

## M e m o r a n d u m

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: January 20-21, 2016

Reference No.: 2.2c.(7)  
Action

From: WILL KEMPTON  
Executive Director

Subject: APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE MONTEREY BAY  
SANCTUARY SCENIC TRAIL NETWORK MASTER PLAN, INCLUDING THE RAIL  
TRAIL – LEE ROAD PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-16-07)

**ISSUE:**

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) and Addendum for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSSTN) Master Plan including the Rail Trail – Lee Road Project in Santa Cruz County for future consideration of funding?

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Commission accept the FEIR and Addendum and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Watsonville (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The Rail Trail–Lee Road Project is a portion of Segment 18 of the MBSSTN Master Plan. The Rail Trail–Lee Road Project will construct a 4,000 lineal foot, multi-use paved path adjacent to the railroad tracks. The path will be eight-foot wide with a paved surface and two-foot wide base rock shoulders on each side for a total width of 12 feet.

On November 7, 2013, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission certified the FEIR on the MBSSTN Master Plan. The FEIR concluded that the project would have no environmental effects that could not be mitigated to levels that are less than significant. An addendum to the FEIR was prepared to include two components of Segment 18 that were not specifically analyzed in the FEIR of the MBSSTN Master Plan. On October 13 2015, the Watsonville City Council approved the Addendum to the FEIR and certified that the environmental setting remains essentially the same as they were in the FEIR of the MBSSTN Master Plan approved in 2013.

The FEIR and Addendum determined that impacts related to agricultural resources, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, transportation and traffic would be less than significant with incorporated mitigation.

On December 1, 2015, the City confirmed that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project's programmed scope.

The total cost of the project is estimated to cost \$1,300,000. The project is anticipated to be funded with \$1,040,000 in STIP funds and \$260,000 in donations from the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2016/17.

Attachment

- Resolution E-16-07
- Project Location

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 05– Santa Cruz County Resolution E-16-07

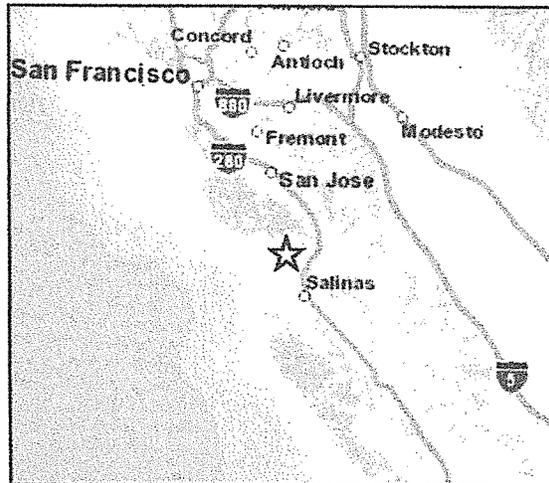
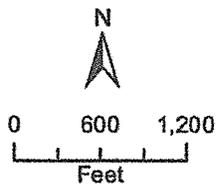
- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Watsonville has completed a Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
  - Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan including the Rail Trail – Lee Road Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Watsonville has certified that the Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum were completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the Rail Trail–Lee Road Project is a portion of Segment 18 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan.
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the Rail Trail–Lee Road Project will construct a 4,000 lineal foot, multi-use paved path adjacent to the railroad tracks. The path will be eight-foot wide with a paved surface and two-foot wide base rock shoulders on each side for a total width of 12 feet; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the FEIR and Addendum determined that impacts related to agricultural resources, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, transportation and traffic would be less than significant with incorporated mitigation pursuant to CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the Watsonville City Council approved the Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report and deemed it not to have adverse impacts or increased severity of adverse impacts.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum and approves the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

**Rail Trail Lee Road  
Project Description**



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 Project Location



**Project Location**

**Figure 1**  
*City of Watsonville*