

City of Madera
Initial Study and Environmental Assessment
Proposed Negative Declaration

Fresno River Trail System
Undercrossings at
Schnoor Avenue Bridge

March 1, 2011

Prepared for the City of Madera Parks and Community Services

by

Steve Greer
Senior Planner
City of Madera Planning Department

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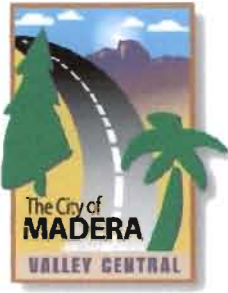
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**PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
Fresno River Trail System Undercrossings at Schnoor Avenue Bridge**

Proposed: March 1, 2011

Filed with: County Clerk

Finding: The City of Madera has determined that the project described below will not have a significant effect on the environment following incorporation of avoidance and minimization measures; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is not required.

Lead Agency: City of Madera

Project Title, File No.: City of Madera; Class I Bike/Ped; Schnoor Bridge, Fresno River Trail

Project Location: Schnoor Avenue Bridge along both north and south bank of Fresno River, in the City of Madera, County of Madera, State of California.

Project Description: The project proposes the construction of trail undercrossings on both the south and north bank of the Fresno River at the Schnoor Avenue Bridge. Each undercrossing will consist of a concrete pedestrian/bike path, ten feet in width, running into the river bed, under the bridge adjacent to bank. The project will connect existing segments of the Vern McCullough Fresno River Trail. The improvements will facilitate safer connection/access to the existing trail, where currently trail users must cross four lanes of traffic or use unimproved dirt path under either side of bridge to continue on trail system. The project is proposed in two phases. Phase 1 would construct the southerly undercrossing. Phase 2 would construct the northerly undercrossing.

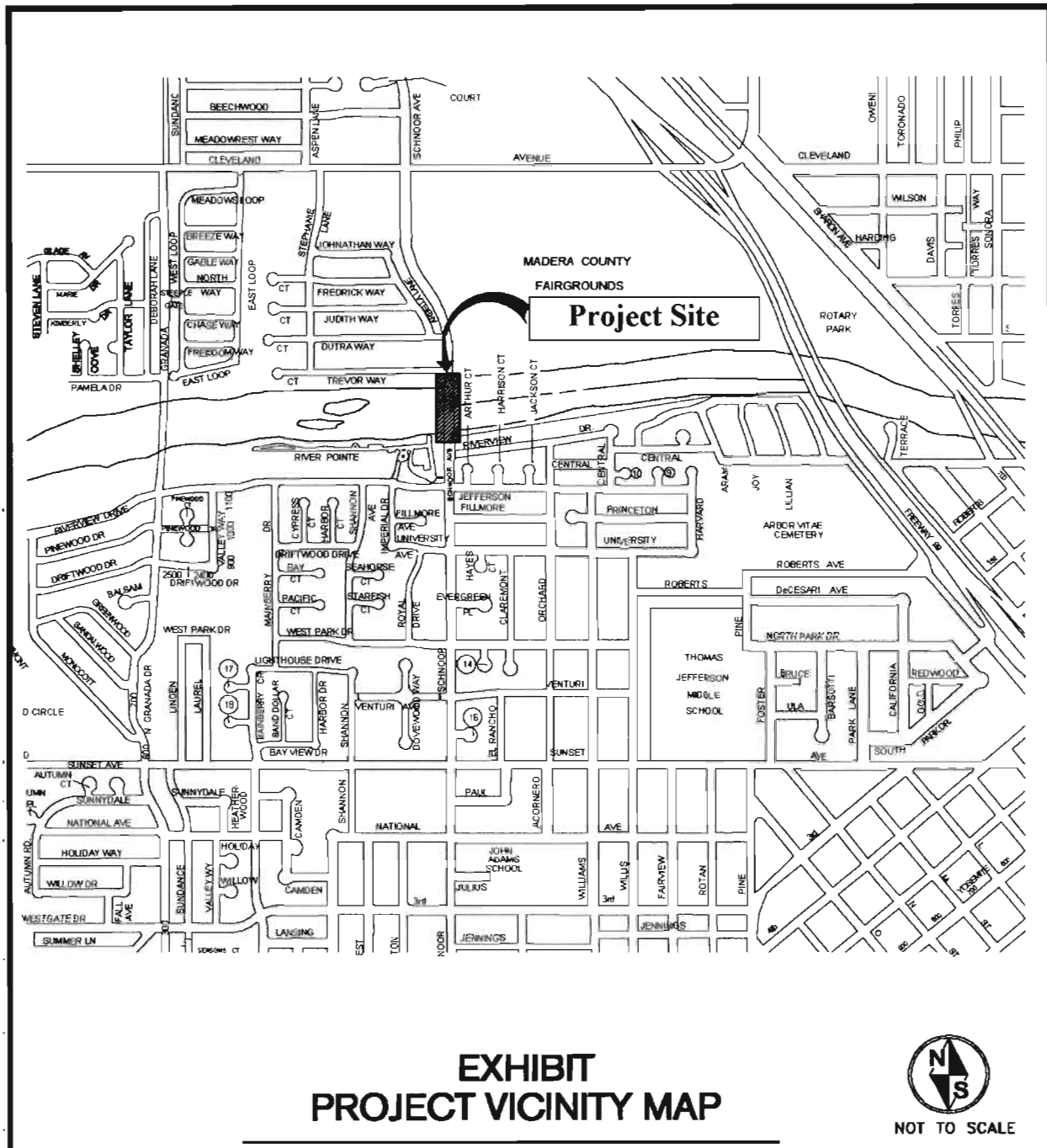
Environmental Assessment: The Initial Study for this project is available for review at the City of Madera, 205 W Fourth Street, Madera, CA 93637

Justification for Negative Declaration: The City of Madera has completed the preparation of an Initial Study for the project described above. The Initial Study did not identify any potentially significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed activity. **Adherence to existing City, State, and Federal policies, ordinances, regulations, and permitting requirements, as well as implementation of standard avoidance and minimization measures, would reduce potential impacts to the environment to a less than significant level.** Accordingly, approval of a Negative Declaration for the project is in compliance with CEQA Guidelines. The City finds that the proposed project can be adequately served by City public services including public utilities (sewer and water) and police and fire protection services. It will not have a negative aesthetic effect, will not affect any rare or endangered species of plant or animal or the habitat of such species, or interfere with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species. It will not adversely affect water quality, contaminate public water supplies, or cause substantial flooding, erosion, or siltation. It will not have a significant effect on air quality, transportation or circulation systems, noise, light and glare, and land use. No significant cumulative impacts will occur from this project.

Contact Person: Steven Greer, Senior Planner - Phone: (559) 661-5436.

Date: March 1, 2011

Figure 1: Site Location



**EXHIBIT
PROJECT VICINITY MAP**



NOT TO SCALE

**FRESNO RIVER TRAIL UNDERCROSSINGS AT SCHNOOR AVENUE
CITY OF MADERA, CA**

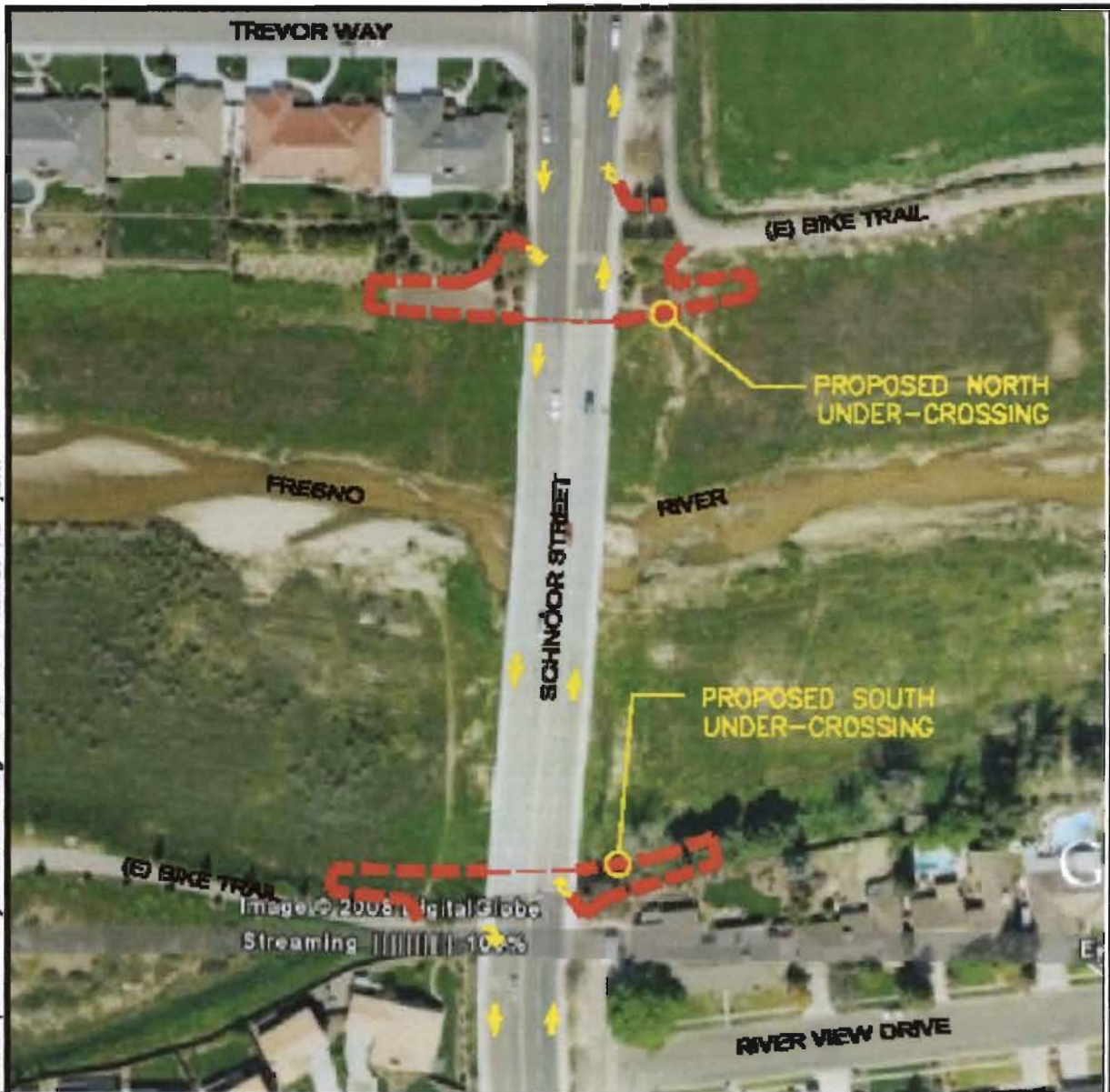


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CIVIL ENGINEERS - LAND SURVEYORS - PLANNERS
 4694 WEST JACQUELYN AVE FRESNO, CA 93722
 WWW.LARSANDERSEN.COM 559-276-2790 FAX 559-276-0850

JOB NO: 10119.00
 DR. BY: CM
 CH. BY: JRT
 DATE: 09-08-10
 SCALE: N.T.S.

SHEET NO. 1
 OF 1 SHEET

Figure 2: Aerial Photo of Site and Vicinity



**EXHIBIT
PROJECT LOCATION MAP**



SCALE: 1" = 100'±

**FRESNO RIVER TRAIL UNDERCROSSINGS AT SCHNOOR AVENUE
CITY OF MADERA, CA**



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CIVIL ENGINEERS - LAND SURVEYORS - PLANNERS
 4694 WEST JACQUELYN AVE FRESNO, CA 93722
 WWW.LARSANDFRSGN.COM 559-276-2780 FAX 559-276-0850

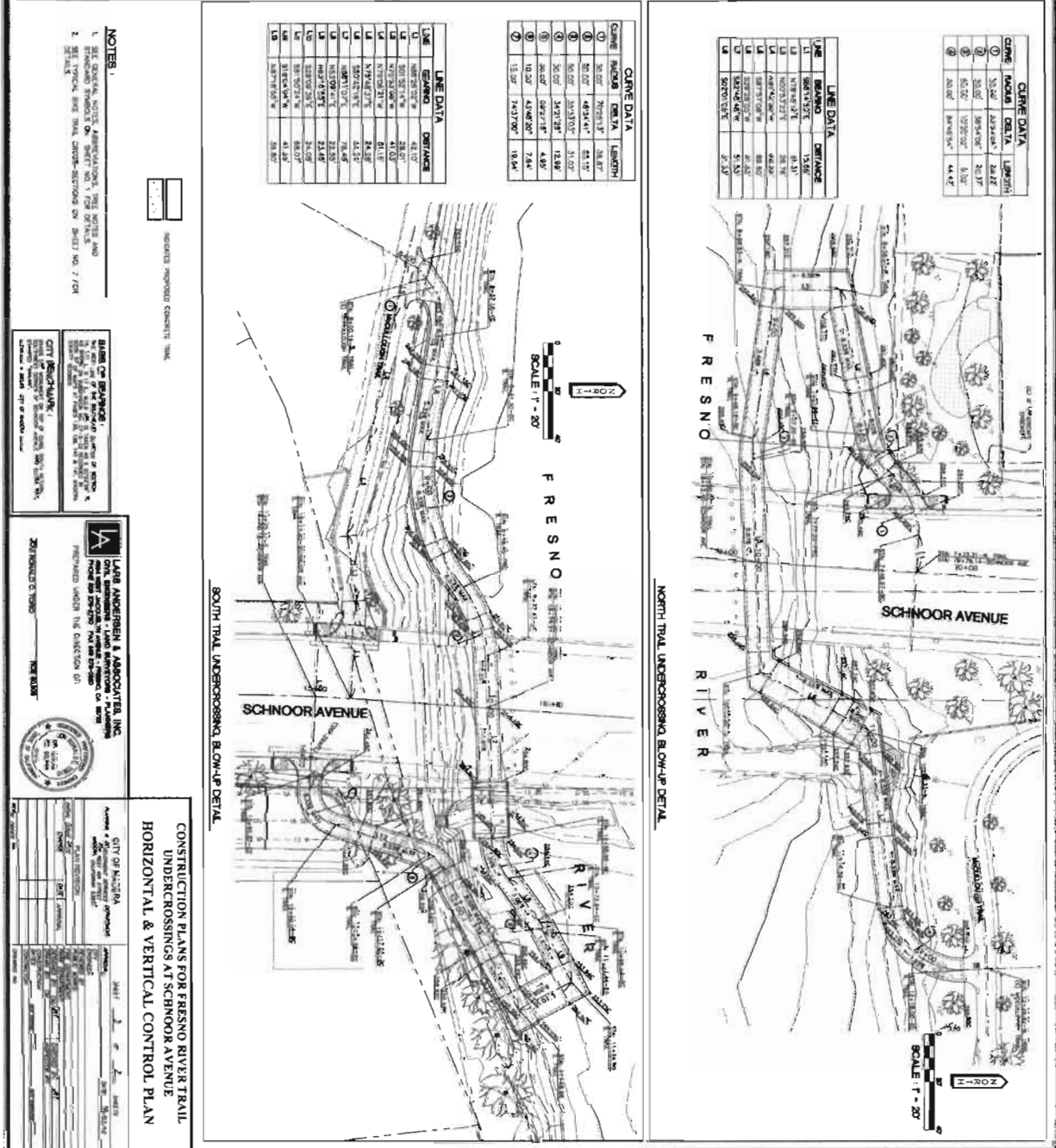
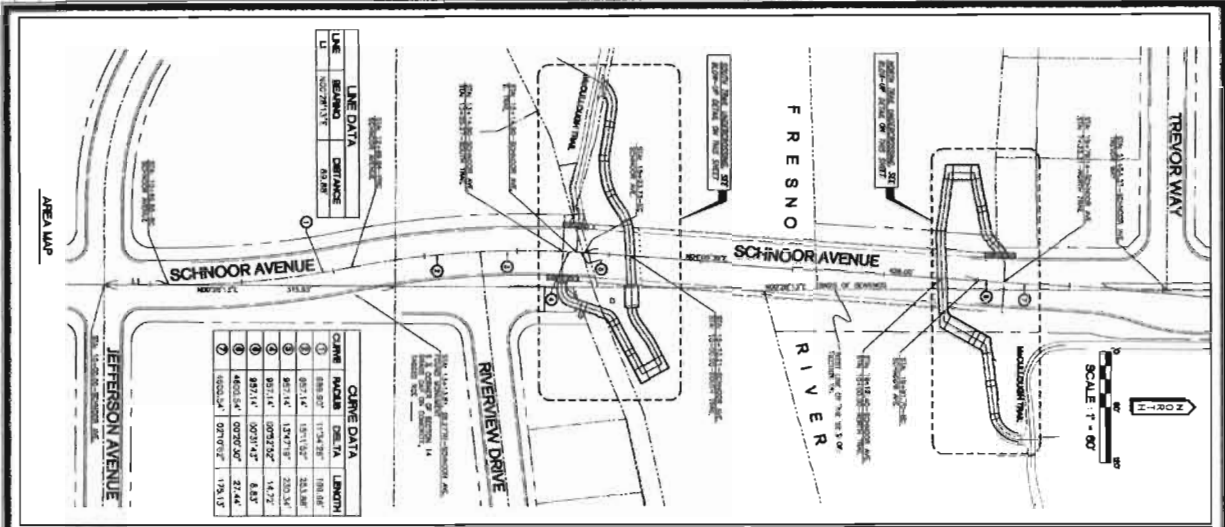
JOB NO: 10119.00
 DR. BY: CM
 CH. BY: JBT
 DATE: 09-08-10
 SCALE: NOTED

SHEET NO. 1

OF 1 SHEET

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Figure 3: Site Layout Plan



TRAIL UNDERCROSSINGS AT SCHNOOR AVENUE

LAB ANDERSEN & ASSOCIATES, INC.
 1000 N. MARKET STREET, SUITE 200
 FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93703
 PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

2011 REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER

CITY OF FRESNO
 2011 REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER

CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR FRESNO RIVER TRAIL UNDERCROSSINGS AT SCHNOOR AVENUE HORIZONTAL & VERTICAL CONTROL PLAN

DATE: 08/15/11
 SHEET NO. 3 OF 3

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST FORM

INITIAL STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project: City of Madera – Fresno River Trail Schnoor Bridge Undercrossings

Applicant: City of Madera
205 West 4th St.
Madera, CA, 93637
559.673.5569

Owner: Same as Applicant

Location: Schnoor Avenue Bridge along north and south bank of Fresno River, City of Madera.

Proposal: The project proposes the construction of trail undercrossings on both the south and north bank of the Fresno River at the Schnoor Avenue Bridge. Each undercrossing will consist of a concrete pedestrian/bike path, ten feet in width, running into the river bed, under bridge adjacent to bank. The project will connect existing segments of the Vern McCullough Fresno River Trail. The improvements will facilitate safer connection/access to the existing trail, where currently trail users must cross four lanes of traffic or use unimproved dirt paths under either side of bridge to continue on trail system. The project is proposed in two phases. Phase 1 would construct the southerly undercrossing. Phase 2 would construct the northerly undercrossing.

Zoning: RCO (Resource Conservation and Open Space)

General Plan Land Use Designation: RC (Resource Conservation)

Surrounding Land Uses and Zoning:

South: Single Family Residential – R-1 and PD 4500 (Residential)
North: Single Family Residential - PD 6000(Residential); Madera Fairgrounds - PF (Public Facilities)
West: Fresno River (River Trail south bank) – RCO (Resource Conservation and Open Space)
East: Fresno River (Easement south bank) – RCO (Resource Conservation and Open Space)

Other agencies whose approval is required: Regional Water Control Board
U.S. Corp of Engineers
California Department of Fish and Game
California Department of Water Resources
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Madera County Flood Control
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
Madera Irrigation District

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Geology / Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Population / Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Agricultural & Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9. Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4. Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Land Use / Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Transportation / Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Utilities / Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> 18. Mandatory Findings of Significance |

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST: (A brief answer to all questions is provided in Section "Evaluation of Environmental Impacts")

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
1. Aesthetics. Would the proposal:					
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings with a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The project proposes the construction of trail undercrossings, eight to ten feet in width, to be located along both the north and south bank of the Fresno River at the Schnoor Avenue Bridge. This project will connect sections of the Vern McCollough Fresno Trail that presently end at either side of the Schnoor Avenue Bridge. The visual setting of this section of the Fresno River consists of a mix of non-native grassland, ruderal (disturbed) areas, and ornamental landscaping. Native flora along the proposed project is poorly represented, since the area consists of highly disturbed habitats. Existing storm water outfall structures are located at east side of bridge on both north and south banks. The project will not result in the obstruction of federal, state or locally classified scenic areas, historic properties, community landmarks, or formally classified scenic resources such as a scenic highway, national scenic area, or state scenic area. The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. The project will not damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. The project would not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the sites and surroundings under examination. The proposed project would not significantly alter the landforms, view sheds, and overall character of the area. The proposed project will not produce any new sources of light and glare since the trail is intended for day use only and no lighting along this portion of the trail is proposed. There will be a less than significant impact to the visual environment during development of the trail with adherence to existing City construction standards and regulations.

There is no significant impact related to aesthetics that will occur with implementation of the project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
2. Agricultural & Forestry Resources.					
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the Department of Conservation.					
Would the proposal:					
a. Convert to non-agricultural uses Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Maps of the Resources Agency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland, to non-agricultural uses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The project proposes the development of two trail undercrossings to facilitate a safer connection to existing trail improvements. The project site is located within an urbanized area of the City of Madera, identified on the 2006 Important Farmland Map as Urban and Built-Up Land. The project site is substantially surrounded by urban development. The project will develop land identified as Resource Conservation and Open Space (RCO) in the City of Madera Zoning Map. A portion of site is currently developed with a concrete storm water outfall structure. The project will not convert to non-agricultural uses Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program Maps of the Resources Agency. The project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract. The project does not involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland, to non-agricultural uses.

No significant impacts related to agricultural & forestry resources will occur with implementation of this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
3. Air Quality.					
Where available, the significant criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the proposal:					
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of peoples?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE NOTE: Specific development projects are distributed to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District for review and comment. The district then responds with recommended mitigation measures or conditions of approval, if any, for the development. These are incorporated into the project as appropriate.

The project area is located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB). Air quality conditions in the SJVAB are regulated by San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD). The region is classified as a State and Federal non-attainment area for PM2.5 (airborne particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 2.5 microns), and ozone (O3).

The State of California has designated the project area as being a severe non-attainment area for 1-hour O3, a non-attainment area for PM2.5, and an attainment area for CO. The EPA has designated the project area as being an extreme non-attainment area for 1-hour O3, a serious non-attainment area for 8-hour O3, a serious non-attainment area for PM2.5, and a moderate maintenance for CO.

The project will not expose sensitive receptors to any significant amount of pollutants. The project will not create any objectionable odors.

The project will not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of applicable Regional Air Quality Control Plans. Due to size and scope (10 foot wide concrete pedestrian/bicycle path, approximately 300 feet in length) the project would likely be determined exempt from Indirect Source Review by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District. There is a potential for a positive impact for air quality with the use of the proposed pedestrian/bicycle path. This has the potential to reduce the dependency on automobiles.

Site construction will generate emissions from vehicles and building activities. Equipment emissions can be reduced by using equipment with catalytic converters and by preventing extensive idling. A variety of construction related sources generate particulate emissions, including truck trips on unpaved roads and parking areas, dirt storage piles, grading activities, and demolition. These impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level by following recommendations for dust control provided by the SJVAPCD.

Adherence to existing City construction standards and regulations, and to SJVAPCD rules and regulations, will reduce potential project impacts to air quality to less than significant.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
4. <u>Biological Resources.</u>					
Would the proposal result in impacts to:					
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A biotic evaluation study was conducted by Michael Brandman Associates, Inc., staff ecologist Tom Molioo on February 24, 2011, for the project area. In this section of the Fresno River vegetation consists of a mix of non-native grassland, ruderal (disturbed) areas, and ornamental landscaping. Native flora along the proposed project is poorly represented, since the area consists of highly disturbed habitats. Vegetation at the proposed Schnoor Bridge undercrossings consists mainly of wild oats, ripgut brome grass, Russian thistle, London rocket, mile thistle, cocklebur, prickly lettuce, horseweed, mugwort, Spanish clover, curly dock, Jimson weed. At top of bank on both the east and west sides of bridge are existing City maintained landscape plantings (ornamental trees, shrubs and bushes).

Annual storm water discharges from the existing outfall structures into the floodway of the Fresno River have, over time, created erosion/ditch features. Vegetation within these features is dominated by ruderal weedy species such as annual bur-sage, horseweed, curly dock and Spanish clover. Rabbitfoot grass, smart weed, and a tall flatsedge are also present within the feature. The features are not considered to be wetlands due to lack of a dominance of hydrophytic vegetation and the absence of suitable soils. No trees will be removed from within the floodplain. Some amount of human trash and cement rubble occur under and around the bridges, which shall be removed during project construction. None of the vegetation that will be disturbed within the project area is significant.

The study did not identify sensitive species or habitats on or adjacent to the project site. Habitats on the site, including the Fresno River, are not suitable for sensitive species; and thus, no significant impacts direct, indirect, or cumulative will occur to sensitive species or habitats as a result of the project. Based upon review of the California Natural Diversity Data Base and referenced biological study conducted at the project site, it is likely the project will have "no effect" on any federally protected (listed or proposed) Threatened or Endangered Species (plants, animals, fish, or invertebrates), nor adversely modify their critical habitats. There are no known federally listed threatened or endangered species, or known critical habitat to occur within or adjacent to the construction area. In addition, the site and surrounding area has been previously disturbed by annual flood control maintenance and existing urban encroachment (i.e. bridge structure, storm water outfall structures, and ornamental landscaping). Though some opportunity exists for the project area to be utilized as a native resident or migratory wildlife corridor, the project development footprint would not have a significant impact to the potential corridor. Disturbance of the riverbed and riparian habitat (degraded, almost absent) for this work will not be a significant impact.

There is potential to directly or indirectly affect migratory birds, or their nests or eggs (tree removal and under bridge work). Visual inspection of the few trees that may be removed during construction indicated no presence of migratory birds or their nests. A visual inspection of the bridge structure identified swallow nests attached to bridge deck underside at top of piers. Though no presence of nesting birds were observed, City and Caltrans standard provisions regarding swallow nesting, consistent with CDFG and DFWS protocol would be implemented to minimize any potential impact to the species. (*Swallow Provisions: Swallows nest between February 15 and September 1. Nests shall be avoided or removed prior to February 15 and area is to remain nest free through the season.*) If suitable nesting habitat must be removed during the nesting season, a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey to identify any potential nesting activity as a preventive avoidance measure. If active nests are present, construction activity must be prohibited within a buffer around the nest, as determined by a biologist and the California Department of Fish and Game, until the nestlings have fledged. Any activity that may potentially cause a nest failure, including soil disturbance and vegetation removal, will require that a biological monitor be present.

The Fresno River is a Jurisdictional Water of the United States, but does not meet the criteria of a wetland. According to the biological reconnaissance level survey performed in February 2011 the project site contains no federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. For the work within the riverbed and designated floodway, two permits should be obtained; a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game and an Encroachment Waiver from the California Reclamation Board, Sacramento.

Development of the site will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, or conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Adherence to existing City, State, and Federal policies, ordinances, regulations, and permitting requirements, as well as implementation of standard avoidance and minimization measures, will reduce potential impacts to biological resources to a less than significant level.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
5. Cultural Resources. Will the proposal:					
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the Public Resources Code?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 19064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

On July 7, 2008, a cultural resources survey was performed by Kristina Roper, Sierra Valley Cultural Planning for a similar trail undercrossings project (Gateway Bridge Fresno River Trail Undercrossings), located approximately 0.6 miles upstream from the current project site. The area included in the survey reached within approximately 2,000 feet of the current project site. No cultural resources were identified as a result of surface inspection of that project area. No further cultural resources investigations were recommended. A Cultural Resources Record Search was completed on June 22, 2007, by the San Joaquin Valley Archeological Information Center (SJVAIC) for a proposed bridge, overcrossing the Fresno River (Westberry Boulevard Bridge), located approximately 0.9 miles downstream from the current project site. The record search (RS #07-102) indicated that three previous cultural resource surveys have been conducted within a one-mile radius. There were no recorded cultural resources within a one mile radius of the project site, nor were significant cultural resources identified on or in proximity to the project site as a part of the 2009 General Plan and Environmental Impact Report. Therefore, no additional cultural resources investigations are recommended for the current project. Caltrans PQS, Archaeologist John Whitehouse concurred with this recommendation during field review on February 24, 2011.

The City shall comply with the requirements of CEQA that regulate archaeological and historical resources (Public Resources Code Section 21083.2 and 21084.1), and all local, state and federal regulations that regulate archaeological and historical resources.

The project does not have the potential to cause a physical change that would affect unique historic, ethnic, or cultural values. The project will not disturb archaeological resources. The project will not disturb any unique paleontological or geologic resources. The project will not likely disturb any human remains.

No impacts related to cultural resources will occur with implementation of this project.

6. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Would the project:					
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the absence of further regulatory or scientific information related to GHG emissions and CEQA significance, it is generally considered too speculative to make a significance determination regarding a project's direct and indirect impact with respect to climate change. In this case, due to the relatively small project area and short construction duration it is very likely the project would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. The City General Plan includes policies in support of GHG emissions reduction and climate change. The City supports local, regional, and statewide efforts to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases linked to climate change. Once constructed the undercrossings project would further these efforts and objectives by better serving pedestrians and bicyclists who utilize the trail system as an alternative mode of transportation.

No significant impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions will occur with implementation of this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
7. <u>Geology / Soils.</u>					
Would the proposal result in or expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:					
a. Rupture of known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of top soil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Be located on expansive soil as defined by in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial risk to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Have soil incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

There are no known faults on the project site or in the immediate area. The project site is subject to relatively low seismic hazards compared to many other parts of California. Potential ground shaking produced by earthquakes generated on regional faults lying outside the immediate vicinity in the project area may occur. Due to the distance of the known faults in the region, no significant ground shaking is anticipated on this site. Seismic hazards on the built environment are addressed in *The Uniform Building Code* that is utilized by the Madera Building Division to monitor safe construction in the city.

The project area is not subject to ground failure, including liquefaction, since liquefaction occurs normally where there is shallow groundwater depth. The potential for liquefaction decreases as the groundwater depth increases, and liquefaction is considered unlikely where the groundwater depth exceeds 30 feet, as in the project area. The project will not result in or expose people to potential impacts from landslides.

The project will not create unstable earth conditions or changes in any geologic substructure. The project site is not exposed to increased soil erosion from wind and water. The project will not bring about erosion, significant changes in topography, or unstable soil conditions.

Soils:

According to the United States Department of Agricultural, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey of the Madera Area, 1962, the following soils types are present within the project area;

Soil Symbol	Soil Type Classification	Soils Rating
Rh	River Wash	I
GsA	Greenfield Fine Sandy Loam	II
TxA	Tujung Loamy Sand	I

The general classification and characteristics of the soils types contained in the project area consist of very gentle sloping, deep or very deep, well drained soils or recent alluvial fans and flood plains. These soils types have few limitations that restrict use and thus would represent any hazards from slope instability and/or expansive hazards.

The site is not located in an area of unstable soils, and the project will not result in or expose people to potential impacts from liquefaction or subsidence of the land. The project will not result in or expose people to potential impacts from expansive soils.

No significant impacts related to geology or soils and will occur with implementation of this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
8. Hazards & Hazardous Materials.					
Would the proposal involve:					
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment though reasonably foreseeable upset and accident condition involving the release of hazardous material into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such plan has not be adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas, or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The construction of the trail undercrossings will not create a significant hazard involving the release or disposal of hazardous material into the environment. The project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The project site has not been identified as a hazardous material site. The project will not result in a substantial air safety hazard for people residing in the area or future residents of the project. The Madera Municipal Airport is located at a distance of more than 2 miles to the northwest. There is no private airstrip in the vicinity. The project will not result in a substantial air safety hazard for people residing in the area or future residents of the project. The project will not interfere with any emergency response or evacuation plans. The project is located in an urbanized area. The project will not bring about an increase in fire hazards in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees.

No significant impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials will occur with implementation of this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
9. <u>Hydrology / Water Quality.</u> Would the proposal result in:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g. the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on-site or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-site or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on Federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injuring or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map and National Flood Insurance Program map #06039C 1155E, effective date September 26, 2008, was reviewed and it was determined that the project is within a Zone AE, regulatory floodway or within the base floodplain (100-year) elevation of a watercourse. Construction of the undercrossings will result in a minor decrease of on-site absorption, minor alteration of on-site drainage patterns and a negligible increase in the rate/amount of on-site surface run-off. The construction of the undercrossings will not substantially decrease potential for infiltration of precipitation into soil, nor substantially increase total run-off. While the project is with a defined floodway, potential flooding, as a result of a 100-year event would result in low velocity and depth of floodwater within the Fresno River channel.

The construction of the proposed undercrossings are not expected to hinder any flows or create any obstructions during major events. The Department of Water Resources considers only structures to be a hindrance and/or obstruction to flood flows. The definition of a "structure" is provided for in Madera County Ordinance 554 (adopted in 1993) and City of Madera City Council Resolution #99-228 (adopted in 1999), which provide for the Department of Water Resources criteria, standards and specification for development within a designated floodway. The definition of a "structure" is as follows "A structure consists of four walls, with a roof."

The pathway will route under the Schnoor Avenue bridge at both the south and north bank, encroaching minimally into the designated floodway of the Fresno River. Design constraints and safety issues exclude other alternatives that would prevent a slight encroachment into the floodway. It has been estimated that less than one acre of area will be disturbed for the each undercrossing. This will involve cutting dirt from the riverbed, moving it to the bank, and then reshaping riverbank at south side of bridge. No fill material will be brought in and added to the riverbed or bank. Disturbance of the riverbed and riparian habitat for this work will not be significant.

The City shall submit an application to the United States Bureau of Reclamation for an encroachment permit for construction of a non-structure within the designated flood channel of the Fresno River at the initiation of this project. The City of Madera Engineering Division shall forward the encroachment permit once issued by the Bureau of Reclamation to the State of California Department of Water Resources, San Joaquin District, as well as, the Madera County Engineer in his capacity as the County's Flood Control Manager.

The project will not expose people or property to water related hazards. The proposed project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. During construction, the project site may be exposed to increased soil erosion from wind and water. Dust control will be used during any future construction. With completion, the project will not bring about erosion, significant changes in topography or unstable soil conditions. Compliance with local, state, and federal regulations, best construction practices, *The Uniform Building Code*, and adherence to professional engineering design approved by the Madera Engineering Division will minimize any potential impacts from this project.

The project will not create any impacts on water quality. The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk because of dam or levee failure. The project will not expose people or structures to a significant risk because of a seiche, mudflow, or tsunami.

No significant water related impacts will occur from implementation of this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
10. <u>Land Use / Planning.</u> Would the proposal:					
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation, adopted by an agencies with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the General Plan, specific plan, or Zoning Ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed undercrossings will connect existing segments of the Fresno River Trail System. Based on the City Council approval of the General Plan Circulation Element Amendment, the City adopted the City of Madera 2005 Bicycle Plan (July 2005) which updated the City's portion of the 1994 Madera County Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Plan. The Fresno River Trail System was included as an adopted route for alternative transportation methods. Therefore the project will not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation, adopted by the City for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. The General Plan designation and zone district are consistent with the proposed project. The project would not be in conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

No impacts to land use and planning will occur with implementation of this project.

11. <u>Mineral Resources.</u> Would the proposal:					
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known Mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

According to the City's General Plan and the State of California, Conservation Department, Division of Mines and Geology, there are no locally or state wide important mineral resources located on or adjacent to the project site. Therefore the project would not result in the loss of availability of known mineral resources, nor would the project result in the loss of availability of any locally important mineral resource recovery sites.

No impacts to energy and mineral resources will occur with implementation of this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
12. Noise. Would the proposal result in:					
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local General Plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan, or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

No component of the proposed use is expected to generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the City's General Plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. The proposed use shall not expose persons to excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. The project will not cause a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. Some periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above existing levels will occur during the construction phase of the project. These potential impacts are addressed in the General Plan EIR, and goals and mitigation measures have been adopted to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. Development of the project area is consistent with the urbanization of the Madera area, as evaluated in the General Plan, and its EIR; therefore impacts in this category are not anticipated to exceed the impacts addressed in those documents.

The project is not located within the City's airport land use plan, nor is the project within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

No significant impacts related to noise will occur with implementation of this project.

13. Population / Housing. Would the proposal:					
a. Induce substantial growth in an area Either directly or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed undercrossings project will not induce additional substantial growth in this area. The property involved does not have any existing residential uses and the project would not displace any housing. Likewise, the project would not displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

No significant impacts to population and housing will occur with implementation of this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
14. Public Services. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government facilities, need for new physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:					
a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Development of the undercrossings will not result in a significant increased demand for public services. The increase in manpower requirements for the Public Works Department for maintenance will be minimal. The project will not bring about the need for new wastewater treatment facilities. The project will not significantly increase the demand on water supplies. There will not be a significant reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies as a result of this project. The project will not increase the need for additional storm water drainage facilities beyond the existing facilities that are available to serve the project. The project will not bring about a significant increase in the demand for solid waste disposal services and facilities.

No significant impacts related to public services will occur with implementation of this project.

15. Recreation. Would the proposal:					
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The project will not result in an adverse impact upon the quality or quantity of the City's existing recreational and open space opportunities and/or facilities. The project is being undertaken by the City's Parks and Community Services Department as the implementation of the goals, policies and objectives for the enhancement of recreational opportunities within the City that are contained in the City's General Plan and Vision 2025 Plan. The impacts to recreation/open space opportunities and facilities are considered to be benefited by the implementation of the project.

No significant impacts related to recreation will occur with implementation of this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
16. Transportation/Traffic. Would the project result in:					
a. Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on road, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The proposed construction of two undercrossings at the Schnoor Avenue Bridge is intended to provide alternative means of transportation for bicyclists and pedestrians. The proposed undercrossings will provide connectivity from the west end of the City of Madera to the east end of the City of Madera. The proposed undercrossings will also provide a safe alternative for pedestrians and bicyclists. This project is the implementation of the adopted Madera Bicycle Plan and is consistent with the Circulation Element of the Madera General Plan.

No negative impacts related to transportation or circulation will occur with implementation of this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
17. Utilities and Service Systems. Would the project:					
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new and expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in a determination of the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The project would not generate the need for construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. The project will not significantly increase the demand on water supplies. There will not be a significant reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies as a result of this project. The project will not require the need for additional storm water drainage facilities. The project will not bring about a significant increase in the demand for solid waste disposal services and facilities.

No significant impacts related to utilities and service systems will occur with implementation of this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Negative Declaration: Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Included	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Development Related / Temp Impact
18. Mandatory Findings of Significance.					
Would the project:					
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the project have the impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


Initial Study Conclusions

On the basis of the preceding Initial Study, it is determined that:

- XX**
- a. No potentially significant environmental effects resulting from the proposed activity have been identified, and the approval of a Negative Declaration is recommended.
 - b. The proposed activity could have a significant effect on the environment but because the Mitigation Measures specifically described in the proposed Negative Declaration have been incorporated into the project description by the project proponent, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, and the approval of the Mitigated Negative Declaration is recommended.
 - c. The proposed activity may result in significant environmental effects; denial of the proposed Negative Declaration and preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is recommended.
 - d. The proposed activity is part of a phased project or group of projects for which an EIR has previously been prepared and certified, and there are no substantial changes in the proposed project or circumstances surrounding the project which involve environmental effects not considered in the previous EIR; the reuse of the previous EIR is recommended.
 - e. The identified potential environmental effects of the proposed activity are sufficiently similar to the effects of another project for which an EIR has been prepared and certified to warrant similar treatment, and the reuse of the previous EIR is recommended.

Prepared by:

Steven Greer, Senior Planner
 Planning Division
 Community Development Department
 City of Madera

Signature: 
 Date: February 28, 2011

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/ CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

06-City of Madera

RPSTPLE 5157(078)

Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)

P.M/P.M.

E.A. (State project)

Federal-Aid Project No. (Local project)/ Proj. No.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

(Briefly describe project, purpose, location, limits, right-of-way requirements, and activities involved.)

Enter project description in this box. Use Continuation Sheet, if necessary

The project proposes to construct a trail undercrossing on the south bank of the Fresno River at the Schnoor Avenue Bridge. The project includes a pedestrian/bike path, eight to ten ft in width, running on the river bed, adjacent to the south bank of the river. The project connects existing segments of the Vern McCullough Fresno River Trail.
(continuation on next page)

CEQA COMPLIANCE *(for State Projects only)*

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the following statements (See 14 CCR 15300 et seq.):

- If this project falls within exempt class 3, 4, 5, 6 or 11, it does not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law.
- There will not be a significant cumulative effect by this project and successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time.
- There is not a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- This project does not damage a scenic resource within an officially designated state scenic highway.
- This project is not located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Govt. Code § 65962.5 ("Cortese List").
- This project does not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

CALTRANS CEQA DETERMINATION (Check one)

Exempt by Statute. (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the above statements, the project is:

Categorically Exempt. Class ____. (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)

Categorically Exempt. General Rule exemption. [This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment (CCR 15061[b][3])]

Print Name: Environmental Branch Chief

Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

NEPA COMPLIANCE

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117, and based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the State has determined that this project:

- does not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment as defined by NEPA and is excluded from the requirements to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and
- has considered unusual circumstances pursuant to 23 CFR 771.117(b)
(<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/23cfr771.htm> - sec.771.117).

In non-attainment or maintenance areas for Federal air quality standards, the project is either exempt from all conformity requirements, or conformity analysis has been completed pursuant to 42 USC 7506(c) and 40 CFR 93.

CALTRANS NEPA DETERMINATION (Check one)

Section 6004: The State has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out, the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to Chapter 3 of Title 23, United States Code, Section 326 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated June 7, 2010, executed between the FHWA and the State. The State has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(3)

23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)()

Activity ____ listed in the MOU between FHWA and the State

Section 6005: Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the State has determined that the project is a CE under Section 6005 of 23 U.S.C. 327.

Kelly Hobbs
Print Name: Environmental Branch Chief

Jim Perrault
Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer

Kelly Hobbs
Signature

4/15/2011
Date

[Signature]
Signature

4/15/11
Date

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet. Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., air quality studies, documentation of conformity exemption, FHWA conformity determination if Section 6005 project; §106 commitments; §4(f); §7 results; Wetlands Finding; Floodplain Finding; additional studies; and design conditions). **Revised June 7, 2010**

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM
Continuation Sheet

06-City of Madera

RSTPLE 5157(078)

Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)

P.M/P.M.

E.A. (State project)

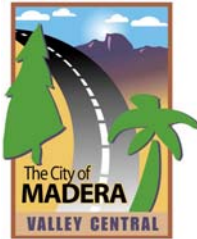
Federal-Aid Project No. (Local project)/ Proj. No.

Continued from page 1:

Biology: 1) The project requires Migratory Bird Provision, if the construction occurs in the nesting season, from February 15 through August 31. If construction activity must proceed during the nesting season, a pre-construction nesting bird survey must be conducted within 30-days of initial vegetation removal or ground disturbance. If no active nests are observed, construction activity will have no effect on nesting migratory birds and no further measures are required. If an active nest is observed within the project footprint and there is a potential for nest failure, a 250-ft buffer area around the nest should be avoided if construction activities must occur during the nesting season. A biological monitor will be required to monitor the nest to ensure the project related construction activities do not affect any active nests. Construction activity may occur within the buffer area at the discretion of the monitoring biologist.

2) The project requires 1600, 401 & 404 permits.

Water Quality: Any potential impact (erosion, accidental spills of Hazardous material, and disruption of natural drainage patterns) must be addressed, eliminated or minimized to the maximum extent practicable during the design and construction.



SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING OF THE MADERA CITY COUNCIL

JOINT MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

April 6, 2011

5:30 p.m. – Special Closed Session

6:00 p.m. – Closed Session

6:30 p.m. – Regular Session

Council Chambers
City Hall

5:30 p.m. CALL TO ORDER SPECIAL CLOSED SESSION

ROLL CALL: Mayor Robert L. Poythress
Mayor Pro Tem Brett Frazier
Council Member Sally J. Bomprezzi
Council Member Sam Armentrout
Council Member Gary L. Svanda

PUBLIC COMMENT: Closed Session

The first fifteen minutes of this portion of the meeting are reserved for members of the public to address the Council on Closed Session items listed on the Agenda. Speakers seeking to comment on other items are requested to make those comments during the Public Comment portion of the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes. Speakers will be asked to identify themselves and state the subject of their comment. The Council is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the Agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Council does not respond to public comment at this time.

A. CLOSED SESSION *Closed Session items not concluded prior to the Regular Session may be continued at the end of the Regular Session.*

A-1 Closed Session Announcement—City Attorney

A-2 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION. Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9.

Names of cases:

1. *Torres v. City of Madera, USDC Case No. CIV F 02-06385.*
2. *John Justin James v. Shant Shekhanian, et al.*
*Case No. 1:08-CV-01943-OWW- GSA**
3. *Stephen Michael Meyers v. Civil Service Commission, Case No. MCV050520*
4. *Stephen Michael Meyers v. City of Madera, Case No. MCV050645*
5. *Wayne Plumlee v. City of Madera, Case No. MCV048539*

6. *Stanley Clarke et al. v. City of Madera, Case No. 1:09 CV 01301 LJO DLB**
7. *Luis Fernando Torres et al v. City of Madera, Case No. MCV050478*
8. *Ascencion Molina v. City of Madera, Case No. MCV050718*
9. *Noriega v. City of Madera, Case No. MCV052444**
10. *Donna I Thomas and Eva Thomas v. City of Madera, Case No. CV001096*
11. *City of Madera v. Bravo, Case No. MCV052977*
12. *In Re Bankruptcy of Gottschalks, Inc., a Delaware Corporation, Delaware Bankruptcy Court Case No. 09-10157 (KJC)*
13. *Constar Supply v. City of Madera, Case No. MCV047729*
14. *CMC Steel Fabricators v. City of Madera, Case No. MCV049565*
15. *Sunset Designs v. City of Madera, Case No. MCV052624*
16. *Architectural Doors v. City of Madera, Case No. MCV055468*
17. *Provident Savings Bank, F.S.B. vs. City of Madera, Meadows Construction Services, Inc., et al., Riverside Superior Court, Case No. RIC 11003174*

A-3 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54956.9 in 9 cases.

A-4 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL--ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to §54956.9(b).

One case.

A-5 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS - Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6

Agency Designated Representatives: David Tooley and Wendy Silva

Employee Organizations: Madera Affiliated City Employees Association
Madera City Mid Management Group
Madera Police Officers' Association
Madera City Law Enforcement Mid Management Group
Management Employees

A-6 CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS—Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8.

Property: A portion of a parcel east of Granada Drive and North of Foxglove Way, abutting existing Storm Water Retention Basin #43550, APN#013-070-042.

Agency Negotiators: David Tooley, Dave Merchen & Keith Helmuth
Negotiating Parties: DMP Development Corporation, Inc.
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

A. RECONVENE CLOSED SESSION

A-7 Closed Session Report – City Attorney

RECESS

* * * * *

6:00 p.m. CALL TO ORDER CLOSED SESSION

**ROLL CALL: Mayor Robert L. Poythress
Mayor Pro Tem Brett Frazier
Council Member Sally J. Bomprezzi
Council Member Sam Armentrout
Council Member Gary L. Svanda**

A. CLOSED SESSION *Closed Session items not concluded prior to the Regular Session may be continued at the end of the Regular Session.*

There are no items for this section.

RECESS

* * * * *

6:30 p.m. CALL TO ORDER REGULAR SESSION

**ROLL CALL: Mayor Robert L. Poythress
Mayor Pro Tem Brett Frazier
Council Member Sally J. Bomprezzi
Council Member Sam Armentrout
Council Member Gary L. Svanda**

INVOCATION: Pastor Felix Vigil, Cedar Creek Retirement Village

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The first fifteen minutes of the meeting are reserved for members of the public to address the Council on items which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council. Speakers shall be limited to three minutes. Speakers will be asked to identify themselves and state the subject of their comment. If the subject is an item on the Agenda, the Mayor has the option of asking the speaker to hold the comment until that item is called. Comments on items listed as a Public Hearing on the Agenda should be held until the hearing is opened. The Council is prohibited by law from taking any action on matters discussed that are not on the Agenda, and no adverse conclusions should be drawn if the Council does not respond to public comment at this time.

PRESENTATIONS Allied Waste 4th of July Fireworks Display Donation

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

- B-1 Minutes – March 2, 2011, March 16, 2011
- B-2 Informational Only – Warrant Disbursement Report
- B-3 Consideration of a Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Airport Budget and Appropriating Funds to Specified Accounts (Report by Becky McCurdy)
- B-4 Consideration of a Claim by Meadows Construction Services, Inc. (Report by Wendy Silva)
- B-5 Written Response to the Recommendations in the 2010-2011 Madera County Grand Jury Final Report for Handicapped Access to Government Facilities (Report by Wendy Silva)
- B-6 Consideration of a Resolution Amending Administrative Policy No. 45: Injury and Illness Prevention Program (Report by Wendy Silva)
- B-7 Consider a Resolution Approving Amendment No. 1 to Agreement with AECOM USA, Inc. for Design Services for Sewer and Storm Drain Projects (Report by Keith Helmuth)
- B-8 Consideration of a Resolution Rescinding Resolution No. 11-61 and Approving a Revised Application for Transportation Development Act - Local Transportation Funds for FY 2010/11 with FY 2009/10 Carryover Balances (Report by Keith Helmuth)
- B-9 Consideration of a Claim by Joe Rodriguez (Report by Wendy Silva)
- B-10 Consideration of a Claim by Irene Serrano (Report by Wendy Silva)
- B-11 Consideration of a Resolution Approving Amendment No. 1 to Agreement with Giersch & Associates, Inc. for Professional Services for the Fourth Street Sewer Improvements (Q to K Street) to Include Improvements between K and I Streets

And

Consideration of a Resolution Amending the Sewer System Utility Fund Budget Appropriating Funds for Design, Construction, Inspection and Oversight of the 4th Street Sewer Project (Report by Keith Helmuth)

- B-12 Consideration of a Minute Order Approval of City Administrator Travel to CALED's 31st Conference (Report by David Tooley)

C. HEARINGS, PETITIONS, BIDS, RESOLUTIONS, ORDINANCES, AND AGREEMENT

- C-1 Continued Public Hearing to Consider the 2011/2012 Community Development Block Grant Action Plan Administrative Allocations

And

Consideration of the Community Development Block Grant Review and Advisory Committee Recommendations for Public Services and Public Improvements/Capital Projects (Report by Daniel Abdella)

- C-2 Public Hearing and Consideration of a Resolution Approving the Issuance of Bonds by the California Statewide Communities Development Authority for Financing the Acquisition and Construction of the Madera Family Apartments (Report by Daniel Abdella)
- C-3 Public Hearing and Consideration of the Introduction and First Reading of the Proposed Fireworks Ordinance and Revisions to Chapter 13 of the Madera Municipal Code Governing the Use, Storage, Sales, and Display of Fireworks within the City of Madera (Report by Steve Woodworth)
- C-4 Public Hearing and Consideration of Adoption by Resolution of an Initial Study and Negative Declaration Prepared for the City of Madera Fresno River Trail System Undercrossings at the Schnoor Avenue Bridge (Report by Dave Randall)

D. WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There are no items for this section.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

There are no items for this section.

F. COUNCIL REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT – Next regular meeting April 20, 2011

- ***The meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled, and the services of a translator can be made available. Requests for additional accommodations for the disabled, signers, assistive listening devices, or translators needed to assist participation in this public meeting should be made at least seventy two (72) hours prior to the meeting. Please call the Human Resources Office at (559) 661-5401. Those who are hearing impaired may call 711 or 1-800-735-2929 for TTY Relay Service.***
- ***Any writing related to an agenda item for the open session of this meeting distributed to the City Council less than 72 hours before this meeting is available for inspection at the City of Madera Office of the City Clerk, 205 W. 4th Street, Madera, California 93637 during normal business hours.***
- ***Para asistencia en Español sobre este aviso, por favor llame al (559) 661-5405.***

I, Sonia Alvarez, City Clerk for the City of Madera, declare under penalty of perjury that I posted the above City Council Agenda for the Special and Regular Meeting of April 6, 2011, near the front entrances of City Hall at 3:00 p.m. on April 1, 2011.

/s// Sonia Alvarez

SONIA ALVAREZ, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 11-85

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR CITY OF MADERA FRESNO RIVER TRAIL SYSTEM BRIDGE UNDERCROSSINGS AT SCHNOOR AVENUE.

WHEREAS, the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration, were prepared for the proposed Fresno River Trail System Undercrossings at the Schnoor Avenue Bridge; and

WHEREAS, the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration, were distributed for public review and comment to various local agencies and groups on March 3, 2011.

NOW THEREFORE THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MADERA HEREBY FINDS AND RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. The above recitals are true and correct.
2. Based upon the information included in the Initial Study and proposed Negative Declaration, and upon review and consideration of comments from responding agencies, the adoption of the Initial Study and Negative Declaration is in the best interest of the City of Madera, and the Council finds that in light of the whole record in this matter, there is no substantial evidence in the record that the project may have an effect on the environment, which cannot be avoided or minimized through project design and implementation of policies, regulations and/or standards to a less than significant level, and the Initial Study / Negative Declaration prepared for this project is the appropriate environmental document.
3. The City Council hereby adopts the Initial Study and Negative Declaration prepared for the proposed Fresno River Trail System Undercrossings at Schnoor Avenue Bridge.

* * * * *

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Madera this 6th day of April, 2011

by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Poythress, Frazier, Bompreszi, Armentrout, Svanda.

NOES: None.

ABSTENTIONS: None.

ABSENT: None.



ROBERT L. POYTHRESS, Mayor

ATTEST:



SONIA ALVAREZ, City Clerk



APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:
CITY ATTORNEY



By: RICHARD K. DENHALTER

4/7/11

FILED
MADERA COUNTY

2011024

2011 APR 22 AM 9:48

Notice of Determination

To: Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address: REBECCA MARTINEZ
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
COUNTY CLERK

From: Public Agency: City of Madera
Address: 205 West Fourth Street
Madera, CA 93637
Contact: Steve Greer, Senior Planner
Phone: 559.661.5436

County Clerk
County of Madera
209 West Yosemite Avenue
Madera, CA 93637

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Address: _____
Contact: _____
Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): _____ SCH#: 2011031011

Project Title: Fresno River Trail System Undercrossings at Schnoor Avenue Bridge

Project Location (include County): Schnoor Ave. & Trevor Way, City of Madera, County of Madera

Project Description:

The project proposes the construction of trail undercrossings on both the south and north bank of the Fresno River at the Schnoor Avenue Bridge. Each undercrossing will consist of a concrete pedestrian/bike path, ten feet in width, running into the river bed, under the bridge adjacent to bank. The project will connect existing segments of the Vern McCullough Fresno River Trail. The improvements will facilitate safer connection/access to the existing trail, where currently trail users must cross four lanes of traffic or use unimproved dirt path under either side of bridge to continue on trail system. The project is proposed in two phases. Phase 1 would construct the southerly undercrossing. Phase 2 would construct the northerly undercrossing.

This is to advise that the City of Madera has approved the above described project on

Lead Agency Responsible Agency

April 6, 2011 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:
(date)

- 1 The project will 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.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
- 3 Mitigation measures were were not made a condition of approval of the project.
- 4 A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was was not adopted for this project.
- 5 A statement of Overriding Considerations was was not adopted for this project.
- 6 Findings were were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Negative Declaration with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at:

City of Madera - Planning Department, 205 West Fourth Street - Madera, California 93637

Signature (Public Agency)  Title Senior Planner/Environmental Coordinator

Date April 6, 2011 Date Received for filing at OPR _____

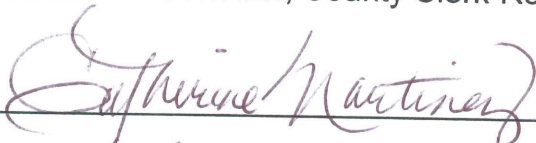
Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Revised 2005

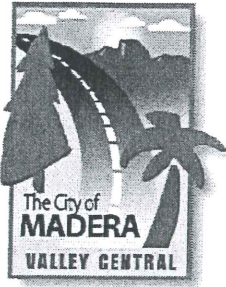
AFFIDAVIT OF FILING AND POSTING
BY THE COUNTY CLERK OF THE
COUNTY OF MADERA

I declare under penalty of perjury that the Notice of Determination attached hereto was received and posted on the date stamped thereon, as required by Section 21152 of the California Public Resources Code. Said notice remained posted for thirty (30) days from the filing date.

REBECCA MARTINEZ, County Clerk-Recorder

By: , Deputy

Date filed/posted: 04/22/2011 Date Removed: 05/24/2011



City of Madera

Planning Department
205 W. Fourth Street
Madera, CA 93637

For County Clerk Stamp

PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Fresno River Trail System Undercrossings at Schnoor Avenue Bridge

Date of Adoption: April 6, 2011

Filed with: County Clerk

Finding: The City of Madera has determined that the project described below will not have a significant effect on the environment following incorporation of avoidance and minimization measures; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Report is not required.

Lead Agency: City of Madera

Project Title, File No.: City of Madera; Class I Bike/Ped; Schnoor Bridge, Fresno River Trail

Project Location: Schnoor Avenue Bridge along both north and south bank of Fresno River, in the City of Madera, County of Madera, State of California.

Project Description: The project proposes the construction of trail undercrossings on both the south and north bank of the Fresno River at the Schnoor Avenue Bridge. Each undercrossing will consist of a concrete pedestrian/bike path, ten feet in width, running into the river bed, under the bridge adjacent to bank. The project will connect existing segments of the Vern McCullough Fresno River Trail. The improvements will facilitate safer connection/access to the existing trail, where currently trail users must cross four lanes of traffic or use unimproved dirt path under either side of bridge to continue on trail system. The project is proposed in two phases. Phase 1 would construct the southerly undercrossing. Phase 2 would construct the northerly undercrossing.

Environmental Assessment: The Initial Study for this project is available for review at the City of Madera, 205 W Fourth Street, Madera, CA 93637

Justification for Negative Declaration: The City of Madera has completed the preparation of an Initial Study for the project described above. The Initial Study did not identify any potentially significant environmental effects that would result from the proposed activity. **Adherence to existing City, State, and Federal policies, ordinances, regulations, and permitting requirements, as well as implementation of standard avoidance and minimization measures, would reduce potential impacts to the environment to a less than significant level.** Accordingly, approval of a Negative Declaration for the project is in compliance with CEQA Guidelines. The City finds that the proposed project can be adequately served by City public services including public utilities (sewer and water) and police and fire protection services. It will not have a negative aesthetic effect, will not affect any rare or endangered species of plant or animal or the habitat of such species, or interfere with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species. It will not adversely affect water quality, contaminate public water supplies, or cause substantial flooding, erosion, or siltation. It will not have a significant effect on air quality, transportation or circulation systems, noise, light and glare, and land use. No significant cumulative impacts will occur from this project.

Contact Person: Steven Greer, Senior Planner / Environmental Coordinator Phone: (559) 661-5436

Preparer's Signature: _____

Date: March 1, 2011