

# Memorandum

**To:** CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

**Date:** September 2, 2010

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

**File:** Book Item 2.2c (8)  
Action

**Ref:** Supplement to the Subsequent Final Environmental Impact Report and CEQA Conformance Review for the Airport Access Road Project (Resolution E-10-84)

**ISSUE:** Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Supplement to the Subsequent Final Environmental Impact Report (SSFEIR) and CEQA Conformance Review for the Airport Access Road Project in the Town of Mammoth Lakes and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Commission accept the SSFEIR and CEQA Conformance Document and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

**BACKGROUND:** The Town of Mammoth Lakes (Town) prepared a CEQA Conformance Document dated July 30, 2010 to address the environmental impacts associated with the construction of a new Airport Access Road (project) at the Town owned and operated Mammoth Yosemite Airport. The new access road includes two 12 foot travel lanes, bike lanes, and shoulders to provide safer and more direct access to the airport, reducing the route length by 3 miles and thereby reducing emergency response times.

The CEQA Conformance Document was prepared to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and its consistency with prior CEQA documentation completed for the Mammoth Yosemite Airport, in particular, the 1986 Mammoth Lakes Airport Expansion FEIR (1986) and the 1997 Mammoth Lakes Airport Expansion Subsequent Environmental Impact Report. The CEQA Conformance Document includes selected updates to biological resource reports that were previously completed and relies on information and analysis presented in the documents below:

- 1986 - FEIR for the Mammoth/June Lakes Airport Project
- 1997 - Subsequent FEIR (SFEIR) to the FEIR dated 1986 for the Mammoth Lakes Airport Expansion Project
- 2002 – Final Supplement to the SFEIR (SSFEIR) for the Mammoth Yosemite Airport Expansion Project

The CEQA Conformance Document identified impacts related to visual/aesthetic resources, air quality, biological resources including impacts to the greater sage-grouse habitat, cultural

resources; soils and land transformation; hydrology and water quality; regional planning and population; traffic and transportation, and cumulative impacts tied to population growth and development.

Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, compliance with the requirements of the Mono County Scenic Highway Element and adequate screening of visually offensive land uses; implementation of dust control measures during construction; project design to minimize traffic congestion and delay; prohibit disturbance of off-site natural areas during project grading and construction; require archaeological preservation for all grading and construction permits; conduct all grading and earthwork activities in accordance with an approved grading plan and permit issued by Mono County; prohibit significant soil disturbances within the stream conservation zones of Mammoth Creek, Hot Creek, or Convict Creek; limitation of future development to designated zones; prohibit additional roadway intersections or driveway access on State Highway 395, and compliance with the land use requirements and mitigation measures in the adopted Airport Land Use Plan.

The project is estimated to cost \$2,801,000 and is programmed with STIP (\$322,000) and Local (\$2,376,000) funds. Additional funds totaling \$103,000 necessary to fully fund the right of way and construction phases of work are not yet secured.

On September 2, 2010 the Town provided confirmation that the preferred alternative as set forth in the SSFEIR and CEQA Conformance Document is consistent with the project scope of work programmed by the Commission in the STIP.

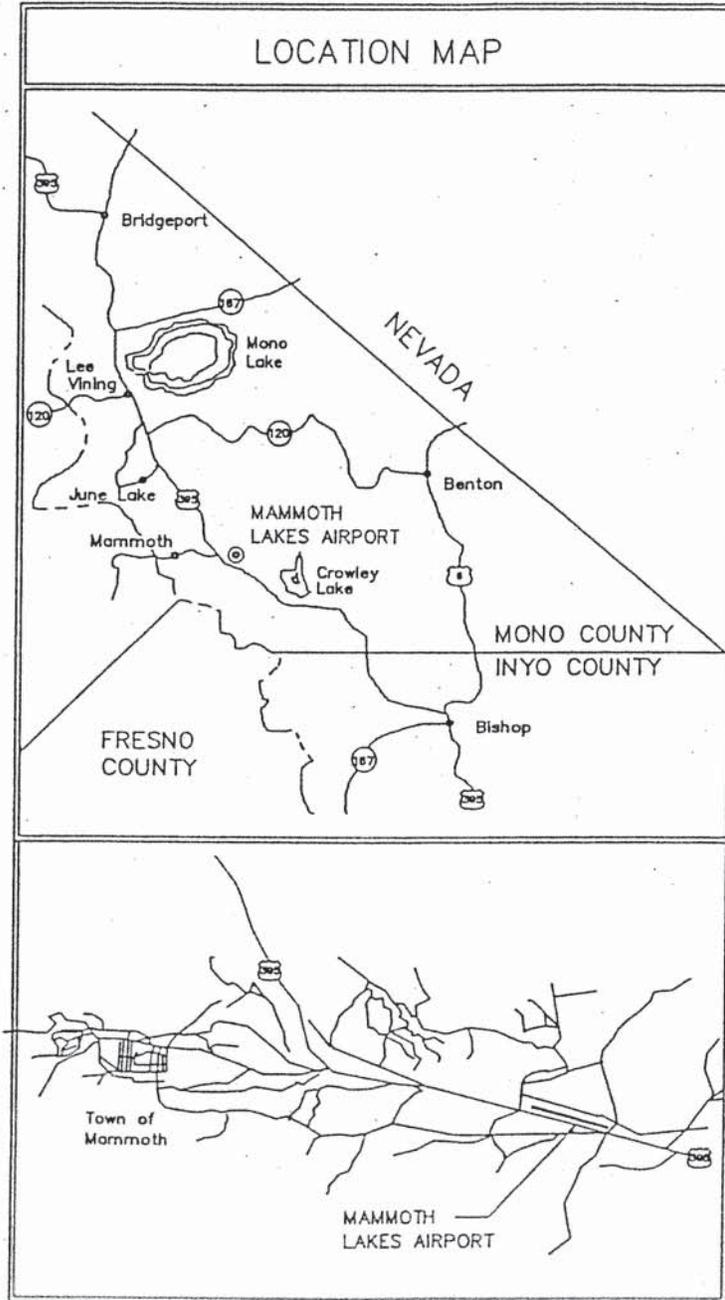
#### Attachments

- Resolution E-10-84
- Project Location

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Resolution for Future Consideration of Future Funding 09 – Mono County Resolution E-10-84

- 1.1** **WHEREAS**, the Town of Mammoth Lakes completed a Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR), a Subsequent Final EIR, a Supplement to the Final EIR and a CEQA Conformance Review (Final Environmental Documents) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- Airport Access Road Project
- 1.2** **WHEREAS**, the Town of Mammoth Lakes certified that the Final Environmental Documents were completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3** **WHEREAS**, the Town of Mammoth Lakes approved the Project and adopted CEQA Findings of Fact on November 6, 2002; and
- 1.4** **WHEREAS**, the Town of Mammoth Lakes filed a Notice of Determination with the County of Mono County Clerk on August 3, 2010 upon completion of the CEQA Conformance Review; and
- 1.5** **WHEREAS**, the project will construct two 12 foot travel lanes, bike lanes, and shoulders to provide safer and more direct access to the airport, reducing the route length by 3 miles and thereby reducing emergency response times; and
- 1.6** **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Environmental Documents.
- 2.1** **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Environmental Documents and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.



AR 001044

Source: Reinard W. Brandley, Engineer.  
Prepared by: Ricondo & Associates, Inc.

Exhibit I-1

NOT TO SCALE



## Airport Location and Vicinity