

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: January 25-26, 2023

From: MITCH WEISS, Executive Director

Reference Number: 2.2c.(6), Action

Prepared By: Jose Oseguera
Assistant Deputy Director

Published Date: January 13, 2023

Subject: Approval of Project for Future Funding Consideration – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Arcata Annie and Mary Trail Connectivity Project, Resolution E-23-16

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Arcata Annie and Mary Trail Connectivity Project (Project) in Humboldt County and approve the Project for future funding consideration.

Issue:

The City of Arcata (City) is the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency for the Project. The Project will construct a 3.5-mile Class I bike path, including a highway overpass and trailhead improvements. The Project is located along the inactive segment of railroad corridor within the Great Redwood Trail Agency's right-of-way in northern Arcata, extending into the unincorporated area of Humboldt County.

For all projects that are anticipated to be funded through a program under the purview of the Commission, full compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act is required. The Commission will not allocate funds to projects for design, right-of-way, or construction until the environmental document is complete, and the Commission has approved the environmentally cleared project for future funding consideration.

Background:

On December 21, 2022, the Arcata City Council adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project and found that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to aesthetics, air quality, biological and cultural resources, energy, hazardous materials, water quality, and transportation. Mitigation measures include the following: require the replanting of native tree and shrub species compatible with the surrounding vegetation, mandate that

disturbed surfaces be watered down to suppress dust, conduct surveys for the protection of the Black-capped Chickadee and the Great Blue Heron, prepare a Cultural Resources Investigation and share findings with the Wiyot Tribe, the Bear River Rancheria, and the Blue Lake Rancheria, require that idling be limited to five minutes or less for construction equipment, prepare a Soil and Groundwater Management Plan, and provide emergency access to first responders during the construction process.

On December 22, 2022, 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 \$5,286,000 and is fully funded through construction with Active Transportation Program Funds – Cycle 5 (\$4,220,000), Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program Funds (\$1,046,000), and Local General Funds (\$20,000).

Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2024-25.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Resolution E-23-16
- Attachment B: Notice of Determination
- Attachment C: Project Location Map

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

**1 – Humboldt County
Resolution E-23-16**

- 1.1 WHEREAS, the City of Arcata (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the Arcata Annie and Mary Trail Connectivity Project (Project) in Humboldt County; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the City has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines; and
- 1.3 WHEREAS, the Project is located along the inactive segment of railroad corridor within the Great Redwood Trail Agency's right-of-way in northern Arcata, extending into the unincorporated area of Humboldt County; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, the Project will construct a 3.5-mile Class I bike path, including a highway overpass and trailhead improvements; and
- 1.5 WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.6 WHEREAS, on December 21, 2022, the Arcata City Council found that the proposed Project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation and adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, on December 22, 2022, the City confirmed that the preferred alternative set forth in the Mitigated Negative Declaration is consistent with the Project scope of work programmed by the Commission; and
- 1.8 WHEREAS, the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission does hereby accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration and approves the above-referenced Project for future funding consideration.

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: Arcata Annie and Mary Trail Connectivity Project

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2022110030 | Emily Sinkhorn | (707) 822-8184 |
| State Clearinghouse Number | Lead Agency Contact Person | Area Code/Telephone |

Project Location (include county): The project is located along the inactive segment of railroad corridor within the Great Redwood Trail Agency's right-of-way in northern Arcata, extending into the unincorporated area of Humboldt County.

Project Description: The project will construct a 3.5-mile Class I bike path, including a highway overpass and trailhead improvements.

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

(Lead Agency/ Responsible Agency)

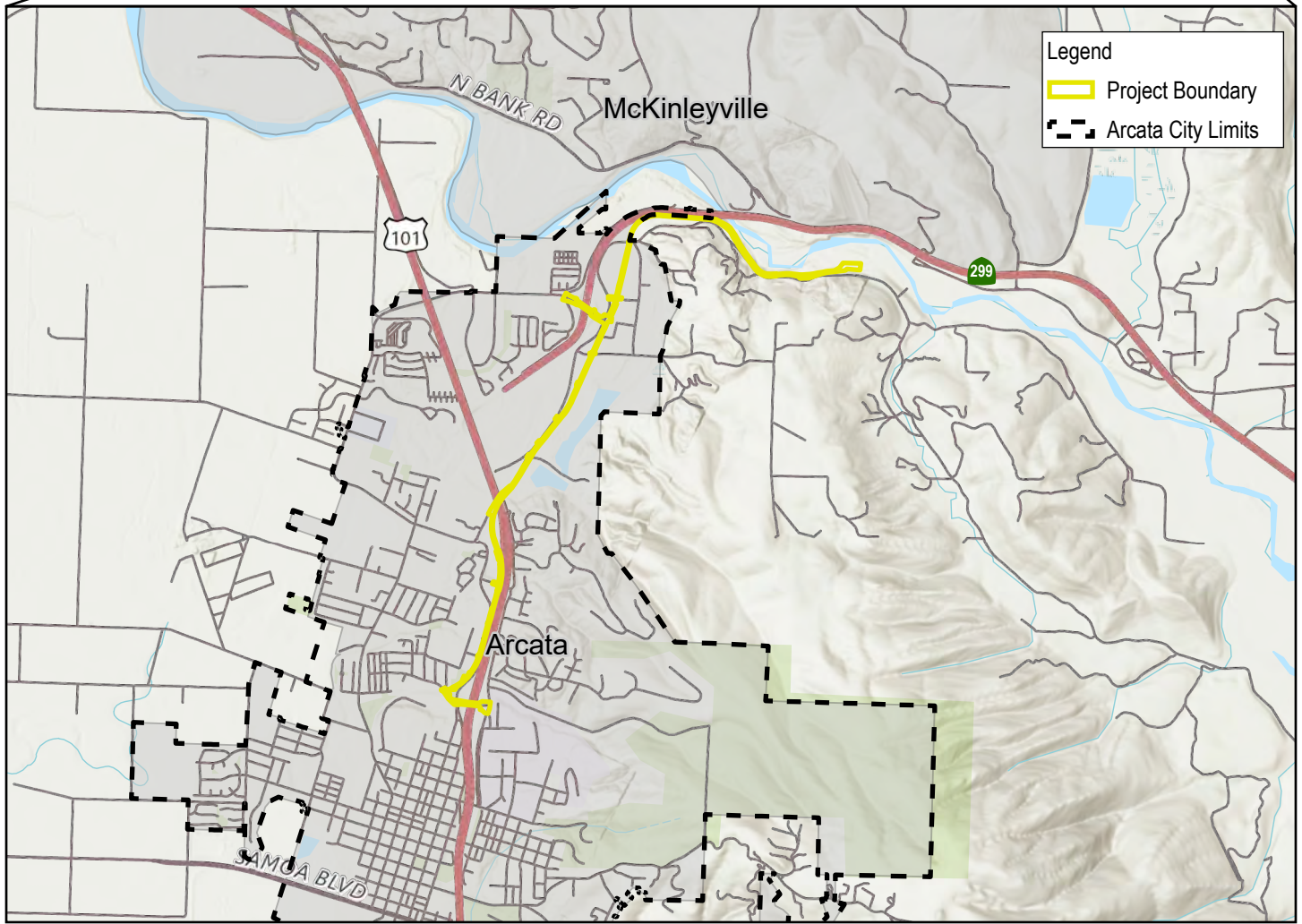
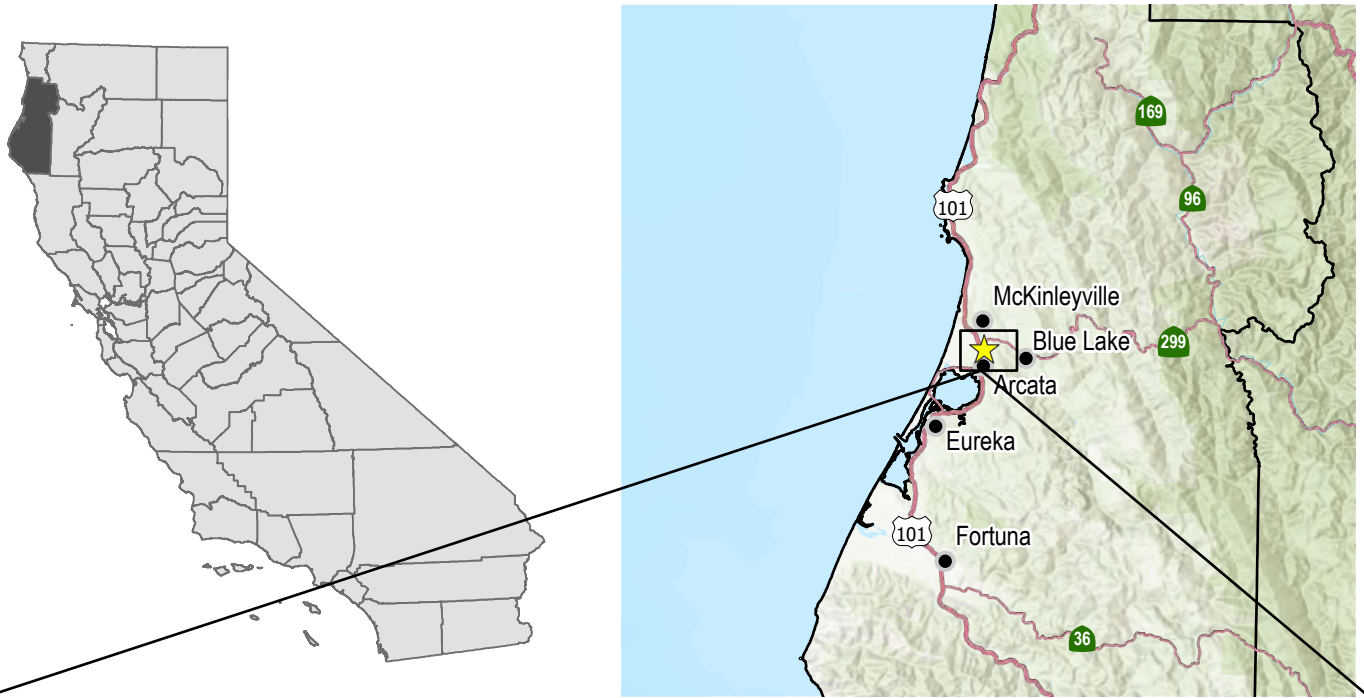
January 25-26, 2023, and has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

1. The project (will/ will not) have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Final 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: 736 F Street, Arcata, CA 95521

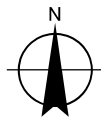
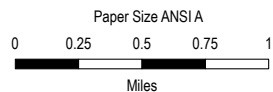
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|----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| MITCH WEISS | | Executive Director California Transportation Commission |
| <i>Signature (Public Agency)</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Title</i> |

Date received for filing at OPR:



Legend

- Project Boundary
- Arcata City Limits



**City of Arcata
Annie & Mary Trail
Connectivity Project**

Reference No.: 2.2c.(6)
January 25-26, 2023

Vicinity Map

Data source: transportation: USGS The National Map; National Transportation Dataset; U.S. Census Bureau - TIGER/Line; U.S. Forest Service. Data Refreshed January, 2022.; World Imagery (Clarity). This work is licensed under the Esri Master License Agreement. View Summary | View Terms of Use. Export: This layer is not intended to be used to export tiles for offline. Data Collection and Editing: This layer may be used in various ArcGIS apps to support data collection and editing, with the results used internally or shared with others, as described for these use cases.: World Topographic Map - labelless: California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA; World Hillshade: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA; World Topographic Map - labelless: California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, World Hillshade: Esri, CGIAR, USGS. Created by: jlopez4