

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: June 29-30, 2016

Reference No.: 2.2c.(1)
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared By: Katrina C. Pierce, Chief
Division of
Environmental Analysis

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECTS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING**

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolutions E-16-33, E-16-34, E-16-35, E-16-36, and E-16-37.

ISSUE:

01-DN-199, PM 8.0/8.5 **RESOLUTION E-16-33**

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Negative Declaration (ND) has been completed:

- United States Route 199 (U.S. 199) in Del Norte County. Construct roadway improvements including a viaduct and a bridge on a portion of U.S. 199 near Crescent City. (PPNO 1076)

This project in Del Norte County will realign curves, widen lanes and shoulders, construct a viaduct and bridge, and make other improvements on U.S. 199 near Crescent City. The project is programmed in the 2014 State Highway Operation and Protection Program. The total programmed amount is \$7,763,000 for capital and support. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2016-17. The scope, as described for the preferred alternative, is consistent with the project scope programmed by the Commission in the 2014 State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

A copy of the ND has been provided to Commission staff. The project will result in less than significant impacts to the environment. As a result, an ND was completed for this project.

Attachment 1

ISSUE:

04-Ala-680, PM 0.0/4.0
RESOLUTION E-16-34

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been completed:

- Interstate 680 (I-680) in Alameda County. Construct roadway improvements including a pavement rehabilitation on a portion of I-680 in the city of Fremont. (PPNO 0587J)

This project in Alameda County will rehabilitate the roadway mainline and on/off-ramps on a portion I-680 in the city of Fremont. The project is programmed in the 2016 State Highway Operation and Protection Program. The total programmed amount is \$22,360,000 for capital and support. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2017-18. The scope, as described for the preferred alternative, is consistent with the project scope programmed by the Commission in the 2016 State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

A copy of the MND has been provided to Commission staff. The project will result in less than significant impacts to the environment after mitigation. The following resource area may be impacted by the project: biological resources. Avoidance and minimization measures will reduce any potential effects on the environment. These measures include, but are not limited to, grassland and freshwater marsh habitat for the California red-legged frog and California salamander will be restored both on and off site. As a result, an MND was completed for this project.

Attachment 2

ISSUE:

04-Nap-121, PM 8.9/9.4
RESOLUTION E-16-35

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Negative Declaration (ND) has been completed:

- State Route 121 (SR 121) in Napa County. Replace existing bridge on SR 121 near the city of Napa. (PPNO 0380L)

This project in Napa County will replace the existing bridge on SR 121 near the city of Napa. The project is programmed in the 2014 State Highway Operation and Protection Program. The total programmed amount is \$19,077,000 for capital and support. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2016-17. The scope, as described for the preferred alternative, is consistent with the project scope programmed by the Commission in the 2014 State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

A copy of the ND has been provided to Commission staff. The project will result in less than significant impacts to the environment. As a result, an ND was completed for this project.

Attachment 3

ISSUE:

06-Fre-180, PM 26.9
RESOLUTION E-16-36

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been completed:

- State Route 180 (SR 180) in Fresno County. Construct improvements on the Fresno Slough Bridge on SR 180 near the city of Mendota. (PPNO 6680)

This project in Fresno County will stabilize the bridge approaches at the Fresno Slough Bridge on State Route 180 near the city of Mendota. The project is programmed in the 2016 State Highway Operation and Protection Program. The total programmed amount is \$4,062,000 for capital and support. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2016-17. The scope, as described for the preferred alternative, is consistent with the project scope programmed by the Commission in the 2016 State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

A copy of the MND has been provided to Commission staff. The project will result in less than significant impacts to the environment after mitigation. The following resource areas may be impacted by the project: biological resources. Avoidance and minimization measures will reduce any potential effects on the environment. These measures include, but are not limited to, pre-construction surveys will be conducted for all species of concern in the project area, ESA fencing will be installed around sensitive areas, and monitoring of sensitive areas will be done by a qualified biologist. As a result, an MND was completed for this project.

Attachment 4

ISSUE:

12-Ora-1, PM R18.38
RESOLUTION E-16-37

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been completed:

- State Route 1 (SR 1) in Orange County. Construct restoration improvements to the Newport Bay Bridge on SR 1 in the city of Newport Beach. (PPNO 2382)

This project in Orange County will repair failed slope paving and a failed asphalt concrete bike path at the North Arm of the Newport Bay Bridge in the city of Newport Beach. The project is programmed in the 2016 State Highway Operation and Protection Program. The total programmed amount is \$2,813,000 for capital and support. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2016-17. The scope, as described for the preferred alternative, is consistent with the project scope programmed by the Commission in the 2016 State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

A copy of the MND has been provided to Commission staff. The project will result in less than significant impacts to the environment after mitigation. The following resource areas may be impacted by the project: biological resources. Avoidance and minimization measures will reduce any potential effects on the environment. These measures include, but are not limited to, the purchase of wetland credits from an approved mitigation bank, shielded lighting will be used for any nighttime construction adjacent to any native vegetation and/or open-water habitats, all construction within jurisdictional waters will occur at a low-tide, and monitoring of sensitive areas will be done by a qualified biologist. As a result, an MND was completed for this project.

Attachment 5

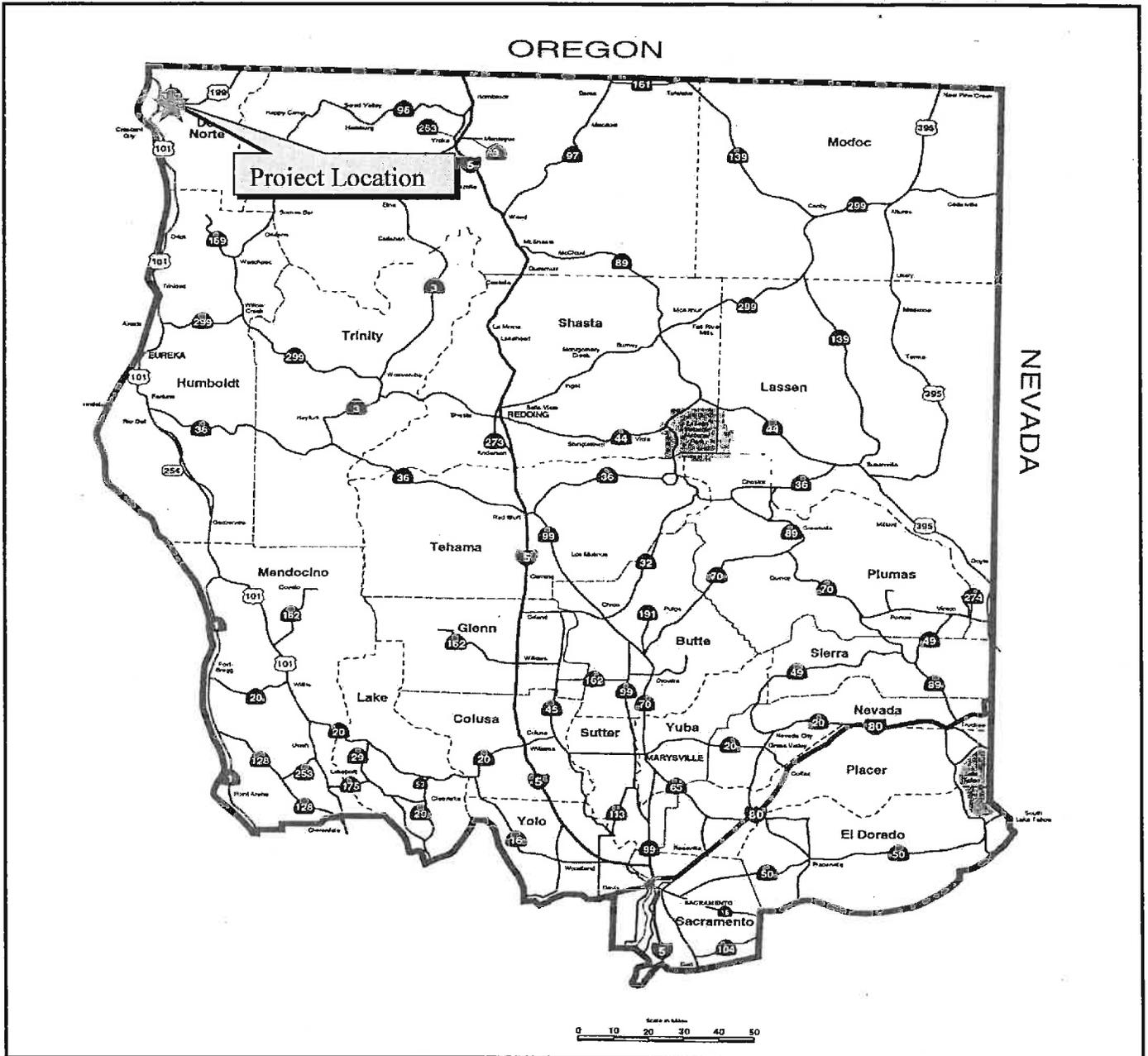
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

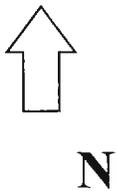
01-DN-199, PM 8.0/8.5

Resolution E-16-33

- 1.1 WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- United States Route 199 (U.S. 199) in Del Norte County.
Construct roadway improvements including a viaduct and a bridge on a portion of U.S. 199 near Crescent City. (PPNO 1076)
- 1.2 WHEREAS**, the Department has certified that the Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.



Project Vicinity Map



**Del Norte County, California
Highway 199 Post Mile 8.25**

**Caltrans District 1
Eureka, CA**

**Smith River Curve Improvement
Project
EA - 01-0B260
EFIS ID - 0112000150**

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

04-Ala-680, PM 0.0/4.0

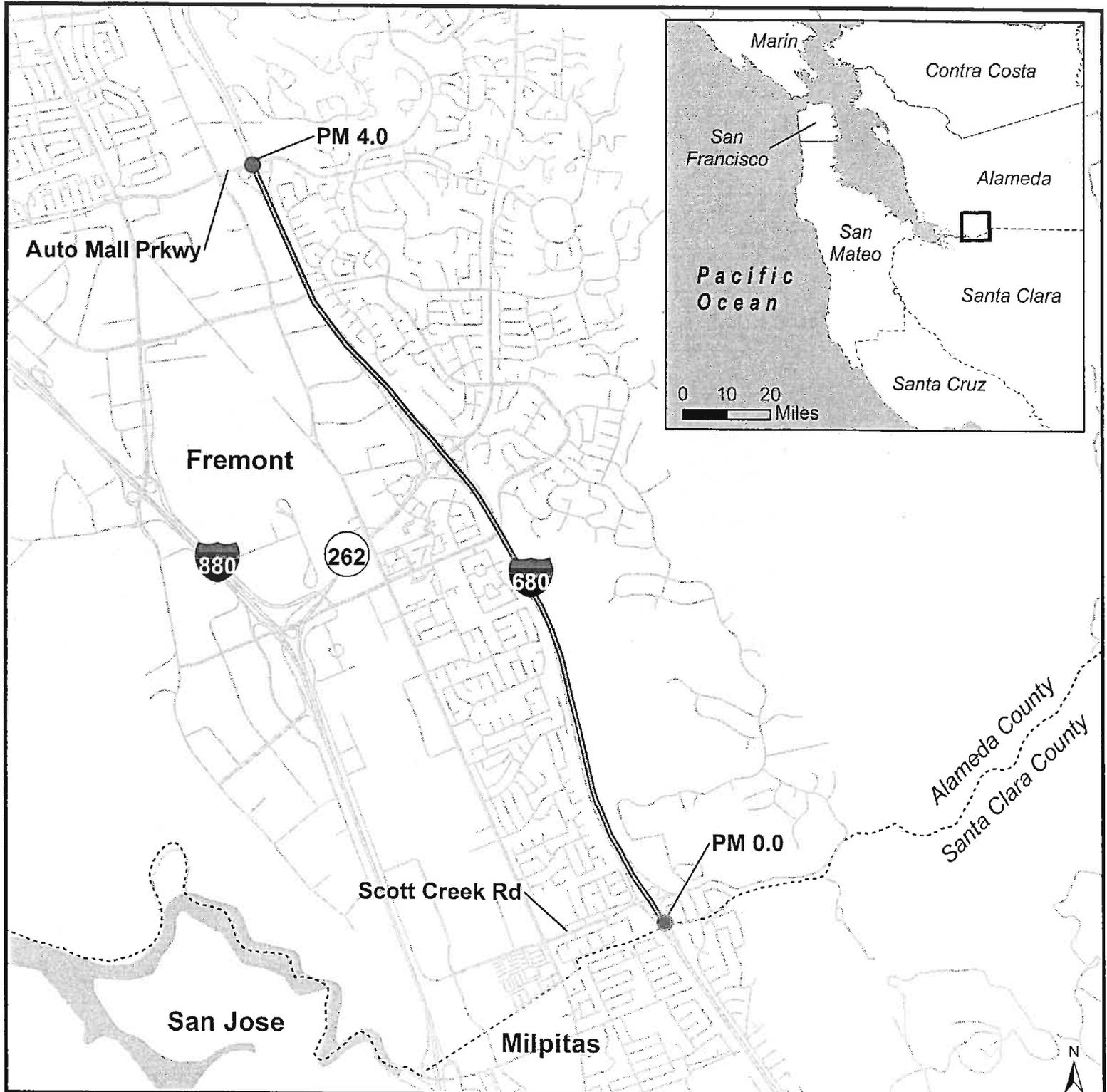
Resolution E-16-34

- 1.1 WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- Interstate 680 (I-680) in Alameda County. Construct roadway improvements including a pavement rehabilitation on a portion of I-680 in the city of Fremont. (PPNO 0587J)
- 1.2 WHEREAS**, the Department 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 California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

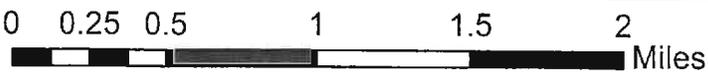
ATTACHMENT 2 Interstate 680 Northbound Pavement Rehabilitation Project

EA 04-3G600; Project ID 04-1200-0139

SCH #2015112051



March 2016



- Project Post Miles (PM)
- Project Location
- Roads
- County Boundary
- Water
- Urban



CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

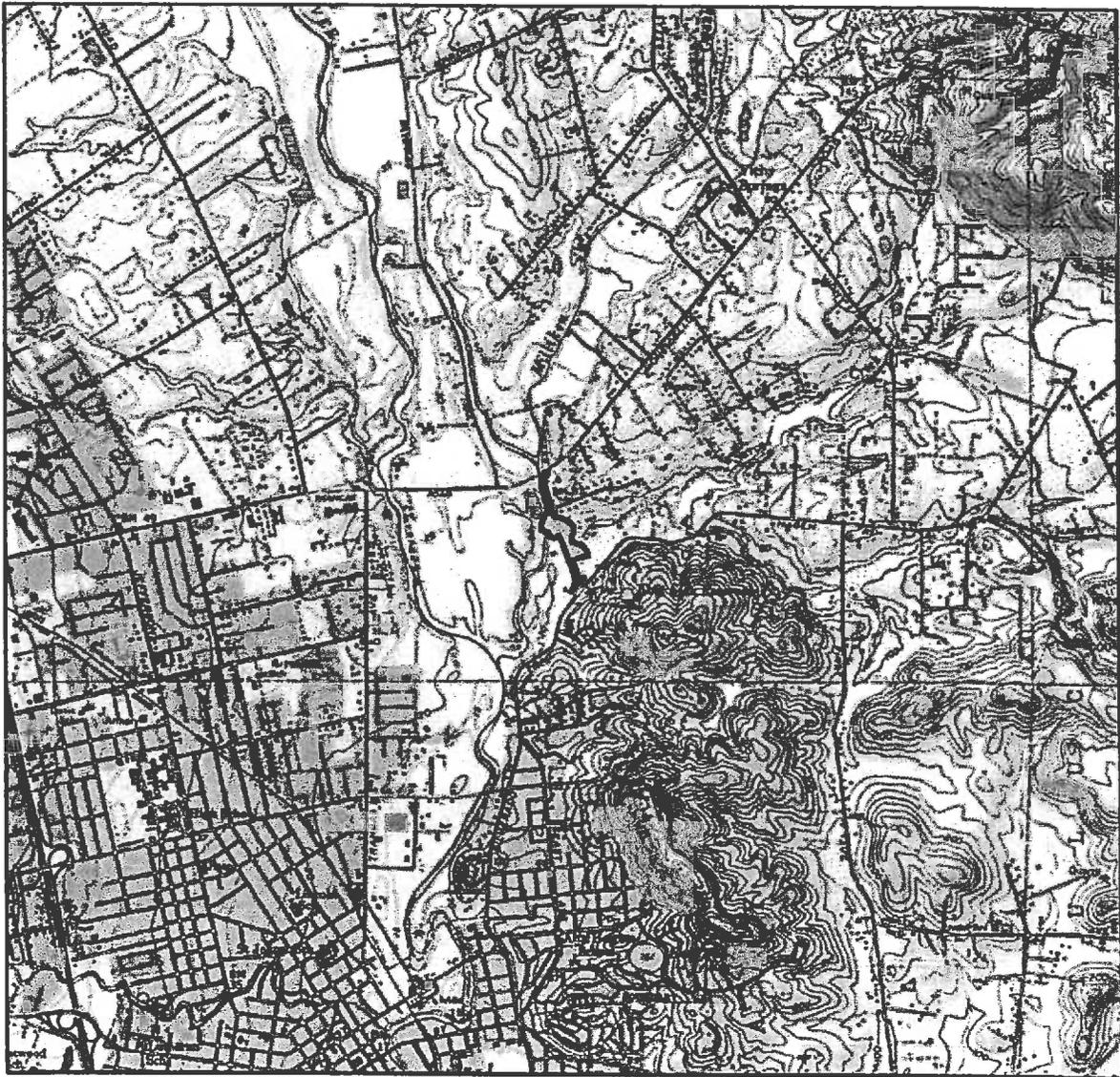
04-Nap-121, PM 8.9/9.4

Resolution E-16-35

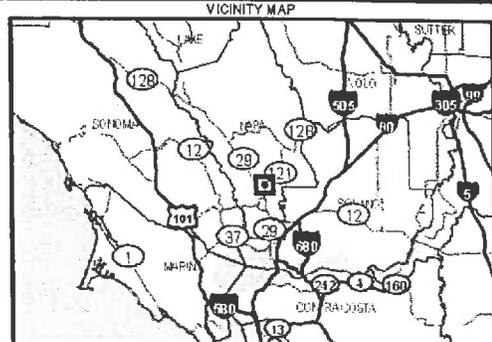
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- 2.1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

ATTACHMENT 3

Figure 1-1 Project Vicinity



LEGEND
Project Location



CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

06-Fre-180, PM 26.9

Resolution E-16-36

- 1.1 WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- State Route 180 (SR 180) in Fresno County. Construct improvements on the Fresno Slough Bridge on SR 180 near the city of Mendota. (PPNO 6680)
- 1.2 WHEREAS**, the Department has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
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CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

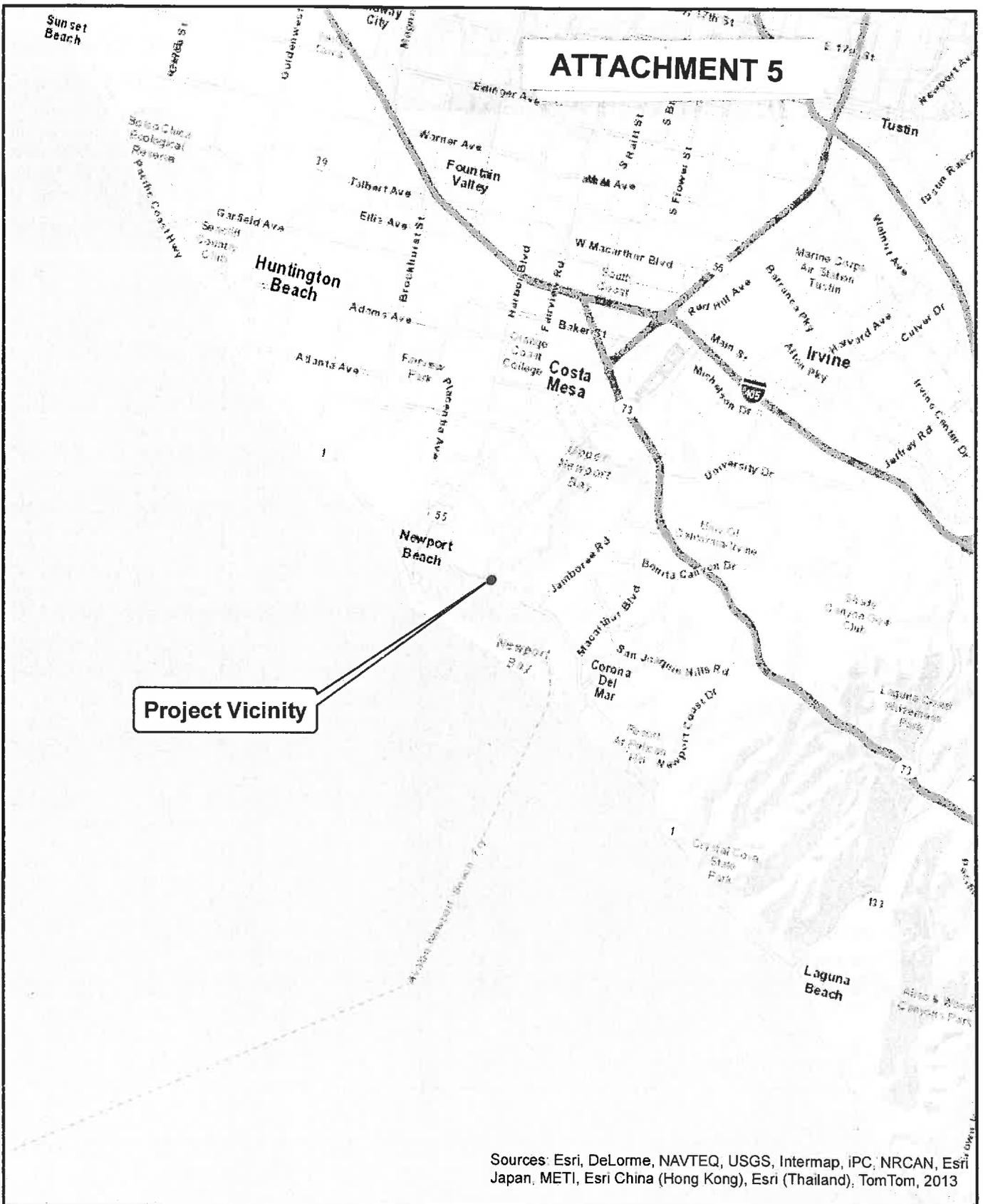
Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding

12-Ora-1, PM R18.38

Resolution E-16-37

- 1.1** **WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- State Route 1 (SR 1) in Orange County. Construct restoration improvements to the Newport Bay Bridge on SR 1 in the city of Newport Beach. (PPNO 2382)
- 1.2** **WHEREAS**, the Department 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 California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.4** **WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2.1** **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

ATTACHMENT 5



Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

Project Vicinity: Figure 1

<p>Legend</p> <p> Project Area</p>	<p>PCH and Dover Drive Bike Path Repair Project EA 0N910/EFIS 1215000008 PM R18.38</p>	<p>0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Miles</p>  
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June 28, 2016

Chair Bob Alvarado & Commissioners
California Transportation Commission
via email to Executive Director Susan Bransen at susan.bransen@dot.ca.gov

RE: Smith River Curve Improvement Project

Chair Alvarado and Commissioners:

At your June 29-30, 2016 meeting, you will be asked to approve a set of improvements to US 199 in Del Norte County called the “Smith River Curve Improvement Project” for consideration of future funding. **We strongly urge you to investigate certain possible effects of this project more thoroughly before providing such approval.**

The project is listed in the adopted 2014 SHOPP, where the improvements are described simply as “widen shoulders.” Our organizations’ previous understanding of this project was based on this description. Therefore, we were surprised to see the full description of the project in your June 29-30 meeting book as “realign curves, widen lanes and shoulders, construct a viaduct and bridge, and make other improvements.”

You may be aware that Caltrans District 1 has for many years been pursuing another project to realign other curves, widen lanes and shoulders, and construct related improvements on US 199 and SR 197 for the purpose of allowing STAA trucks on these routes. The “197/199 Safe STAA Access Project” has been the subject of litigation by EPIC and other organizations, and Caltrans is currently in the process of conducting additional court-ordered environmental review.

Environmental documents for the 197/199 Safe STAA Access Project state: “Because it would provide STAA truck access on the SR 197–US 199 corridor between U.S. Highway 101 (US 101) and the Oregon state line, where STAA truck access is already provided on US 199, the combined need for improvements at the seven project locations has independent utility (i.e., it creates one stand-alone project that is a reasonable expenditure even if no additional transportation improvements in the area are made).” In other words, Caltrans recognizes that all improvements on US 199 and SR 197 required to allow STAA truck access between US 101 and the Oregon state line must be considered as “one stand-alone project.”

However, the 1999 Route Concept Report for the US 199 corridor identifies an additional location, not included in the STAA project description, where improvements would need to be made to allow STAA truck access. This location is between PM 8.2 to PM 9.8. The location for the Smith River Curve Improvement Project, between PM 8.0 and PM 8.5, overlaps with this location.

The proposed Negative Declaration identifies it as a collision reduction project and does not mention STAA trucks. We do not wish to stand in the way of a project which will truly improve safety on US 199. However, based on the available descriptions of the project, the information provided in the 1999 Route Concept Report, and our own first-hand knowledge of conditions on US 199, it seems likely that this project will result in removal of a current impediment to STAA truck access on US 199. **If this is the case, the Smith River Curve Improvement Project must be incorporated into the 197/199 Safe STAA Access Project and cannot move forward independently.** To allow it to move forward independently would be to sanction a violation of environmental laws by allowing piecemeal analysis of the STAA project's impacts.

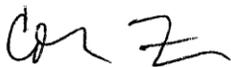
We strongly urge you to investigate both the planned and the reasonable predictable effects of the Smith River Curve Improvement Project. If the project will have the effect of removing any current impediment(s) to STAA truck access between US 101 and the Oregon border, you must not allow it to move forward at this time.

Thank you for giving our comments careful consideration.

Sincerely,



Natalynne DeLapp
Executive Director
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
natalynne@wildcalifornia.org
145 G Street, Suite A
Arcata, CA 95521



Colin Fiske
Campaign Coordinator
Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities
colin@transportationpriorities.org
P.O. Box 2280
McKinleyville, CA 95519