



County of Monterey

Item No.

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: RES 24-018

January 30, 2024

Introduced: 1/19/2024

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: BoS Resolution

PLN220090 - CALTRANS/GARRAPATA BRIDGE RAILS

Public hearing to consider California Department of Transportation's ("Caltrans") appeal of the Garrapata Creek bridge rail replacement project on Highway 1, Big Sur.

Project Location: Garrapata Creek Bridge near post mile 63.0 on HWY 1, Big Sur Land Use Plan.

Proposed California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") action: Continuance of the hearing is an administrative activity that is not subject to CEQA.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors continue the hearing on this matter to February 6, 2024 while staff coordinates with CalTrans staff on next steps.

SUMMARY/DISSERTION:

On December 6, 2023, the Board of Supervisors heard an appeal of the Planning Commissions denial of a permit for the replacement of bridge rails on Garrapata Bridge in Big Sur. At the hearing, the Board adopted a motion of intent to deny the appeal and the application and requested that staff return with findings for denial of the permit. Since that time, CalTrans has been coordinating with County staff and Coastal Commission staff on the next steps and the possibility of submitting additional details and analysis.

Staff recommends that the Board continue the hearing on this matter to February 6, 2024 to allow all parties the additional time to review the options and next steps.

CEQA

Caltrans, as the Lead Agency for the project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consisting of a Tier 1 program level review for the Big Sur Bridge Rail Replacement Program and a Tier 2 project level review of the Garrapata Bridge Rail Replacement Project. While not being federally funded, in the environmental analysis Caltrans found the project qualified for a Categorical Exclusion from the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The County is a responsible agency under CEQA, and as a responsible agency is required to consider the EIR prepared by the lead agency (CalTrans) and agree with its conclusions before approving a permit for the covered activity.

For the purposes of the continuance of the hearing from January 30, 2024 to February 6, 2024, no decision on a project is being made and therefore the continuance is not a project pursuant to CEQA.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

The following Departments or Agencies have been involved in the discussion of this continuance:

- Housing & Community Development
- County Counsel's Office
- California Coastal Commission

FINANCING:

Funding for staff time associated with this project is included in the FY 23/24 Adopted Budgets for HCD. A fee was collected to partially recuperate the cost of staff time associated with processing the application. No fee is collected for an appeal for projects located in the Coastal Zone.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS STRATEGIC INITIATIVES:

Processing of the Coastal Development Permit is an administrative activity and the project includes modifications to a highway safety device.

Economic Development

Administration

Health & Human Services

Infrastructure

Public Safety

Prepared by: Craig W. Spencer, Acting Director, Housing & Community Development CS

cc: Front Counter Copy; Planning Commission; Craig Spencer, Chief of Planning; Phil Angelo, Planner; Mitch Dallas, Caltrans (applicant); Eric Stevens, California Coastal Commission staff; Keep Big Sur Wild, Christina McGinnis; Martha Diehl; The Open Monterey Project (Molly Erickson); Jim Heid, Albion Bridge Stewarts; Patricia Larson, Schute, Mihaly & Weinberger; Sara Clark, Schute, Mihaly & Weinberger; Tim Gill; Christopher Grimes; Steven Harper; John Wilson; Aengus Jeffers; Patte Kronlund; Mark Lemley; Constance McCoy; Richard Mitchell; Kate Novoa; Sharon Wilson; LandWatch (Executive Director); Project Files PLN220090.