

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED EAST HILL ROAD AT DAVIS CREEK BRIDGE (NO. 10C-0113) REPLACEMENT PROJECT

**Mendocino County Department of Transportation
340 Lake Mendocino Drive, Ukiah, California 95482, (707) 463-4622**

Introduction

This Notice of Intent serves as public notice that the Mendocino County Department of Transportation (County) has prepared an Initial Study and proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the East Hill Road at Davis Creek Bridge (No. 10C-0113) Replacement Project (proposed project). A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared because no substantial evidence exists that the proposed project may have a significant environmental effect that cannot be fully mitigated to a less-than-significant level. The proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration does not signify approval or disapproval of this project by the County's decision-making body. The County will consider the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration together with any comments received during the public review process to determine whether the proposed project would have a heretofore unidentified significant impact on the environment.

Project Location

East Hill Road at the Davis Creek bridge (No. 10C-0113) is located approximately 2.5 miles southeast of Willits, Mendocino County, California and about 2 miles east of U.S. Highway 101/State Route 20. The bridge crosses Davis Creek, a tributary to Outlet Creek thence the Eel River, which ultimately empties into the Pacific Ocean approximately 15 miles south of Eureka. The project site is found on the *Willits, California* 7.5 minute U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle, Township 18 North, Range 13 West, Sections 21 and 28, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian. The project location is shown in Figure 1. The project area corresponds to a Mendocino County right-of-way (ROW) easement through portions of the following Assessor Parcel Numbers (APN): 104-21-014, 104-21-015, 104-21-012, 104-23-021, 104-22-001, and 104-23-005.

Project Description

The County proposes to replace the existing bridge (No. 10C-0113) on East Hill Road over Davis Creek and construct the necessary roadway approach improvements. The purpose of this project is to improve public safety by providing safe and cost effective solutions for traffic to cross Davis Creek. In 2010 the County identified the need for replacement after the bridge was found to be structurally deficient due to substandard load carrying capacity and functionally obsolete due to inadequate deck width and approach roadway alignment. The County has nominated this bridge for replacement under the federal-aid Highway Bridge Program administered by the Federal Highway Administration through the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Local Assistance program. The new bridge will meet current design standards of Mendocino County, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and Caltrans.

The new two-lane single span bridge would be constructed approximately 70-feet downstream of the existing bridge. The new bridge would be a 182.4-foot-long, cast-in-place, pre-stressed concrete, box-girder bridge with an 8 foot structure depth. The single-span bridge option would minimize environmental impacts on Davis Creek by avoiding the need to construct abutments or piers inside the active channel or below the 100-year flood elevation. The roadway approaches would be widened and realigned to conform to the new bridge. East Hill Road would be realigned to improve the sharp horizontal curve located west of the bridge by increasing the curve radius. The existing bridge would remain in operation during construction and would be removed and disposed of offsite after the new bridge has been completed.

It is anticipated that the earliest that construction would start is May 2014. Construction is anticipated to require one construction season with project completion anticipated by October 2014. All instream activities, including bridge removal, and substructure and superstructure construction activities will be confined to a work period between June 15 through October 15 to minimize and avoid impacts on water quality. Construction activities below the ordinary high water mark of Davis Creek may be allowed outside of the June 15 through October 15 period if permitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, depending on weather conditions.

Review Period

As mandated by Public Resources Code § 21091, the minimum public review period for this Initial Study and proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is 30 days. The document has been sent to the State Clearinghouse. This document is open to public review and comment from November 19, 2013 through December 19, 2013.

Comments must be received by 5 p.m. on the last day of the comment period, Thursday, December 19, 2013. Any comments on the document may be presented in writing to:

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Ukiah, California 95482
Phone: (707) 463-4622; Fax: (707) 463-5474
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Document Availability

Copies of the Public Draft Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting technical studies are available for review at the following locations:

Mendocino County Department of Transportation
340 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, California 95482

Willits Library
390 East Commercial Street
Willits, California 95490