

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 11, 2013

Reference No.: 2.2c. (10)
Action

From: ANDRE BOUTROS
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE YUCCA LOMA ROAD/YATES
ROAD/GREEN TREE BOULEVARD TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
(RESOLUTION E-13-55)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Yucca Loma Road/Yates Road/Green Tree Boulevard Transportation Improvement (project) in San Bernardino County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission accept the MND and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND:

The Town of Apple Valley is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The proposed project is a joint undertaking between the Town of Apple Valley, San Bernardino County, and the City of Victorville. On December 14, 2010, the Town of Apple Valley adopted the final MND and found that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. On January 6, 2011, the Town of Apple Valley and Caltrans approved a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) pursuant to NEPA and found that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment.

The project is located between the Town of Apple Valley and the City of Victorville, north of Bear Valley Road and south of State Route (SR) 18 in the southwestern portion of San Bernardino County. The proposed project will establish a new route across the Mojave River linking the Town of Apple Valley and the City of Victorville. The Project will widen Yucca Loma Road from Apple Valley Road to its current terminus east of Kasanka Trail, construct a new bridge crossing over the Mojave River extending to Yates Road, widen Yates Road, realign the Ridgecrest Road/Yates Road intersection, and construct an extension of Green Tree Boulevard from the new Ridgecrest

Road/Yates Road intersection with a bridge over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad to Hesperia Road.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to a less than significant level relate to parks and recreational facilities, traffic and transportation, community resources, utilities and service systems, visual and aesthetic resources, cultural resources, hydrology and floodplain resources, water quality and stormwater runoff, geological resources, paleontological resources, hazardous waste and materials, air quality resources, noise, biological resources and climate change. The Town of Apple Valley determined that mitigation measures will reduce the potential impacts to less than significant levels.

Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to:

- measures to preserve access and limit impacts to Mojave Narrows Regional Park;
- measures to comply with the Uniform Relocation Assistance Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970;
- measures to coordinate utilities relocation to minimize service interruptions;
- preparation of a Traffic Management Plan, notification of emergency services providers, construction of bicycle facilities and installation of a new traffic signal and crosswalk;
- incorporation of design features and locations of project components to minimize visual impacts, development of lighting and replanting plans;
- implementation of a paleontological monitoring plan, measures to handle inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and installation of fencing prevent disturbance of culturally sensitive areas;
- measures to limit disturbance of riparian vegetation and transplant/re-vegetate impacted areas in compliance with the Mojave River Floodplain Maintenance Plan; obtain flood control permits, stormwater discharge permits, prepare and implement stormwater and erosion control plans;
- pre-construction testing for hazardous materials;
- implementation of a dust control plan and measures to reduce construction emissions;
- implementation of construction noise control measures such as restricting construction hours to minimize noise disturbance, and utilizing construction equipment furnished with noise control devices, installation of soundwalls to minimize operational noise impacts;
- installation of fencing to minimize impacts to environmentally sensitive areas, timing of vegetation removal to reduce impacts to nesting birds, approximately 6.5 acres of compensatory mitigation to offset the loss of sensitive natural communities, approximately 3-3.5 acres of compensatory mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional waters, measures to minimize impacts to plant species including Joshua trees, pre-construction surveys and measures to minimize impacts to wildlife species including the burrowing owl and the desert tortoise, measures to minimize the spread of native plant species; and
- use of Portland cement, fly ash, light colored surfaces, energy efficient lighting, and engine idling restrictions to reduce energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions.

On April 15, 2013 the County provided written confirmation that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project programmed by the Commission.

The entire project is estimated to cost \$80,000,000 and will be constructed in phases. Phase I includes road widening to four lanes on Yucca Loma Road to Yates Road, and construction of a new bridge over the Mojave River including bicycle lanes and sidewalks. This component of Phase I is included in the SLPP program and is funded with SLPP (\$9,712,000) and Local/Other (\$32,777,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2013/14.

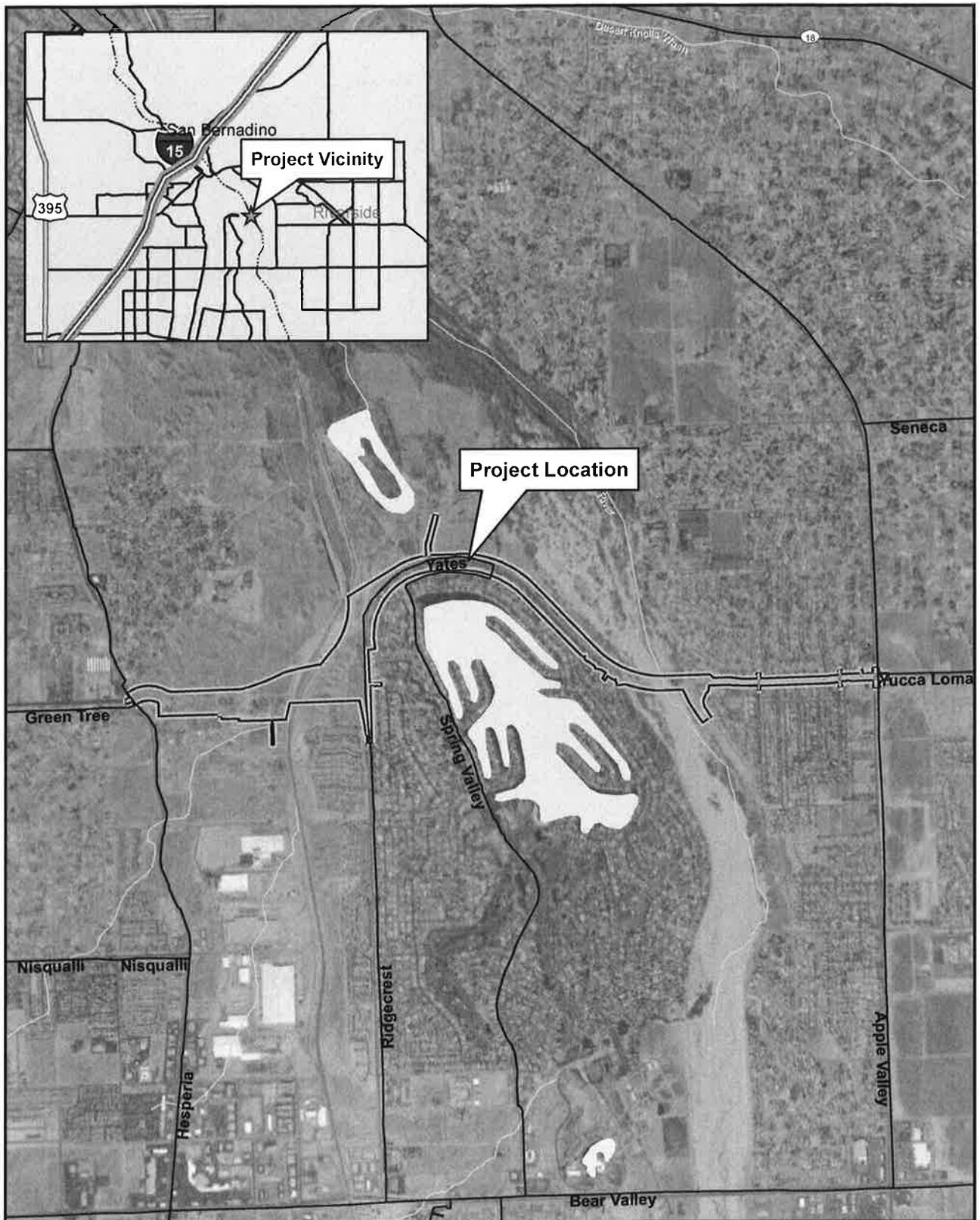
Attachment

- Resolution E-13-55
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 08 – San Bernardino County Resolution E-13-55

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the Town of Apple Valley has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Yucca Loma Road/Yates Road/Green Tree Boulevard Transportation Improvement Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the Town of Apple Valley 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 proposed project will establish a new route across the Mojave River linking the Town of Apple Valley and the City of Victorville. The Project will widen Yucca Loma Road from Apple Valley Road to its current terminus east of Kasanka Trail, construct a new bridge crossing over the Mojave River extending to Yates Road, widen Yates Road, realign the Ridgecrest Road/Yates Road intersection, and construct an extension of Green Tree Boulevard from the new Ridgecrest Road/Yates Road intersection with a bridge over the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad to Hesperia Road; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the Town of Apple Valley found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the Town of Apple Valley approved the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.



Base Map: Digital Globe 2008 Dokken Engineering

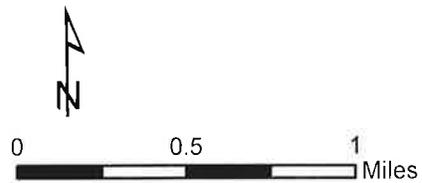


FIGURE 1
Project Vicinity Map

Yucca Loma Road/Yates Road/Greentree Boulevard Extension Project
 District 8
 STPL 5453(011)
 Town of Apple Valley, City of Victorville, and San Bernardino County