

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: October 8, 2013

Reference No.: 2.2c (4)  
Action

From: ANDRE BOUTROS  
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING  
NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE WEST RIDGECREST BOULEVARD WIDENING  
PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-13-70)**

## **ISSUE:**

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Negative Declaration (ND) for the West Ridgecrest Boulevard Widening Project (project) in the City of Ridgecrest and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Commission accept the ND and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Ridgecrest (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project will widen and reconstruct a 1.5 mile segment of West Ridgecrest Boulevard to accommodate 4 lanes from Mahan Street to Downs Street and 2 lanes from Downs Street to China Lake Boulevard (SR 178) in the City of Ridgecrest in Kern County. The project will also construct curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements, underground utilities, and install traffic signals.

On March 16, 2005 the City found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment mitigation measures are not required, and approved the ND. On July 24, 2013, the City revalidated the 2005 ND. On February 15, 2006, the Department determined the project to be a programmatic categorical exclusion pursuant to NEPA. The Department is currently preparing a re-validation of the NEPA determination.

The project is estimated to cost \$8,025,000 and is funded with STIP (\$7,200,000) and local funds (\$825,000). Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2013/14.

## Attachment

- Resolution E-13-70
- Project Location

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 09 – Kern County Resolution E-13-70

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Ridgecrest (City) has completed a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- West Ridgecrest Boulevard Widening Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City has certified that the Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project will widen and reconstruct a 1.5 mile segment of West Ridgecrest Boulevard to accommodate 4 lanes from Mahan Street to Downs Street and 2 lanes from Downs Street to China Lake Boulevard (SR 178) in the City of Ridgecrest in Kern County. The project will also construct curb, gutter and sidewalk improvements, underground utilities, and install traffic signals; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Negative Declaration; 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 Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Negative Declaration and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

**Figure 1: Project Location**

