

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 4-5, 2025

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 2.2c.(3), Action

Prepared By: Cherry Zamora
Associate Deputy Director

Published Date: November 21, 2025

Subject: Approval of Project for Future Consideration of Funding – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Baker Boulevard Bridge over Mojave River Bridge Replacement, Resolution E-25-67

Recommendation:

Staff recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Baker Boulevard over Mojave River Bridge Replacement (Project) in San Bernardino County and approve the Project for future consideration of funding.

Issue:

San Bernardino County (County) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the Project. The Project is located on Baker Boulevard over the Mojave River channel near the unincorporated community of Baker in San Bernardino County. The Project includes replacement of the existing two-lane timber bridge with a new four-lane bridge. The bridge will include sidewalks, streetlights, and bridge barrier railing that meets current safety and testing requirements specified in the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware.

For all projects that are seeking funding through a program under the purview of the Commission, full compliance with CEQA 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 April 29, 2025, the County adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration and found that the Project would not have a significant impact on the environment with the implementation of mitigation measures. On October 29, 2025, the County confirmed that the environmental document remains valid, there are no newly identified impacts or substantial increase in the

severity of an impact requiring mitigation, and the environmental document is consistent with the Project scope of work programmed by the Commission.

Impacts that require mitigation measures in order to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous waste, hydrology and water quality, and noise.

Mitigation measures include demarcating construction limits using Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing; using shielded lighting; implementing aesthetic treatments on the bridge; implementation of Best Management Practices to minimize erosion and release of pollutants; compensatory mitigation; preconstruction surveys for desert tortoise, burrowing owl, and bird nests; exclusion fencing for Desert Tortoise; biological monitoring; environmental awareness training; checking for Desert Tortoise in the construction area; keeping construction vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour or less; covering excavated areas overnight; following steps to rehabilitate Desert Tortoise if one is injured at the project site; cleaning of construction equipment to reduce spread of invasive plants or seeds; proper disposal of trash; no use of rodenticide or herbicide; preventing harm to wildlife; botanical field surveys prior to construction; if cultural materials are discovered, moving activity away from the area until it is assessed; if human remains are discovered, stopping construction activity in the area and contacting the County Coroner and Native American Heritage Commission; implementing a Paleontological Mitigation Plan and paleontological monitoring; proper handling of polychlorinated biphenyls, asbestos containing material, aerially deposited lead, treated wood, and any previously unknown hazardous waste or material; preparation of a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Program; following County noise ordinances with regard to timing and noise levels; locating equipment at farthest distance possible from sensitive land uses; properly maintaining and equipping construction equipment with noise-reduction intake and exhaust muffler and engine shrouds; and keeping construction equipment from idling.

The Project is estimated to cost \$35,307,000 and is fully funded through the construction phase with local Measure I (\$7,377,000), Surface Transportation Program (\$9,561,000), and Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (\$18,369,000) funds.

Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2025-26.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Resolution E-25-67
- Attachment B: Notice of Determination
- Attachment C: Project Location Map

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

**8 – San Bernardino County
Resolution E-25-67**

- 1.1 WHEREAS, San Bernardino County (County) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the Baker Boulevard over Mojave River Bridge Replacement (Project) in San Bernardino County; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the County 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 on Baker Boulevard over the Mojave River channel near the unincorporated community of Baker in San Bernardino County; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, the Project includes replacement of the existing two-lane timber bridge with a new four-lane bridge. The bridge will include sidewalks, streetlights, and bridge barrier railing that meets current safety and testing requirements specified in the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware; 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, impacts that require mitigation measures in order to be reduced to less than significant levels relate to aesthetics, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous waste, hydrology and water quality, and noise, and certain measures were adopted to address these impacts; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, on April 29, 2025, the County adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration and found that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment with implementation of mitigation measures; and
- 1.8 WHEREAS, on October 29, 2025, the County confirmed that the Mitigated Negative Declaration remains valid, there are no newly identified impacts or substantial increase in the severity of an impact requiring mitigation, and the environmental document is consistent with the Project scope of work programmed by the Commission; and
- 1.9 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 consideration of funding.

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
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: Baker Boulevard Bridge over Mojave River Bridge Replacement

2025030204

Patrick Egle

(909) 387-1865

State Clearinghouse Number

Lead Agency Contact Person

Area Code/Telephone

Project Location (include county): The project is located on Baker Boulevard over the Mojave River channel near the unincorporated community of Baker in San Bernardino County.

Project Description: The project includes replacement of the existing two-lane timber bridge with a new four-lane bridge. The bridge will include sidewalks, streetlights, and bridge barrier railing that meets current safety and testing requirements specified in the Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware.

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

(Lead Agency / Responsible Agency)

project on December 4-5, 2025, 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: San Bernardino County, Department of Public Works, EMD, 825 E. Third Street, Rm 123, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835.

TANISHA TAYLOR

Signature (Public Agency)

Date

Executive Director

California Transportation Commission

Title

Date received for filing at OPR:

Project Location Map

Baker Boulevard Bridge over Mojave River Bridge Replacement, San Bernardino County

