

RESOLUTION NO. 20-003

RESOLUTION OF THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION ADOPTING AN ADDENDUM TO THE PREVIOUSLY CERTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (SCH #2008071075) PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT FOR THE STATE ROUTE 91 CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AND APPROVING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the State Route 91 Corridor Improvement Project (Project) is a project to improve mobility in the State Route 91 corridor via capacity, operational, and safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) was the lead agency for the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); and

WHEREAS, in coordination with Caltrans, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (Commission) prepared an environmental impact statement and environmental impact report (EIS/EIR) to analyze the Project's impacts on the environment; and

WHEREAS, in August 2012, Caltrans, as lead agency, certified the EIS/EIR, adopted CEQA finding, adopted a mitigation monitoring and reporting program (MMRP), adopted a statement of overriding considerations, and approved the Project; and

WHEREAS, in November 2012, the Commission, as a responsible agency under CEQA, considered the EIS/EIR and made similar findings and approvals; and

WHEREAS, minor design refinements to the Project have been proposed, namely: adding an approximately 2 mile long general purpose lane in the westbound direction on SR-91 from Green River Road WB on-ramp to SR-241 (this would involve adding approximately 9 to 10 feet of outside pavement widening to SR-91 at some locations and restriping in others); widening the County Line Creek Undercrossing; constructing new retaining walls approximately 3,200 feet in length and approximately 6 to 28 feet in height on the north side of SR-91; reconstructing a portion of Green River Road; replacing overhead signs; and adding high mast lighting on the north side of the outside barrier; (collectively, the Revised Project); and

WHEREAS, under CEQA, when taking subsequent discretionary actions in furtherance of a project for which an EIR has been certified, the lead agency is required to review any changed circumstances to determine whether any of the circumstances under Public Resources Code section 21166 and State CEQA Guidelines section 15162 require additional environmental review; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with CEQA, Caltrans analyzed all potential environmental effects associated with the Revised Project and determined that none of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines section 15162 or Public Resources Code section 21166 have occurred; rather, consistent with State CEQA Guidelines section 15164, subdivision (a), the

Commission determined that an addendum to the EIR should be prepared; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with Caltrans, the Commission prepared an addendum to the EIS/EIR (Addendum); and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, Caltrans, as the lead agency, approved and adopted the Addendum to the EIS/EIR and approved the Revised Project on April 7, 2020; and

WHEREAS, in its limited role as responsible agency, this matter came before the Commission at a regularly scheduled public meeting, at which the Commission carefully considered all information pertaining to the Revised Project, including the staff report, the Addendum together with the EIS/EIR, and all of the information, evidence, and testimony presented at its public meeting; and

WHEREAS, all other legal prerequisites to the adoption of this Resolution have occurred.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The recitals above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by reference as findings of fact.

Section 2. Compliance with the Environmental Quality Act. In considering the Revised Project, the Commission has considered the EIS/EIR for the Project (State Clearinghouse Number 2008071075), which was certified by the Commission on November 14, 2012, and the addenda thereto, along with all oral and written comments received and the administrative record (the Record). The Commission hereby finds and determines that the Record contains a complete and accurate reporting of the environmental impacts of the Revised Project and the Project as a whole, the impacts of which were fully addressed and mitigated (to the extent feasible) in the EIS/EIR. The Commission hereby further finds and determines that the Addendum has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The Commission further finds and determines that the Addendum reflects the Commission's independent judgment.

Section 3. Findings on Environmental Impacts. Based on the substantial evidence set forth in the Record, including but not limited to the Addendum, the Commission finds that an addendum to the EIS/EIR is the appropriate document for disclosing the minor changes and additions that are necessary to the EIS/EIR to account for the Revised Project. The Commission finds that none of the conditions under State CEQA Guidelines section 15162 requiring the need for further subsequent environmental review have occurred because:

- a) No substantial changes are proposed that would require major revisions of the EIS/EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
- b) No substantial changes have occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the Project is undertaken that would require major revisions of the EIS/EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of the previously identified significant effects; and

- c) No new information of substantial importance that was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the EIS/EIR was certified shows any of the following: (i) the modifications would have one or more significant effects not discussed in the EIS/EIR; (ii) significant effects previously examined would be substantially more severe than shown in the EIS/EIR; (iii) mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects, but the Commission declined to adopt such measures; or (iv) mitigation measures or alternatives considerably different from those analyzed in the EIS/EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but which the Commission declined to adopt.

Section 4. Approval of Addendum. The Commission hereby approves and adopts the Addendum to the EIS/EIR prepared for the Revised Project (attached as Exhibit A).

Section 5. Approval of the Revised Project. The Commission hereby approves the Revised Project, subject to any and all applicable mitigation measures that were previously imposed by the Commission as part of the Project.

Section 6. Notice of Determination. The Commission directs staff to file a Notice of Determination with the Riverside County Clerk's Office within five (5) working days of adoption of this Resolution.

Section 7. Custodian of Records. The documents and materials that constitute the record of proceedings on which this Resolution and the above findings have been based are located at the Riverside County Transportation Commission, 4080 Lemon Street, 3rd Floor, Riverside, California 92502.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Riverside County Transportation Commission this 8th day of April, 2020.



Ben Benoit, Chair
Riverside County Transportation
Commission

ATTEST:



Lisa Mobley, Clerk of the Board
Riverside County Transportation Commission

Exhibit A
(Addendum to EIR)