SUTTER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Staff Report

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Neal Hay, Director of Development Services
Department: Development Services
Subject: Public Hearing to consider adoption of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Tisdale Road Bridge Replacement Project

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors conducts a public hearing and adopts the Recommended Findings and the Mitigated Negative Declaration with Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program contained in this staff report and prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the Guidelines.

Background

The Department proposes to replace the existing bridge on Tisdale Road over the Westside Canal (Bridge No. 18C-0057) located approximately 10 miles south of State Route 20 between Yuba City and the City of Colusa in central Sutter County. The general setting is agricultural with adjacent open space uses. The bridge currently carries vehicular traffic over the Sutter Mutual Water Company's Westside Canal (Canal).

The existing Bridge No. 18C-0057 was constructed in 1960. The existing bridge is 27-feet-long and 21-feet-wide where it crosses the Canal. The average daily traffic (ADT) in 2011 was 81 and the projected 2035 ADT is 64 (FHWA, 2016). The bridge has a sufficiency rating of 49.6 and has been designated as structurally deficient per the Caltrans Structure Maintenance and Investigations, Local Agency Bridge List (Caltrans, 2016). Based on details reported on the Caltrans Bridge Inspection Report, a number of the girders are missing connection details at the intermediate bent capable of transmitting live load. These girders are acting as single span girders instead of continuous two-span girders. The exterior girder is bent approximately five inches due to traffic impact to the rail near the abutment. The columns have advanced corrosion with complete section loss at locations in the web. One of the columns has started to buckle. The Project is needed to replace the existing deficient structure with a new structure that meets current design standards for shoulder widths, structural requirements, and includes traffic-rated barrier railings. All improvements would be constructed in accordance with current American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Standards.

The bridge would be replaced in approximately the same location with a slight offset to the south to minimize impacts to the adjacent gate structure between the Canal and the Tisdale Bypass and to improve safety in the curve on the east side of the bridge. Roadway approaches would be widened.
slightly to provide a safe tapered transition to the new structure. A single span bridge is being considered to eliminate support elements within the Canal.

In general, the Project would involve the removal and replacement of the existing two-lane structure with a new, safer two-lane structure. It is anticipated the new bridge would consist of reinforced concrete abutments supporting precast pre-stressed concrete voided slabs clear-spanning the Canal. The width of the new structure would be approximately 33 feet, including two 11-foot-wide lanes, two four-foot-wide shoulders, and two 1.50-foot-wide railings. The length of the bridge would be 60 feet with foundation elements placed to avoid existing abutment foundation elements.

Minor bank disturbance and vegetation removal will occur due to the removal of the bridge abutments and placement of Rock Slope Protection (RSP). Water will be present in the West Side Canal during the spring, summer, and fall months; therefore, the installation of the new abutments and the placement of most of the RSP is planned to occur between January and March. Water flow in the canal will not be impeded.

The Tisdale Road bridge would be closed to through traffic during the removal of the existing bridge and construction of the replacement bridge. The removal and replacement of the existing bridge would require local traffic to utilize a detour to the north onto Acme Road or Coles Road to the south, via Reclamation Road.

Discussion

To perform the construction work, the County must secure environmental permits. A significant step in acquiring the environmental permits is the preparation of an Initial Study for the project which considers the impacts to such things as: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Hydrology and Water Quality. For this project, the Department contracted with a Drake Haglan and Associates to design the replacement structure and prepare the Initial Study, including the development of mitigation measures to reduce the project’s impact on the environment. The Initial Study was reviewed by the Development Services Planning Division and submitted to the State Clearinghouse for distribution and review of the document by a number of state agencies as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Along with the adoption of the Initial Study, the County through our consultant will submit permit applications with the US Army Corps of Engineers, California Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Environmental Analysis

An Initial Study was prepared for this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the Guidelines. The study determined the project, as proposed, could have a significant impact on the environment under Biological Resources, Transportation and Traffic, Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Public Services, Tribal Resources, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Noise; however, mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project which reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. Therefore, staff recommends the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program.

Recommended Findings

Based upon information contained in this staff report and/or testimony received at the public hearing, staff recommends the following findings:

CEQA

1. In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the Guidelines, an Initial Study was prepared to analyze the potential impacts of the proposed project. The study determined the project could have a significant impact on the environment; however, with the mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study, all potential impacts would be reduced to a level of less than significant. Comments received have been addressed with mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study, thereby reducing potential impacts to a level of less than significant. Therefore,
the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring Program attached to this staff report are adequate under CEQA.

2. The Board of Supervisors has reviewed, analyzed, and considered the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration prior to its adoption and finds the Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the County of Sutter and has been prepared in accordance with CEQA.

Prior Board Action

February 26, 2019: Increased the scope to include Task 7: Right of Way Services, originally listed as an optional task in Exhibit A of the Agreement, and increased the compensation by $26,430.00 for the increased scope of service.

January 22, 2019: Extended the completion time of the Agreement to December 31, 2019.

February 14, 2017: Awarded a professional services agreement in the amount of $449,275 to Drake Haglan and Associates, Rancho Cordova, CA, for the design, environmental permitting and right-of-way acquisition for the Kent Avenue Bridge Replacement Project (18C-0132);

February 14, 2017: Awarded a professional services agreement in the amount of $415,694 to Drake Haglan and Associates, Rancho Cordova, CA, for the design, environmental permitting and right-of-way acquisition for the Tisdale Road Bridge Replacement Project (18C-057);

August 23, 2016: Authorized the solicitation of consultant services for the Kent Avenue and Tisdale Road Bridge Replacement Projects.

Board Alternatives

No viable alternative recommendations are available. The Board of Supervisors previously approved this project when funding was appropriated, and we have prepared the required environmental and construction documents to proceed with the project.

Other Department and/or Agency Involvement

The project will require permits from the US Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Action Following Approval

The Department will await the environmental permits and direct the consultant to complete the project’s construction documents. The Department will return before the Board of Supervisors once the permits have been issued seeking the approval of the plans and the authority to solicit bids for the work.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact to the County General Fund. All expenses to adopt the IS-MND will be paid from the Road Fund. The work to prepare the document was part of the contract with Drake Haglan and Associates which was budgeted in account 3-100-45-52180, project number B1525, Development Services, Road Fund, Professional and Specialized Services.

Countywide Goals & Top Priorities Compliance

The recommended actions are consistent with the following countywide goal:

- Goal E. Provide and enhance public infrastructure, including essential water, wastewater, other utilities, transportation systems (including “Farm to Market” roads), and achieve best possible flood protection for entire County region, including upgrading necessary levees to obtain reasonable flood insurance coverage for all residents, businesses, and property owners.
Standing Committee Review

At the Public Works/Support Services Committee meeting of February 28, 2019, this item was reviewed and recommended as a public hearing item for the Board of Supervisors.

Respectfully Submitted,

S/ Neal Hay
Director of Development Services

Attachments:
1. Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration