

**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
INITIAL STUDY OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE**

PROJECT NUMBER: WO# 1025
CP# 15-49

PROJECT NAME: Walnut Boulevard Bike Lane Gap Closure Project

PREPARED BY: Alex Nattkemper

DATE: January 6, 2016

APPROVED BY: _____ DATE: _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

☒ **Categorical Exemption** [Class 1(c)]

☐ Negative Declaration

☐ Environmental Impact Report Required

☐ Conditional Negative Declaration

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The recommendation is based on the following: The project consists of minor alteration of existing public facilities, involving negligible expansion of use beyond that previously existing pursuant to section 15301(c) of the CEQA guidelines. The project will not result in the removal of any scenic resource.

What changes to the project would mitigate the identified impacts: N/A

USGS Quad Sheet: Brentwood	Base Map Sheet #: P-25	Parcel #: N/A
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GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- 1. Location:** The project is located in an unincorporated area in east Contra Costa County south of the City of Brentwood and west of Discovery Bay [Figures 1-4].
- 2. Project Description:** The purpose of this project is to widen the roadway to provide Class II bike lanes in each direction along a narrow section of Walnut Boulevard between Marsh Creek Road and Vasco Road in order to improve bicyclist safety. Recent improvements to Marsh Creek Road and Vasco Road have widened these intersections along Walnut Boulevard. However, these improvements left an approximately 1,000 foot long gap in paved shoulders wide enough for cyclists to use as bike lanes. This section between the two revised intersections remains a two lane rural road with little to no shoulders. This area has become increasingly used by bicyclists in east Contra Costa County. The project consists of adding approximately 6 feet of pavement widening on the west side of Walnut Boulevard. The project will relocate one roadside traffic sign due to widening. After the widening is completed, a slurry seal surface treatment and re-alignment of the pavement markings will center the travel lanes over the new roadway width. Bike lane signing and striping will be installed within the project limits and the existing centerline rumble strips will be replaced. The drainage pattern will be re-established through a graded roadside ditch and the partial excavation of its associated berm that extends approximately 520 feet in length parallel to the road. The project is a covered activity under the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan (HCP/NCCP) under Road Safety Improvements. The project will follow the HCP/NCCP Avoidance and Mitigation Measures to minimize impacts to covered species and water quality. Appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to protect storm drain inlets. In addition, HCP/NCCP development fees will be paid to the Conservancy at project contract award. One lane will be open for traffic during construction activities. Emergency vehicles will have access at all times. Real property transactions, such as temporary construction easements from adjacent properties, may be necessary in support of the project.
- 3. Does it appear that any feature of the project will generate significant public concern?**
☐ Yes ☒ **No** ☐ maybe (Nature of concern):
- 4. Will the project require approval or permits by other than a County agency?**
☒ Yes ☐ **No** East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy
- 5. Is the project within the Sphere of Influence of any city?** No