

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 23-24, 2012

Reference No.: 2.2c.(7)  
Action



From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART  
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE HERCULES INTERMODAL  
TRANSIT CENTER PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-12-32)**

## **ISSUE:**

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR), Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Hercules Intermodal Transit Center Project in Contra Costa County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Commission accept the FEIR, Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations and approve the Hercules Intermodal Transit Center Project for future consideration of funding.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Hercules (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project will construct an intermodal transit center, associated road improvements, and ancillary facilities at a site adjacent to San Pablo Bay in Contra Costa County.

The project for which the FEIR covers will result in significant unavoidable impacts to water resources; noise and vibration; and aesthetic resources. Specifically, the project would result in noise levels exceeding standards during noise generating construction activities; potential to adversely impact water quality from the dredging of Refugio Creek and San Pablo Bay; and introducing new sources of light or glare that could impact sensitive receptors in the surrounding areas.

The City adopted the FEIR, Findings of Fact and a Statement of Overriding Considerations for the project on August 9, 2011. The City found that there were several benefits that outweigh the unavoidable adverse environmental effects of the project. These benefits include, but are not limited to, revitalizing a currently underutilized site along the Bayfront Boulevard corridor in the city;

reducing vehicle trips on Interstate 80 by providing alternatives to commuting in single occupant vehicles; improving emergency response by having rail and ferry service available in case of natural or man-made disasters; and improving safety along the railroad corridor by providing completely grade-separated access to the railroad tracks. The City established a Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program to ensure that the mitigation measures specified for the project are implemented.

On April 12, 2012, the City provided written confirmation that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project programmed by the Commission. The City also provided written confirmation of its commitment to all of the mitigation measures stipulated in the FEIR and Mitigation Monitoring Program.

Phase one of the project is estimated to cost \$46.8 million. The project is funded with State (\$18,059,000) funds, Federal (\$2,717,000) funds, and Local (\$26,051,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2012/13.

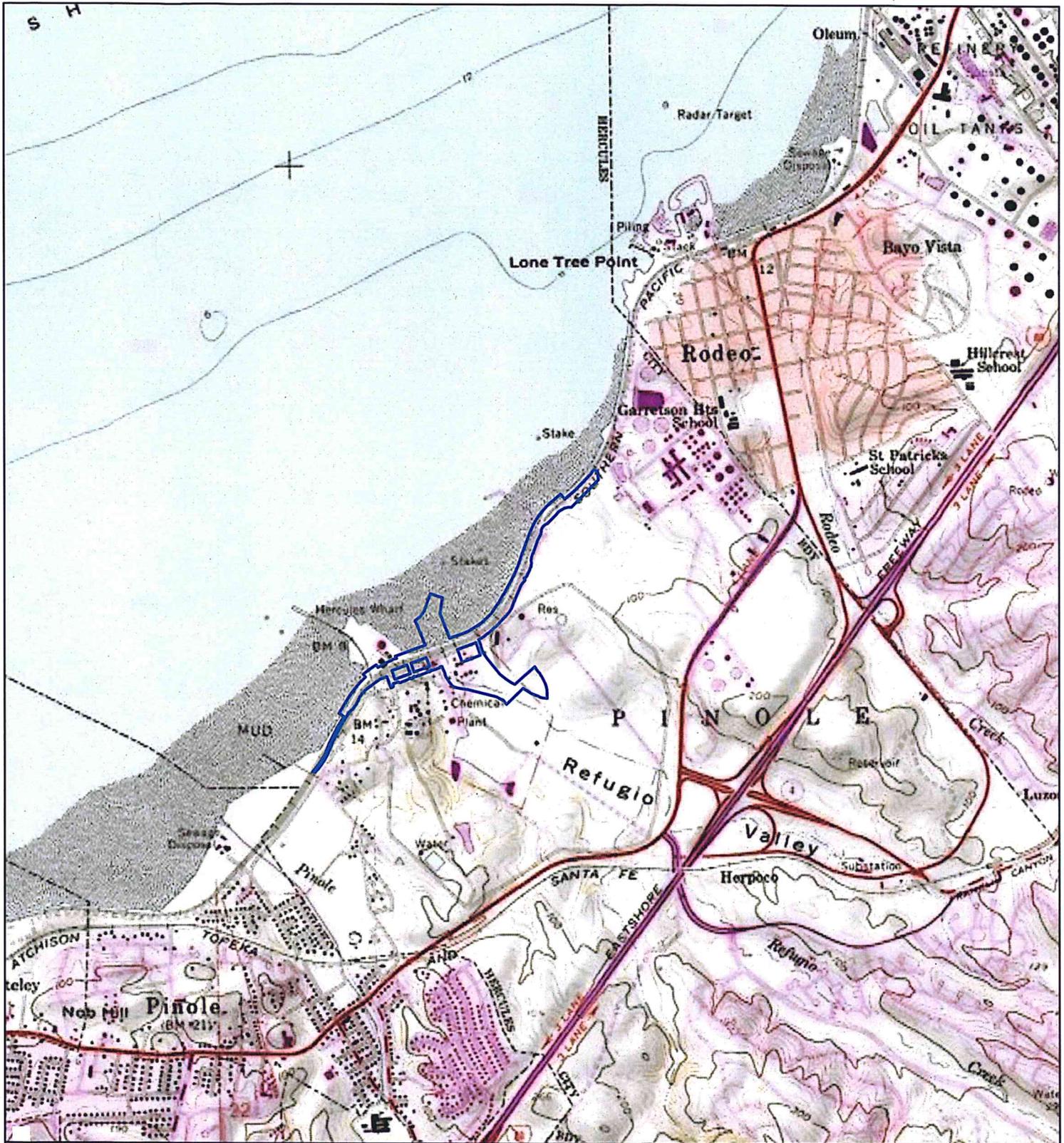
#### Attachment

- Resolution E-12-32
- Findings of Fact & Statement of Overriding Considerations
- Project Location

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 04 – Contra Costa County Resolution E-12-32

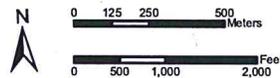
- 1.1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Hercules (City) has completed a Final Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
  - Hercules Intermodal Transit Center Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City has certified that 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 construct an intermodal transit center, associated road improvements, and ancillary facilities in Contra Costa County; 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**, Findings of Fact made pursuant to CEQA guidelines indicate that specific unavoidable significant impacts related to water quality, noise, and aesthetics make it infeasible to avoid or fully mitigate to a less than significant level the effects associated with the project; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the City adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations for the project; and
- 1.7 **WHEREAS**, the City adopted a Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program for the project; and
- 1.8 **WHEREAS**, the above significant effects are acceptable when balanced against the facts as set forth in the Statement of Overriding Considerations.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Environmental Impact Report, Findings of Fact, and Statement of Overriding Considerations and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.



**Legend**

 Project Boundary

1 in = 2,000 ft (at letter layout)



City of Hercules  
Hercules Intermodal Transit Facility  
Contra Costa County, California

Data Sources: Map information was compiled from the best available sources. No Warranty is made for its accuracy or completeness. Topographic Base Map, Aerial photography from ESRI/ARCIS Online; Hydrography from National Hydrography Dataset; NWI Data from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and soils data from USDA NRCS Soil Survey. Data is State Plane Feet, NAD83 Zone 3

Figure 1.1-1: Project Location Map

