TAB 78
(Revised)

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: January 19-20, 2011

Reference No.: 2.2c.(11)
Action

Andrea Boutros, for

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

Subject: **Final Environmental Impact Report for the Bridgeport Streets Rehabilitation Project (Resolution E-11-11)**

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Mono County General Plan Update (General Plan) and approve the Bridgeport Streets Rehabilitation Project (project) for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Commission accept the FEIR, Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Mono County General Plan Update and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND: Mono County (County) is the CEQA lead agency for the FEIR. The FEIR is a programmatic document and the foundation for approval of subsequent development to guide future land uses for County residents and visitors. The General Plan allows for a potential maximum build out of 121,829 dwelling units in the unincorporated area, and a potential maximum population of 305,790 persons. The General Plan contains 12 elements which were adopted on an element-by-element basis.

On March 29, 1993, the County approved the FEIR and adopted Findings of Fact and a Statement of Overriding Considerations for the General Plan. The FEIR identified certain impacts related to vegetation, wildlife, visual, traffic and noise that cannot be reduced to a less than significant level after mitigation. Specifically, the County found that implementation of the General Plan Update could result in conversion of vegetation to impermeable surfaces and related secondary water quality impacts; reduction or alteration of open spaces and degradation of scenic resources and views; increased traffic that could impact highways and local roads; increased in people exposed to natural hazards such as avalanches, volcanic episodes, earthquakes, floods and fires; reduction and increased disturbance to wildlife habitat; and construction impacts. The County found that there are economic, social and other considerations resulting from the project that serve to override and outweigh the project's unavoidable significant environmental effects, and thus, the adverse unavoidable effects are considered acceptable.

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On November 14, 2000, the County certified a Supplement to the FEIR and certified a Environmental Impact Findings and Land Use Amendment (Amendment). The Amendment was prepared to provide one integrated document that governs land use in Mono County and ensures consistent application of policies and regulations. With the exception of additional mitigation measures to reduce or avoid potential impacts, no new or more severe significant environmental impacts from implementing the project as compared to the previously adopted FEIR were identified. The Amendment concluded that all significant effects on the environment will be eliminated or substantially lessened where feasible and determined that the remaining unavoidable significant effects are acceptable due to the overriding considerations adopted in the 1993 FEIR.

The Bridgeport Streets Rehabilitation project proposed for the rehabilitation of existing roadways in the community of Bridgeport to provide for installation of sidewalk, curb and gutter, is included in the General Plan. The County completed an environmental analysis for the project in accordance with CEQA Section 15183. Based on this environmental analysis, in April 2008, the County concluded that further project level environmental analysis is not required to ensure compliance with the requirements of CEQA. All environmental impacts of the project were addressed through the Mono County General Plan Update FEIR certified on March 29, 1993, and the Supplemental FEIR certified on November 14, 2000.

The project is fully funded in the STIP and is estimated to cost $2,127,000. Construction is estimated to begin in 2011. On December 6, 2010 the County confirmed that the FEIR covers the project level scope of work that is programmed in the STIP and there are no new impacts that require mitigation and the FEIR and Supplement remain valid.

Attachments

- Resolution E-11-11
- Statement of Overriding Considerations
- Project Location

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