

Memorandum

TAB 80

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: October 19-20 , 2016

Reference No.: 2.1a.(2) – **REPLACEMENT ITEM**
Action Item

From: NORMA ORTEGA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Bruce De Terra, Chief
Division of
Transportation Programming

Subject: **SHOPP AMENDMENT 16H-008**

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation (Department) recommends the California Transportation Commission (Commission) approve the requested State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Amendment 16H-008; in accordance with Senate Bill 486 which requires the Commission to approve any changes or new projects amended into the SHOPP. The amendment would be funded from the Advance Mitigation Reservation.

2016 SHOPP Summary of New Projects by Category	No.	FY 2016/17 (\$1,000)	FY 2017/18 (\$1,000)	FY 2018/19 (\$1,000)	FY 2019/20 (\$1,000)
Roadway Preservation	1				\$3,115
Total Amendments	1				\$3,115

ISSUE:

The Department recommends that the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing near the City of Scotts Valley in Santa Cruz County be amended into the 2016 SHOPP for pre-construction project development, with the understanding that construction capital funding will be provided through \$5 million in county sales tax measure funding that is earmarked in a November 2016 local ballot measure plus approximately \$3 million in private funding to be raised by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County (Land Trust). The Department may also provide construction support and will determine the funding amount as the project is developed.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Department are negotiating irrevocable mitigation credits that would be generated by this project, credits that would be used in the future for specified mitigation purposes on other Department project(s) within the Santa Cruz Mountains Bioregion. The formal agreement establishing the mitigation credits would be brought to the Commission for review and approval prior to the agreement being enacted.

BACKGROUND:

In each even numbered year, the Department prepares a four-year SHOPP which defines major capital improvements necessary to preserve and protect the State Highway System. Periodically, the Department amends the SHOPP to address newly identified needs prior to the next programming cycle. Senate Bill 486, approved by the Governor on September 30, 2014, requires Commission approval of projects amended into the SHOPP. This project was identified after Commission adoption of the 2016 SHOPP and this Book Item requests the amendment of the project into the 2016 SHOPP.

State Route (Highway) 17 connects the Santa Cruz County coastal area to Silicon Valley via a four-lane conventional highway that traverses the heavily forested Santa Cruz Mountains. The area is rich in biodiversity and is the focus of many conservation efforts that are being implemented on a broad scale. Highway 17 is the most significant roadway crossing the Santa Cruz Mountains, creating a challenging barrier to wildlife connectivity. The area of Laurel Curve, near the City of Scotts Valley, has been identified by CDFW as a key location for wildlife crossings. To help reduce wildlife mortality due to being struck by vehicles, the Land Trust purchased property on either side of Highway 17, totaling approximately 290 acres, with the intent of creating a wildlife crossing at that location. The Land Trust has been working with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, the CDFW and the Department to develop and fund the construction of a wildlife undercrossing at Laurel Curve. The crossing will connect the properties owned by the Land Trust, which in turn provide connectivity to other wildlands on either side of the highway and creates a wildlife corridor enabling animals to safely cross the highway.

The CDFW, through authority granted by Assembly Bill 2087 (Levine), is negotiating with the Department to quantify mitigation credits and create associated processes between the agencies to offset fish, wildlife and habitat resource impacts under CEQA Public Resources Code Section 21000 for future transportation projects. This particular project at Laurel Curve is the first such project under this authority and is being used by both the Department and CDFW to help establish a broader advance mitigation program. This project holds the promise of addressing wildlife mitigation issues early on at a regional or landscape level, thus reducing uncertainty and time in the environmental phase of future transportation projects while enabling large scale, long term habitat connectivity planning and implementation. This is a priority of the Administration.

Attachment

Reference No.: 2.1a.(2b)
 October 19-20, 2016
 Attachment
REPLACEMENT ITEM

List of New 2016 SHOPP Capital Project Amendments

PPNO	Dist-Co-Rte PM EA Project ID	Project Location and Description of Work	R/W Cost Const. Cost (\$1,000)	FY	Support Costs (\$1,000)	Program Code Leg./Congr. Dists. Perf. Meas.
Collision Reduction						
2593	5-SCR-17 9.4/9.6 1G260 05 1400 0131	Near Scotts Valley, from 0.06 miles south of Laurel Road to 0.25 miles north of Laurel Road. Construct wildlife undercrossing. FCO for PA&ED, PS&E and R/W only. Local contributions to fund remaining components. PAED: 09/01/17 R/W: 10/01/19 RTL: 03/24/20 BC: 11/03/20	\$138 (R/W) \$0(C)	19/20	PA & ED \$738 PS & E \$2,013 RW Sup \$226 Con Sup \$0 <hr/> Total \$2,977	201.240 Assembly: 29 Senate: 17 Congress:18 1 Location