

M e m o r a n d u m

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 16-17, 2016

Reference No.: 2.2c (4)
Action

From: WILL KEMPTON
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE NORTH ATWATER CROSSING
PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-16-15)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the North Atwater Crossing Project (Project) in Los Angeles County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION:

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

BACKGROUND:

The City of Los Angeles (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project involves the construction of a multi-modal, cable-stay bridge over the Los Angeles River to facilitate crossings for bicycles, pedestrians and equestrians. The crossing would connect near existing equestrian facilities on the eastern bank of the Los Angeles River to an existing segment of the Los Angeles River Bikeway on the western bank, enabling safe, year-round passage into Griffith Park.

On September 17, 2013, the Los Angeles City Council adopted the final MND for the project and found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to preventing the spread of invasive species, vegetation removal and disposal, nesting bird avoidance, nighttime construction noise abatement and traffic management. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: require contractor to clean construction vehicles with compressed water to minimize the spread of invasive plants; time construction activities to occur outside the migratory bird season from March 1 through August 31; and institute traffic mitigation provisions to maintain a Level of Service (LOS) of "C" or better on the I-5 Freeway segment between Los Feliz Boulevard and Colorado Boulevard.

On February 26, 2016, the County confirmed that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with project scope of work and programming by the Commission.

The project is estimated to cost \$8,660,000 and is fully funded through construction with Active Transportation Program (ATP) Funds (\$3,660,000) and Local Funds (\$5,000,000). Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2016/17.

Attachments

- Resolution E-16-15
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 07 – Los Angeles County Resolution E-16-15

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Los Angeles has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- North Atwater Crossing Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Los Angeles has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project involves the construction of a multi-modal, cable-stay bridge over the Los Angeles River to facilitate crossings for bicycles, pedestrians and equestrians; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the project is located in the Atwater Village neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles, and connects nearby existing equestrian facilities on the eastern bank of the Los Angeles River to an existing segment of the Los Angeles River Bikeway on the western bank, enabling safe, year-round passage into Griffith Park; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles City Council found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 1.7 **WHEREAS**, the Los Angeles City Council 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 approves the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

