

# Memorandum

**Tab 36**

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 21, 2014

Reference No.: 2.2c (4)  
Action

From: ANDRE BOUTROS  
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING  
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE MORRO CREEK MULTI-USE TRAIL  
AND BRIDGE PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-14-15)**

## **ISSUE:**

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Morro Creek Multi-Use Trail and Bridge Project (project) in San Luis Obispo 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:**

The City of Morro Bay (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project is located along the northern portion of the Morro Bay Embarcadero, adjacent to the Morro Bay Power Plant in the City of Morro Bay. The proposed project would extend the existing Morro Bay Harborwalk with a 8 foot wide pedestrian boardwalk and 12 foot wide paved separated Class I bike path between the entry of the Morro Bay Power Plant and the intersection of Coleman Drive and Embarcadero. The project will also construct an approximately 130 foot long, 13 foot wide clear span pedestrian and bicycle bridge across Morro Creek.

On January 14, 2014 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. On April 7, 2014 Caltrans determined that this project is categorically excluded from NEPA pursuant to 23 CFR 771.117(c-3).

In March 2014, the City prepared an Addendum to the final MND to analyze the potential environmental effects associated with a revision to the project description adding lighting to address bicyclist and pedestrian safety concerns. On May 13, 2014, the City adopted the Addendum and certified that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to a less than significant level relate to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, and Noise. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: measures to avoid and reduce impacts to sensitive animal and plant species including the red-legged frog, steelhead, morro shoulderband snail, legless lizard, nesting birds, central dune scrub habitat, Blochman's leafy daisy, as well as measures to prevent the spread of noxious weed and avoid jurisdictional waters of the United States; monitoring efforts for archaeological and paleontological artifacts before and during construction including measures to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources; and restricting construction hours to minimize noise disturbance.

On April 22, 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.

The project is estimated to cost \$1,322,000 and is anticipated to be fully funded through construction with STIP-TE (\$628,000), RSTP (\$288,000), Federal (\$220,000) and Local (\$186,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2014/15.

Attachments

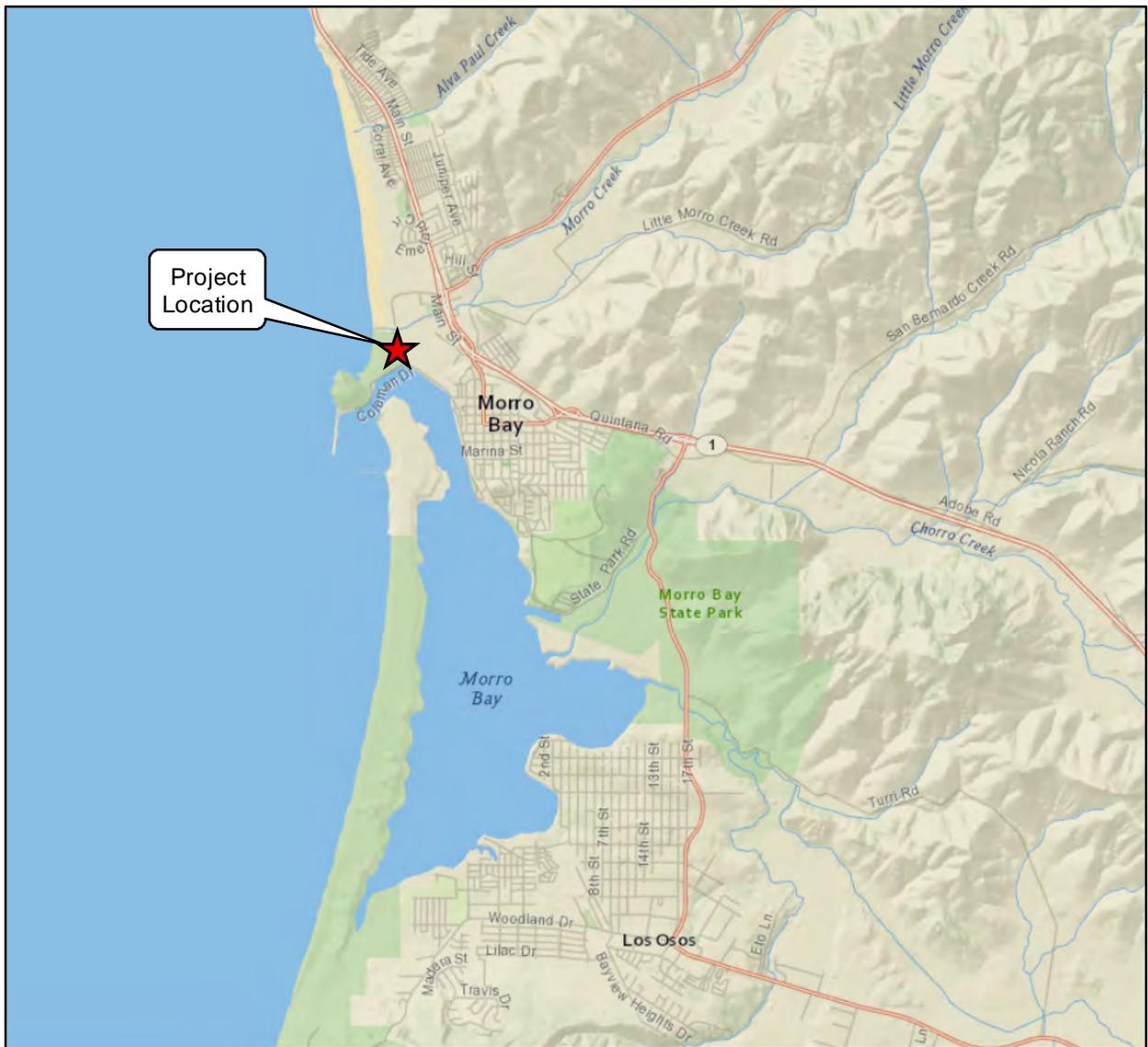
- Resolution E-14-15
- Project Location

# CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

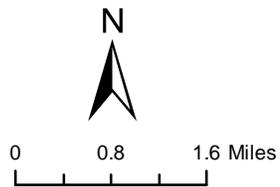
## Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 05 – San Luis Obispo County Resolution E-14-15

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Morro Bay has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
  - Morro Creek Multi-use Trail and Bridge
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City of Morro Bay has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum have been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project would extend the existing Morro Bay Harborwalk with a 8 foot wide pedestrian boardwalk and 12 foot wide paved separated Class I bike path between the entry of the Morro Bay Power Plant and the intersection of Coleman Drive and Embarcadero. The project will also construct an approximately 130 foot long, 13 foot wide clear span pedestrian and bicycle bridge across Morro Creek; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, the City of Morro Bay found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the City of Morro Bay approved the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

Morro Creek Multi-Use Trail and Bridge Project  
Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration



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Regional Location

Figure 2-1