

**CITY OF TEMECULA
AGENDA REPORT**

TO: City Manager/City Council

FROM: Patrick Thomas, Director of Public Works / City Engineer

DATE: May 24, 2022

SUBJECT: Approve the Initial Study and Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Diaz Road Expansion Project, PW17-25

PREPARED BY: Amer Attar, Engineering Manager
Avlin R. Odviar, Senior Civil Engineer

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council:

1. Approve the Initial Study (IS) and adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Diaz Road Expansion Project, PW17-25; and
2. Direct the Public Works Director to file the Notice of Determination (NOD)

BACKGROUND: The Diaz Road Expansion project (Project), includes development and construction of improvements along Diaz Road, between Rancho California Road and Cherry Street, bringing it to its ultimate Major Arterial classification. Design and construction will take place in two phases with Phase 1 covering Diaz Road from Rancho California Road to Winchester Road and Phase 2 covering Diaz Road from Winchester Road to Cherry Street. The subject environmental document encompasses both phases.

A project Initial Study (IS) has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The IS characterizes the following environmental factors as being subject to “No Impact” and/or “Less Than Significant Impact” by the Project:

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Aesthetics | • Mineral Resources |
| • Agricultural and Forestry Resources | • Noise |
| • Air Quality | • Population / Housing |
| • Energy | • Public Services |
| • Greenhouse Gas Emissions | • Recreation |
| • Hazards & Hazardous Materials | • Transportation |
| • Hydrology / Water Quality | • Utilities / Service Systems |
| • Land Use / Planning | • Wildfire |

The IS identifies the following environmental factors as being subject to “Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” by the Project:

- **Biological Resources:** Potential impacts to Burrowing Owls, Least Bell’s Vireo, nesting birds, riparian habitat, and other sensitive natural communities will be mitigated through a combination of measures including pre-construction surveys, avoidance of active burrows/nests, delineation of work limits, avoidance of certain construction activities during nesting season(s), biological monitoring, acoustical monitoring, worker education, restricted work hours, sound attenuation for heavy equipment, implementation of BMPs, pre-construction tree surveys, restriction of plant species, payment of impact fees, compensatory mitigation, on- or off-site enhancement, restoration, and/or creation.
- **Cultural Resources (incl. Tribal):** Potential impacts to archaeological resources and human remains will be mitigated through a combination of measures including development of a Cultural Resources Treatment and Monitoring Program, monitoring of ground-disturbing activities by a qualified archaeological monitor and Pechanga tribal monitor, and coordination with the Riverside County Coroner and the Native American most likely descendant(s).
- **Geology/Soils:** Potential impacts related to ground shaking, liquefaction, soil stability, and paleontological feature(s) will be mitigated through a combination of measures including performing a site-specific geotechnical investigation, preparation of a paleontological resource monitoring and mitigation plan, and monitoring of excavations by a qualified paleontologist.

Under CEQA guidelines, the Initial Study determined that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) be completed for the Project. The MND includes mitigations measures to reduce potential impacts to a level of less than significant. Details of the proposed mitigation measures are included in the attached Final IS-MND.

The Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration was posted on January 31, 2022. The corresponding public review comment period commenced on January 31, 2022 and concluded on March 1, 2022. Signs were placed on the project site and a notice was placed in the local newspaper. The City received written comments from Eastern Municipal Water District, Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District, and Riverside Transit Agency. The Final IS-MND was provided to commenting agencies in compliance with State Law.

FISCAL IMPACT: The Diaz Road Expansion Project is identified in the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget for Fiscal Years 2022-26, and is funded with DIF (Street Improvements), Measure S, and TUMF (WRCOG). There are sufficient funds in the project account to cover the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Mitigated Negative Declaration fee of \$2,598.00 (includes \$50.00 County filing fee).

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Final Initial Study – Mitigated Negative Declaration
2. Notice of Determination
3. Project Description