

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (N.C.S.)

**ADOPTION OF AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR
THE EAST LAUREL DRIVE PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, (CIP 9220)**

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2019, the Salinas Planning Commission held a public hearing for the City-initiated East Laurel Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project (CIP Project #9220) and approved a resolution to recommend the Salinas City Council adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) and approve the remaining agreements and actions necessary to complete this project.

WHEREAS, on January 21, 2020, the Salinas City Council held a public hearing for the City-initiated East Laurel Drive Pedestrian Improvement Project (CIP Project #9220), which is proposed to enhance pedestrian safety and increase connectivity, mobility, and access for transit users and pedestrians. The City-initiated project would allow for pedestrian, vehicular, and trail improvements along the East Laurel Dr. from Constitution Blvd. to the northwest to North Sanborn Rd. to the southeast, and on Constitution Blvd. from East Laurel Dr. to approximately 375 feet south of Manchester Circle; and

WHEREAS, the City Council weighed the evidence presented at said public meeting, including the Council Report which is on file at the Public Works Department together with the record of the environmental review; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Initial Study and related environmental documents including the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program as attached as Exhibit B.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Salinas City Council affirms the CEQA findings and adopt the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Salinas City Council adopts the following findings as the basis for its determination, and that the foregoing recitations are true and correct, and are included herein by reference as findings:

1. The City Council hereby finds that a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared with respect to the project in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended, and the guidelines promulgated thereunder. Further, this Council has independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the Initial Study and related environmental documents, together with the comments received during the public review process. On the basis of the whole record before it, the City Council finds that, with the standard conditions of approval and the proposed mitigation measures, there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the MND reflects the Council's independent judgment and analysis.

In accordance with CEQA, an Initial Study was prepared to assess project impacts associated with the East Laurel Drive Pedestrian Improvements Project. Detailed project-specific reports related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, biological resources, cultural and paleontological resources, geology and soils, and hazardous materials were prepared and analyzed. The project does not have the potential to have a significant adverse impact on wildlife resources as defined in the State Fish and Game Code, either individually or cumulatively. The project is not located on a site listed on any Hazardous Waste Site List compiled by the State pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code. The Initial Study concluded that with the incorporation of Standard Conditions of Approval and Mitigation Measures, there were no potentially significant impacts related to the proposed project.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) Exhibit A to adopt the IS/MND was published on August 20, 2019. The NOI was published in The Monterey Herald newspaper on August 20, 2019. The NOI was mailed to property owners and occupants within a 300-foot radius of the project site. The NOI was sent to responsible agencies and interested parties and posted at the County Clerk's Office on August 20, 2019. The IS/MND was posted on the City's website and was available at the City of Salinas Public Works Department and at the John Steinbeck and Cesar Chavez libraries. The City received three comment letters on the draft IS/MND, and responses to the comment letters are contained in the Public Works Department staff report (Exhibit D).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Salinas City Council affirms the CEQA findings and approves the IS/MND and MMRP and required permits and actions necessary to complete the project.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 21st day of January 2020, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

Joe Gunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Barajas, City Clerk

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Notice of Intent

Exhibit B: Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration; Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Exhibit C: Initial Study Appendices

Exhibit D: Responses to Comments on IS/MND