

# Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: February 15, 2002

From: Diane C. Eidam

File No:  
Reference Number 2.2c.(2)  
Action

Ref: San Diego-Oceanside Low-Emission, High-Speed Ferry Project (San Diego County) – Consideration for Funding to Acquire a Low-Emission, High-Speed Ferryboat for New Off-Coast Service Between San Diego and Oceanside (Notice of Determination) (TCRP #81) Resolution E-02-25

## Issue:

Should the Commission adopt the attached resolution to approve consideration of funding to acquire a low-emission, high-speed ferryboat for new off-coast service between San Diego and Oceanside in San Diego County?

## Recommendation:

Commission staff recommends that the Commission, as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-02-25. As a responsible agency the Commission must approve this Resolution prior to allocating funds for capital purposes on the proposed ferry project.

## Background:

This resolution proposes to approve for consideration of funding the following project for which a Mitigated Negative Declaration under the California Environmental Quality Act has been completed:

- San Diego-Oceanside Low-Emission, High-Speed Ferry Project (San Diego County) – New off-coast service between San Diego and Oceanside.

The current estimate for the project is \$5,000,000 of which 100% of the total project cost will be provided through the Governor's Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), Project #81. The Commission approved the San Diego Unified Port District's application for Phase I (environmental review and permits) and Phase II (project specifications) of this project at its October 3, 2001 meeting. Commission staff provided comments on the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration indicating that the document limits the environmental analysis to a 12-month demonstration project and does not consider the resulting impacts in future years should the project prove successful and continue, which would necessitate another round of environmental review. The Port concurs that additional environmental review would be needed when the proposed service exceeds the available landside facilities and expansion is required.

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The San Diego Unified Port District has approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project. The Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Study/Environmental Assessment has been transmitted to Commission staff. The Commission's approval and the resulting filing of the Notice of Determination with the Office of Planning and Research will satisfy the environmental requirements for this stage of the project planning process.

Attachment

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Resolution for Approval of Project for Consideration of Funding  
San Diego-Oceanside Low-Emission, High-Speed Ferry Project  
(San Diego County)**

Resolution E-02-25

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the San Diego Unified Port District has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, the CEQA Guidelines, and the California Transportation Commission Environmental Regulations for the following project
  - San Diego-Oceanside Low-Emission, High-Speed Ferry Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigation Negative Declaration; and
- 1.3 **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 for consideration of funding.