State of California
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

California State Transportation Agency

# Memorandum

**TAB 55**

**To:** CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISION

**CTC Meeting:** December 10, 2013

**Reference No.:** 2.2c.(3)
Action Item

**From:** STEVEN KECK
Acting Chief Financial Officer

**Prepared by:** Katrina C. Pierce
Division Chief
Environmental Analysis

**Subject:** **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING AND A NEW PUBLIC ROAD CONNECTION**
**06-Fre-99; PM 28.8/30.11**
**RESOLUTION E-13-87**

## RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission), as a responsible agency, approve the attached Resolution E-13-87.

## ISSUE:

The attached resolution proposes to approve for future consideration of funding and a new public road connection the following project for which a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) has been completed:

- State Route 99 (SR 99) in Fresno County. Roadway improvements including a new interchange on SR 99 in the city of Fresno. (EA 0H360)

This project in Fresno County will construct a new interchange and grade separation on SR 99 in Fresno County. The project is not fully funded. The project is fully funded for Environmental, Design and Right of Way with local funds. The total estimated cost is $75,770,000 for capital and support. Depending on the availability of funding, construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Years 2016-20.

A copy of the FEIR has been provided to Commission staff. Resources that may be impacted by the project include: farmlands, community impacts, noise, and biological resources. Potential impacts associated with the project can all be mitigated to below significance through proposed mitigation measures with the exception of noise, causing a Statement of Overriding Considerations to be prepared for the project. As a result, an FEIR was prepared for the project.

Attachments

PASSED BY

CTC

DEC 11 2013

CALIFORNIA
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding and A New Public Road Connection**
**06-Fre-99, PM 28.8/30.11**
**Resolution E-13-87**

1.1 **WHEREAS,** the California Department of Transportation (Department) has completed an Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:

- State Route 99 (SR 99) in Fresno County. Roadway improvements including a new interchange on SR 99 in the city of Fresno. (EA 0H360)

1.2 **WHEREAS,** the Department has certified that an Environmental Impact Report has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and

1.3 **WHEREAS,** the California Transportation Commission, as a responsible agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Environmental Impact Report.

1.4 **WHEREAS,** the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

1.5 **WHEREAS,** a Statement of Overriding Considerations was prepared; and

1.6 **WHEREAS,** Findings were made pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines; and

2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby support approval of the above referenced project to allow for consideration of funding, and a new public road connection. DM

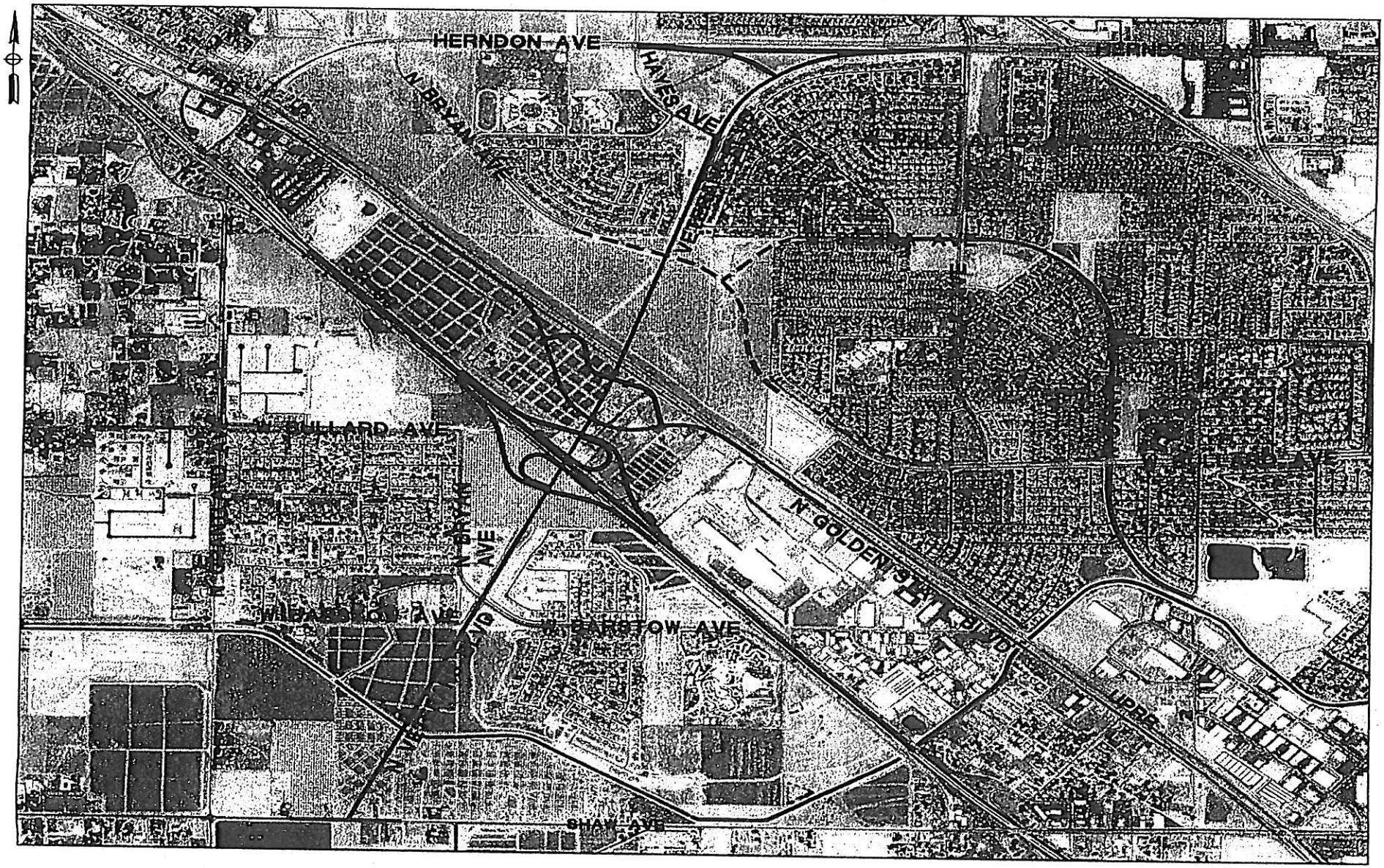


**Figure 1.2**
**Project Location**

## STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS FOR VETERANS BOULEVARD/STATE ROUTE 99 INTERCHANGE PROJECT/VETERANS BOULEVARD GRADE SEPERATION PROJECT IN THE CITY OF FRESNO

The following information is presented to comply with State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 15903), and the Department of Transportation and California Transportation Commission Environmental Regulations (Title 21 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 11, Section 1501). Reference is made to the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the project, which is the basic source for the information.

The following impacts have been identified as significant and not fully mitigable:

Noise – Modeling results indicate that of the 145 modeled receptor locations (single-family residential units), 55 will experience a significant increase (defined as 12 dBA or more) in traffic noise levels with the proposed project conditions compared to the noise levels experienced under existing conditions.

Findings:

No modeled receptor location will experience traffic noise levels that will exceed the City's maximum allowable noise exposure standard of 65 dBA Ldn for residential land uses from transportation noise sources.

Based on the studies conducted to date, there are no abatement or mitigation measures in the form of sound barriers that will be considered reasonable for this project. Therefore, the affected residences will experience a significant and unavoidable increase in noise levels with implementation of the proposed project. If during final design, conditions have substantially changed, noise abatement may be determined necessary. The final decision on noise abatement will be made upon completion of the project design.

Overriding considerations that support approval of this recommended project are as follows:

In 1984, the City of Fresno first introduced the potential need for Veterans Boulevard to serve the local community along State Route 99. Veterans Boulevard was to serve as a north-south "super" arterial for the planned developed land uses in north Fresno.

The interchange would provide additional north-south access from State Route 99 to connect the local community within the project area.

This idea was refined in 1986 with a feasibility study conducted to analyze potential interchange/grade separation configurations, with the intention of determining the alternative best suited to the site and the proposed Veterans Boulevard. In 1991, a Project Initiation Document was completed, and in 1996, the official plan line for Veterans Boulevard was adopted. Most recently, a project study report was completed to design the preliminary engineering as well as to determine how various alternatives might best serve the community.

Veterans Boulevard and the proposed interchange with State Route 99 are identified as part of the circulation system in both the City of Fresno and Fresno County general plans.