

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 5, 2013

Reference No.: 2.2c. (2)  
Action

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART  
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE FRED WARING DRIVE  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-13-12)**

## **ISSUE:**

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Fred Waring Drive Improvement Project (project) in Riverside 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:**

Riverside County (County) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. On January 8, 2013 the County adopted the final MND and found that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation.

The project is located on the County of Riverside boundary with the City of La Quinta. The project proposes to widen Fred Waring Drive from four to six lanes for a distance of .65 miles, install a bike lane on the south side of the roadway and construct a raised median with left turn lanes between Adams Street and Port Maria Road.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to a less than significant level relate to Biological Resources, Hazards & Hazardous Materials, and Noise. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: avoidance and minimization efforts associated with avian species including pre-construction nesting surveys; utilizing climate friendly building materials and minimizing energy intensive construction practices; minimization and avoidance measures to reduce site exposure to lead and hydrocarbons; utilizing construction equipment with best available emissions technology and furnished with noise control devices, restricting construction hours to minimize noise disturbance; construction of eight-foot sound walls; and preparation of a Traffic Management Plan.

On January 10, 2013, Riverside County confirmed that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project scope of work programmed by the Commission.

The project is fully funded through construction and is estimated to cost \$9,432,000. The project is funded with SLPP (\$4,000,000) and Local (\$5,432,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2013/14.

Attachment

- Resolution E-13-12
- Project Location

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 08 – Riverside County Resolution E-13-12

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the County of Riverside (County) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
  - Fred Waring Drive Improvement Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City 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 widen Fred Waring Drive from four to six lanes for a distance of .65 miles, install a bike lane on the south side of the roadway and construct a raised median with left turn lanes between Adams Street and Port Maria Road; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the County found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the County approved the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

# Fred Waring Drive Improvement Project

