

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: October 29-30, 2008

Reference No.: 2.3a.
Action item

From: CINDY McKIM
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Terry L. Abbott
Division Chief
Design

Subject: **ROUTE ADOPTION, 6-FRE-180 PM 66.3/66.9**
RESOLUTION HRA 08-02

RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted for transmittal to the California Transportation Commission (Commission) are Highway Route Adoption Resolution HRA 08-02 and a route location map for State Highway Route (SR) 180. The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the Commission approve the resolution and the route location map in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer. The resolution grants approval of route adoption of SR 180 in the county of Fresno from Post Mile (PM) 66.3 to 66.9.

ISSUE:

The Department proposes to modify the adopted route for SR 180 in Fresno County and in the vicinity of the city of Fresno. A Supplemental Project Report was approved on December 20, 2007. An Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration was approved on December 20, 2007.

Recommended by: _____
RICHARD D. LAND
Chief Engineer

BACKGROUND:

The purpose of this route adoption is to extend the freeway designation of SR 180 to 0.4 miles east of DeWolf Avenue. The intent is to enable the execution of a freeway agreement with Fresno County that includes a future interchange at DeWolf Avenue. That agreement will allow the City and County to preserve access control and right of way necessary for the future DeWolf Avenue interchange. The City and County of Fresno are undergoing major updates of their General Plans and will include this interchange location in their plans upon approval of the freeway agreement.

State Route (SR) 180 within the Fresno area is known as Kings Canyon Road. It is a west to east principal arterial across Fresno County serving traffic between the west side of the San Joaquin Valley and Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. This route is a key thoroughfare for the transport of agricultural goods from ranches and farms east of Fresno, and is of growing importance for commuter travel between the Fresno-Clovis Metropolitan Area and eastern Fresno County. The present route is a two-lane conventional highway traversing flat to gently rolling terrain that is used primarily for farming and grazing. SR 180 from SR 99 to the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National parks is included in the National Highway System.

SR 180 entered the California Highway System by legislation in 1933 as Route 41, formerly a county road. In 1963, the segment from Brawley Avenue (west of SR 99) to 0.1 mile west of Highland Avenue (east of SR 99 and of City of Fresno) was adopted as a freeway and as a part of the California Freeway and Expressway System by the California Highway Commission. In 1995, the Commission adopted 12.3 miles of SR 180 as controlled access highway from 0.1 mile west of Temperance Avenue to Frankwood Avenue in the county of Fresno. A portion of the controlled access highway alignment from 0.1 mile west of Temperance Avenue to 0.1 mile west of Highland Avenue runs parallel to the adopted freeway but did not connect to the freeway alignment on the western end. In 1996, the Commission adopted as a freeway a segment of the 1995 controlled access highway corridor, from N. Fowler Avenue to 0.2 mile west of DeWolf Avenue and rescinded a portion of the 1963 adopted freeway from N. Fowler Avenue to 0.1 mile west of Highland Avenue. Thus, modifying the controlled access highway corridor to begin at 0.2 miles west of DeWolf Avenue.

Project Reports for the expressway and freeway projects were approved on October 24, 1995 and December 14, 1995, respectively. Since then, several Supplemental Project Reports have been written to build the freeway and expressway in phases and/or segments.

Segment 1 of the Kings Canyon Expressway project, in eastern Fresno County, from Locan Avenue to Quality Avenue, is expected to start construction in August 2009. Traffic studies for the Kings Canyon Expressway project projected that the Level of Service (LOS) at DeWolf Avenue intersection will become level F (breakdowns of traffic flow, recurring points of congestion, peak hour flow rates are at highway capacity) in 2019, less than 10 years after completion of the proposed expressway project. The Supplemental Project Report for the expressway project, approved on December 20, 2007, recognized the need for an interchange at

DeWolf Avenue. However, due to funding constraints, construction of a new interchange at DeWolf Avenue is not feasible at this time. In the meantime, the Kings Canyon Expressway Project will improve and signalize this intersection and will include two through lanes in each direction on SR 180, right-turn lanes, a westbound left-turn lane and dual eastbound left-turn lanes at DeWolf Avenue. A subsequent project will construct an interchange to provide adequate capacity for a 20-year design period.

A public information meeting was held for this project on March 15, 2007. The purpose of the open house was to provide the public and interested parties with an overview of the Kings Canyon Expressway Project on SR 180 and to receive public input on changes to the proposed project that have occurred since the last public meeting in 2001. Public support for this project is very high.

The proposed route adoption and subsequent freeway and expressway construction for this segment of SR 180 will improve safety, traffic congestion within the city, and improve the LOS for traffic on SR 180. An Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) addressing potential impacts associated with the proposed freeway agreement and construction of a future DeWolf Avenue interchange was approved on December 20, 2007. A separate project report and environmental evaluation will be conducted once the future interchange at DeWolf Avenue is proposed.

There is a concurrent environmental item requesting approval of project for consideration of route adoption as a freeway (MND) (Resolution E-08-15).

A freeway agreement will be developed and executed with the County of Fresno following Commission approval of this route adoption.

Attachments:

Resolution HRA 08-02

Location Map

Route 180 Adoptions Map

Route Adoption Map

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Highway Route Adoption Resolution
06-Fre-180 PM 66.3/66.9

Resolution HRA 08-02

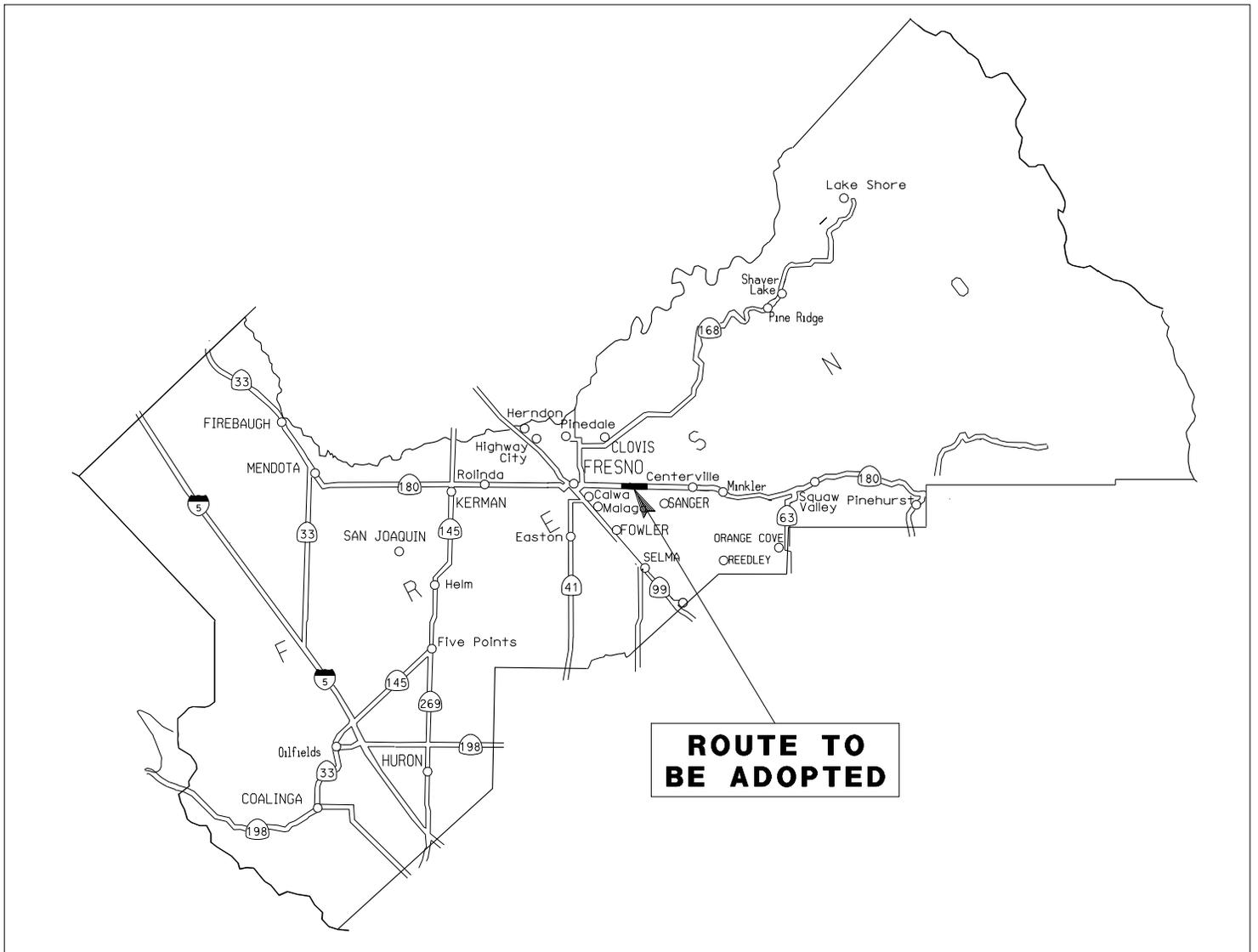
WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Department), with input on the project from the County of Fresno, has completed studies relative to the adopted State Highway Route 180, in Fresno County; and

WHEREAS, the Department has completed an Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration seeking approval of a freeway agreement and future DeWolf Avenue Interchange; and

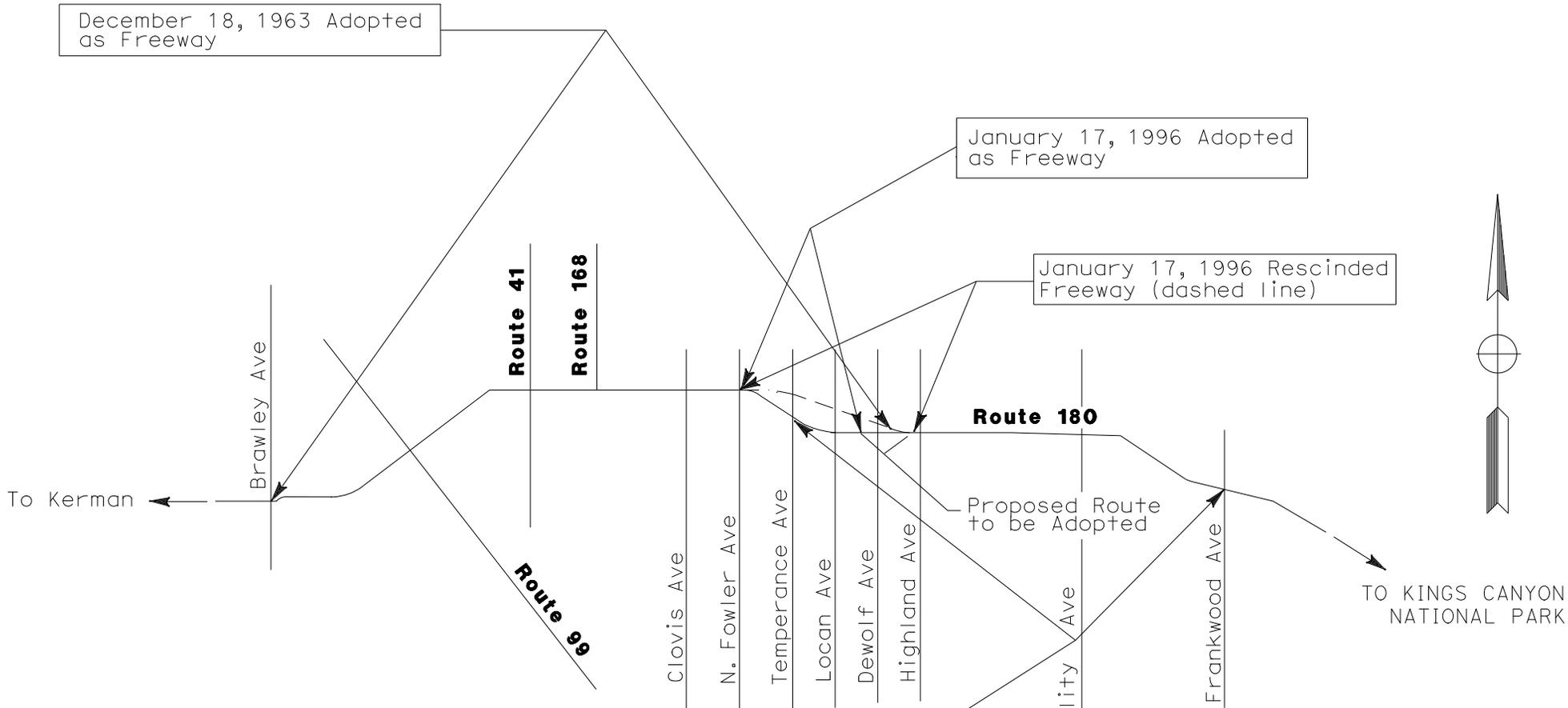
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the California Transportation Commission (Commission) that pursuant to the authority vested in it by law, this Commission does hereby select, adopt, and determine the location of that segment of State Highway Route 180, from 0.2 miles west of DeWolf Avenue to 0.4 miles east of DeWolf Avenue, in Fresno County, and officially designate it as 06-Fre-180, a freeway, as said location is shown on the map submitted by Terry L. Abbott, Chief Design Engineer; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said segment of State Highway Route 180 redesignates a portion of the location previously adopted as Controlled Access Highway on November 28, 1995; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Commission has found and determined and hereby declares that such location of said State highway is for the best interest of the State.

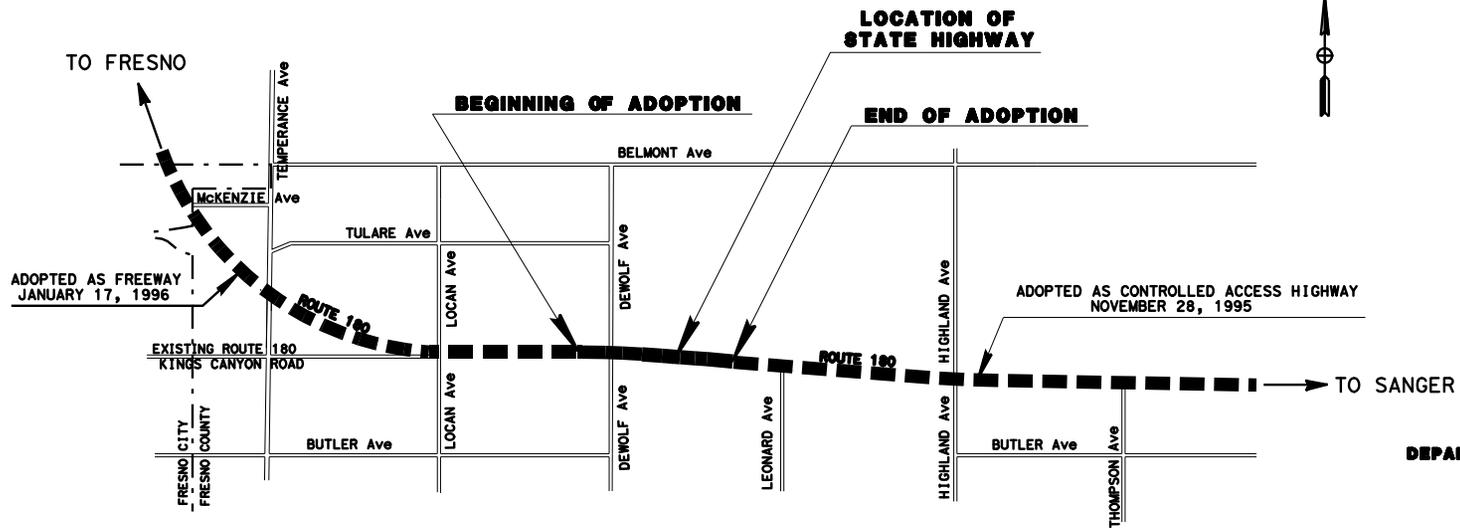


**ROUTE ADOPTION
LOCATION MAP
06-FRE-180**



**ROUTE 180
ADOPTIONS
06-FRE-180**

COUNTY OF FRESNO



I hereby certify that this map was prepared pursuant to and under my direction and is a true and correct map of a section of proposed State Highway Route 180.
Submitted: _____

Chief Design Engineer
Civil Engineer License No. _____



I hereby certify that by resolution of the California Transportation Commission on _____ the alignment indicated on this map was selected, adopted and determined as the location for a section of State Highway Route 180 and declared a Freeway,
Attest: _____
Executive Director,
California Transportation Commission



**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MAP SHOWING
LOCATION OF
STATE HIGHWAY
IN FRESNO COUNTY
FROM 0.2 MILES WEST OF DEWOLF AVENUE
TO 0.4 MILES EAST OF DEWOLF AVENUE
06-FRE-180
A FREEWAY**