

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: October 9, 2019

From: SUSAN BRANSEN, Executive Director

Reference Number: 2.2c.(6), Action

Prepared By: Jose Oseguera
Assistant Deputy Director

Published Date: September 27, 2019

Subject: Approval of Project for Future Consideration of Funding – Final Environmental Impact Report for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan, including Addendums 1 and 2, for the Watsonville Rail Trail Lee Road Project (Resolution E-19-91)

Issue:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, accept the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan, including Addendums 1 and 2, for the Watsonville Rail Trail Lee Road (Project) in Santa Cruz County, and approve the Project for future consideration of funding?

Recommendation:

Commission Staff recommends the Commission accept the Final Environmental Impact Report, including Addendums 1 and 2, and approve the Project for future consideration of funding.

Background:

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) and the City of Watsonville (City) are the lead agencies for this Project. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan proposes a trail alignment for the length of Santa Cruz County, connecting spurs and establishing trail standards for bicycle and pedestrian usage. The trail network travels through a variety of landscapes and covers nearly a 50-mile length. The Master Plan identifies 20 trail segments and the City of Watsonville has identified the Watsonville Rail Trail Lee Road Project as Segment 18. The Project will construct the new trail adjacent to the railroad tracks in Watsonville. The Project is located next to the tracks from Lee Road to Walker Street in Santa Cruz County.

On November 7, 2013, the SCCRTC adopted the Final Environmental Impact Report and determined that environmental impacts would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation as outlined in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to agriculture, biological and cultural resources, geology, hazardous materials, water quality, noise, and traffic. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: consult with the Agricultural Commissioner's Office on chemical spraying reduction strategies, prepare surveys for protection of the California Red-Legged Frog, minimize disturbance to Monarch Butterfly roosting areas, complete pre-archaeological surveys, prepare a Geotechnical Study to identify potential areas vulnerable to liquefaction, develop an Arsenic Management Plan for protection of water resources, utilize mufflers to manage noise from internal combustion engines, and deploy proper trail signage and warnings.

Since adoption of the Final Environmental Impact Report, the City has issued two modifications to the Final Environmental Impact Report.

On October 13, 2015, the SCCRTC approved Addendum 1 to the Final Environmental Impact Report to formally identify trail Segment 18, and the relocation of four-foot by six-foot railroad buildings.

On July 9, 2019, the Watsonville City Council approved Addendum 2 to the Final Environmental Impact Report to finalize trail design specifications and shift the alignment to avoid the four-foot by six-foot railroad buildings.

On September 9, 2019, the City confirmed that the Final Environmental Impact Report, including the two Addendums, remain valid and that there are no new identified impacts requiring mitigation. The City also 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 \$4,800,000 and is fully funded with Active Transportation Program Funds (\$600,000), and Local Funds (\$4,200,000).

Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2019-20.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Resolution E-19-91
- Attachment B: Notice of Determination
- Attachment C: Project Location Map

**CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding**

**5 – Santa Cruz County
Resolution E-19-91**

- 1.1 WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) and the City of Watsonville (City) have completed a Final Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan, including Addendums 1 and 2, for the Watsonville Rail Trail Lee Road Project (Project) in Santa Cruz County; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the SCCRTC has certified that the Final Environmental Impact Report has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS, the Project is located next to the tracks from Lee Road to Walker Street in Santa Cruz County; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan proposes a trail alignment for the length of Santa Cruz County, connecting spurs and establishing trail standards for bicycle and pedestrian usage. The Master Plan identifies 20 trail segments and the City has identified the Watsonville Rail Trail Lee Road Project as Segment 18. The Project will construct the new trail adjacent to the railroad tracks in Watsonville; and
- 1.5 WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Report, including Addendums 1 and 2; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS, on November 7, 2013, the SCCRTC adopted the Final Environmental Impact Report; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, on November 7, 2013, the SCCRTC determined that environmental impacts would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation as outlined in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and
- 1.8 WHEREAS, on October 13, 2015, the SCCRTC adopted Addendum 1; and
- 1.9 WHEREAS, on July 9, 2019, the Watsonville City Council adopted Addendum 2; and

- 1.10 WHEREAS, on September 9, 2019, the City confirmed that the Final Environmental Impact Report, including the two Addendums, remain valid and that there are no new identified impacts requiring mitigation; and
 - 1.11 WHEREAS, on September 9, 2019, the City also confirmed that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the Project scope of work programmed by the Commission; and
 - 1.12 WHEREAS, the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Report, including Addendums 1 and 2.
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- 2.1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission does hereby accept the Final Environmental Impact Report, including Addendums 1 and 2, for the above-referenced Project to allow for future consideration of funding.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Transportation Commission
Attn: Jose Oseguera
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 653-2094

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Title: Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan

2012082075	Murray Fontes	(831) 768-3117
State Clearinghouse Number	Lead Agency Contact Person	Area Code/Telephone

Project Location (include county): The project is located next to the tracks from Lee Road to Walker Street in Santa Cruz County.

Project Description: The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan proposes a trail alignment for the length of Santa Cruz County, connecting spurs and establishing trail standards for bicycle and pedestrian usage. The Master Plan identifies 20 trail segments and the City of Watsonville has identified the Watsonville Rail Trail Lee Road Project as Segment 18. The Project will construct the new trail adjacent to the railroad tracks in Watsonville.

This is to advise that the California Transportation Commission has approved the above described project on

(Lead Agency/ Responsible Agency)

October 9, 2019, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project (will/ will not) have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures (were/ were not) made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. Mitigation reporting or monitoring plan (was / was not) adopted for this project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations (was / was not) adopted for this project.
6. Findings (were/ were not) made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

The above identified document with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at: 250 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076

SUSAN BRANSEN		Executive Director
<hr/>		California Transportation Commission
<i>Signature (Public Agency)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>

Date received for filing at OPR:



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Regional Location

Figure 2-1

