

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: May 7, 2013

Reference No.: 2.2c. (16)
Action

From: ANDRE BOUTROS
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR JEFFERSON STREET/VARNER
ROAD INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, RESOLUTION E-13-35**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Jefferson Street/Varner Road Intersection 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 Indio (City) is the CEQA lead agency for the project. On December 19, 2012, the City adopted the final MND and found that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation.

Within the immediate project area, Varner Road is an existing two-lane commercial/industrial collector road located north of and generally parallel to Interstate 10. The project will widen Varner Road from two to four lanes. At the Jefferson Street intersection, Varner Road will be widened to provide dual left turns in both the eastbound and westbound directions. Along westbound Varner Road, a single right turn lane will be provided for traffic heading north onto Jefferson Street. Jefferson Street will be improved north of Varner Road to immediately north of Sun City Boulevard, from four to six lanes including dual left-turn lanes onto Varner Road and a single right turn lane onto Varner Road in the westbound direction. The Varner Road and Jefferson Street intersection will be signalized.

The City found that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment with implementation of mitigation measures. Impacts that require mitigation to be reduced to a less than significant level relate to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, noise, and transportation/traffic. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, employing night lighting during construction; complying with South Coast Air Quality Management District requirements; conducting a nesting raptor survey within seven days prior to construction activities; utilizing a qualified archaeologist and a native American monitor; limiting construction related activities to specific hours; and implementing a traffic management plan.

The project is fully funded through construction and is estimated to cost \$4,506,000. The project is funded with SLPP (\$2,253,000) and Local (\$2,253,000) funds. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2012/13.

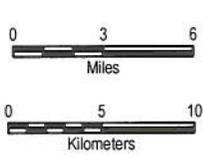
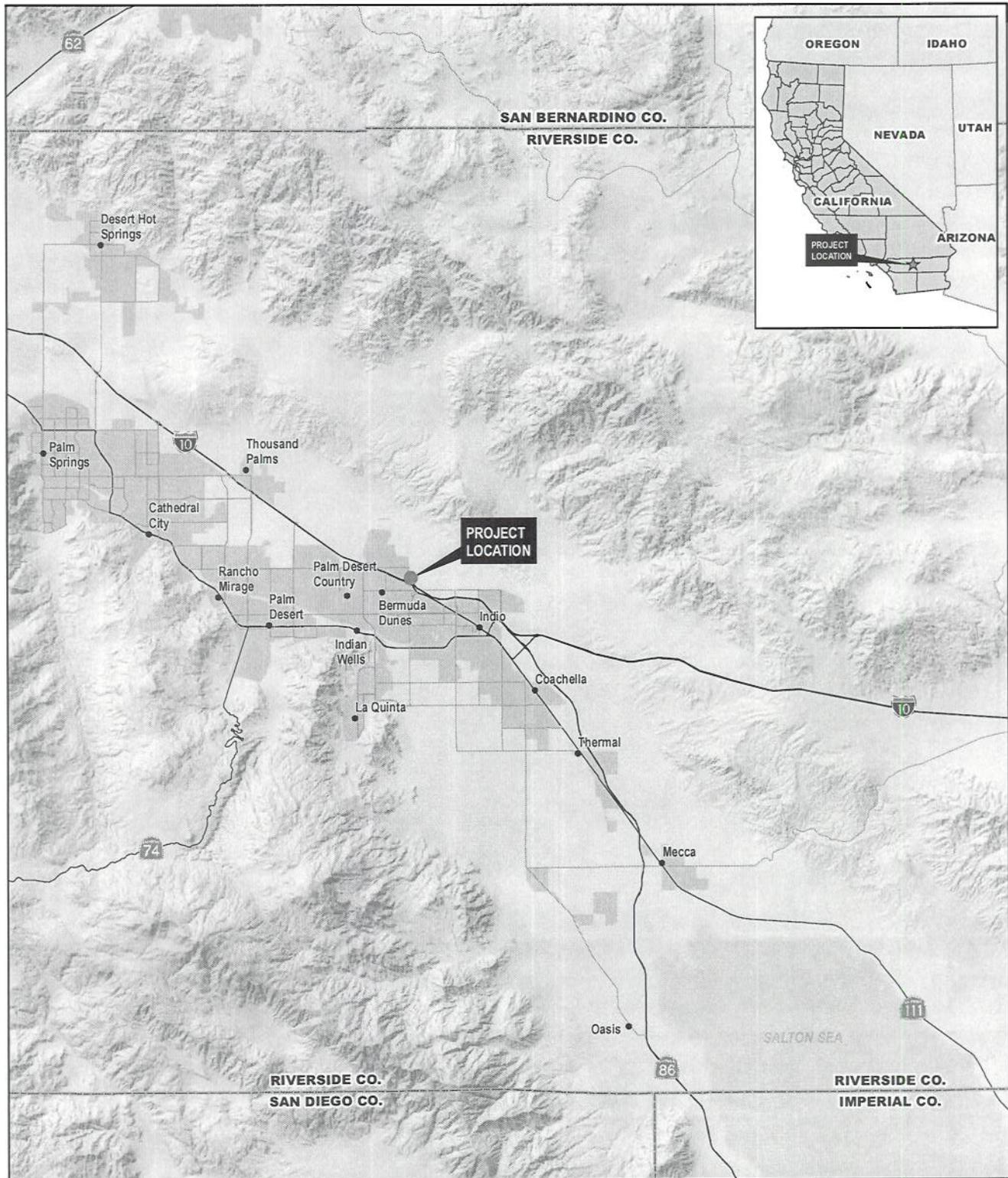
Attachment

- Resolution E-13-35
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 08 – Riverside County Resolution E-13-35

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, the City of Indio (City) has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - Jefferson Street/Varner Road Intersection 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 Varner Road from two to four lanes and construct intersection and other improvements; 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.



**JEFFERSON STREET / VARNER ROAD
INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
REGIONAL LOCATION**

Source: ArcGIS Online, World Physical Map, ESRI Maps and Data, 2011.

FIGURE 1