

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: February 26-27, 2003

Reference No.: 2.2c.(2)
Action Item

From: ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Gary R. Winters
Division Chief
Environmental Analysis

Ref: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING AND CONSIDERATION OF ROUTE ADOPTION, 02-SIS-97 KP 79.3/84.3 (PM 49.3/52.4), RESOLUTION NUMBER E-03-07**

ISSUE:

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding and consideration of route adoption the following project for which a Negative Declaration has been completed:

- Adoption of a freeway location for Route 97 near the City of Dorris in Siskiyou County, from 0.7 km south of Richardson Road to Sheepy Creek Road, 02-Sis-97 KP 79.3/84.3 (PM 49.3/52.4).

This project is fully funded in the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) with Regional Improvement Program (RIP) and Interregional Improvement Program (IIP) funds. The total cost of the project is \$23,670,000, with \$11,435,000 funded from RIP funds and the remaining \$12,235,000 funded from IIP funds. Construction for this project is scheduled to begin in FY 2003/2004.

The Negative Declaration and supporting Initial Study have been transmitted to California Transportation Commission staff.

The Department of Transportation has approved the project for construction. This 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.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Department recommends that the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-03-07.

Attachment(s)

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding and Consideration of Route Adoption 02-Sis-97 KP 79.3/84.3 (PM 49.3/52.4)

Resolution E-03-07

- 1.1 WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Negative Declaration in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Route 97 in Siskiyou County – Adoption of a freeway location for Route 97 near the City of Dorris in Siskiyou County, from 0.7 km south of Richardson Road to Sheepy Creek Road, 02-Sis-97 KP 79.3/84.3 (PM 49.3/52.4).
- 1.2 WHEREAS**, the Department has certified that the Negative Declaration has been completed in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration; and
- 1.4 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 to allow for future consideration of funding and consideration of route adoption.

02-SIS-97-KP 79.3/84.3
(PM 49.3/52.4)
EA 287900 and 0C2700

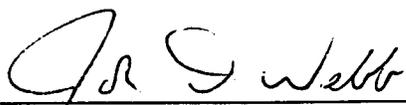
U.S. Route 97 from Post Mile 49.3 to Post Mile 52.4
In and Near Dorris, Siskiyou County, California

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT/
INITIAL STUDY**

Submitted pursuant to: (State) Division 13, Public Resources Code
(Federal) 42 USC 4332(2)(C)

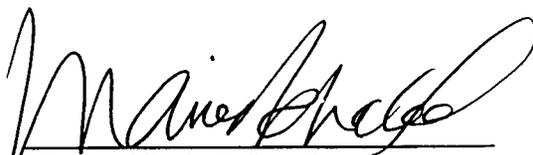
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration, and
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

4/26/02
Date of Approval



John D. Webb, Chief
North Region Environmental Services
California Department of Transportation

5/9/02
Date of Approval



Maiser Khaled, Chief
District Operations North
Federal Highway Administration

OCT 08 2002

State of California
Department of Transportation
North Region-Redding

SCH Number: 2002082102
02-SIS-97-KP 79.3/84.3
(PM 49.3/52.4)
EA-287900 and 0C2700

Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to construct an access-controlled section of highway on new alignment in and near the City of Dorris, Siskiyou County. It will conform to the existing two-lane conventional highway alignment near the northern and southern ends of town.

The purpose of the project is to upgrade this section of Route 97 to current highway design standards and to improve safety for the general public. The existing route has nonstandard geometrics, including three 15-mph curves on the main street through town and the nonstandard curve alignment on the butte north of town (Dorris Hill).

The project includes construction of an access-controlled interchange at First Street, a railroad overhead structure, and an at-grade intersection at Richardson Road. One "no-build" alternative and two "build" alternatives—each with an optional alternative to realign the curve on Dorris Hill—were considered in this Initial Study. Alternative 2B(a), with the First Street undercrossing, is the preferred alternative.

The new alignment would move truck and through-traffic outside of the City of Dorris, provide a grade separation from the railroad, and improve access for businesses and residences in the interregional area.

The project area is bounded on the south near Richardson Road, on the west near the Dorris city limits, on the north near Sheepy Creek Road at Dorris Hill, and on the east outside the city limits. Land use in the area is residential, agricultural and commercial. The build alternatives are consistent with local and regional planning documents.

Determination

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study, and determines from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

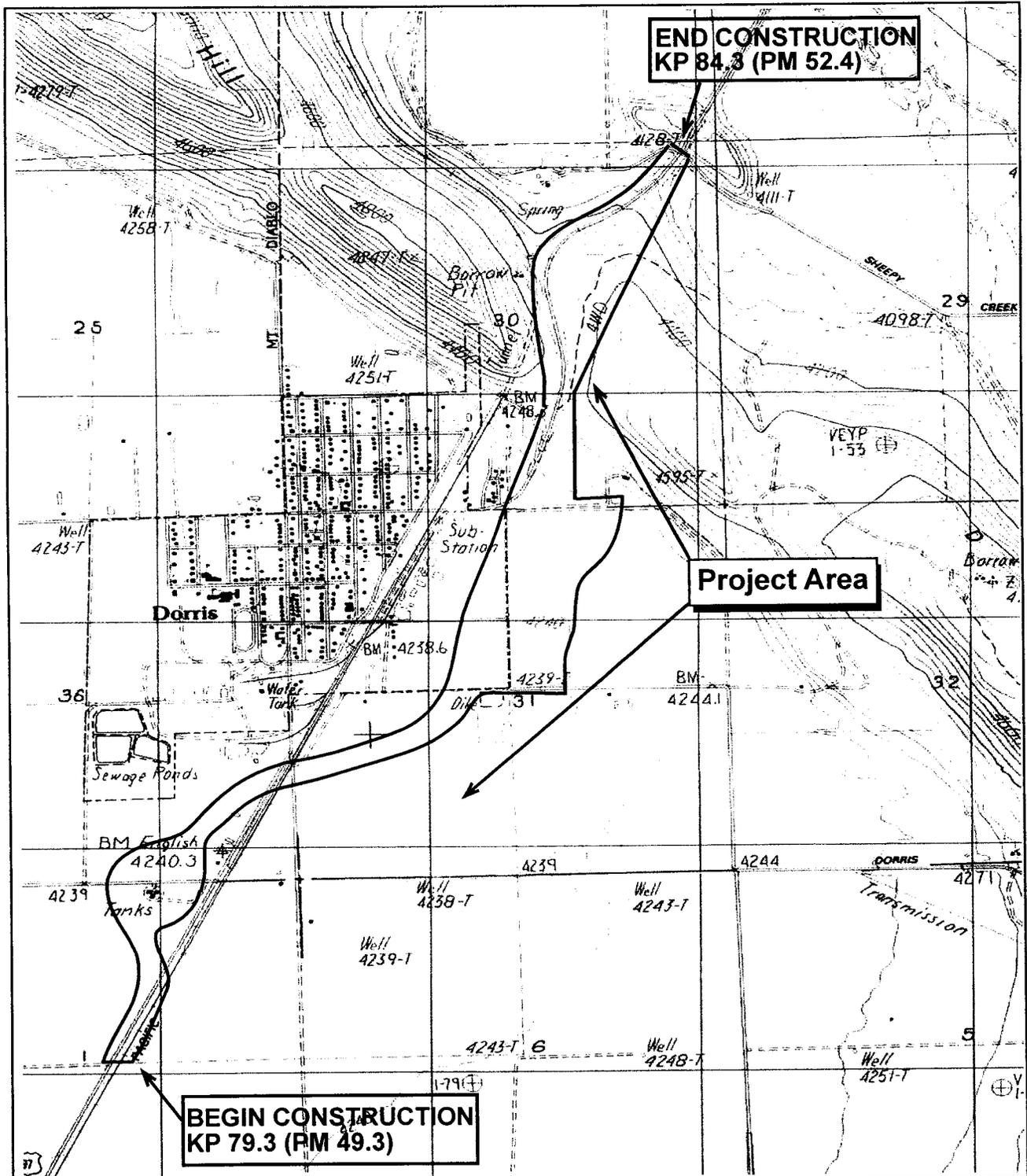
1. The project will not have a significant effect on riparian vegetation, wetlands, plant or animal species or their habitat, topography, or floodplains.
2. The project will not significantly affect a rare, threatened or endangered species of animal or plant or the critical habitat of the species.
3. The project will not have a significant effect on cultural or historic architectural resources.
4. The project will not result in significant changes to air or water quality, erosion, geologic or seismic hazards, energy resources, or hazardous wastes.
5. The project will not significantly increase noise levels.
6. The project will not result in significant effects to the area's land use, housing, business, employment, or economy. The area's social and cultural characteristics will not be affected significantly.
7. The project will not significantly affect shadows or glare, aesthetic quality, utilities, transportation, traffic, public facilities, or population growth.



John D. Webb, Chief
North Region Environmental Services
California Department of Transportation

10-04-02

Date



BASEMAP: USGS 7.5' Quadrangle, Dorris 1985, Provisional, Calif., T48 and 49N/R1W and R1E, 1:24,000



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

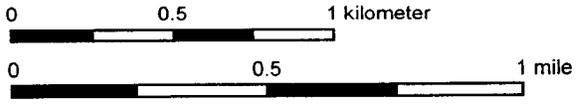


EXHIBIT 2 Project Location Map

State of California
Department of Transportation



02-SIS-97
KP 79.3/84.3
(PM 49.3/52.4)
EA 02-287900

