

# Memorandum

**To:** CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

**Date:** April 23, 2010

**From:** BIMLA G. RHINEHART  
Executive Director

**File:** Book Item 2.2c (9)  
Action

**Ref:** Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Road 80 Widening Project  
(Resolution E-10-39)

**ISSUE:** Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Road 80 Widening Project (project) in Tulare 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 County of Tulare (County) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The MND covers two projects, the project on Road 80 from Goshen Avenue to Avenue 416 for which the County is the project lead agency and the project on Road 80 (Plaza Drive) from Airport Drive to Avenue 304 for which the City of Visalia is the project lead agency. On August 22, 2006, the County Board of Supervisors approved the MND and found that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation.

The project will improve a 16-mile segment of Road 80 from Avenue 416 in the City of Dinuba to Airport Drive in the City of Visalia. The project includes widening the roadway from two lanes to four lanes with a dividing median, improving an interchange, widening an overcrossing and upgrading drainage.

The County found that the project would have no adverse effect on farmland, floodplains, water quality, air quality, socioeconomic, visual/aesthetics, noise, natural communities, waters/wetlands, plant species, animal species, threatened and endangered species, or special status species and their habitats because avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures would reduce the potential effects to insignificance.

The project is estimated to cost \$71,224,000 and is funded with STIP \$65,267,000, SLPP \$2,294,000 and local funds \$5,957,000. The project is being constructed in four phases. Phase 1 began construction in 2008.

On April 27, 2010, the assigned project engineer for the County of Tulare confirmed that the selected alternative set forth in the MND is consistent with the project scope of work that is anticipated to be programmed for SLPP funding.

Chair and Commissioners  
April 23, 2010  
Book Item 2.2c (9)  
Page 2 of 2

Attachments

- Resolution E-10-39
- Project Location

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 06-Tulare Resolution E-10-39

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the County of Tulare (County) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
  - Road 80 Widening Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the County 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 improve a 16-mile segment of Road 80 from Avenue 416 in the City of Dinuba to Airport Drive in the City of Visalia; 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 County 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 County 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.