

Howard N. Dashiell
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

Road Commissioner
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COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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January 19, 2016

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1090
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND A MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NO. 10C-0065 ON NORTH STATE STREET, CR 104, MILE POST (MP) 0.97 OVER ACKERMAN CREEK (UKIAH AREA)

Honorable Board of Supervisors:

On June 14, 2011, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved Resolution No. 11-093 authorizing the award of Department of Transportation (DOT) Agreement No. 110002, BOS Agreement No. 11-056, Professional Services Agreement with Quincy Engineering, Inc. for preliminary engineering design and technical studies pertaining to the replacement of the North State Street Bridge over Ackerman Creek, CR 104, MP 0.97, near the City of Ukiah, Mendocino County, California.

The existing bridge on North State Street crossing Ackerman Creek was built in 1965 and is located on a major collector road serving as an access to Hensley Creek Road (located approximately 0.4 miles north of the project), the primary access to Mendocino College. It is proposed to replace the bridge (No. 10C-0065) on North State Street and construct the necessary roadway approach improvements. The existing bridge is currently classified as Functionally Obsolete due to seismic and hydraulic scour conditions. Therefore, it no longer meets the safety and functional needs of the public. Although the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) sufficiency rating for the existing bridge was above 50, which is typically not eligible for replacement, replacement was determined to be the more cost effective alternative compared to the high cost associated with retrofitting and widening the existing structure to be consistent with the width of North State Street. The new bridge will meet current design standards of Mendocino County, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and Caltrans.

The new bridge would be a single-span, approximately 146-foot long, cast-in-place, post-tensioned, concrete box girder structure. The new structure would be 64-feet wide to accommodate two 11-foot wide traffic lanes, a 12-foot wide left turn lane, 6-foot wide shoulders and 8-foot wide sidewalks on

both sides. The new bridge elevation would be lowered in order to reduce the severity of the existing vertical curve and improve sight distance across the bridge. Staged construction would be required over two seasons in order to keep the roadway open during construction. The single-span bridge option would minimize environmental impacts on Ackerman Creek by avoiding the need to construct bridge supports inside the active channel. An existing Denil fish ladder will be removed and replaced by a pool-and-weir, roughened channel fish way under the new structure to improve fish passage conditions at the site.

The estimated total cost of the project is \$7,645,000. The project is federally funded primarily through the Federal Highway Bridge Program, \$6,768,000 (88.53%), with the local match being \$877,000 (11.47%) reimbursed through the College Redevelopment Agency.

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, an Initial Study has been completed for this project. The study supports the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration. CEQA further requires that the lead agency hold a public hearing to determine whether the environmental impacts identified for the project can be adequately mitigated so that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result. If so, the Board can then adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.

Public comments received up to the public hearing date of February 9, 2016, will be provided during the Board's meeting.

The Department of Transportation maintains, based on the Initial Study, it is appropriate for the Board to adopt the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project. The draft report which includes a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is available for review at the following website: <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/dot/ackermancrk.htm>. The proposed bridge construction is expected to greatly improve safety without causing significant impacts. Construction of the bridge was anticipated to begin in the summer of 2016, but construction is now scheduled to begin in the summer of 2017, pending receipt of applicable permits and federal funding.

Based on the foregoing considerations, I recommend and request adoption of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, and that the Director of Transportation be given authorization and direction to file the applicable Notice of Determination.

A draft Resolution for adoption of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and related documents are enclosed.

I will, of course, respond to any questions that the Board may have.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD N. DASHIELL
Director of Transportation

Enclosures

cc: DOT Project File A1101