

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 11-12, 2011

Reference No.: 2.2c. (5)
Action

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE RIVER ROAD MULTI-PURPOSE
TRAIL PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-11-28)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the River Road Multi-Purpose Trail Project (project) in San Luis Obispo 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 Paso Robles (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. On April 14, 2010 the City approved the MND and found that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. On April 12, 2011 the City confirmed that there are no new environmental impacts that require mitigation and the scope of work set forth in the MND is consistent with the scope of work programmed by the Commission.

The project will construct a class I multi-purpose trail located in the Salinas River corridor adjacent to South River Road. It will connect two existing trail ends between 13th Street and Navaho Avenue. The trail extends south from an existing cul-de-sac near 13th Street for approximately 425 feet along the disturbed shoulder of River Road before descending down the River Road embankment on an existing dirt access path for another 420 feet. This segment of the multi-purpose trail will provide a safe pathway and create a connection to existing trails as described in the Salinas Corridor Visioning Plan.

The City found that with implementation of mitigation measures to address impacts related to biological resources that 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, designing the trail to avoid removal of mature oak and cottonwood trees; installing temporary construction barrier fencing along the project area; conducting nesting bird surveys within one week of ground disturbance activities between the months of March and August; avoiding impacts to nesting birds by not constructing or grading during the breeding season from March to August; and completing a pre-construction survey at the site to locate Monterey dusky-footed woodrat nests within 50 feet of the project area.

The project is estimated to cost \$1,155,000 and is fully funded with STIP TE funds. Construction is estimated to begin in 2012.

Attachment

- Resolution E-11-28
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 05 – San Luis Obispo County Resolution E-11-28

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Paso Robles (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - South River Road Multi-Purpose Trail 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 class one multi-use trail located in the Salinas River Corridor adjacent to South River Road in the City of Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo 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.

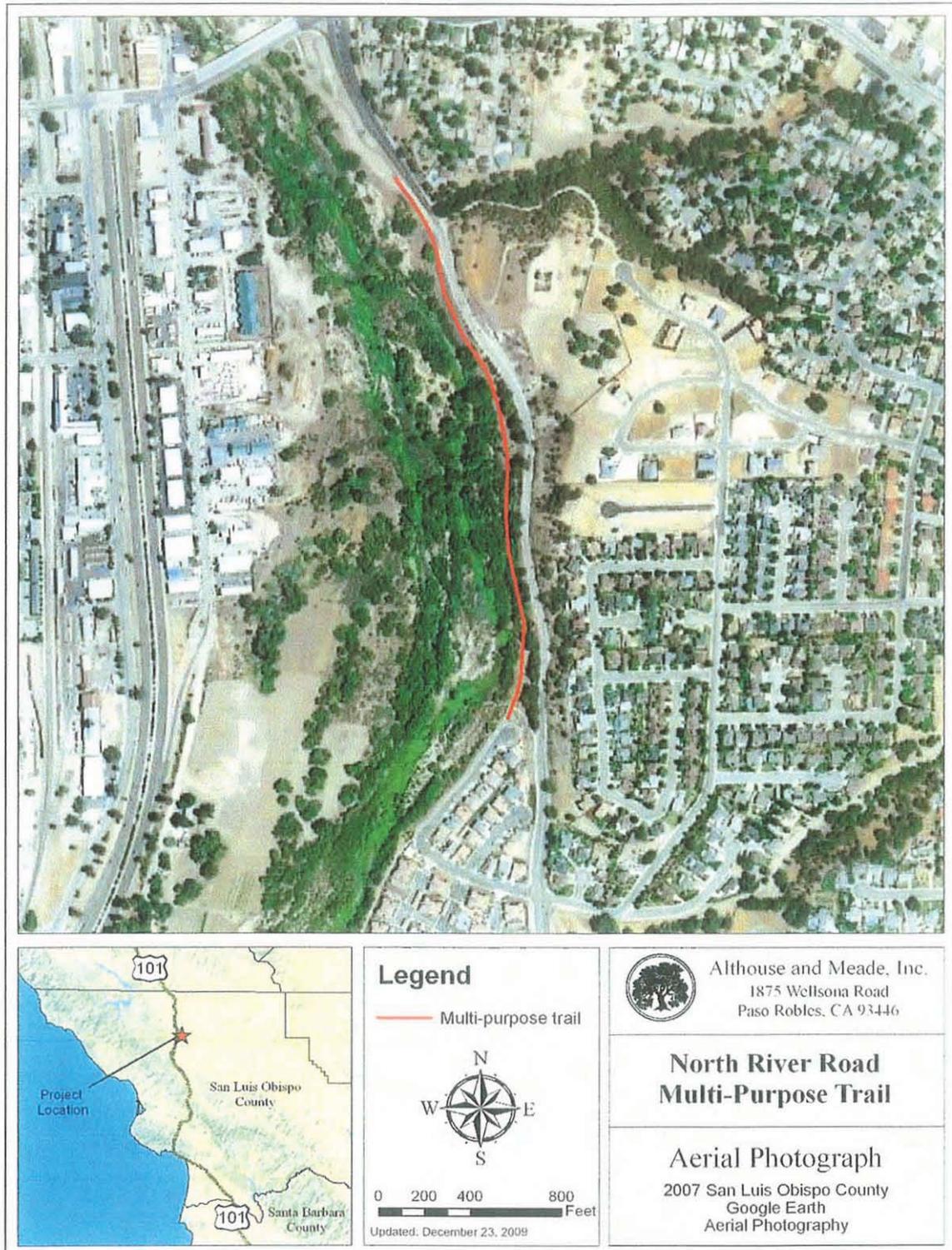


FIGURE 1. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH. The proposed trail would connect existing paved cul-de-sacs near 13th Street and Navajo Avenue along the Salinas River in the City of Paso Robles.