

# **ATTACHMENT F**

## **Notice of Determination**

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

To: Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113 Sacramento, CA 95814
From: Contra Costa County
Dept. of Conservation & Development
30 Muir Road
Martinez, CA 94553
County Clerk
County of: Contra Costa
555 Escobar Street
Martinez, CA 94553

State Clearinghouse Number: 2011122056
Project Title: Alhambra Valley Road Safety Improvements Project
Project Applicant: Contra Costa County Public Works Department

Project Location (include county): Alhambra Valley Road at Bear Creek Road intersection between Pinole and Martinez, Contra Costa County

Project Description:
Contra Costa County Public Works Department (CCCPWD) proposes to realign and widen a 2,425-foot long section to provide shoulders and clear recovery areas for motorists to regain full control of their vehicles should they veer off the traveled way. The project will realign the road and widen the existing travel lanes from 10 to 12 feet wide which will add 5 feet wide of paved shoulders. This proposed section configuration meets County design standards, matches the dimensions of similar safety projects along Alhambra Valley Road, and significantly improves the function of the road as a Class III bicycle facility.

The project will also require cutting into the existing hillside slope along the north side of the road to accommodate the road realignment. The hillside will be cut at a 2:1 slope which requires removing approximately 4,000 cubic yards of soil from the face of the hillside. However, if it is determined from geotechnical investigations that this is not a stable option, a 250-foot long, 10-foot tall concrete wall will be constructed along the face of the hillside; this option will require removing approximately 1,500 cubic yards of soil. Approximately 12 roadside oak trees and 30 olive orchard trees will be removed to provide improved sight distance.

Existing roadside drainage ditches along the north side of the road will be recreated and lined with rock. In some areas along the south side of the road there are soft shoulders which will be re-graded to maintain existing sheet flow patterns off the road surface. Three existing sub-grade cross-culverts that convey runoff from the roadside ditches along the north side of the road will be extended or replaced to span the widened road. Culvert depth excavations will range between 2 and 8 feet. If necessary, rock slope protection will be placed at the outfalls of the culvert pipes.

One lane of the road will be open during construction; full road closure is anticipated for up to 2 weeks. The project is partially funded by federal transportation funds, High Risk Rural Road program. Project construction is planned for 2013 and will take approximately two months to complete. Construction will occur sometime between April and October.

The project will require property transactions such as right-of-way acquisitions for slivers of adjacent parcels at inverting curves to be realigned and temporary construction easements for work and staging areas. The parcels surrounding the project area are designated farmland; a farmland conversion impact analysis determined that the project will not have a significant impact. In addition, the project will acquire portions of Williamson Act contracted parcels. The County cannot avoid impact to these parcels and has made findings in accordance to the Williamson Act.

The project will not cause an increase in traffic or encourage changes to existing land use patterns; therefore no new vehicle trips are expected to occur. The project area is located within designated critical habitat for Alameda whipsnake and California red-legged frog. Permanent and temporary impacts will be offset by off-site compensatory mitigation through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game approved mitigation bank or to a land preservation trust that supports the creation, enhancement and/or restoration of Alameda whipsnake and California red-legged frog habitat which will benefit other species. Further, avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented to minimize impacts to special-status species and the natural environment, Removal of the oak trees will be mitigated as determined through consultation with the California Department of Fish and Game. Disturbed areas will be re-vegetated upon project completion.

The project was approved on:

- 1. The project [ ] will [x] will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2. [ ] An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
[x] A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
- 3. Mitigation measures [x] were [ ] were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
- 4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [x] was [ ] was not] adopted for this project.
- 5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [ ] was [x] was not] adopted for this project.
- 6. Findings [x] were [ ] were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

Notice of Determination sent to Office of Planning and Research.\*

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at: 255 Glacier Drive, Martinez, CA 94553

Signature (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

AFFIDAVIT OF FILING AND POSTING	
I declare that on _____ I received and posted this notice as required by California Public Resources Code Section 21152(c). Said notice will remain posted for 30 days from the filing date.	
Signature	Title

		Department of Fish and Game Fees Due:			
Applicant's Name: Address:	Claudia Gemberling 255 Glacier Drive Martinez, CA 94553	<div></div>	EIR - \$2919.00	Total Due:	\$2,176.50
		<div>X</div>	Neg. Dec. - \$2101.50	Total Paid:	\$
		<div>X</div>	County Clerk - \$50	Receipt #	
		<div>X</div>	DCD- \$25		

\*Notice Of Determination may be sent by fax to (916) 323-3018, if followed up with a duplicate mailed copy.

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.  
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.