

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED ACKERMAN CREEK BRIDGE (NO. 10C-0065) ON NORTH STATE STREET REPLACEMENT PROJECT

**Mendocino County Department of Transportation
340 Lake Mendocino Drive, Ukiah, California 95482, (707) 234-2818**

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 Ackerman Creek Bridge (No. 10C-0065) on North State Street 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

The Ackerman Creek Bridge (No. 10C-0065) on North State Street is located just north of the incorporated city limits of Ukiah and about 0.1 mile east of U.S. Interstate 101 (US 101). The approximately 6.7-acre project area is aligned along the section of North State Street that passes over Ackerman Creek between Olive Avenue to the north and Kunzler Ranch Road to the south. North State Street is a major collector road serving as an access to Hensley Creek Road (located approximately 0.4 mile north of the project area), the primary access to Mendocino College. The project site is found on the *Ukiah, California* 7.5 minute U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle, Yokaya Land Grant, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The project location is shown in Figure 1. The project site corresponds to a Mendocino County right-of-way (ROW) easement through portions of the following parcels: 169-211-13, 169-211-26, 169-242-12, and 170-150-02.

Project Description

The County proposes to replace the existing bridge (No. 10C-0065) on North State Street over Ackerman Creek and construct the necessary roadway approach improvements (project). The existing bridge is currently classified as functionally obsolete. Although the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Sufficiency Rating for the existing bridge found it to be structurally sufficient (having a rating greater than 50), replacement was determined to be the more cost effective alternative due to the high costs associated with retrofitting and widening the existing bridge to be consistent with the width of North State Street. The County has nominated this bridge for replacement under the federal-aid Highway Bridge Program administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through the Caltrans Local Assistance program. The new bridge will meet current design standards of Mendocino County, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and Caltrans.

The new bridge would be a single-span approximately 146-foot long, cast-in-place, post-tensioned concrete box girder structure. The new structure would be 64 feet wide to accommodate two 11-foot wide traffic lanes, a 12-foot wide left turn lane, 6-foot wide shoulders and 8-foot wide sidewalks on both sides. The new bridge elevation would be lowered in order to reduce the severity of the existing vertical curve and improve sight distance across the bridge. Staged construction would be required in order to keep the existing bridge open during construction.

It is anticipated that the earliest that construction would start is May 2017. Construction is anticipated to require two construction seasons with project completion anticipated by October 2018. All instream activities, including bridge removal, and substructure and superstructure construction activities will be confined to a work period between June 15 through October 31 to minimize and avoid impacts on water quality. Construction activities below the ordinary high water mark of Ackerman Creek may be allowed outside of the June 15 through October 31 period if permitted by California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), 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 December 16, 2015 through January 18, 2016.

Comments must be received by 5 p.m. on the last day of the comment period, Monday, January 18, 2016.

Any comments on the document may be presented in writing to:

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Attn.: Mr. Jackson Ford
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Ukiah, California 95482
Phone: (707) 234-2818; Fax: (707) 463-5474
email: fordj@co.mendocino.ca.us

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

Mendocino County Library - Ukiah
105 North Main Street
Ukiah, California 95482