

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Public Works *MRL*

BOARD AGENDA # *C-5

Urgent Routine

AGENDA DATE August 13, 2013

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval of the Crows Landing Road Bridge Project, Approval of the Findings of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Initial Study and Approval to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Crows Landing Road Bridge over the San Joaquin River

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the Findings of the Initial Study and Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Crows Landing Road Bridge Project pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15074(b), by finding that on the basis of the whole record, including the Initial Study and any comments received, that there is no substantial evidence the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects Stanislaus County's independent judgment and analysis.
2. Approve the build alternative of the Crows Landing Road Bridge as indicated on the 30% Plans as prepared by Nolte Vertical 5.

(Continued on Page 2)

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are minimal fiscal impacts associated with the recommended actions for adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and recording of a Notice of Determination which will be reimbursed by Public Facility Fees. The engineer's estimate for the project will be developed as the plans are completed. This project will be funded by Federal Highway Bridge Program Funds, State of California Proposition 1B Funds and County Public Facilities Fees.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2013-414

On motion of Supervisor Withdraw, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withrow, Monteith, De Martini, and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: Elizabeth A King
ELIZABETH A. KING, Assistant Clerk

File No.

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STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS (continued):

3. Order the filing of a Notice of Determination with the Stanislaus County Clerk-Recorder's Office pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21125 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15075.

DISCUSSION:

The Stanislaus County Department of Public Works is proposing to replace the existing functionally obsolete bridge structure on Crows Landing Road over the San Joaquin River, adjacent to and downstream of the existing Crows Landing Road Bridge (Bridge No. 38C0339). In addition to being functionally obsolete, the bridge lacks the ability to resist strong ground motions and may be subject to catastrophic failure in the event of an earthquake. The latest Caltrans bridge report, dated September 10, 2009, indicates that the bridge sufficiency rating is a 69.

The project would remove the existing 670-foot long two-lane bridge and replace it with an approximately 670 to 700 foot long, two-lane bridge (including one 12-foot wide two-way turn lane for safe access to existing levee maintenance roads). The replacement bridge structure and associated roadway approaches and features, would be constructed just north of the existing roadway and bridge while the existing facilities remain intact and used to maintain public traffic through the project site. Project features would include two bridge abutments (one at each bank), four bridge piers (consisting of two columns); and rock slope protection along the banks of the San Joaquin River channel near and around the bridge abutment locations. After the new bridge is opened, the old bridge will be demolished and removed from the site.

The project's plans and specifications are being prepared by Nolte Vertical 5 (NV5). Construction of the proposed project is planned to commence in 2015 and take approximately two years to complete. The 30% plans are sufficient to begin the right-of-way phase of the project, which will begin shortly after the CEQA adoption and Project Approval. The plans, specifications and estimate will be completed during the right-of-way phase of the project.

On April 22, 1997, the Board of Supervisors' Resolution No. 97-303, declared this bridge as one of three bridges that provide critical links within Stanislaus County for emergency access and must remain open at all times. The three bridges are McHenry Bridge over the Stanislaus River, Crows Landing Road Bridge over the San Joaquin River and the 9th Street Bridge over the Tuolumne River. The 9th Street Bridge replacement project has been completed and the McHenry Bridge project is underway, with San Joaquin County as the lead agency. The McHenry Bridge should start construction in 2015 to 2016 and take approximately two years to complete.

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On October 19, 2010, the Board of Supervisors approved the award of a consulting contract to Nolte Associates, Inc. for Engineering and Environmental Services for the Crows Landing Road Bridge over the San Joaquin River for the preparation of environmental documents required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and CEQA. The attached Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration serves as the CEQA environmental document. Stanislaus County is the lead agency for CEQA. The California Department of Transportation is the lead agency for NEPA, which approved the NEPA document on April 9, 2013.

The finding of the Initial Study determined that the proposed project would have no significant effect on the environment. The proposed project would have no impact on the following resource categories: aesthetics, cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation and utilities and service systems. In addition, the proposed project would have no significant impact on the following resource categories: agricultural & forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, geology/soils, hazards and hazardous materials, noise and transportation/traffic.

On May 16, 2013, pursuant to CEQA, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Crows Landing Road Bridge over the San Joaquin River Project was circulated to all interested parties and responsible agencies, including the State Clearinghouse, and made available to the public for review and comment. The public comment period closed on June 14, 2013. Department staff received comments for the project from the following agencies:

Letter	Date	Commenter
State Agencies		
S1	5/23/13	Department of Conservation, Alexandra Borack
S2	6/18/13	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jeffrey R. Single, Ph.D., Regional Manager
S3	6/5/13	Central Valley Flood Protection Board, James Herota, Staff Environmental Scientist
S4	5/29/13	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Trevor Cleak, Environmental Scientist
S5	6/14/13	California State Lands Commission, Cy.R. Oggins, Chief
Local and Regional Agencies		
L1	6/19/13	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, David Warner, Director of Permit Services
L2	5/28/13	Stanislaus County Agriculture and Weights & Measures, Kamaljit Bagri, Deputy Ag. Commissioner/Sealer
L3	5/28/13	Stanislaus County Department of Environmental Resources, Amber Minami, Hazardous Materials Specialist
L4	5/29/13	Stanislaus County Environmental Review Committee, Mark Loeser
L5	6/13/13	Turlock Irrigation District, Todd Troglin, Supervising Engineering Technician

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A response was provided for each comment, as documented in the attached Response to Comments. No significant comments were received that would require recirculation of the IS/MND environmental document. The Revised Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration was filed with the Clerk-Recorder on July 18, 2013.

POLICY ISSUES:

The recommended actions are consistent with the Board's priorities of providing A Safe Community, A Healthy Community and A Well Planned Infrastructure System by replacing a functionally obsolete and scour critical bridge in this area of Stanislaus County.

STAFFING IMPACT:

There is no staffing impact associated with this item.

CONTACT PERSON:

Matt Machado, Public Works Director. Telephone: (209) 525-4130.

**ATTACHMENTS AVAILABLE
FROM CLERK**