

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: November 3-4, 2010

Reference No.: 2.2c. (9)
Action

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER TRAIL-
REACH 4B PROJECT
RESOLUTION E-10-95**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the San Joaquin River Trail-Reach 4B Project (project) in Fresno 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 Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning (County) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. On October 13, 2008 the County approved the MND and found that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation.

The project will be constructed on vacant National Forest land adjacent to the San Joaquin River from Powerhouse Road to the Upper Redinger Reservoir within the Sierra Forest, in Fresno County. The project will construct a new four-foot wide, ten-mile long Class III multi-modal trail with two access trails. The trail will be designed to accommodate hiking, equestrian and mountain bike use.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to a less than significant level relate to biological resources; cultural resources; geology and soil; hazards and hazardous materials; and hydrology and water quality. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, limiting blasting activities and tree removal activities to late September through October; no construction will occur within 15 feet of any Elderberry bush; all equipment will be cleaned to prevent the spread of noxious

weeds; all mechanical equipment will stay within the 10-foot proposed trail corridor; and a Spill Prevention Contingency Plan will be approved by the Forest Service prior to construction.

The project is estimated to cost \$ 531,500 and is funded with STIP TE (\$440,000) funds and Local (\$91,500) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2010/11.

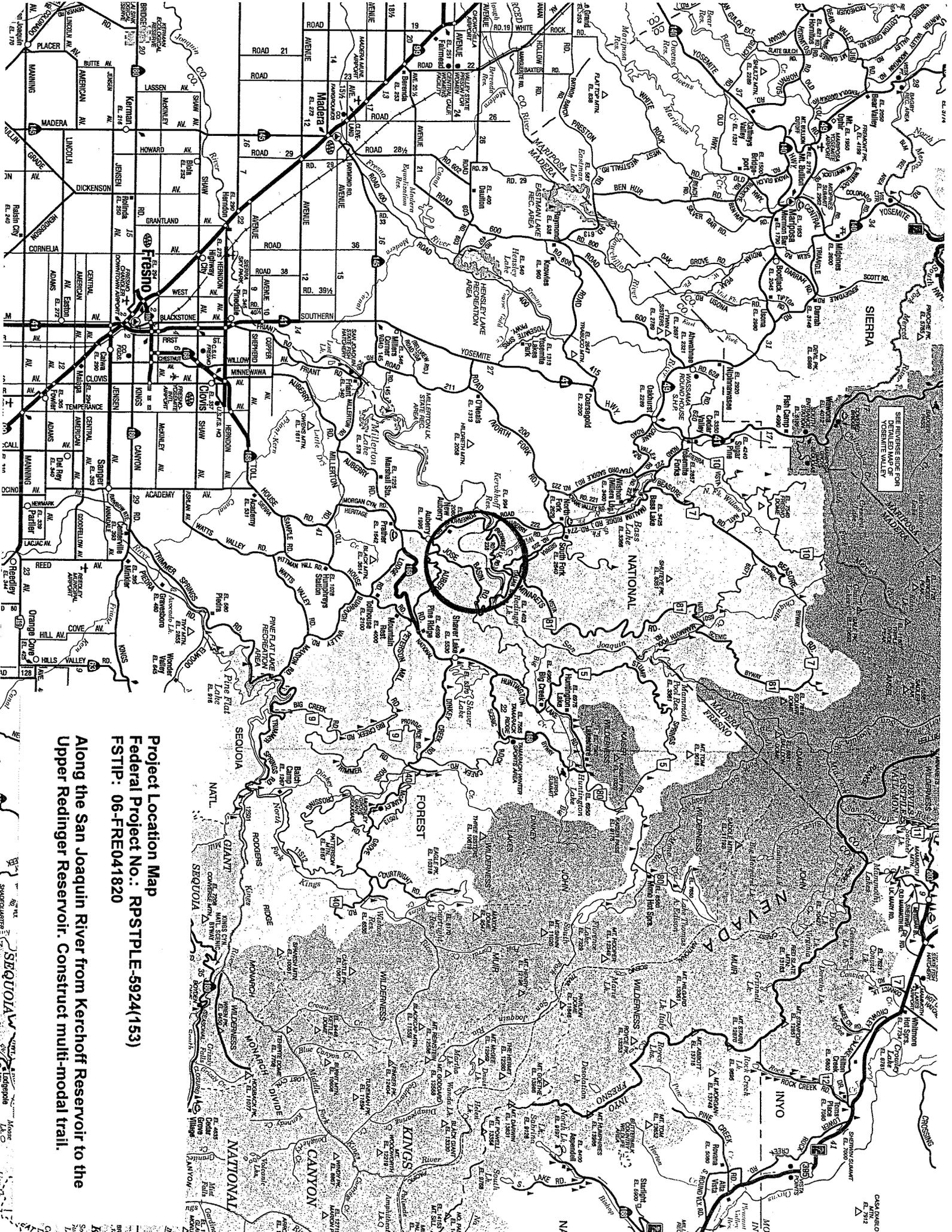
Attachments

- Resolution E-10-95
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 06 – Fresno County Resolution E-10-95

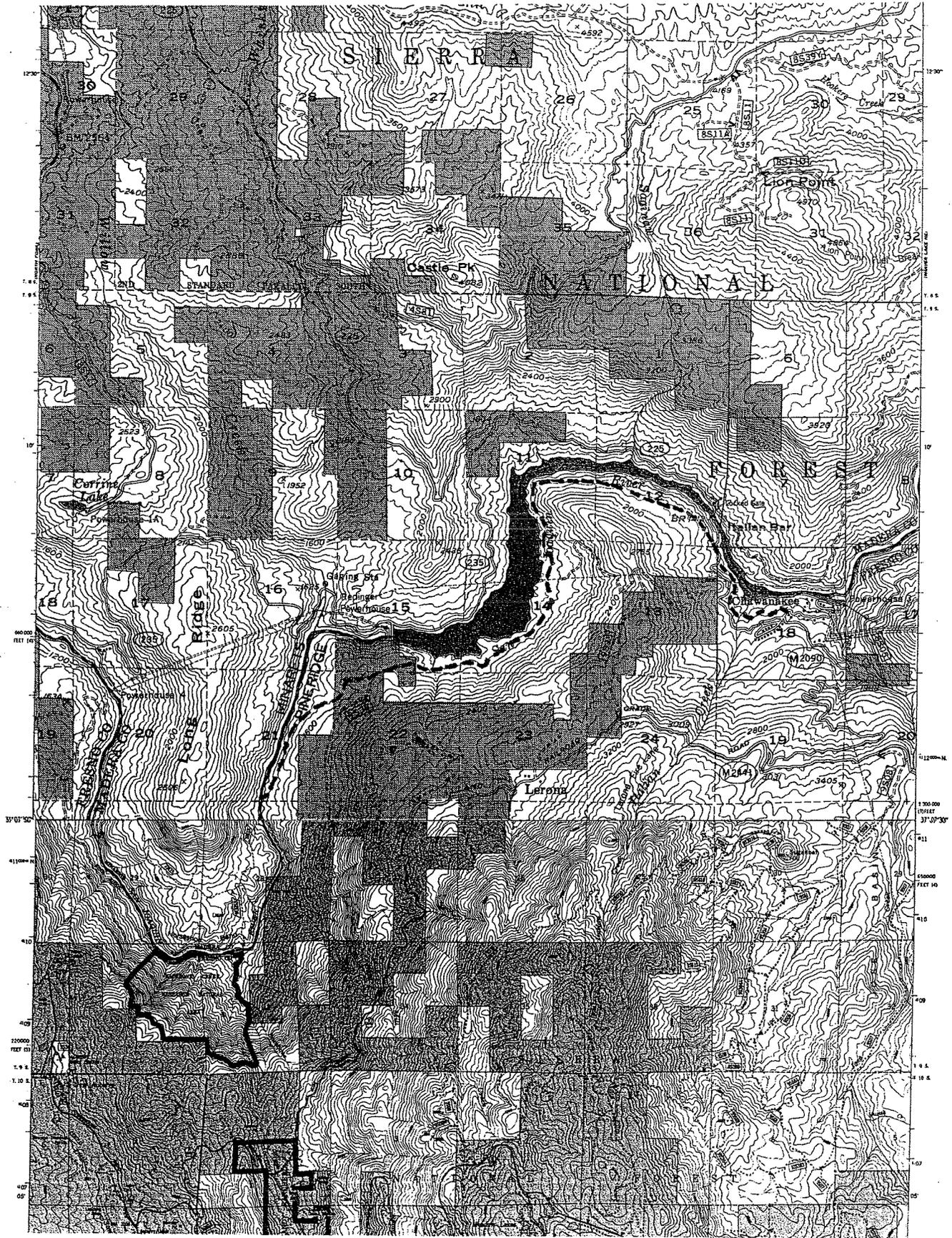
- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning (County) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- San Joaquin River Trail-Reach 4B
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the County 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 construct a new four-foot wide, ten-mile long Class III multi-modal trail with two access trails in the Sierra National Forest, Fresno County; 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 County 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 County 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.



SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR
DETAILED MAP OF
YOSEMITE VALLEY

Project Location Map
Federal Project No.: RPSTPLE-5924(153)
FSTIP: 06-FRE041820

Along the San Joaquin River from Kerchoff Reservoir to the
 Upper Redinger Reservoir. Construct multi-modal trail.



Location Map for the San Joaquin River Trail