

MENDOCINO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

----- *DRAFT until approved by Board of Supervisors on June 15, 2010* -----

FELIZ CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, BR# 10C-0134

DATE: April 2, 2010

Project Description

The existing bridge at Feliz Cr. near Hopland was built in 1960. The road to the west provides the only entry to a residential and agricultural area as well as access for fire fighting. The bridge is deteriorated and is now classed as Structurally Deficient (SD) with a Sufficiency Rating (SR) of only 27.7. The mostly wooden bridge has two spans with a combined length of 61 ft. In 2000, the bridge required structural reinforcement by installation of two steel I-beam “strongbacks” placed on the upper road deck, constraining road width to about 12 ft. It is proposed that the bridge will be replaced at an adjacent southerly location with a new conforming structure of steel or concrete (most likely a combination of both). The new bridge would be a two-span (40 foot +/- each) flat slab bridge with one center bent. (The possibility of a 3-span bridge may be considered.) This proposal has been accepted by Federal Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program (HBRRP). During the construction of the new bridge, the existing bridge will remain in place to serve as a detour for traffic. This will result in a new alignment for the approaches for the replacement bridge. Approaches to the bridge will be realigned both vertically and horizontally, and cross slopes corrected to meet current standards.

Determination

In accordance with Mendocino County’s procedures for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County has conducted an Initial Study to determine whether the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. On the basis of that study, it has been determined that:

Although the project, as proposed, could have had a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because mitigation measures required for the project will reduce potentially significant effects to a less than significant level; therefore, it is recommended that a **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** be adopted.

The attached Initial Study incorporates all relevant information regarding the potential environmental effects of the project and confirms the determination that an EIR is not required for the project.