

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 6, 2012

Reference No.: 2.2c (3)
Action

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE EVERGREEN ROAD AT SOUTH
FORK COTTONWOOD CREEK BRIDGE PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-12-71)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Evergreen Road at South Fork Cottonwood Creek Bridge Project (project) in Tehama County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission accept the MND and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND:

Tehama County is the CEQA lead agency for the project. On November 6, 2012 Tehama County adopted the final MND and found that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. According to Tehama County the NEPA process is not yet complete and a Categorical Exclusion is anticipated to be processed within 8 to 12 months.

The project is located in the northern portion of Tehama County on Evergreen Road over the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek. The project will add left turn lanes to Bowman Road for the intersection to Evergreen Road, realign approximately 0.8 miles of Evergreen Road, construct a new bridge along the road across the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek, remove the existing bridge, excavate along the creek to increase the capacity of the channel upstream of the new structure, replace in-situ the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) canal crossing, and modify the ACID pipeline under Evergreen Road.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to a less than significant level relate to air quality, biological resources, water quality and noise. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: implementing dust and emissions control measures during construction activities,

avoiding disturbance of elderberry shrubs during construction, transplanting or compensating for removed elderberry shrubs, implementing pre-construction surveys and avoidance measures for other special status wildlife, minimizing and compensating for impacts to riparian habitat and wetlands, implementing measures to protect water quality during construction, maintaining and equipping construction equipment with noise control devices, and coordinating with residences to minimize noise disturbance.

On October 8, 2012 Tehama County confirmed that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project scope of work programmed by the Commission.

According to Tehama County, the project is estimated to cost \$11,509,556 and is fully funded through construction with State (\$1,875,000), Federal (\$9,578,556) and Other (\$56,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2014/15.

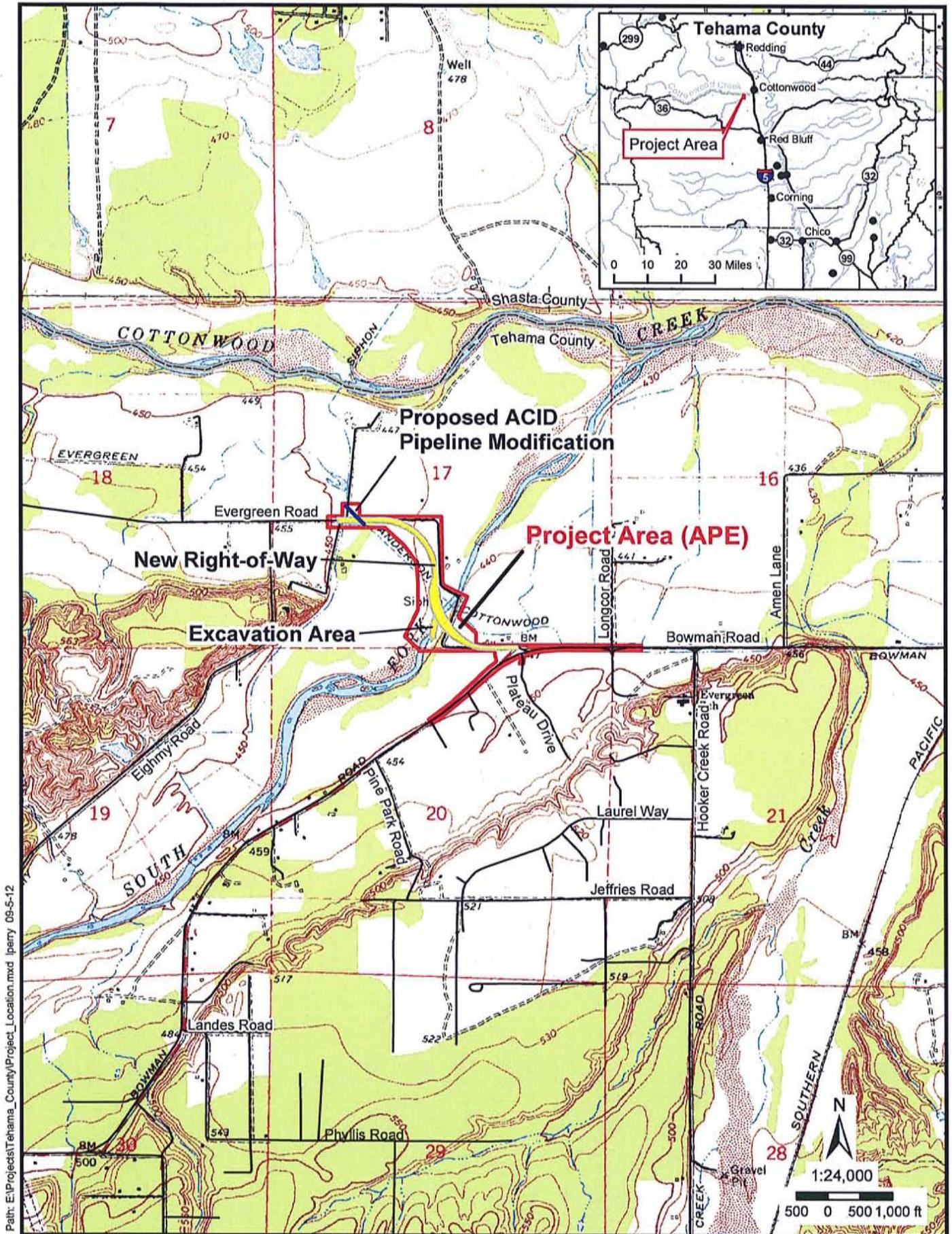
Attachments

- Resolution E-12-71
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 02 – Tehama County Resolution E-12-71

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, Tehama County has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Evergreen Road at South Fork Cottonwood Creek Bridge Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, Tehama County has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project will add left turn lanes to Bowman Road for the intersection to Evergreen Road , realign approximately 0.8 miles of Evergreen Road, construct a new bridge along the road across the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek, remove the existing bridge, excavate along the creek to increase the capacity of the channel upstream of the new structure, replace in-situ the Anderson Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID) canal crossing, and modify the ACID pipeline under Evergreen Road; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, Tehama County found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, Tehama County approved the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.



Path: E:\Projects\Tehama_County\Project_Location.mxd | perry 09-5-12

Figure 1.
Project Location and Vicinity