

State of California
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Department of Transportation

HIGHWAY ROUTE MATTERS
New Public Road Connection
Resolution S-714
06-Kern-178-KP 51.0 (PM 31.7)

Prepared by:
Robert L. Buckley
Program Manager
Design and Local Programs
(916) 654-3858

CTC Meeting: December 5-6, 2000

Agenda Item: 2.3b.(1)

Original Signed By _____

W.J. EVANS, Deputy Director
Finance
December 1, 2000

NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION

RECOMMENDATION

Submitted to the California Transportation Commission are Resolution S-714 and maps of the location on State Highway Route 178. The Greenhorn Ranger District of the Sequoia National Forest (SQF) has requested approval of a new public road connection to State Route 178. Pursuant to Section 100.2 of the Streets and Highways Code, no local road shall be connected with any freeway until the Commission adopts a resolution consenting thereto. It is recommended that the Commission approve the resolution in accordance with the recommendation of the Deputy Director, Project Development. The resolution grants approval of two T-shaped intersections that are approximately 82.3 m (270 feet) apart to State Route 178 in the County of Kern in the Sequoia National Forest at Kilometer Post 51.0 (Post Mile 31.7). The two connections will provide right-turn only in and out access to a boat launch on the Kern River.

Original Signed By Robert Buckley for _____

Recommended by: BRENT FELKER, Deputy Director Project Development

Background

State Route 178 between 6.4 kilometers (4 miles) east of Mount Vernon Avenue, in the City of Bakersfield, and 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) northeasterly of the junction with Route 155 was adopted into the State Highway System as a freeway by the California Highway Commission on April 27, 1960. A freeway agreement was executed with the County of Kern on September 2, 1975 for that portion of SR 178 between Democrat Spring and 1.6 kilometers (1 mile) northeast of Route 155. A significant portion of State Route 178 that is covered by the freeway agreement with Kern County is within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service. State Route 178 enters the U.S. Forest Service land near KP 24.1 (PM 15) and continues to KP 65.0 (PM 40.5) where it enters the Mojave Grazing District land. Through this stretch of freeway there are only three locations, each segment is less than one kilometer in length, that pass through private lands. State Route 178 provides a major link between Bakersfield and Lake Isabella for both commuters and recreational users. The average daily traffic (ADT) of State Route 178 at the Delonegha Bridge was 3,650 in 1999 and is expected to be 9,200 in the year 2019.

Because State Route 178 is a controlled access facility and only emergency parking is allowed, this segment of the Lower Kern River was left inaccessible for many users. Working with Caltrans, the local community, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the SQF identified areas to develop parking and river access. The proposed Delonegha Boat Launch and River Access was identified as a top priority. The proposed Delonegha Boat Launch and River Access is situated at an important halfway point for the lengthy whitewater boating run between Miracle and Democrat Dams, currently the only legal put-in/take-out site for 19.3 km (12 miles) on the Lower Kern River. Access at this point would provide a safety option for boaters who need to leave the river for various reasons. This proposal is consistent with the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) approved on February 25, 1988 and a the Mediated Settlement Agreement for the Sequoia National Forest Plan that was reached in July of 1990. The California Department of Fish and Game, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Kern County Parks and Recreation, and the Kern Council of Governments provided input into the development of the LRMP.

Proposal

The project report, approved on September 5, 2000, proposed the construction of access to a parking and boat launch area on the Kern River. The access will involve two road approaches from either side of State Route 178. The T-intersection on the west side of the highway will connect directly with the parking area and the boat launch on the downstream side of the bridge. The T-intersection for the east access road will cross beneath the bridge to the launch and parking area. The looped access roads will be double laned and paved. Two access points are needed to eliminate left turn movements across traffic on State Route 178.

The project will be funded by the State of California Department of Boating and Waterways and a grant from the California Resource Agency. The construction cost is estimated to be \$410, 000. It is anticipated that construction will take place in 2001.

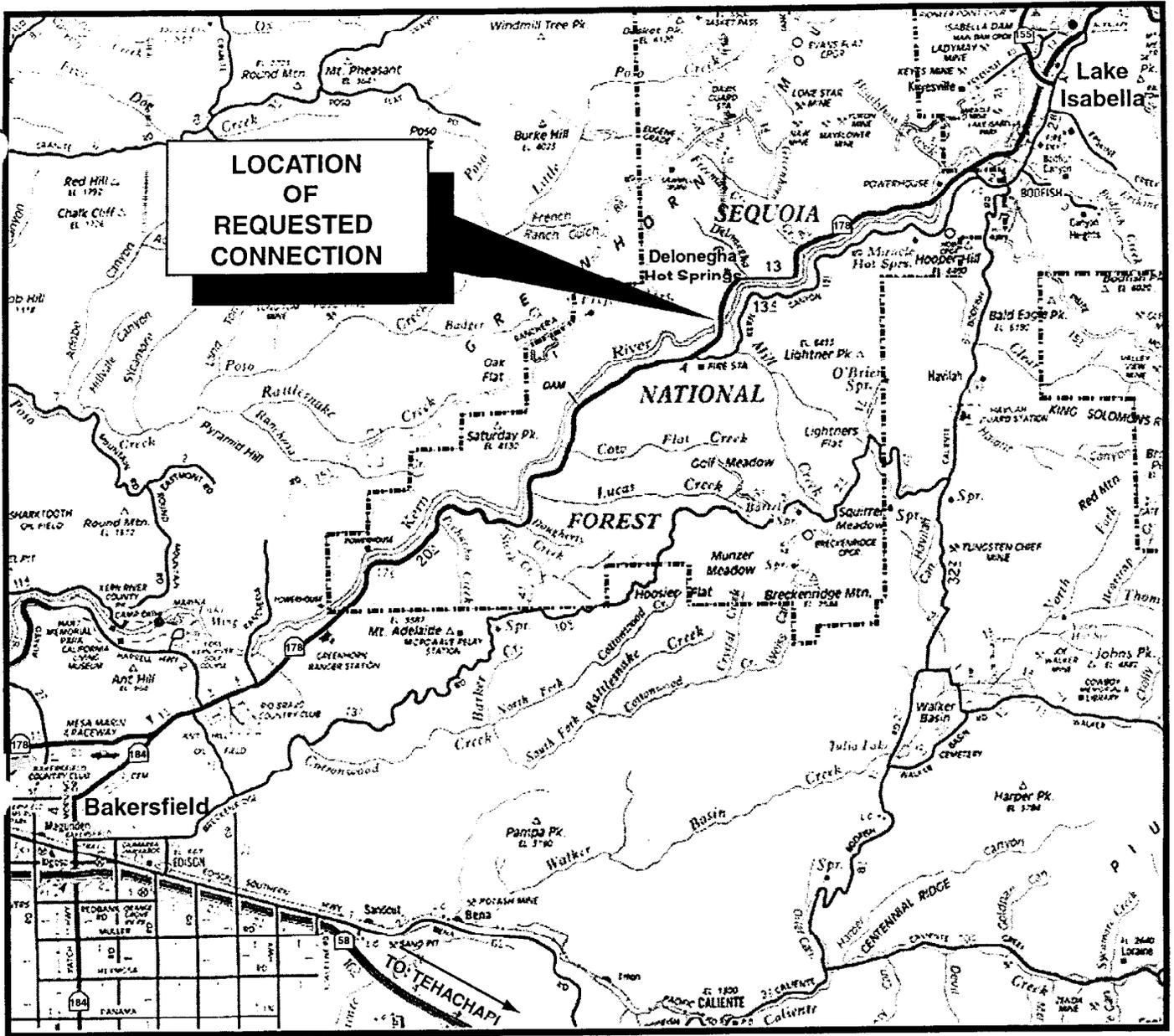
Coordination

The project complies with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental laws and regulations. The National Forest Service has prepared and approved a Finding of No Significant Impact in November of 1998. Caltrans has prepared a Negative Declaration (ND) to satisfy the California Environmental Quality Act requirements for this project. Caltrans approved the ND on January 9, 2000. A copy of the ND was sent to the Commission staff.

The U.S. Forest Service granted an easement for State Route 178. Caltrans will retain the right of way easement needed for minimum design standards and vacate the excess right-of-way easement back to the Forest Service. The Forest Service will apply for an encroachment permit following Commission approval of this project. Additionally, Caltrans will give notice of the vacated right-of-way to the United States Secretary of Transportation pursuant to Item 12 of the Terms and Conditions of the Highway Easement Deed recorded in the County of Kern on April 6, 1967 in Book 4041, Page 531.

Conclusion

The two new connection points are needed in order to provide access to the parking area and to the river from State Route 178.



LOCATION MAP

KERN COUNTY
SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST



06-KERN-178

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution Authorizing
A New Public Road Connection
To the Freeway
06-Kern-178 KP 51.0 (PM 31.7)

Resolution Number S-714

WHEREAS, the Greenhorn Ranger District of the Sequoia Nation Forest (SQF) has requested approval of a new public road connection from the Delonegha Boat Launch and River Access to Route 178; and

WHEREAS, a superseding Freeway Agreement for Route 178 from KP 51.0 (PM 31.7) will be executed by the County of Kern showing the new connection at the Delonegha Boat Launch and River Access; and the County has expressed it will approve said superseding Freeway Agreement.

WHEREAS, Caltrans has completed a Negative Declaration in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the State CEQA Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission has considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration; and

WHEREAS, this project will not have a significant effect on the environment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission that it hereby authorizes two new public road connections from Delonegha Boat Launch and River Access to Route 178 KP 51.0 (PM 31.7) in County of Kern; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of construction and right of way for the connection shall be borne by others.