

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: August 17-18, 2016

Reference No.: 2.2c.(2)
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

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Division of
Environmental Analysis

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING**
05-Mon-101, PM R41.5/49.8
RESOLUTION E-16-59

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-15-59.

ISSUE:

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) has been completed:

- United States Route 101 (U.S. 101) in Monterey County. Construct roadway improvements including removing trees and utility poles on a portion of U.S. 101 between the cities of King City and Greenfield. (PPNO 2312)

This project in Monterey County will clear the clear recovery zone by removing 321 trees and a guardrail between the cities of King City and Greenfield. The project is programmed in the 2014 State Highway Operation and Protection Program. The total programmed amount is \$4,158,000 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 FEIR has been provided to Commission staff. Resources that may be impacted by the project include: aesthetics, biological resources, and traffic.

Potential impacts associated with the project can all be mitigated to below significance with the exception of visual/aesthetics. As a result, an FEIR and a Statement of Overriding Considerations was prepared for the project.

Attachments

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 05-Mon-101, PM R41.5/49.8 Resolution E-16-59

- 1.1** **WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Final Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- United States Route 101 (U.S. 101) in Monterey County. Construct roadway improvements including removing trees and utility poles on a portion of U.S. 101 between the cities of King City and Greenfield. (PPNO 2312)
- 1.2** **WHEREAS**, the Department has certified that a Final Environmental Impact Report 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 Final Environmental Impact Report.
- 1.4** **WHEREAS**, the project will have a significant effect on the environment.
- 1.5** **WHEREAS**, A Statement of Overriding Considerations was made pursuant to CEQA Guidelines.
- 1.6** **WHEREAS**, Findings were made pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines.
- 2.1** **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby support approval of the above referenced project to allow for consideration of funding.

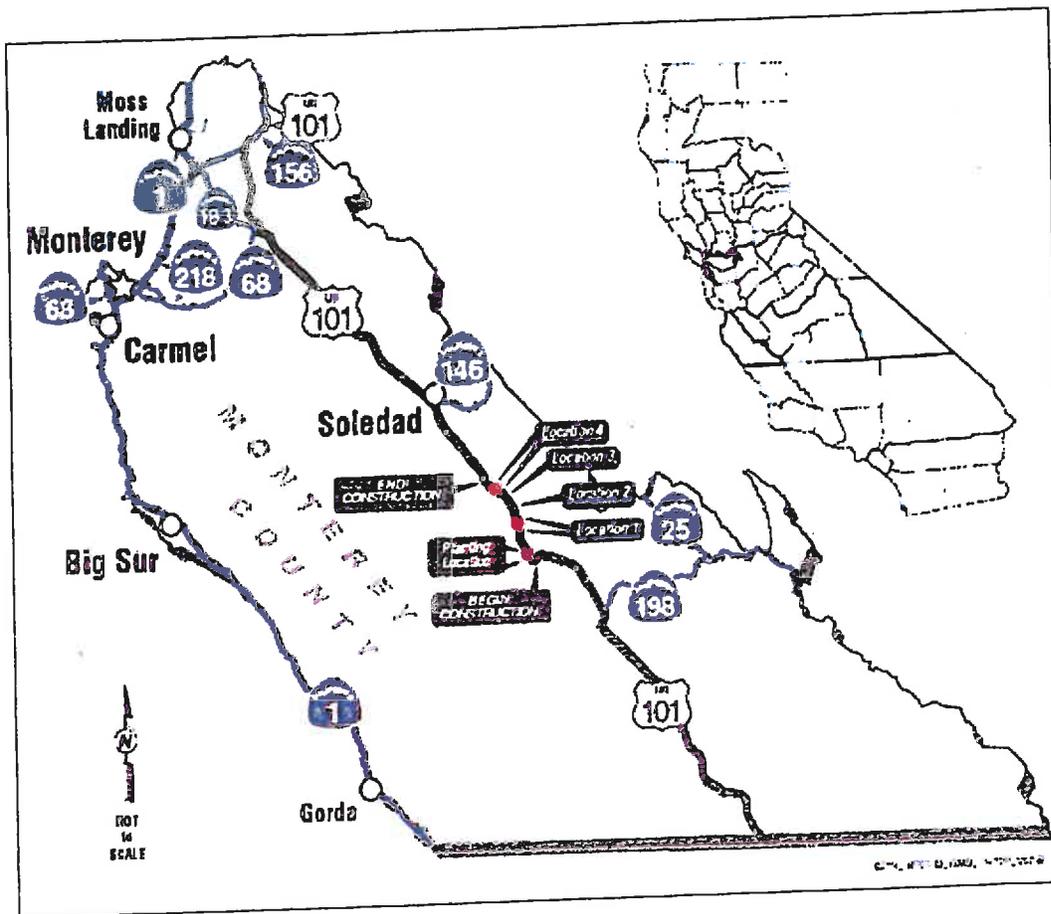


Figure 1-1a Project Vicinity Map

STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE REMOVAL OF APPROXIMATELY 320 EUCALYPTUS TREES FROM U.S. 101 NEAR KING CITY IN MONTEREY COUNTY

The following information is presented to comply with State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 15903), and the Department of Transportation and California Transportation Commission Environmental Regulations (Title 21 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 11, Section 1501). Reference is made to the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the project, which is the basic source for the information.

The following impacts have been identified as significant and not fully mitigable:

Aesthetics/Visual impacts resulting from the individual project and cumulatively with past and future projects: Substantial visual changes would occur throughout this corridor due to the loss of vegetation. There are several major projects that were either recently constructed, currently being constructed, or planned for construction that will all contribute to an increase in the visual scale of the highway corridor and its urban character. Although each of these project would individually minimize and/or mitigate visual impacts, the cumulative visual effect of those projects combined with the CURE Safety Improvement Project would be substantial.

Overriding considerations that support approval of this recommended project are as follows:

The project would create a safer roadside by removing fixed objects in the clear recovery zone by eliminating guardrail and reducing the potential of falling limbs, debris and trees on to the highway.

Alternative 1 was selected as the preferred alternative based on the fact that it minimizes traffic safety concerns and eliminates the need for ongoing tree maintenance. It also removes the trees from being a fixed object within the clear recovery zone requiring metal beam guardrail protection.