

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 20, 2014

Reference No.: 2.2c (1)  
Action

From: ANDRE BOUTROS  
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE ARCATA RAIL WITH TRAIL  
CONNECTIVITY PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-14-05)**

## **ISSUE:**

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Arcata Rail with Trail Connectivity Project (project) in the City of Arcata 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 City of Arcata (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project is located in the City of Arcata near the Arcata Marsh, the eastern edge of Humboldt Bay and the intersection of Bracut and Highway 101 in Humboldt County. The project will construct an approximately 4.5 mile long Class I, ADA accessible, non-motorized, multi-use paved trail. The project will be constructed in phases. Phase I runs from the intersection of Foster Avenue/Alliance Road, through City owned lands and the Alliance and L Street Rights of Way to Samoa Boulevard. Phase II runs from Samoa Boulevard to Bracut.

On May 1, 2013 the City adopted the final MND for the project and found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. According to Caltrans this project is categorically excluded from NEPA pursuant to 23 CFR 771.117(c-3).

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to a less than significant level relate to Land Use, Aesthetics, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, and Hazards. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: project conformance to land use and coastal zone requirements; re-vegetation and tree replacement; minimization, avoidance, mitigation and best practices measures to reduce impacts to various plant/animal species and riparian and wetland habitat resources;

monitoring efforts for archaeological and paleontological artifacts during construction and measures to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources; and pre-construction testing of soil and groundwater and site assessment to determine presence of contamination and/or hazardous materials, and pre-construction implementation of remediation measures to address contamination if discovered.

On January 27, 2014 the City confirmed that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project scope of work programmed by the Commission.

Phase I of the project is estimated to cost \$1,084,000 and is fully funded through construction with STIP (\$842,000) and Local (\$242,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2013/14.

Attachments

- Resolution E-14-05
- Project Location

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 01 – Humboldt County Resolution E-14-05

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Arcata has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
  - Arcata Rail with Trail Connectivity Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Arcata 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 construct an approximately 4.5 mile long Class I, ADA accessible, non-motorized, multi-use paved trail from Foster Ave/Alliance Rd to Bracut; 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 City of Arcata found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the City of Arcata 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.



July 2008

# City of Arcata Rail with Trail Connectivity Map Segment Index Map

