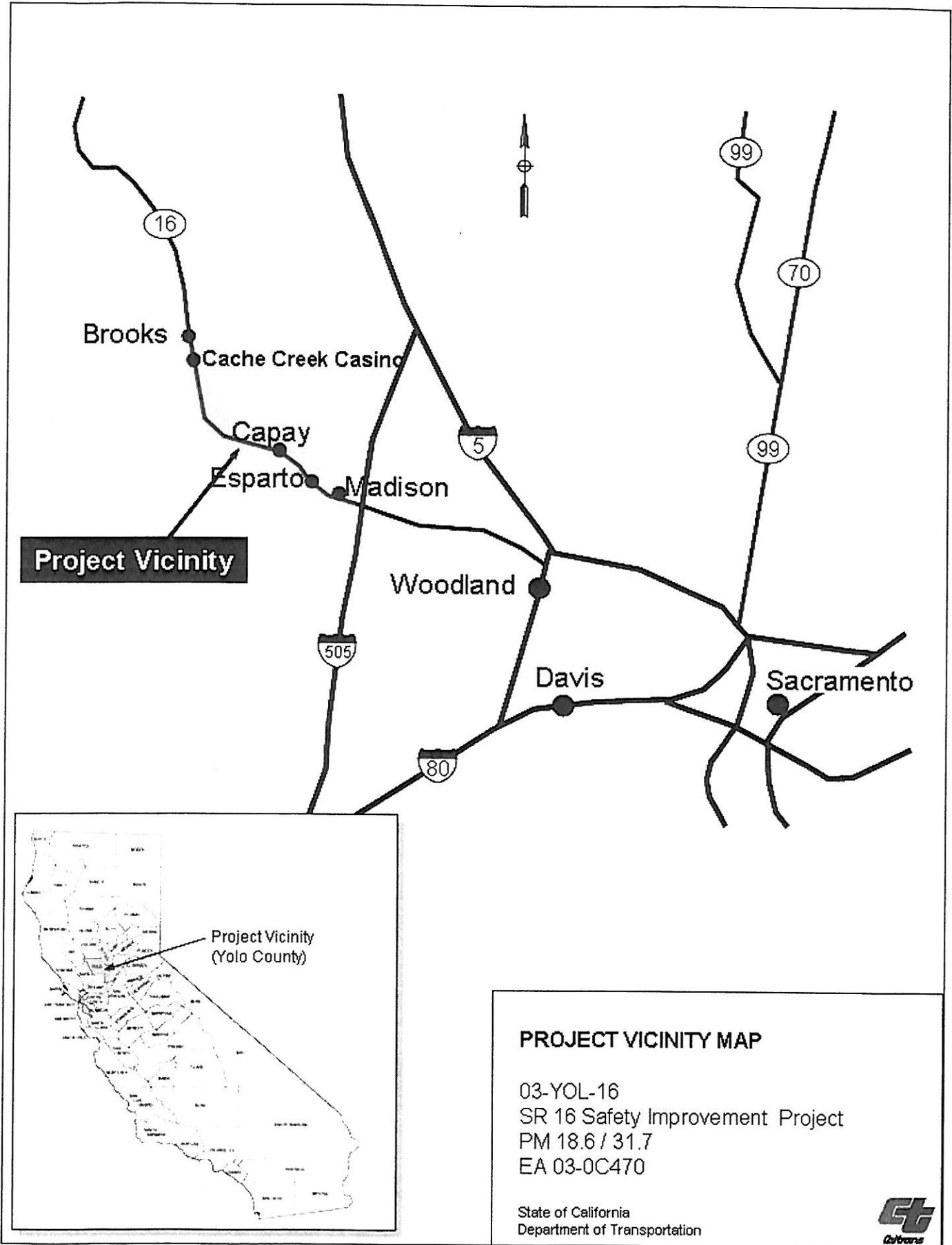
Construction of the proposed project would permanently impact a total of 38.05 acres of suitable Swainson's hawk foraging habitat.

Findings:

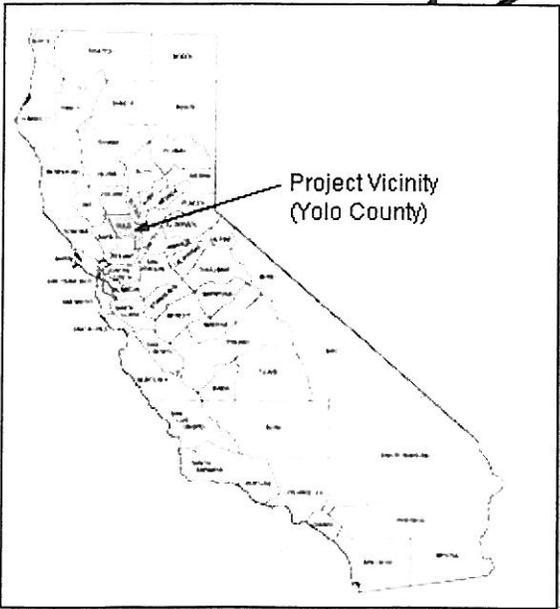
Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Statement of Facts:

Caltrans would purchase in-lieu credits from the Habitat JPA for the loss of Swainson's hawk foraging habitat based on the ratios provided in the *Report Regarding Mitigation for Impacts to Swainson's Hawks in the Central Valley of California* (CDFG 1994). The proposed project would require 27.16 acres of habitat management lands to mitigate for permanent loss of 38.05 acres suitable foraging habitat.



Project Vicinity



PROJECT VICINITY MAP

03-YOL-16
 SR 16 Safety Improvement Project
 PM 18.6 / 31.7
 EA 03-0C470

State of California
 Department of Transportation

