

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

Date: July 22, 2010

From: 
BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

File: Book Item 2.2c (6)
Action

Ref: Final Environmental Impact Report for the Merced Vision 2015 General Plan (Resolution E-10-72)

ISSUE: Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the Merced Vision 2015 General Plan in the City of Merced and approve the Yosemite Avenue Project (project) for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Commission accept the FEIR and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND: The City of Merced (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the FEIR. The Merced Vision 2015 General Plan is a long range plan intended to guide growth and development of the City through the year 2015. It establishes a comprehensive framework of development policies to promote in-fill development with mixed-use neighborhoods and other types of development that promote transit use in designated growth areas.

The Merced City Council approved the FEIR in April 1997. The FEIR identified that all significant impacts of the project can be reduced to a less than significant level with mitigation. Impacts requiring mitigation relate to air quality; water resources; plant and animal life; transportation and circulation; public services and utilities. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to air quality studies; appropriate dust suppression techniques during construction activity; surveys for special-status species prior to disturbance of habitat; review of site specific designs to ensure cost-effective delivery and traffic studies.

On June 2, 2010, the City of Merced concluded that preparation of a subsequent EIR is not required and that the existing EIR is adequate for the project based on Section 15162 of the CEQA guidelines. The City confirmed that there are no changes with respect to this project that would require mitigation and the FEIR remains valid for the project.

As a part of the larger Merced Vision 2015 General Plan, the FEIR addressed the environmental impacts associated with the Yosemite Avenue Project programmed by the Commission in the Proposition 1B State and Local Partnership Program. The project is located on Yosemite Avenue between G Street and Mansionette Drive. The project will complete the widening of the planned arterial road to its final five-lane configuration including curb, gutter, sidewalk and streetlights. The project will provide a four lane arterial road through the northeast section of the

Chair and Commissioners

July 22, 2010

Book Item 2.2c (6)

Page 2 of 2

community, relieving congestion on an important transportation corridor of the City. On June 21, 2010 the City confirmed that the scope of work cleared through the FEIR is consistent with the scope of work programmed by the Commission in the SLPP.

The total project cost is estimated at \$2,100,000 and is funded with Uniform Development Impact Fees (\$1,100,000) and SLPP (\$1,000,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin May 2011.

Attachments

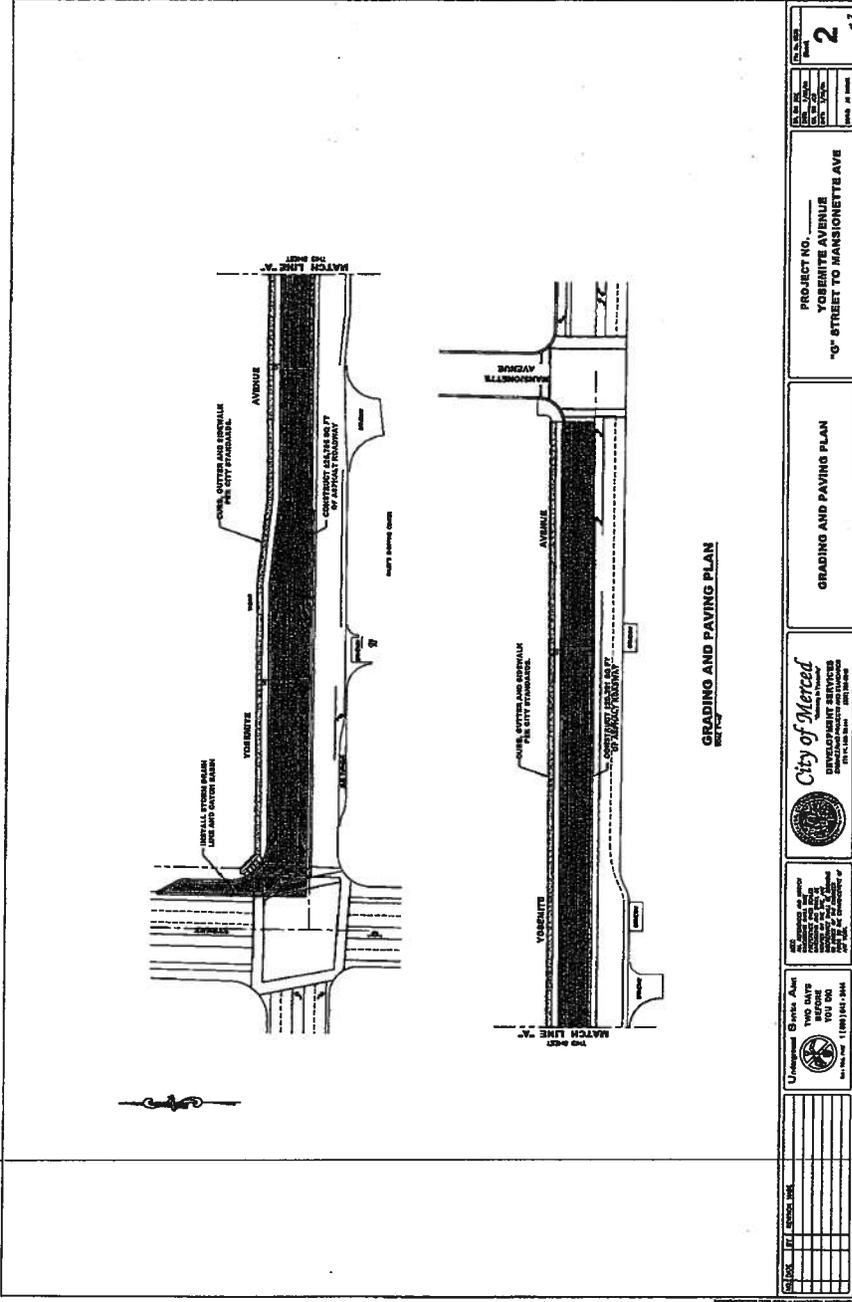
- Resolution E-10-72
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 10 –Merced County Resolution E-10-72

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Merced (City) has completed a Final Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Merced Vision 2015 General Plan- Yosemite Avenue Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City has certified that the Final Environmental Impact Report has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project will provide a four lane arterial road through the northeast section of the community, relieving congestion on an important transportation corridor of the City; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Report; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the City found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the City approved the Final Environmental Impact Report.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Environmental Impact Report and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

Merced Vision 2015 General Plan- Yosemite Avenue Project Map



GRADING AND PAVING PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

<p>City of Merced DEVELOPMENT SERVICES 100 N. G ST. 95354 TEL: 209.385.3000</p>	<p>PROJECT NO. Yosemite Avenue 100' STREET TO MANSIONETTE AVE</p>	<p>Sheet 2 of 27</p>
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