

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: November 18, 2009

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (8)
Action

Ref: Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Nogales Street Grade Separation and Gale Avenue/Walnut Drive Widening Project (Resolution E-09-97)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Nogales Street Grade Separation and Gale Avenue/Walnut Drive Widening Project (project) in Los Angeles 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 Alameda Corridor-East (ACE) Construction Authority is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project will provide a grade separation in the City of Industry at the Nogales Street crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Los Angeles Subdivision tracks and widen Gale Avenue/Walnut Drive at Nogales Street. The Nogales Street grade separation portion of the project includes lowering a currently at-grade segment of Nogales Street, an existing six-lane roadway, under the UPRR Los Angeles Subdivision right of way. A railroad bridge will be constructed to accommodate the two existing tracks plus additional abutment width to allow for a future widening to accommodate a third track. Additional roadway improvements include street construction and widening, off-site modifications, retaining walls, storm drains, a pump station, sewer and utility relocations, traffic signals, street lighting and landscaping. The Gale Avenue/Walnut Drive widening portion of the project would widen a segment of Gale Avenue/Walnut Drive from its intersection with Nogales Street, creating a four lane road (two lanes in each direction).

On September 22, 2009, ACE approved the MND. ACE found that, based on the Initial Study, impacts related to topography and geology; liquefaction; hazards and hazardous materials during construction; biological resources; waterways and hydrology; water quality; archeological and paleontological resources; displacement; utilities; public safety; construction noise, and construction traffic require mitigation to be reduced to a less than significant level.

ACE adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for this project. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, adherence to a phase II environmental site assessment; compliance with the Uniform Building Code regarding liquefaction; biological surveying; utilization of temporary dewatering systems during construction; implementation of best

management practices as required by the Clean Water Act; consultation with a qualified archaeologist in the event archaeological resources are encountered; compliance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970; consultation and coordination with utility companies; adherence to a health and safety plan; implementation of specific processes to reduce noise during construction, and coordination with the City of Industry, the County of Los Angeles and Caltrans to develop and implement construction traffic management plans.

The project is programmed in the Proposition 1B Highway-Railroad Crossing Safety Account (HRCSA) program. The project is estimated to cost \$ 84,147,000 and is fully funded with HRCSA (\$25,600,000), Federal (\$8,283,000), Local (\$48,264,000), and UPRR (\$2,000,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in FY 2009/10.

On October 14, 2009, ACE provided confirmation that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project scope of work programmed by the Commission in the HRCSA program.

Attachments

- Resolution E-09-97
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 07- Los Angeles Resolution E-09-97

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the Alameda Corridor-East Construction Authority (ACE) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Nogales Street Grade Separation and Gale Avenue/Walnut Drive Widening
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the ACE 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 project will provide a grade separation in the City of Industry at the Nogales Street crossing of the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Los Angeles Subdivision tracks and widen Gale Avenue/Walnut Drive at Nogales Street; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the ACE found that all significant or potentially significant impacts can be reduced by mitigation measures to a less than significant level; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the ACE adopted a Mitigation Monitoring Reporting Program for the project; and
- 1.7 **WHEREAS**, the ACE approved the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

