

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 23-24, 2011

Reference No.: 2.2c. (4)
Action

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE RANCHERO ROAD RAILROAD
UNDERCROSSING PROJECT
(RESOLUTION E-11-19)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Rancho Road Railroad Undercrossing Project (project) in San Bernardino 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 Hesperia (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. On May 2, 2001 the City approved the MND and found that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. On January 10, 2011 the City confirmed that there are no new environmental impacts that require mitigation and the original MND remains valid for the project.

The project involves the installation of a new underpass beneath the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway's (BNSF) right-of-way at Rancho Road. The project will also include realignment and widening of Rancho Road from two to four lanes and construction of a levee across the Antelope Valley Wash to raise the floodplain.

The City found that with implementation of mitigation measures to address impacts related to air quality; biological resources; cultural resources; noise; population and housing; and transportation and traffic, there is no substantive evidence that the project will have a significant environmental impact. A mitigation monitoring program was prepared to identify the measures to mitigate or avoid the potential significant impacts and to ensure mitigation compliance during project implementation.

Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, treating the site with soil-stabilizing agents to reduce emissions; suspending grading operations when wind speeds exceed 25 mph; shutting off construction equipment when not in use; utilizing a Burrowing Owl Mitigation Monitoring Plan for owl relocation; installing noise barriers; and periodically reviewing traffic operations in the vicinity of the project once the project is constructed to ensure traffic operations are satisfactory.

On January 11, 2011 the City confirmed that the scope of work cleared through the MND is consistent with the scope of work programmed in the STIP and SLPP programs.

The project is estimated to cost \$30,845,000 and is funded with Proposition 1B SLPP (\$1,000,000), Federal (\$12,150,000) and Local (\$17,695,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2010/11.

Attachment

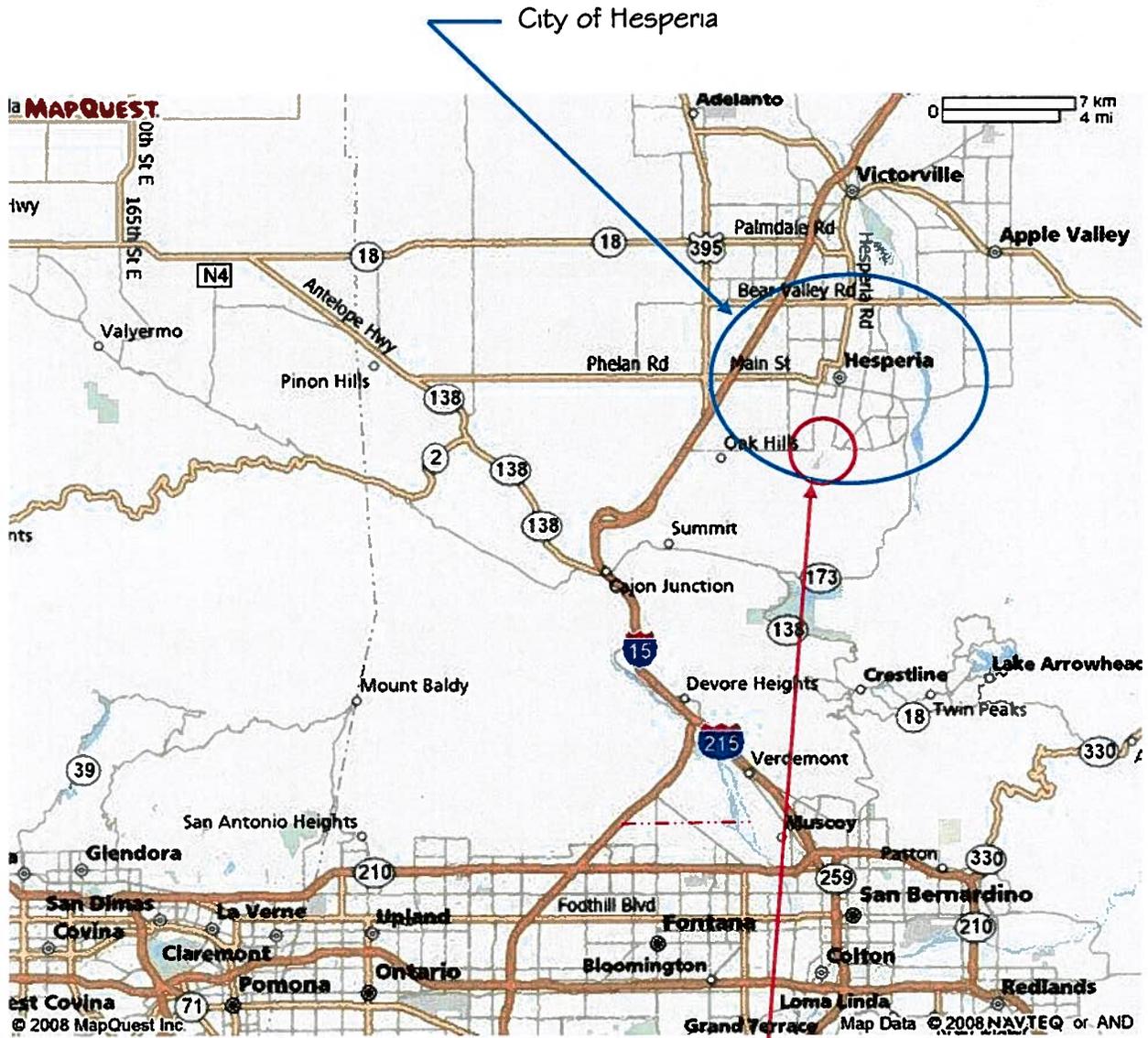
- Resolution E-11-19
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 08 – San Bernardino County Resolution E-11-19

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Hesperia (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Rancho Road Railroad Undercrossing 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 construct a new underpass beneath the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway's (BNSF) right-of-way at Rancho Road and realignment and widening of Rancho Road in the city of Hesperia, San Bernardino 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 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; and.
- 1.7 **WHEREAS**, the City adopted a Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program for the project.
- 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.

RANCHERO ROAD RAILROAD UNDERCROSSING VICINITY MAP



Proposed Ranchero Road Railroad Undercrossing