

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: June 24-25, 2020

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.2c.(9), Action Item

Prepared By: Philip J. Stolarski, Chief
Division of Environmental Analysis

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
RESOLUTION E-20-54**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-20-54?

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the Commission, as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-20-54.

BACKGROUND:

05-SLO-46, PM 49.7/54.7 RESOLUTION E-20-54

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding the following project for which a Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Report (SFEIR) has been completed:

- State Route 46 (SR 46) in San Luis Obispo County. Widen the Cholame Section of SR 46 from a two-lane highway to a four-lane divided expressway. (PPNO 0226J)

This project is located on SR 46 in San Luis Obispo County. The Department proposes to construct the Cholame Section of the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project. As with the previously constructed sections of the Corridor Project, the Cholame Section will continue with the conversion of the existing two-lane highway to a four-lane divided expressway. This project is fully funded and is currently programmed in the 2020 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for a total of \$124,555,000 which includes Construction

*“Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system
to enhance California’s economy and livability”*

(capital and support) and Right of Way (capital and support). Construction is estimated to begin in the fall of 2021. The scope, as described for the preferred alternative, is consistent with the project scope programmed by the Commission in the 2020 STIP.

A copy of the SFEIR has been provided to Commission staff. Resources that may be impacted by the project include cultural resources.

Potential impacts associated with the project can all be mitigated to below significance with the exception of cultural resources, for which a Statement of Overriding Considerations was prepared. As a result, an SFEIR was prepared for the project.

Attachments

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

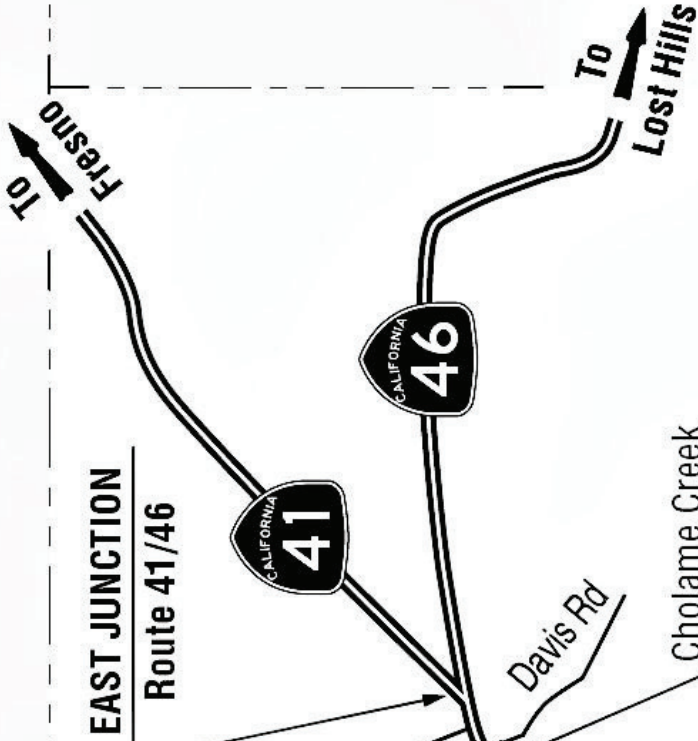
Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 05-SLO-46, PM 49.7/54.7 Resolution E-20-54

- 1.1 WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- State Route 46 (SR 46) in San Luis Obispo County. Widen the Cholame Section of SR 46 from a two-lane highway to a four-lane divided expressway. (PPNO 0226J)
- 1.2 WHEREAS**, the Department has certified that a Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Report has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Report.
- 1.4 WHEREAS**, the project will have a significant effect on the environment.
- 1.5 WHEREAS**, a Statement of Overriding Considerations was made pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines.
- 2.1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby support approval of the above referenced project to allow for consideration of funding.

MONTEREY COUNTY
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

SAN LUIS
OBISPO
COUNTY

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
KERN COUNTY



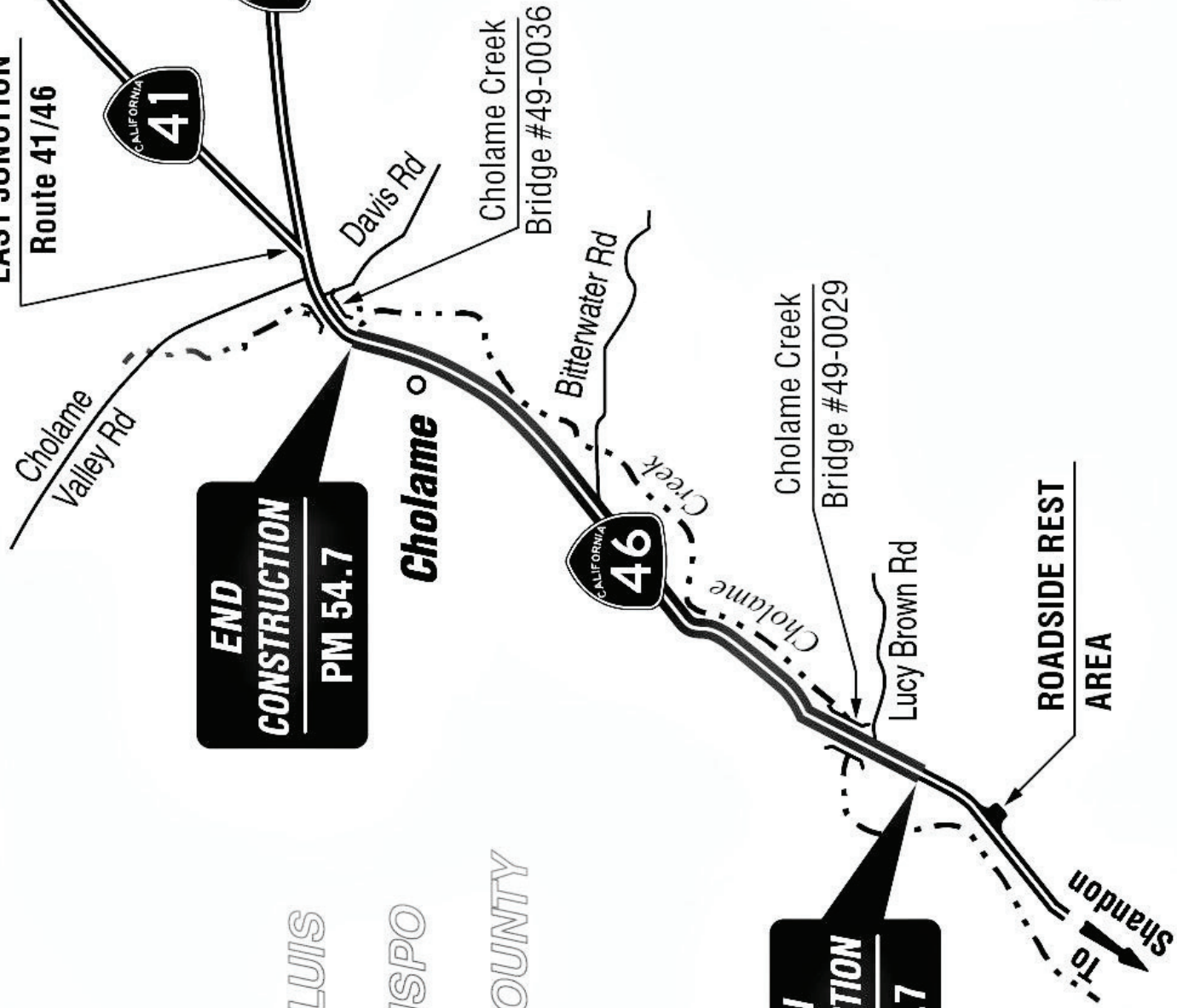
**END
CONSTRUCTION
PM 54.7**

Cholame

**BEGIN
CONSTRUCTION
PM 49.7**

**ROADSIDE REST
AREA**

**NOT
to
SCALE**



STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS FOR CONVERTING THE EXISTING TWO LANE HIGHWAY TO A FOUR LANE DIVIDED EXPRESSWAY ON STATE ROUTE 46 FROM POST MILE 49.7 TO POST MILE 54.7 (CHOLAME SECTION) IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY.

The following information is presented to comply with State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15903), and the Department of Transportation and California Transportation Commission Environmental Regulations (Title 21 California Code of Regulations, Division 2, Chapter 11, Section 1501). Reference is made to the Supplemental Final Environmental Impact Report (Supplemental Final EIR) for the Cholame Section of the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project (Corridor Project), which is the basic source for the information.

The following impacts have been identified as significant and not fully mitigable:

- Impacts to a prehistoric archaeological site that is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (CA-SBA-1927/H Locus A): The Cholame North Modified Alternative (Option A) will result in physical destruction or damage to portions of CA-SBA-1927/H Locus A. A Finding of Adverse Effect (FOA) has been identified by Caltrans and concurrence on the FOA has been obtained from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Overriding considerations that support approval of this recommended project are as follows:

The Cholame Section of the larger Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project would continue with the widening of State Route 46 from post mile 49.7 to post mile 54.7. The project is needed to improve safety, reduce congestion and maintain corridor consistency on State Route 46 between Paso Robles and Cholame (as planned in the Final 2019 Regional Transportation Plan and in the financially constrained 2017 Federal Transportation Improvement Plan. The significant unavoidable effects that the Cholame Section of the Corridor Project would have to the eligible prehistoric site are outweighed by the need to provide safe, reliable passage between the Central Valley and San Luis Obispo County.

The Cholame North Modified Alternative (Option A) was selected as the preferred alternative based on the fact that this alternative significantly reduces project costs by minimizing utility conflicts and does not result in a substantial increase in environmental impacts when compared to the Cholame Alternative 1 selected in the 2006 EIR/FONSI.