

## MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS  
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: December 6-7, 2023

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.2c.(7), Action Item

Prepared By: Jeremy Ketchum, Chief  
Division of Environmental Analysis

Subject: **APPROVAL OF A PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING  
RESOLUTION E-23-153**

### **ISSUE:**

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-23-153?

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the Commission, as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-23-153.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### **01-Hum-101, PM 1.1/2.2 Resolution E-23-153**

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

- U.S. Highway 101 (US 101) in Humboldt County. Modify the roadway alignment to accommodate Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) truck travel on US 101. The project involves minor realignments, minor widening, culvert improvements, construction of a retaining wall, and repaving the roadway, in Humboldt County. (PPNO 2251)

The project is located on US 101 from postmile (PM) 1.1 to PM 2.2, in Humboldt County. The Department proposes to modify the roadway alignment to accommodate STAA truck travel on US 101. The project involves minor realignments, minor widening, culvert improvements, construction of a retaining wall, and repaving the roadway. The project is currently programmed in the 2022 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP). The

*“Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.”*

total programmed amount which includes Right of Way (Support and Capital), and Construction (Support and Capital) is \$13,678,000. Construction is estimated to begin 2024-25. The scope, as described for the preferred alternative, is consistent with the project scope as programmed by the Commission in the 2022 SHOPP.

A copy of the FEIR has been provided to Commission staff. Resources in the project area that may be impacted by the project include old growth redwood trees, marbled murrelet, aesthetics, cultural resources, and impacts to the community and Richardson Grove State Park. Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures will reduce any potential effects on the environment. These measures include, but are not limited to, restorative planting of 0.56 acre of the former US 101 roadbed, implementation of an invasive plant removal contract with the California Conservation Corps, a two-year survey by a qualified biologist to document the presence of marbled murrelet in the project vicinity, providing covid-proof waste receptacles, dumpsters, recycling bins, food lockers, and drain grates to replace the existing equipment at Richardson Grove State Park, and other construction Best Management Practices as described in Appendix D of the Environmental Document.

Since the completion of the FEIR, there have been changes to the scope and an Addendum was prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). These changes include reducing the overall project footprint and culvert work by steepening cut-slopes and reducing shoulder widening, replacing the metal beam guardrail with a shorter transition barrier and crash cushion to meet current safety standards, and extending the barrier at the northern end of the proposed retaining wall by ten-feet, angle it away from traffic, and place a crash cushion at the southern end of the retaining wall. Additionally, the Department requested technical assistance from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to update the evaluation of the potential impacts of the culvert work, roadway work, and proposed barrier rail modifications on listed fish species. Consequently, the Department conducted further analysis and initiated informal consultation with NMFS. A Letter of Concurrence was received from NMFS on January 23, 2017. Lastly, the Department conducted a revised impact analysis for old growth redwoods and concluded that the significance determinations from the FEIR have not changed. The summary of these analyses is described in the Addendum. The project would not involve substantial changes in regulatory circumstances, did not identify new alternatives, and proposed similar avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures when compared to the FEIR. The project changes do not meet the criteria outlined in CEQA Guidelines Sections 15162 and 15163 to prepare a Subsequent or Supplemental FEIR. As a result, a FEIR and Addendum were prepared for the project.

Attachments

*“Provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment.”*

# Attachment 1

## CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

### Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 01-Hum-101, PM 1.1/2.2 Resolution E-23-153

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed a Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
- US 101 in Humboldt County. Modify the roadway alignment to accommodate STAA truck travel on US 101. The project involves minor realignments, minor widening, culvert improvements, construction of a retaining wall, and repaving the roadway, in Humboldt County. (PPNO 2251)
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the Department has certified that a Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum 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 Final Environmental Impact Report and Addendum.
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation
- 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.

# Attachment 2

## NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

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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:** Richardson Grove Operational Improvement Project

2009012070

Julie East

(707) 445-6600

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**State Clearinghouse Number**

**Lead Agency Contact Person**

**Area Code/Telephone**

**Project Location** (include county): U.S. Highway 101 (US 101) postmile 1.1 to postmile 2.2, in Humboldt County.

**Project Description:** Modify the roadway alignment to accommodate Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) truck travel on US 101. The project involves minor realignments, minor widening, culvert improvements, construction of a retaining wall, and repaving the roadway, in Humboldt County.

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

(  Lead Agency/  Responsible Agency)

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.  An Environmental Impact Report and Addendum were prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.  
 A 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: Caltrans District 1, 1656 Union Street, Eureka, CA 95501.

TANISHA TAYLOR

*Signature (Public Agency)*

*Date*

Executive Director

California Transportation Commission

*Title*

Date received for filing at OPR:

# Attachment 3

