

Howard N. Dashiell
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION

Road Commissioner
County Engineer, RCE 42001
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FUNCTIONS

Administration & Business Services
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COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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December 6, 2022

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1090
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION INCLUDING ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND A MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NUMBER 10C0073, ON WILDERNESS LODGE ROAD, COUNTY ROAD 320, MILE POST 0.72, OVER DUTCH CHARLIE CREEK (LAYTONVILLE AREA).

Honorable Board of Supervisors:

On November 17, 2015, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved Resolution Number (No.) 15-167 authorizing the award of BOS Agreement No. 15-125/Department of Transportation (DOT) Agreement No. 150097, Professional Services Agreement with MGE Engineering, Inc. for preliminary engineering design and technical studies pertaining to the replacement of the Wilderness Lodge Road Bridge over Dutch Charlie Creek, CR 320, MP 0.72, in Branscomb, Mendocino County, California.

The existing bridge on Wilderness Lodge Road crossing Dutch Charlie Creek is a single-lane, dual railroad flatcar, timber-deck bridge on concrete abutments, built in 1969. Wilderness Lodge Road is classified as a Local Road per the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Functional Classification System and has an Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of approximately 150 vehicles per day. The existing bridge is currently classified as Functionally Obsolete with a sufficiency rating of 48.5 out of 100, and is eligible for replacement under the Federal Highway Administration Bridge Program administered by Caltrans. The existing bridge no longer meets the safety and functional needs of the public. DOT proposes to replace the bridge (No. 10C-0073) on Wilderness Lodge Road and construct the necessary roadway approach improvements. The new bridge will meet current design standards of Mendocino County, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and Caltrans.

The proposed new bridge will be a single-span reinforced concrete structure and will have a length of 60 feet and a clear width of 24 feet (two 10 foot lanes and two 2 foot shoulders). The roadway approaches on both sides of the bridge will be widened to accommodate the widened bridge lanes. Construction of a longer bridge span will reduce the channel constriction and steep

channel slopes improving channel hydraulics. The new single-span bridge will also minimize environmental impacts on Dutch Charlie Creek by avoiding the need to construct bridge supports inside the active channel.

This road is the sole access for the residents on Wilderness Lodge Road, and is essential for critical services and emergency access. A temporary detour road and bridge will be built upstream to allow access for these services and residents.

The estimated total cost of the project is approximately \$2.5 million. The project is federally funded primarily through the Federal Highway Bridge Program, \$2,213,250 (88.53%), with the local match being \$286,750 (11.47%) reimbursed through the Toll Credits Program.

Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, an Initial Study (IS) has been completed for this project. The study supports the adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). CEQA further requires that the lead agency hold a public hearing to determine whether the environmental impacts identified for the project can be adequately mitigated so that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result. If so, the Board can then adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.

Public comments received up to the public hearing date of December 6, 2022, will be provided during the Board's meeting. No public comments on the IS/MND for this project were received during the public review period (July 26, 2022 through August 25, 2022.)

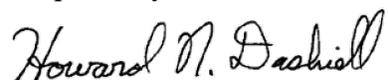
The Department of Transportation maintains, based on the Initial Study, it is appropriate for the Board to adopt the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project. The draft report which includes a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program is available for review at the following website: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/environmental-documents>. The proposed bridge construction is expected to greatly improve safety without causing significant impacts. Construction of the bridge is anticipated to begin in the summer of 2025, pending receipt of applicable permits and federal funding.

Based on the foregoing considerations, I recommend and request adoption of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, and that the Director of Transportation be given authorization and direction to file the applicable Notice of Determination.

A draft Resolution for adoption of the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and related documents are enclosed.

I will, of course, respond to any questions that the Board may have.

Respectfully submitted,



HOWARD N. DASHIELL
Director of Transportation

Enclosures

cc: DOT Project File B1201