

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 6-7, 2023

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 2.2c.(5), Action

Prepared By: Cherry Zamora
Assistant Deputy Director

Published Date: November 22, 2023

Subject: Approval of Project for Future Funding Consideration – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Los Angeles Valley Bikeway and Greenway Project - Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard, Resolution E-23-151

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Los Angeles Valley Bikeway and Greenway Project - Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard (Project) in the City of Los Angeles in Los Angeles County and approve the Project for future funding consideration.

Issue:

The City of Los Angeles (City) is the California Environmental Quality Act lead agency for the Project. The Project is located along the Los Angeles River extending from Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard in the West San Fernando Valley of the City of Los Angeles in Los Angeles County. On-street improvements would be located at the following: Vanalden Avenue/Victory Boulevard intersection; Vanalden Avenue from Vanowen Street south to the Los Angeles River; Los Angeles River south to Calvert Street; Yolanda Avenue from the Los Angeles River south to Erwin Street; Los Angeles River to Vanowen Boulevard; Los Angeles River to northbound White Oak Avenue; Kittridge Street from Reseda Boulevard east to White Oak Avenue; Etiwanda Avenue from Oxnard north to Vanowen Street; and the Birmingham High School Campus Driveway/Victory Boulevard Intersection. The Project includes the installation of bicycle and pedestrian pathways, construction of undercrossings and river parks, and on-street improvements to increase access to the Los Angeles River Bikeway.

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 May 4, 2022, the City adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Project and found that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. On November 8, 2023, the City confirmed that the environmental document remains valid; there are no new impacts requiring mitigation; and the Project set forth in the environmental document is consistent with the Project's scope of work programmed by the Commission.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to biological resources, cultural resources, and tribal cultural resources. Mitigation measures include avoidance and monitoring of Least Bell's vireo (a bird species), obtaining permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, construction timing to avoid bat maternity season and bird breeding as feasible, preconstruction biological surveys, implementation of Best Management Practices for erosion, spills, washout, and trash during construction, and implementation of standard unanticipated discovery measures for cultural resources.

The Project is estimated to cost \$65,000,000 and is funded with local City and County (\$31,207,000); Metro Measure M (\$15,000,000); and Active Transportation Program (\$18,793,000) funds.

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

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Resolution E-23-151
- Attachment B: Notice of Determination
- Attachment C: Project Location Map

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

**7 – Los Angeles County
Resolution E-23-151**

- 1.1 WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the Los Angeles Valley Bikeway and Greenway Project - Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard (Project) in the City of Los Angeles in Los Angeles 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 Los Angeles (LA) River extending from Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard in the West San Fernando Valley of the City of Los Angeles in Los Angeles County. On-street improvements would be located at the following: Vanalden Avenue/Victory Boulevard intersection; Vanalden Avenue from Vanowen Street south to the Los Angeles River; Los Angeles River south to Calvert Street; Yolanda Avenue from the Los Angeles River south to Erwin Street; Los Angeles River to Vanowen Boulevard; Los Angeles River to northbound White Oak Avenue; Kittridge Street from Reseda Boulevard east to White Oak Avenue; Etiwanda Avenue from Oxnard north to Vanowen Street; and the Birmingham High School Campus Driveway/Victory Boulevard Intersection; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, the Project includes the installation of bicycle and pedestrian pathways, construction of undercrossings and river parks, and on-street improvements to increase access to the Los Angeles River Bikeway; and
- 1.5 WHEREAS, impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to biological resources, cultural resources, and tribal cultural resources. Mitigation measures include avoidance and monitoring of Least Bell's vireo (a bird species), obtaining permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife, construction timing to avoid bat maternity season and bird breeding as feasible, preconstruction biological surveys, implementation of Best Management Practices for erosion, spills, washout, and trash during construction, and implementation of standard unanticipated discovery measures for cultural resources.

- 1.6 WHEREAS, the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, on May 4, 2022, the City found that the proposed Project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation and adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration. On November 8, 2023, the City confirmed that the environmental document remains valid; there are no new impacts requiring mitigation; and the Project set forth in the environmental document is consistent with the Project's 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: Cherry Zamora
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 654-4245

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

Project Title: Los Angeles Valley Bikeway & Greenway Project – Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard

2021100118	Nur Malhis	(215) 485-4737
State Clearinghouse Number	Lead Agency Contact Person	Area Code/Telephone

Project Location (include county): The project is located along the Los Angeles River extending from Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard in the West San Fernando Valley of the City of Los Angeles in Los Angeles County. On-street improvements would be located at the following: Vanalden Avenue/Victory Boulevard intersection; Vanalden Avenue from Vanowen Street south to the Los Angeles River; Los Angeles River south to Calvert Street; Yolanda Avenue from the Los Angeles River south to Erwin Street; Los Angeles River to Vanowen Boulevard; Los Angeles River to northbound White Oak Avenue; Kittridge Street from Reseda Boulevard east to White Oak Avenue; Etiwanda Avenue from Oxnard north to Vanowen Street; and the Birmingham High School Campus Driveway/Victory Boulevard Intersection.

Project Description: The Project includes the installation of bicycle and pedestrian pathways, construction of undercrossings and river parks, and on-street improvements to increase access to the Los Angeles River Bikeway.

This is to advise that the California Transportation Commission has approved the above-described
(Lead Agency/ Responsible Agency)

project on December 6-7, 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.

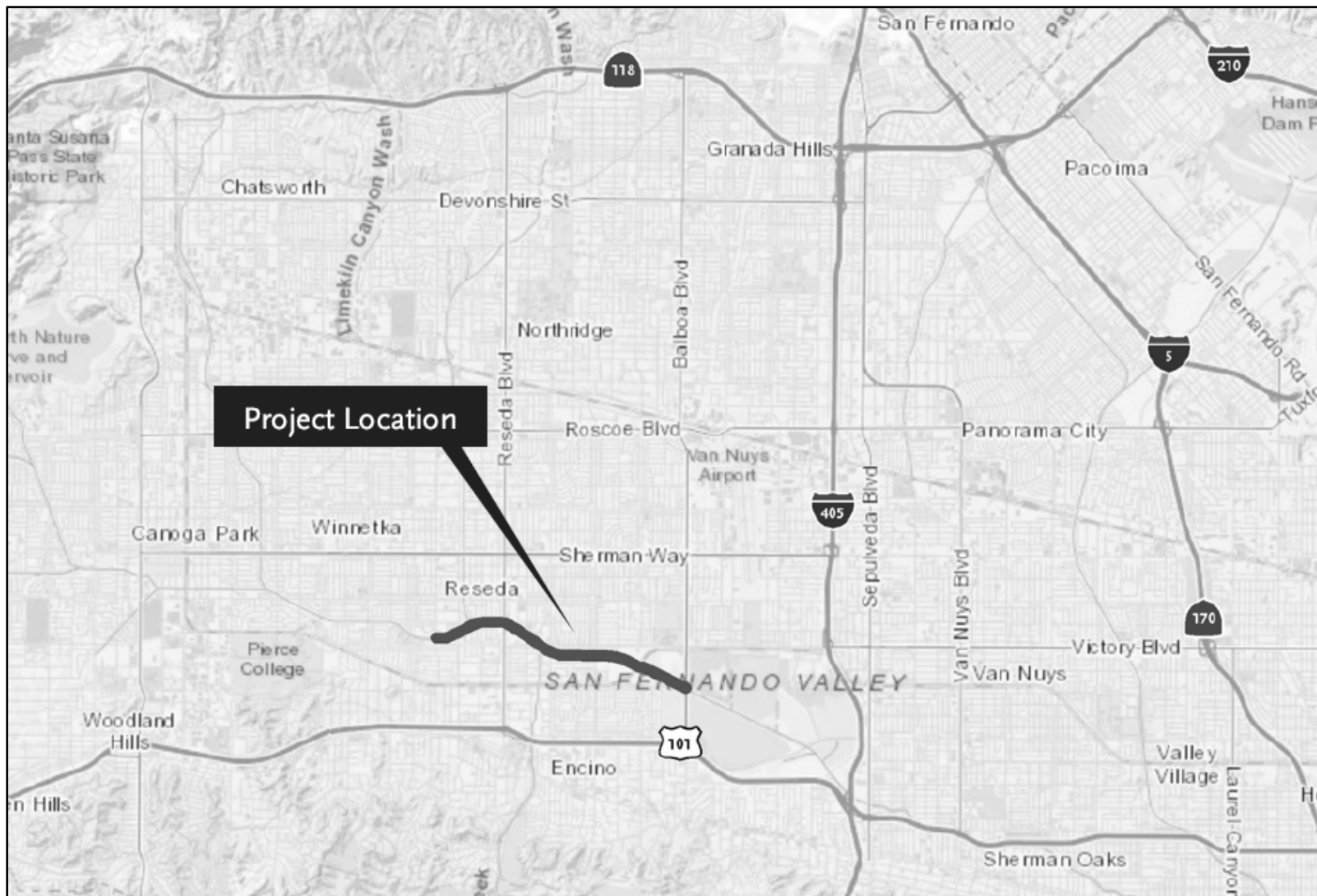
The above identified document with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at: City of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Bureau of Engineering, 1149 S. Broadway Suite 600, Los Angeles, CA 90015.

TANISHA TAYLOR		Executive Director California Transportation Commission
<i>Signature (Public Agency)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Title</i>

Date received for filing at OPR:

Project Location Map

Los Angeles Valley Bikeway and Greenway Project - Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard



Project Location (continued)

Los Angeles Valley Bikeway and Greenway Project - Vanalden Avenue to Balboa Boulevard

