

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: December 6, 2012

Reference No.: 2.2c (5)
Action

From: BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

Subject: **APPROVAL OF PROJECT FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF FUNDING
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE ARNOLD RIM TRAIL CEDAR
CENTER BIKEWAY CONNECTION PROJECT (RESOLUTION E-12-73)**

ISSUE:

Should the Commission, as a Responsible Agency, accept the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Arnold Rim Trail Cedar Center Bikeway Connection Project (project) in the community of Arnold in Calaveras County and approve the project for future consideration of funding?

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission accept the MND and approve the project for future consideration of funding.

BACKGROUND:

Calaveras County is the CEQA lead agency for the project. On August 14, 2012 Calaveras County adopted the final MND and found that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment after mitigation. On August 16, 2012 Caltrans determined the project to be exempt from NEPA pursuant to 23 CFR 771.117(c)(3).

The project is located in the community of Arnold, Calaveras County and within the Stanislaus National Forest. The project will construct a bicycle path between Oak Circle and Pine Drive, across Stanislaus National Forest land with trailheads on Calaveras County land at both ends.

Impacts that require mitigation measures to be reduced to a less than significant level relate to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, and noise. Mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, standard air quality impact mitigation during construction; pre-construction rare plant focused surveys; removal of vegetation outside the identified rare plant breeding season; pre-construction nesting surveys for Northern Goshawk and California Spotted Owl; standard noise and erosion control

measures during construction, and standard hazard detection and abatement measures prior to and during construction.

On October 22, 2012 Calaveras County confirmed that the preferred alternative set forth in the final environmental document is consistent with the project scope of work programmed by the Commission.

The project, estimated to cost \$406,000, is programmed and fully funded through construction with STIP funding. Construction is estimated to begin in fiscal year 2012/13.

Attachments

- Resolution E-12-73
- Project Location

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Resolution for Future Consideration of Funding 10 – Calaveras County Resolution E-12-73

- 1.1 **WHEREAS**, Calaveras County has completed a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines for the following project:
 - The Arnold Rim Trail Cedar Center Bikeway Connection Project
- 1.2 **WHEREAS**, Calaveras County has certified that the Mitigated Negative Declaration has been completed pursuant to CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines for its implementation; and
- 1.3 **WHEREAS**, the project will construct a bicycle path between Oak Circle and Pine Drive in the Community of Arnold, across Stanislaus National Forest lands with trailheads on Calaveras County land at both ends; and
- 1.4 **WHEREAS**, the California Transportation Commission, as a Responsible Agency, has considered the information contained in the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration; and
- 1.5 **WHEREAS**, Calaveras County found that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment; and
- 1.6 **WHEREAS**, Calaveras County approved the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration.
- 2.1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Transportation Commission does hereby accept the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration and approve the above referenced project to allow for future consideration of funding.

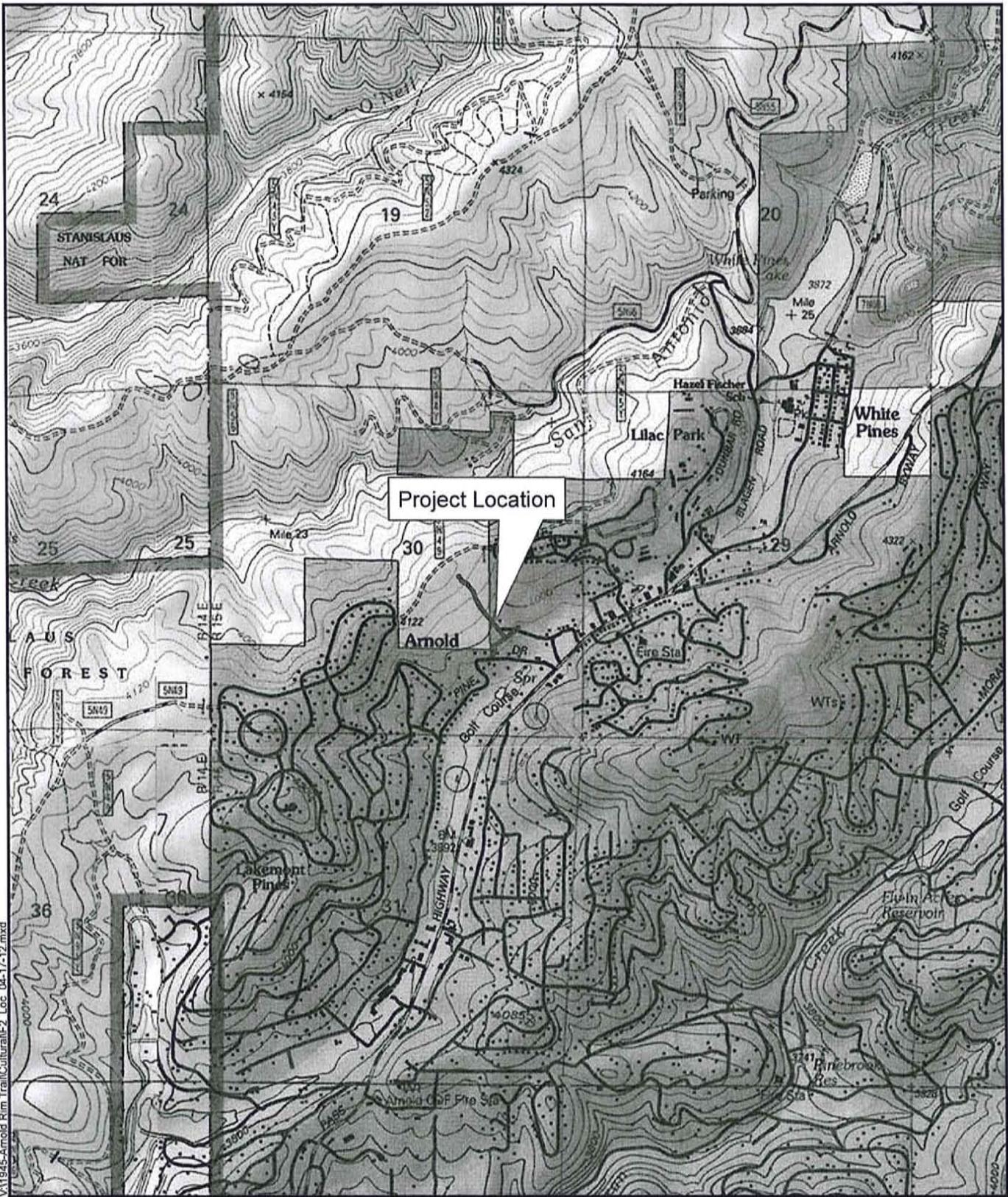


FIGURE 2

Project Location

RPSTPLE-6128 (049) EA 10-4A3354L
 Dorrington 7.5 minute USGS Quadrangle (T5N R15E, Section 30)
 Arnold Rim Trail Cedar Center Bikeway Connection Project
 Arnold, Calaveras County, California