

Memorandum

Tab 37

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: August 20, 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 NEAL ROAD BIKE LANES PROJECT
(RESOLUTION E-14-40)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Neal Road Bike Lanes Project (project) in Butte 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:

Butte County (County) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. The project is located 4.5 miles south of the City of Chico on Neal Road near the town of Paradise in Butte County. The project will construct approximately 7.5 miles of Class II and Class III bike facilities on Neal Road from Oro-Chico Highway to Bayleaf Road. The project includes shoulder widening, rehabilitation and drainage improvements as well as roadway striping and signage installation to complete the bike facilities on Neal Road. The project will also install signage on the portion of Neal Road within the Town of Paradise and on 11.5 miles of Cohasset Road within the unincorporated area from the City limits of Chico to Cohasset School.

On April 22, 2014 the County adopted the final MND for the project and found that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. On August 21, 2013 Caltrans determined that 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 Biological Resources and Air Quality. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: pre-construction surveys, avoidance measures and compensatory mitigation for vernal pool crustaceans, Swainson's hawk, and other migratory birds/raptors, obtaining all appropriate regulatory water

quality permits; as well as measures to reduce fugitive dust and equipment emissions during construction.

On July 18, 2014 the 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 will be constructed in three phases, only Phase 1 is fully funded at this time. Phases 2 and 3 are currently funded through PS&E. Phase 1 will install signage and widen the existing roadway shoulder to accommodate Class II bike lanes with a 4-foot paved plus 1-foot gravel shoulder in both directions on Neal Road beginning at SR-99 and heading eastward toward the town of Paradise for 4.7 miles. Phase 1 is estimated to cost \$1,643,396 and is fully funded through construction with STIP (\$1,580,000) and Local (\$63,396) funding. Phase 1 construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2014/15.

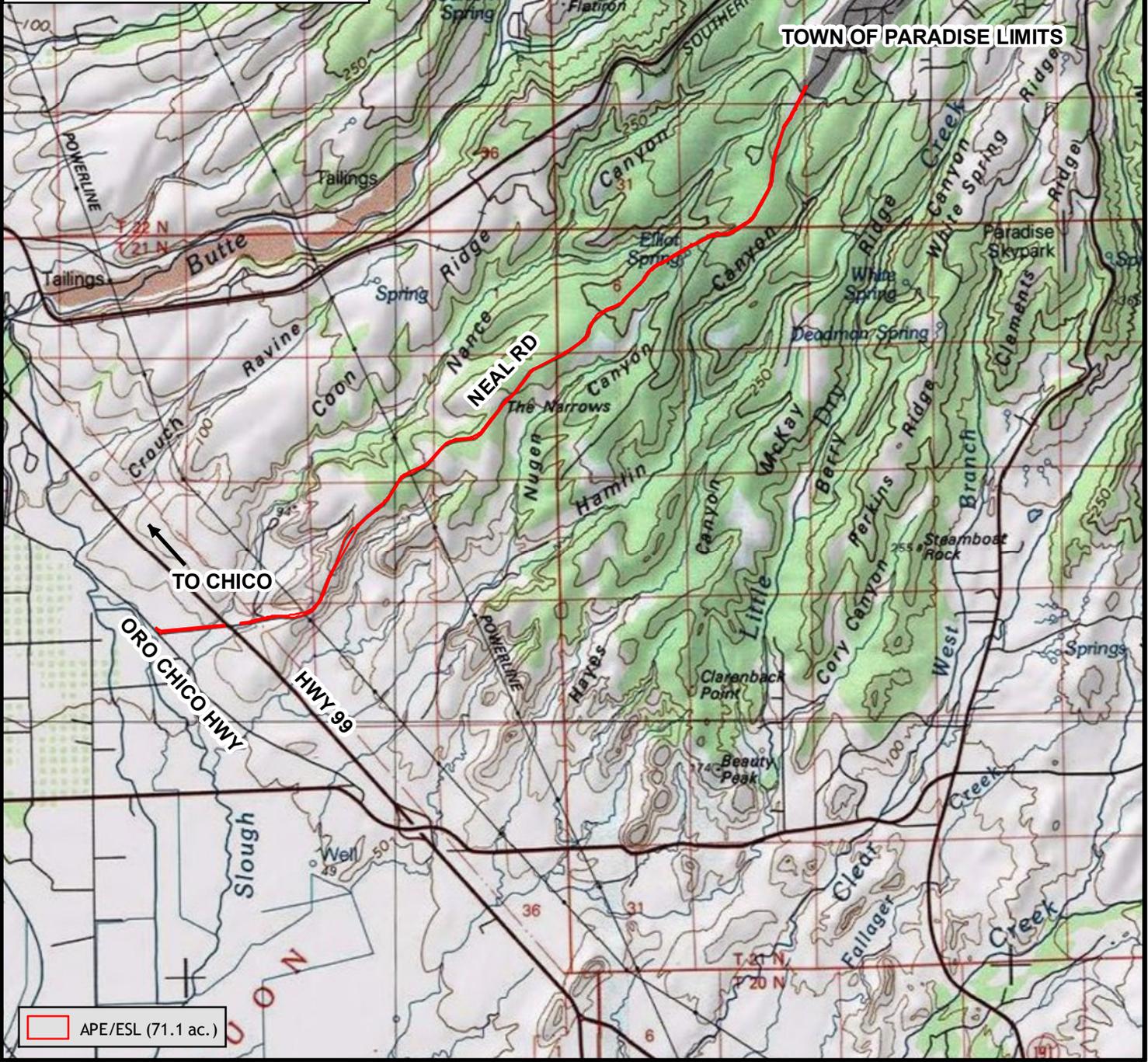
Attachments

- Resolution E-14-40
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 03 – Butte County Resolution E-14-40

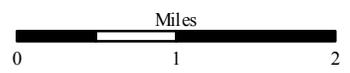
- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, Butte County has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Neal Road Bike Lanes Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, Butte County has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project will construct approximately 7.5 miles of Class II and Class III bike facilities on Neal Road from Oro-Chico Highway to Bayleaf Road. The project includes shoulder widening, rehabilitation and drainage improvements as well as roadway striping and signage installation to complete the bike facilities on Neal Road. The project will also install signage on the portion of Neal Road within the Town of Paradise and on 11.5 miles of Cohasset Road within the unincorporated area from the City limits of Chico to Cohasset School; 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**, Butte County found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, Butte 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.



□ APE/ESL (71.1 ac.)

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Drawn By: CJW
Checked:
Scale:
1 in = 1.2 miles



Within Sections 11, 12, 14, 21-23 of T22N, R2E & Sections 5-7 of T21N, R3E, and 28, 29, 32 of T22N, R2E of Butte County, CA. Chico & Hamlin Canyon USGS 7.5' Quads. Map Date: May 9, 2012

**Neal Rd. Bike Lane Project
- Butte County, CA -**
FIGURE 1 - LOCATION MAP