



**RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT AGENCY
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ALLEN ISHIDA
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

PHILLIP A. COX
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: December 17, 2013

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Celeste Perez PHONE: (559) 624-7010

SUBJECT: Authorization to Bid Road 56 Bridge Over Packwood Creek

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the Categorical Exemption prepared pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Road 56 Bridge Replacement over Packwood Creek;
2. Approve the Plans, Special Provisions, Proposal and Contract for the construction of the Road 56 Bridge Replacement over Packwood Creek;
3. Authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the Plans;
4. Approve the advertisement for bids of the Road 56 Bridge Replacement over Packwood Creek; and
5. Set the bid opening date for February 12, 2014 at 2:00 PM

SUMMARY:

The Road 56 Packwood Creek Bridge Project (Project) is part of the County's Bridge Improvement Program and is located on Road 56 approximately ½ mile south of Avenue 256, northwest of the City of Tulare. This bridge has received a high priority for replacement because it is a timber bridge that requires significant maintenance. This is project 1400-13 in the Resource Management Agency's Capital Improvement Program.

The existing structure is a single lane, 2-span timber bridge, approximately 28-ft

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long and 16-ft wide. This bridge was originally constructed in 1963 and has been flagged structurally deficient with a sufficiency rating of 39.3 out of 100 based on biennial inspections by Caltrans Division of Structure Maintenance staff. Sufficiency rating is an overall rating of a bridge's fitness for duty based on Caltrans staff review of many field and empirical factors. Structurally Deficient is a ranking established to describe a bridge that has one or more structural defects that require attention. This status does not indicate the severity of the defect, but rather that a flaw is present. The Road 56 Packwood Creek bridge has received a low sufficiency rating and a structurally deficient status because of the use of wood in the structure it is prone to termite damage, resulting in structural defects in the timber beams and supporting elements. County crews regularly perform repair and replacement of the effected timber elements to maintain the bridge in a safe and usable condition.

The replacement structure will consist of a two-cell cast-in-place box culvert, with each cell being 8-ft tall by 14-ft wide. The box culvert will be 36-ft long and 30.5-ft wide, accommodating two 10-ft lanes and 7-ft shoulders. A box culvert was determined to be most economical structure type for this crossing, and is consistent with the type of structures located upstream and downstream of Packwood Creek in the vicinity of this project. The 34-ft clear width was selected to meet current American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) minimums, farm equipment widths, and clear recovery zone criteria. The "clear recovery zone" is the area adjacent to the traveled way that ideally is kept clear of fixed objects for errant vehicles that leave the traveled way. For this project, AASHTO recommends a "clear recovery zone" of up to 6-feet.

County engineering staff understands from conversations with farm owners adjacent to the bridge that farm equipment that will cross the new structure can be up to 32-feet wide. Caltrans allows for new bridge or culvert widths utilizing Federal Highway Bridge Program funds to be set based on local conditions, including farm equipment access. The 34-foot clear width will allow for farm equipment to cross the new structure, and will also allow the bridge barriers to be set outside the clear recovery zone such that additional protection at the end of the bridge barriers is not required. Typically, this additional protection consists of 62-foot long metal beam guard rails at each of the bridge approaches that would block the existing canal maintenance roads and would require additional right-of-way.

This Project has been determined to be Categorically Exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements under Section 15301(c) of the CEQA guidelines. The Notice of Exemption was filed with the Tulare County Clerk/Recorder on July 24, 2012.

This Project has also been determined to be Categorically Excluded from National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements by the California Department of Transportation acting as the delegated authority for the Federal Highway Administration pursuant to Chapter 3 of Title 23, United States Code, Section 326 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated June 7, 2007 executed between Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the State.

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The Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase for this project is complete and has been approved by Caltrans. No additional right-of-way is needed for this project. Federal authorization to proceed (E-76) with the construction phase of this project was received on October 31, 2013.

Construction is anticipated to begin after the irrigation season in September of 2014 and completed by November of 2014, prior to the start of the flood season. Due to the short construction window available, the project will be bid early with the contract documents specifying that construction will not be allowed to commence until the end of the irrigation season. Should there be any irregularities in the bids received, there will be sufficient time to re-bid the project if it were necessary, without missing the next available construction window.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The engineers estimate for construction of the Project is \$466,000 which includes a 10% contingency and construction engineering costs.

County Road Funds will be used to fund the construction and construction engineering phase of the project, which will be fully reimbursed by Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funds for a not to exceed amount of \$466,000. This project qualifies for 100% reimbursement through the HBP and "Toll Credit" Program, which through Section 120(j) of Title 23, Highways of the United States Code allows for the non-federal share of a project's cost to be met through a "soft match" of toll credits that are earned by the State when they fund capital transportation investment with toll revenues earned on existing toll facilities; bridge projects funded by the HBP that are not on a federal aid route qualify to receive toll credits in lieu of a local match, and with Road 56 not being a federal aid route, no local match is required for this project. There is no net cost to the County General Fund.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

This Project will enhance the safety and security of the public by improving the transportation infrastructure for both the general population in the region and the motorists using this facility.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:

Britt L. Fussel Digitally signed by Britt L. Fussel
DN: cn=Britt L. Fussel, o, ou=RMA,
email=bfussel@co.tulare.ca.us,
c=US
Date: 2013.12.04 07:15:15 -08'00' 12/4/13

Britt L. Fussel, P.E. Date
Assistant Director—Public Works
County Surveyor

BLF:MLB:klm:br

Cc: Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
County Administrative Office (2)

Attachments: Attachment A – Vicinity Map
Attachment B – Bid Documents (On File with the Clerk to the Board)

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF AUTHORIZATION TO)
BID ROAD 56 BRIDGE OVER PACKWOOD) Resolution No. _____
CREEK)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD DECEMBER 17, 2013, BY
THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

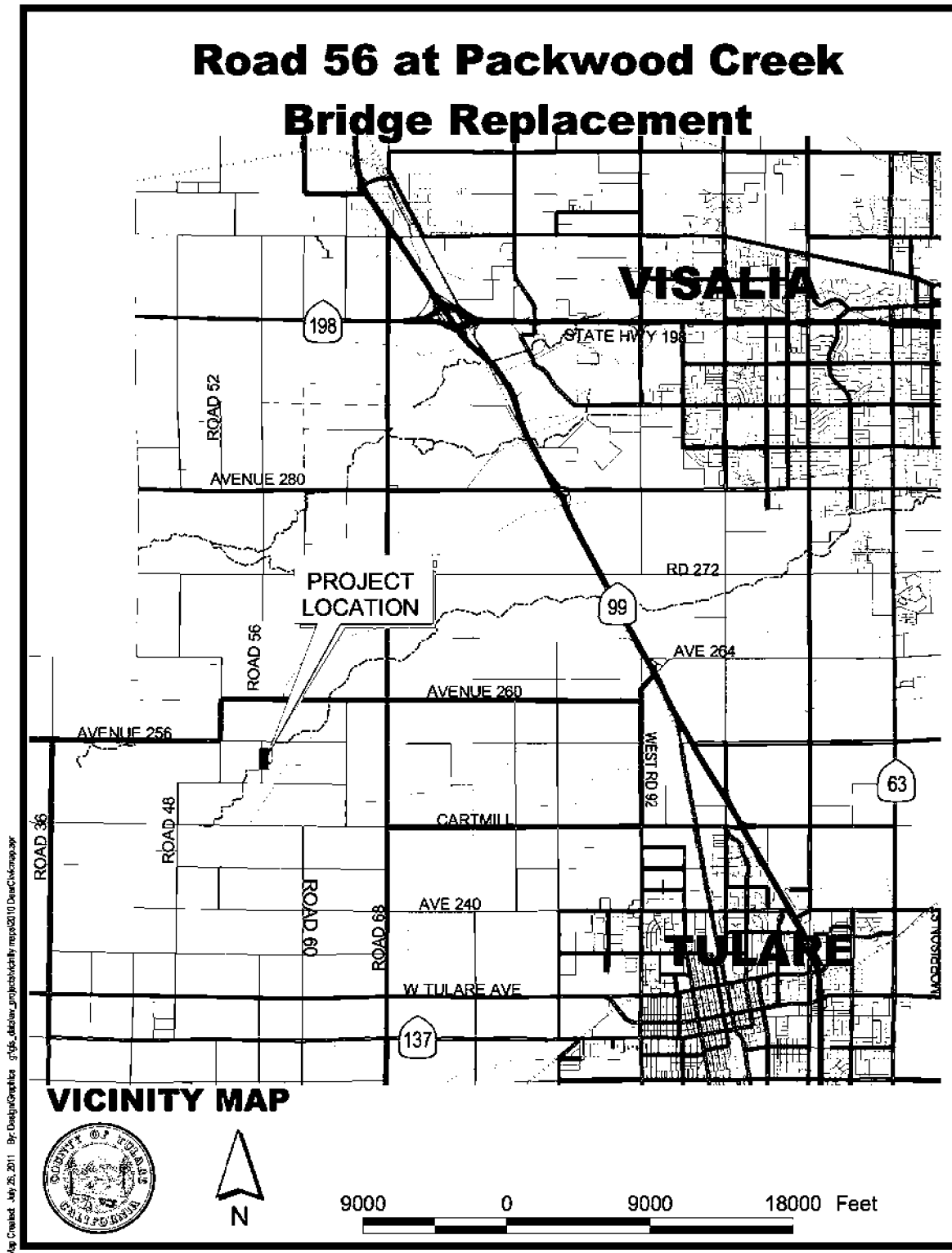
ATTEST: JEAN M. ROUSSEAU
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

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ATTACHMENT A



VICINITY MAP