

**CALENDAR ITEM
C40**

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W 26065
S.Young

**CONSIDER APPROVAL OF A PUBLIC AGENCY PERMIT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY
MAP PURSUANT TO SECTION 101.5 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE
AND SECTION 6210.3 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE**

APPLICANT:

California Department of Transportation

LAND TYPE, AND LOCATION:

Sovereign lands in the bed of the Colorado River, adjacent to State Route 62 near the town of Earp, San Bernardino County.

PROPOSED AUTHORIZED USE:

For highway purposes, pursuant to Section 101.5 of the Streets and Highways Code and 6210.3 of the Public Resources Code, for the removal of the existing bridge and the construction, maintenance of a new bridge crossing the Colorado River and for a temporary construction use area.

LENGTH OF USE:

Continuous use, plus one year.

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

1. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has the right to use the uplands adjoining the 101.5 map right-of-way.

2. Caltrans has applied to the Commission for a 101.5 Right of Way Permit for the proposed Colorado River Bridge Replacement/Renovation project. The existing Colorado River Bridge is the primary connector between Earp, California at State Route 62 (in San Bernardino County) and Parker, Arizona at State Route 95 Spur (in La Paz County). This stretch of highway is part of the Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) National Network for oversized trucks, and is a designated State Highway Terminal Access Route. The existing bridge, built in 1937, consists of a ten span steel girder structure measuring 656 feet in length, on a pile foundation. Due to scouring concerns, the bridge was retrofitted in 1992 by constructing outrigger supports for three piers. The Commission has

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not previously approved or authorized a Public Agency Permit or Right-of-Way Map in connection with the existing bridge

3. The purpose of the project is to remedy the Colorado River Bridge's decreased structural integrity and to maintain continuous, safe movement of vehicular traffic to sustain the existing economic vitality of the region in both California and Arizona. The existing Colorado River Bridge has been identified as scour critical as a result of continual streambed degradation. Since the original construction of the bridge in 1937, the existing river streambed has dropped approximately 20 feet. This change in the channel grade has resulted in a loss of lateral support and embedment for the existing bridge foundation pilings. Periodic bridge inspections have found that 18 feet of pile encasement concrete has been exposed at seven of the nine bridge piers.

Caltrans is working in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in development of the plans for the bridge replacement/rehabilitation project. The proposal consists of constructing a four-lane wide facility to replace the existing bridge, which will not increase traffic capacity. The new bridge will be constructed on a curved alignment, varying to approximately 26.6 feet south of the centerline of the existing bridge. The project will require realignment of a portion of the existing roadway on both sides of the Colorado River. Two lanes of the existing bridge will be open during construction. The proposed bridge will be 771 feet in length on a cast-in-steel shell (CISS) pile foundation.

For the public's safety during construction, a temporary navigational lighting system, approved by the United States Coast Guard, will be installed at the site. Prior to completion of construction and with the approval by the Coast Guard, a permanent navigational lighting electrical system will be installed.

The project includes removal of existing bridge components including the deck concrete, removal of whole steel girders which span from column to column, removal of steel columns and piles, removal of outrigger column and footings, removal of piles in outrigger footings, and removal of cofferdams.

The new bridge would be constructed in stages over an estimated period of two to three years. The total construction cost of the project will be shared equal between the states of California and Arizona. California's share of the construction costs will be funded under the Bridge

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Restoration and Replacement Program and is programmed in the State Highway Operations and Protection Program.

4. In addition to obtaining necessary rights for the bridge project from the Commission and the County of San Bernardino, Caltrans is also in the process of obtaining necessary rights from the Colorado Indian Tribes for their property interests in both California and Arizona.
5. Section 101.5 of the Streets and Highways Code requires Caltrans to determine the reasonable value of the proposed right-of-way and to deposit such amount in the State Parks and Recreation Fund. Section 6210.3 of the Public Resources Code authorizes the Commission to issue rights-of-way and easements to Caltrans for highway purposes.
6. A Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) (SCH # 2008051081), was prepared and adopted by the California Department of Transportation on June 30, 2008 for this project. The California State Lands Commission's staff reviewed such document. A Mitigation Monitoring Program was adopted by the California Department of Transportation.
7. This activity involves lands which have NOT been identified as possessing significant environmental values pursuant to Public Resources Code sections 6370, et. seq. However, the Commission has declared that all lands are "significant" by nature of their public ownership (as opposed to "environmentally significant"). Since such declaration of significance is not based upon the requirements and criteria of Public Resources Code Sections 6370, et. seq., use classifications for such lands have not been designated. Therefore, the finding of the project's consistency with the use classification as required by Title 2, California Code of Regulations, Section 2954 is not applicable.

APPROVALS REQUIRED:

The Army Corps of Engineers, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board – Colorado River Basin Region, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Coast Guard, and the Colorado River Indian Tribes

EXHIBITS:

- A. Site and Location Map
- B. Section 101.5 Right-of-Way Map

PERMIT STREAMLINING ACT DEADLINE:

November 19, 2009

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RECOMMENDED ACTION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMISSION:

CEQA FINDING:

FIND THAT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, SCH NO. 2008051081, AND A MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM WERE PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND ADOPTED ON JUNE 30, 2008, FOR THIS PROJECT AND THAT THE COMMISSION HAS REVIEWED AND CONSIDERED THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN. ADOPT THE MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM, AS CONTAINED ON FILE IN THE SACRAMENTO OFFICE OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION.

AUTHORIZATION:

APPROVE A PUBLIC AGENCY PERMIT AND A RIGHT-OF-WAY MAP AS SHOWN ON EXHIBIT B ATTACHED AND BY THIS REFERENCE MADE A PART HEREOF, SUBMITTED BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 101.5 OF THE STREETS AND HIGHWAYS CODE AND AS AUTHORIZED BY SECTION 6210.3 OF THE PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE, FOR CONTINUOUS USE PLUS ONE YEAR, OF A RIGHT-OF-WAY INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF THE EXISTING BRIDGE AND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW BRIDGE AT THE STATE ROUTE 62 CROSSING AT THE COLORADO RIVER AND FOR A TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION USE AREA AS SHOWN ON EXHIBIT A ATTACHED.