

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: March 5, 2013

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 HIGHWAY 111 BEAUTIFICATION &
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-13-13)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Highway 111 Beautification & Improvement Project (project) in Riverside 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:

The City of Indian Wells (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. On March 2, 2007 the City adopted the final MND and found that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation.

The project is located on Highway 111 in the City of Indian Wells in Riverside County. The project will widen Highway 111 from four to six lanes for a distance of approximately 4 miles. Other proposed roadway improvements include but are not limited to: installation of landscaped medians, dual left turn lanes, construction of bus turnouts, traffic signal modifications, storm drain catch basin relocations and rubberized asphalt overlay.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to a less than significant level relate to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards & hazardous materials, hydrology & water quality, noise, and transportation/traffic. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to: transplantation or replacement of mature trees affected by the project; implementing dust and emissions control measures during construction activities; avoidance and minimization efforts associated with cultural resources; minimization and avoidance measures to reduce site exposure to lead and pesticides; implementation of erosion and sediment control measures during construction

activities; modification of existing sound walls; utilizing construction equipment furnished with noise control devices and restricting construction hours to minimize noise disturbance; and development of an alternative emergency response/evacuation route during project construction.

On January 14, 2013, the City provided written confirmation that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project programmed by the Commission. On January 23, 2013, the City confirmed that the 2007 MND remains valid and that there are no new impacts requiring mitigation which have been identified since adoption of the MND in 2007.

The project will be constructed in phases. Phase III of the project will widen Highway 111 from four to six lanes and construct other roadway improvements from 950 feet east of Cook Street to Hospitality Court, for a distance of approximately 3,000 feet and is programmed in the SLPP program of projects.

Phase III of the project is estimated to cost \$3,100,000. The project is fully funded through construction with SLPP (\$1,550,000) and Local (\$1,550,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2012/13.

Attachment

- Resolution E-13-13
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 08 – Riverside County Resolution E-13-13

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Indian Wells (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Highway 111 Beautification and Improvement Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, the City 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 widen Highway 111 from four to six lanes for a distance of approximately 4 miles. Other proposed roadway improvements include, but are not limited to: installation of landscaped medians, dual left turn lanes, construction of bus turnouts, traffic signal modifications, storm drain catch basin relocations and rubberized asphalt overlay; 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**, the City found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, the City 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.



LEGEND
PROJECT LIMITS

PALM
DESERT
INDIAN
WELLS

HOSPITALITY
COURT

VILLAGE
COURT

VILLAGE
CENTER DR

COOK ST

COOK ST

DESERT HORIZONS
COUNTRY CLUB

RANCHO PALMERAS DR

DESERT
HORIZONS DR

VICINITY MAP

