

# Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: November 7-8, 2007

Reference No.: 2.2b.(3)  
Action Item

From: CINDY McKIM  
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Jay Norvell  
Division Chief  
Environmental Analysis

Subject: **DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT, STATE ROUTE 101 IN HUMBOLDT COUNTY – ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS NEAR ARCATA**

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Department of Transportation recommends that the California Transportation Commission (Commission) review and comment at the November 2007 Commission meeting on the following Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR):

- 01-Hum-101, PM 79.9/86.3, Roadway improvements near Arcata in Humboldt County.

## **PROGRAMMING:**

This project in Humboldt County would construct roadway improvements that include closing median crossings along a portion of State Route 101 near Arcata. The corridor environmental document covers a 2006 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) project and a 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) project. The roadway rehabilitation work programmed in the SHOPP is fully funded. Total estimated project cost is \$38,985,000. Construction is estimated to begin in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-10. The STIP project involves upgrading State Route 101 to a four-lane facility and is not fully funded. The project is currently programmed for \$5,719,000 in the STIP (RIP) and Federal Demonstration funds. Total estimated project cost is \$42,090,000, capital and support. This project should be ready for construction in FY 2009-10, depending on the availability of funds.

## **ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:**

Alternatives considered for the proposed project include:

- Alternative 1: No Build.
- Alternative 2: Close all State Route 101 median crossings between the cities of Eureka and Arcata and complete various roadway rehabilitation improvements.
- Alternative 3: Includes all elements of Alternative 2 and in addition, construct a diamond interchange at Indianola Cutoff.

- Alternative 4: Includes all elements of Alternative 2 and in addition, signalize the Airport Road/State Route 101 intersection.

**POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

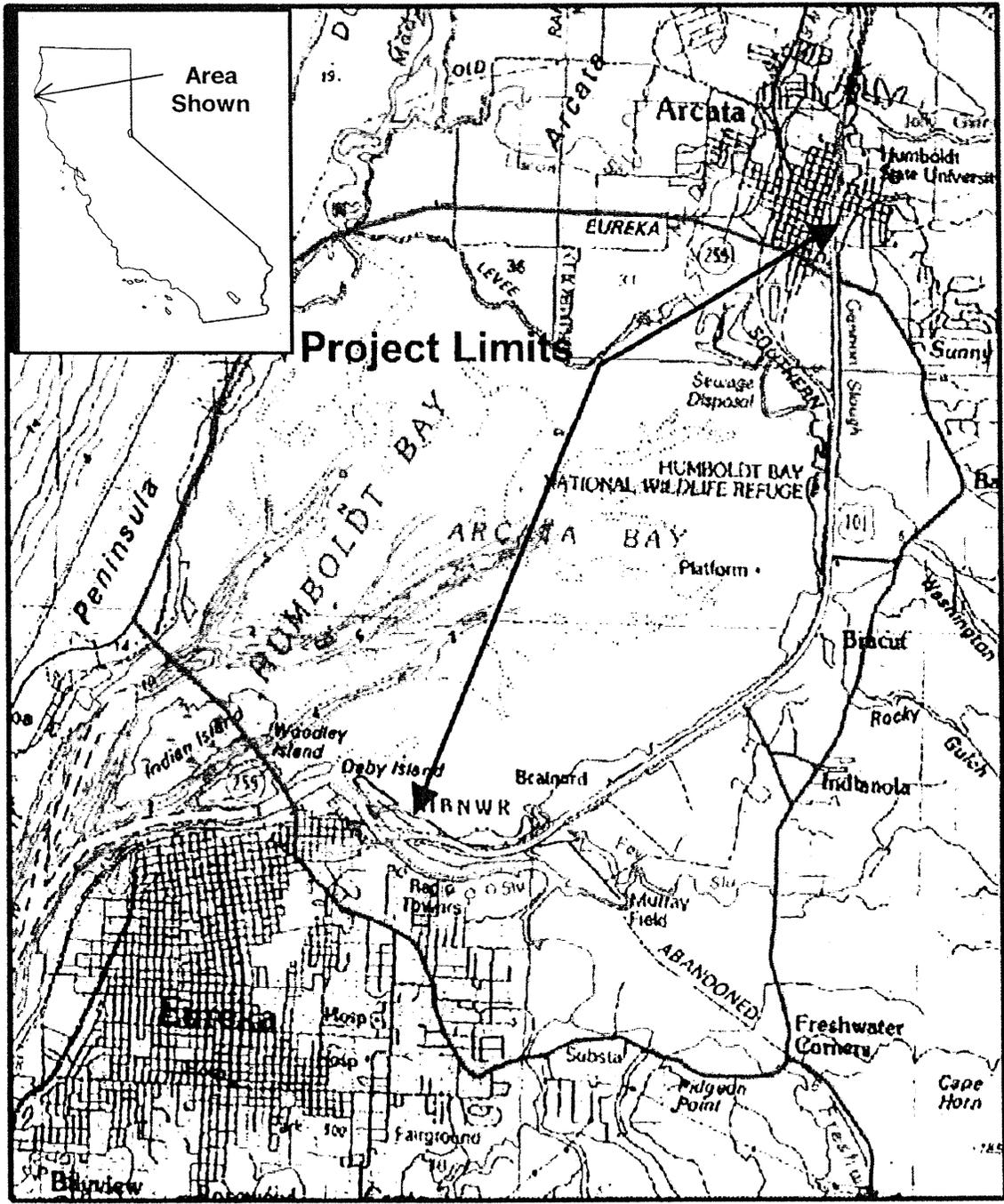
- Construction-period and project generated noise impacts.
- Impacts to biological resources due to tree removal and wetland disturbance.
- Temporary water quality degradation.
- Economic losses experienced by businesses affected by left turn access restrictions.

Because of the potentially significant environmental impacts listed above, and public controversy, an Environmental Impact Report is being prepared.

**PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:**

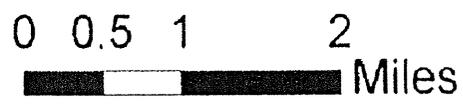
- Employ noise-reducing construction practices.
- Replacement of native trees at a 5:1 ratio.
- Enhance, restore, and create wetlands.
- Employ Best Management Practices (BMPs) for drainage and erosion control during construction.

Attachment



**Legend**

-  Project Area
-  HWY 255
-  Local Roads



**Figure S-1**  
**Project Location Map**