

**Howard N. Dashiell**  
**DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION**

Road Commissioner  
County Engineer, RCE 42001  
County Surveyor, PLS 7148



**FUNCTIONS**

Administration & Business Services  
Airports  
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Land Improvement  
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Landfills

**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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October 6, 2020

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010  
Ukiah, CA 95482

RE: NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING – DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION INCLUDING ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGE NUMBER 10C-0111 ON HILL ROAD, COUNTY ROAD 327B, MILEPOST 2.05 OVER MILL CREEK (COVELO AREA)

Honorable Board Members:

On March 27, 2012, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved BOS Agreement Number (No.) 12-034/Department of Transportation (DOT) Agreement No. 110118, with GHD, Inc. (GHD), for professional engineering services and technical studies pertaining to the replacement of the Mill Creek Bridge on Hill Road, County Road 327B, milepost 2.05, near the Covelo area, Mendocino County, California.

The existing bridge on Hill Road was constructed in 1925 and is a single-lane, single-span, through-truss bridge, 120 feet in length and 18 feet wide with a wood deck. It is proposed to replace the bridge (No. 10C-0111) on Hill Road and construct the necessary roadway approach improvements. The existing bridge has been determined by Caltrans to be structurally deficient due to substandard load-carrying capacity. The new bridge will meet current design standards of Mendocino County, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and Caltrans.

The new bridge would be similar in character to the existing bridge, namely a single-span, steel truss structure and would be constructed on the same alignment as the existing bridge. The new bridge would be approximately 147 feet long and 27 feet wide, which would be 27 feet longer and 9 feet wider than the existing bridge. In addition to the new bridge, an approximately 200-foot section of the eastern roadway approach and 300 feet of the western approach to the bridge would be improved with two 10-foot wide travel lanes with 2-foot wide shoulders to accommodate the new bridge deck elevation, width and location. The existing bridge crossing

would be closed to vehicles throughout the duration of construction. Based on the June 21, 2012, community meeting hosted by the Covelo Volunteer Fire Department, Cal Fire, and U.S. Forest Service, a construction road closure was deemed acceptable due to the existing bridge weight limit that presently precludes most public safety equipment. The subject Initial Study identifies adequate detour routes.

The Engineer's Estimate for the project is some \$2,170,000.00. The project is federally funded primarily through the Federal Highway Bridge Program, \$1,921,000.00 (88.53%), with the local match being \$249,000.00 (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 provide for public review of the IS/MND. The County provided notice of the IS/MND through publication, posting and mailing. Public comments received up to the public hearing date of October 6, 2020, will be provided during the Board's meeting.

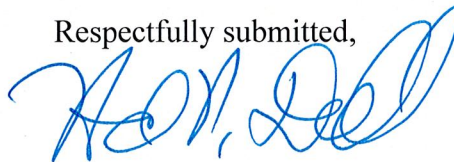
The Department of Transportation maintains, based on the Initial Study, that it is appropriate for the Board to adopt the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project. The draft report (Attachment A) is available for review at the following website: <https://www.mendocinocounty.org/government/environmental-documents>. The proposed bridge construction is expected to greatly improve safety without causing significant impacts. Construction of the bridge is scheduled to begin in the Summer of 2024, pending receipt of applicable permits.

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 B1004