

M e m o r a n d u m

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 16-17, 2016

Reference No.: 2.2c (7)
Action

From: WILL KEMPTON
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR INLAND RAIL TRAIL PROJECT
PHASES IIA, IIB, IIIA, IIIB (RESOLUTION E-16-18)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Inland Rail Trail Project Phases IIA, IIB, IIIA and IIIB (Project) in San Diego 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 San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project involves the construction of a 7-mile Class I bikeway (trail) within the cities of Oceanside, San Marcos and Vista, and the County of San Diego. The trail would be constructed within and adjacent to right-of-way owned by the North County Transit District (NCTD) and used for their Sprinter commuter rail line.

On September 26, 2014, the SANDAG Board of Directors adopted an Addendum to 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 level relate to biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology, water quality and noise. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: require the contractor to develop planting palette and/or re-vegetation plan for the riparian habitat; contractor to employ a lighting plan with appropriate shielding; and de-contaminate construction equipment that may contain invasive plants or seeds to reduce the spread of noxious weeds.

On January 27, 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 \$34,257,000 and is fully funded through construction with State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Funds (\$18,437,000), Transportation Development Act (TDA) Funds (\$6,719,000), TransNet Funds (\$4,963,000), Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) Funds (\$2,541,000) and Transportation Enhancement Funds (\$1,597,000). Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2015/16.

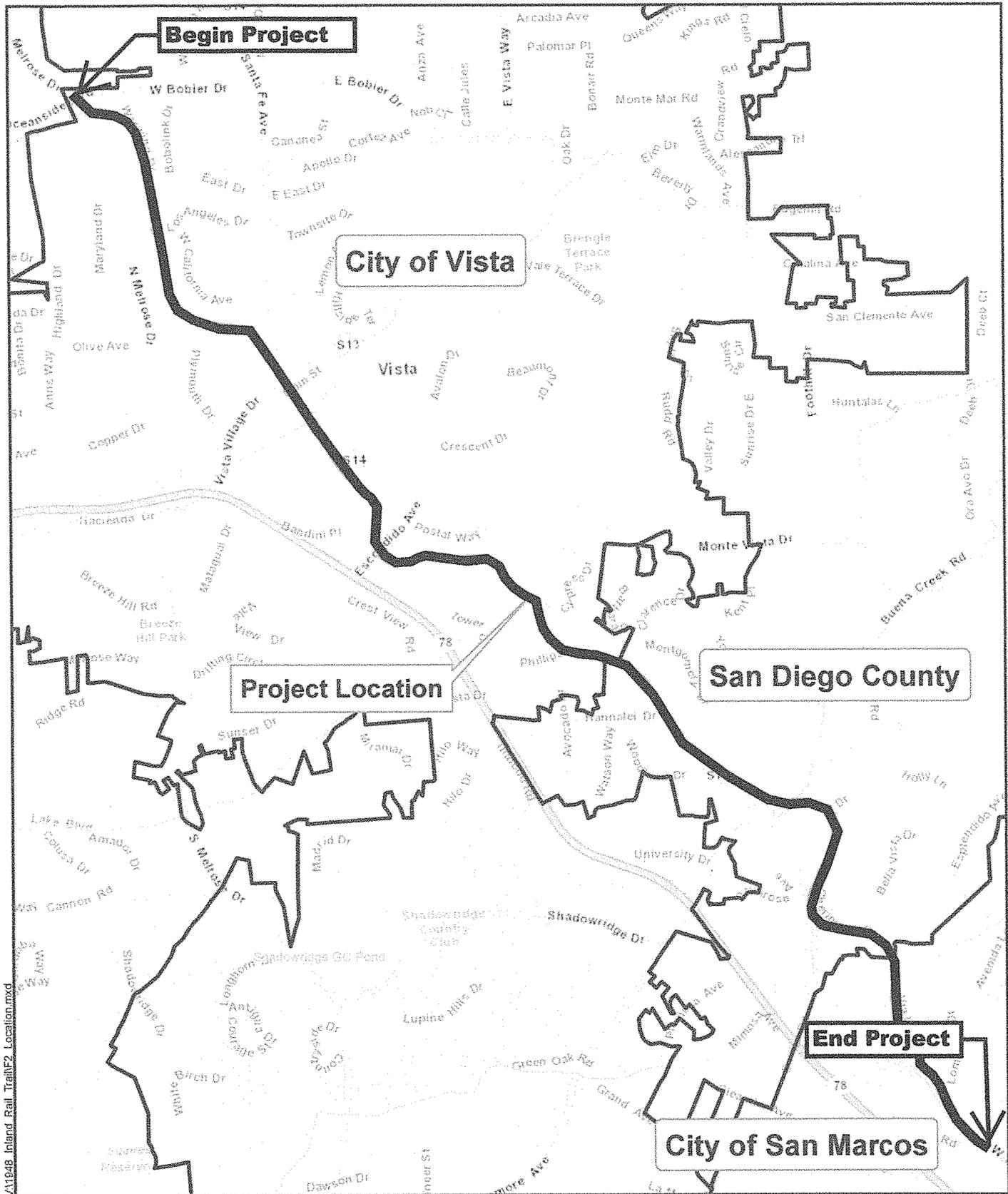
Attachments

- Resolution E-16-18
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

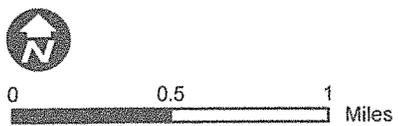
Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 11 – San Diego County Resolution E-16-18

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the San Diego Association of Governments has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Inland Rail Trail Project Phases IIA, IIB, IIIA, IIIB
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the San Diego Association of Governments 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 7-mile Class I bikeway (trail) within the cities of Oceanside, San Marcos and Vista, and the County of San Diego; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the project is located in San Diego County and is adjacent to the North County Transit District (NCTD) railroad tracks between Oceanside Boulevard in the City of Oceanside and N. Pacific Street in the City of San Marcos; 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 San Diego Association of Governments found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 1.7 **WHEREAS**, the San Diego Association of Governments 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.



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Source: ESRI 2008; Dokken Engineering 11/2/2012; Created By: tmc



INLAND RAIL TRAIL PROJECT LOCATION MAP

San Diego Association of Governments