

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE
PROPOSED
WILLIAMS CREEK BRIDGE AT POWERHOUSE ROAD (10C-0166)
REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**Mendocino County Department of Transportation
340 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, California 95482
Phone: (707) 463-4363**

Introduction

This Notice of Intent serves as public notice that the Mendocino County Department of Transportation (County) has prepared and proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Williams Creek Bridge at Powerhouse Road (10C-0166) Replacement 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 bodies. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors will consider the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration together with any comments received during the public review process to determine whether the project will have a heretofore unidentified significant impact on the environment.

Project Description

The Project replaces Bridge 10C0166 on Powerhouse Road over Williams Creek. The existing bridge structure is structurally deficient and provides insufficient freeboard to pass the 50-year flood event. The Project will replace the existing structure with a bridge that meets current design standards. Construction of a longer bridge span will reduce the channel constriction and steep channel slopes improving channel hydraulics. The new structure will conform to Caltrans freeboard standards for 50-year and 100-year flood events. Construction of a new bridge with a clear width of 28 ft will provide a safer structure for vehicle passage.

The proposed replacement bridge will have a length of 50 ft. and a clear width of 28 ft. (two 10 ft. lanes and two 4 ft. shoulders), and it will be supported on high cantilever seat type abutments. The replacement bridge will be constructed on the same vertical and horizontal alignments as the existing bridge. The roadway approaches on both sides of the bridge will be widened to accommodate the widened bridge lanes. The abutment will utilize 24-inch cast-in-drilled-hole concrete piles (CIDH) in lieu of driven piles to eliminate potential noise and vibration issues to nearby residences.

Equipment and material staging, and equipment fueling/maintenance will be located along the roadway within the Project area.

Powerhouse Road in the Project area will be closed during construction. Three residential driveways located north and south of the bridge will be maintained to allow access during construction. Two viable detour routes are available via Gibson Lane and Eel River Road. The detour would add approximately six (6) minutes of travel time. Construction staging areas will be located along both sides of Powerhouse Road, north and south of the existing bridge. Temporary construction easements will be required in order to construct the driveway aprons and bridge abutments. No permanent ROW acquisition is required for the Project.

Overhead electric and communication lines run parallel to the bridge on the west side of Powerhouse Road. These lines will need to be temporarily de-energized or relocated during the construction to facilitate safe pile installation. Utility work will be coordinated with adjacent property owners. The Project will maintain utilities to adjacent property owners during Project construction. No utilities are currently required to be carried on the new bridge.

The existing bridge will be dismantled prior to the construction of the new bridge. Demolition of the existing bridge will

be performed in accordance with the Caltrans Standard Specifications modified to meet environmental permit requirements. All concrete and other debris resulting from the bridge demolition will be removed from the Project site and disposed of by the contractor.

Construction of the new bridge may require that a temporary water diversion system be constructed, maintained, and later removed. If dewatering is required, it is expected that it will only occur at the abutment locations, and will remain in place for the duration of abutment construction. It is possible that simply diverting the flow of Williams Creek, using the temporary diversion system, may not adequately dewater the Project site for removal of existing abutments. Thus, pumps may be needed to pump water from within the abutment excavations. Use of area pumps may also be necessary when removing the existing bridge abutment footings. Clean, non-turbid water would be returned to the creek channel. Turbid water will be detained in a storage basin until it has settled, at which time it will be returned to the creek channel.

Project Location

The Project site is located along Powerhouse Road in unincorporated east-central Mendocino County on the Potter Valley USGS topographic quad (Section 18, T17N, R11W, MDB&M) and is within the Russian River hydrologic unit (hydrologic unit code 18010110). Elevation in the Project area is approximately 960 ft. above sea level. The entire Project site drains to Williams Creek which drains to the East Fork of the Russian River.

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 because the document has been sent to the State Clearinghouse. This document is open to public review and comment from May 5, 2017 through June 5, 2017. **Comments must be received prior to 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the comment period, June 5, 2017.** Any comments on the document may be presented in writing to:

Mendocino County Department of Transportation
Attn: John Cylwik, Environmental Compliance Specialist
340 Lake Mendocino Drive
Ukiah, California 95482
Phone: (707) 234-2818
Fax: (707) 463-5474
cylwikj@co.mendocino.ca.us

Public Meetings

A public hearing on the subject project and the Draft Mitigated Declaration will be held and comments received on this Initial Study will be considered by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors prior to approval of the project, in a public hearing to be held on July 11th, 2017, at 9:00 A.M. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard in the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah, California. Oral comments may be presented to the Board of Supervisors during the public hearing.

Document Availability

A copy of the Public Draft Initial Study with mitigation measures in support of the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and supporting technical studies are available for public review on the County's website at <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/dot> under the environmental documents tab or 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