

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: June 25-26, 2026

From: TANISHA TAYLOR, Executive Director

Reference Number: 2.2c.(6), Action

Prepared By: Cherry Zamora  
Associate Deputy Director

Published Date: June 12, 2026

Subject: Approval of Project for Future Consideration of Funding – Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail Project, Resolution E-26-40

## **Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a Responsible Agency, accept the *Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Groveland Community Services District Trails Improvements Project* which analyzes the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail Project (Project) in the unincorporated community of Groveland in Tuolumne County and approve the Project for future consideration of funding.

## **Issue:**

The Groveland Community Services District is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the Project. The Project is located along the former Hetch Hetchy railroad alignment from Deer Flat Road to the Groveland Community Services District Sports Complex in the unincorporated community of Groveland in Tuolumne County. The Project includes installation of a multi-use trail for approximately 1.5 miles, including two pedestrian bridges, trail lighting, signage, benches, kiosks, and trash receptacles.

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 August 9, 2022, the Groveland Community Services District 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 May 19, 2026, the Groveland Community Services District 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 biological resources and cultural resources.

Mitigation measures include scheduling construction activities, to the extent practicable, to avoid Northwestern Pond Turtle or their nests, Western Red Bat birthing and pupping season, and bird nesting season, and if not practicable, preconstruction surveys and protective measures would be conducted; halting work if archaeological remains are encountered and having a qualified archaeologist assess the discovery.

The Project is estimated to cost \$5,793,000 and is fully funded through the design and right-of-way phases and partially funded for the construction phase. Funding is from Active Transportation Program – State (\$25,000), Active Transportation Program – Federal (\$4,274,000), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (\$1,309,000) funds.

Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year 2026-27.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Resolution E-26-40
- Attachment B: Notice of Determination
- Attachment C: Project Location Map

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

**10 – Tuolumne County  
Resolution E-26-40**

- 1.1 WHEREAS, the Groveland Community Services District has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail Project (Project) in the unincorporated community of Groveland in Tuolumne County; and
- 1.2 WHEREAS, the Groveland Community Services District 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 former Hetch Hetchy railroad alignment from Deer Flat Road to the Groveland Community Services District Sports Complex in the unincorporated community of Groveland in Tuolumne County; and
- 1.4 WHEREAS, the Project includes installation of a multi-use trail for approximately 1.5 miles, including two pedestrian bridges, trail lighting, signage, benches, kiosks, and trash receptacles; 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 biological resources and cultural resources, and certain measures were adopted to address these impacts; and
- 1.7 WHEREAS, on August 9, 2022, the Groveland Community Services District 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 May 19, 2026, the Groveland Community Services District 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

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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:** Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail

2022070128

Peter Kampa

(209) 962-7161

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**State Clearinghouse Number**

**Lead Agency Contact Person**

**Area Code/Telephone**

**Project Location** (include county): The project is located along the former Hetch Hetchy railroad alignment from Deer Flat Road to the Groveland Community Services District Sports Complex in the unincorporated community of Groveland in Tuolumne County.

**Project Description:** The project includes installation of a multi-use trail for approximately 1.5 miles, including two pedestrian bridges, trail lighting, signage, benches, kiosks, and trash receptacles.

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

( Lead Agency /  Responsible Agency)

project on June 25-26, 2026, 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: Groveland Community Services District, 18966 Ferretti Road, Groveland, CA 95321.

TANISHA TAYLOR

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*Signature (Public Agency)*

*Date*

Executive Director

California Transportation Commission

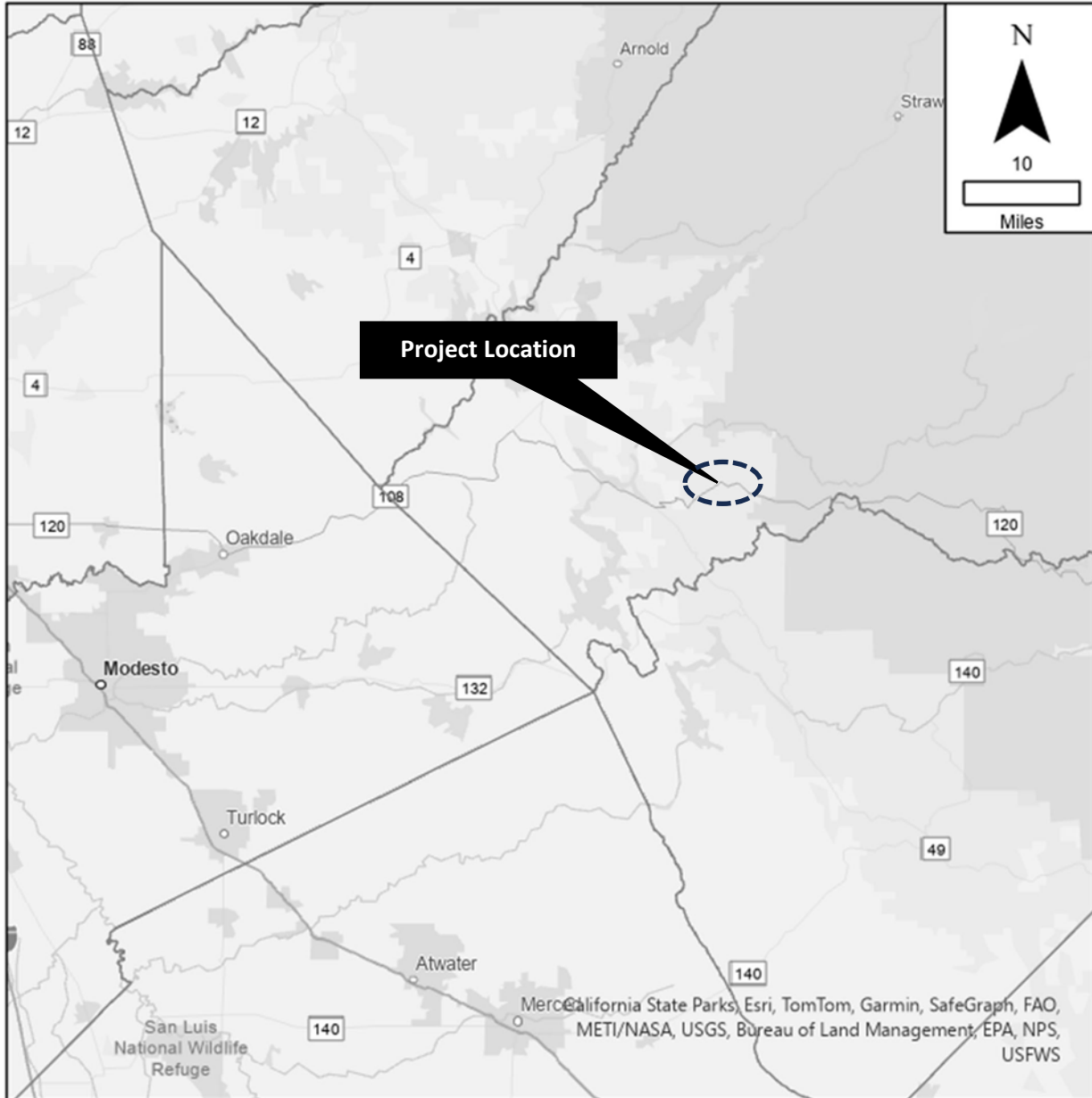
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*Title*

Date received for filing at OPR:

## Project Location Map

Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail,  
Groveland, Tuolumne County



## Project Location Map (continued)

Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail,  
Groveland, Tuolumne County

