

**Initial Study/Mitigated Negative  
Declaration for the  
East 8th Street Corridor  
Improvements Project (ER-07-01)**

*Prepared by:*

City of Chico

P.O. 3420

411 Main Street

Chico, CA 95927

Contact: Tracy R. Bettencourt

*Consultant:*

Jones & Stokes

2600 V Street

Sacramento, CA 95818-1914

Contact: Claire Bromund

916/737-3000

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Jones & Stokes. 2007. *Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the East 8th Street Corridor Improvements Project*. August. (J&S 06909.06.)  
Sacramento, CA. Prepared for Nolte Associates, Inc., Sacramento, CA.

## **Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration**

The City of Chico has reviewed the proposed project described below to determine whether it could have a significant effect on the environment as a result of project completion. “Significant effect on the environment” means a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

**Name of Project:** East 8th Street Corridor Improvements Project

**Project File Number:** ER-07-01

**Project Description:** The project implements the City of Chico Scenic Street Design Guidelines for East 8th Street and consists of the reconstruction of approximately 1.5 miles of East 8th Street from Fir Street to Bruce Road. The reconstruction will include the installation of the following: a curvilinear roadway with bulbouts and other traffic calming elements, separated bicycle and pedestrian facilities, an underground storm drain system, expansion of the sanitary sewer main line within East 8<sup>th</sup> Street, and the planting of additional trees and low-maintenance vegetation to enhance the aesthetics of the corridor.

**Project Location and Assessor’s Parcel Number:** City of Chico, East 8th Street between Fir Street and Bruce Road.

**Mailing Address and Phone Number of Contact Person:** Tracy R. Bettencourt, City of Chico, P.O. 3420, 411 Main Street, Chico, CA 95927, 530/879-6903.

### **Findings**

The City of Chico finds the project described above will not have a significant effect on the environment in that the attached initial study identifies one or more potentially significant effects on the environment for which the project applicant, before public release of this Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, has made or agrees to make project revisions that clearly mitigate the effects to a less-than-significant level. The City of Chico further finds that there is no substantial evidence that this project may have a significant effect on the environment.

### **Mitigation Measures Included in the Project to Reduce Potentially Significant Effects to a Less-Than-Significant Level**

#### ***Resource Topic:***

Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards/Hazardous Materials, Hydrology/Water Quality, Noise, Open Space/Recreation, Public Services, Transportation/Circulation, and Utilities.

**Public Review Period**

Before 5 p.m. on September 12, 2007, any person may:

- (1) Review the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND); and
- (2) Submit written comments regarding the information, analysis, and mitigation measures in the Proposed MND to the contact person above.

Name: Tracy R. Bettencourt, AICP

Title: Senior Planner

Circulated on: 8/13/07-9/12/07

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADL	aerially deposited lead
ARB	California Air Resources Board
BAT	best available technology
BCT	best conventional technology
BMP	best management practice
CAA	federal Clean Air Act
CAAQS	California ambient air quality standards
Cal-OSHA	California Occupational Safety and Health Administration
CATS	Chico Area Transit System
CCAA	California Clean Air Act
Central Valley RWQCB	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFD	Chico Fire Department
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CHRIS	California Historical Resources Information System
City	City of Chico
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalent Level
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CUSD	Chico Unified School District
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	Decibel
dBA	A-Weighted Decibel
dbh	diameter at breast height
DFG	California Department of Fish and Game
DMG	California Division of Mines and Geology
DTSC	California Department of Toxic Substance Control
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EIR	environmental impact report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Map
FR	Federal Register
GCAPCD	Glenn County Air Pollution Control District
General Construction Permit	NPDES General Permit for Construction Activities
IS	initial study
$L_{dn}$	Day-Night Level
$L_{eq}$	Equivalent Sound Level
$L_{max}$ and $L_{min}$	Maximum and Minimum Sound Levels
LOS	Level of Service
$L_{xx}$	Exceedance Sound Level
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MEA	Master Environmental Assessment
MEP	maximum extent practicable
mgd	million gallons per day
MMP	mitigation monitoring program
mph	miles per hour
MS4 permit	NPDES General Permit for Municipal Small Storm Sewer Systems
msl	mean sea level
NAAQS	national ambient air quality standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
ND/MND	negative declaration/mitigated negative declaration
NEIC	Northeast Information Center
$NO_2$	nitrogen dioxide
NOI	notice of intent
NOP	notice of preparation
$NO_x$	oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NSVAB	Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin
$O_3$	ozone
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric
PID	portable photoionization detector
Planning Services Director	City of Chico Planning Services Director
PM10	particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter
PM2.5	particulates 2.5 microns or less in diameter [
ppv	peak particle velocity
PQ	Public/Quasi Public Facilities)
PRC	Public Resources Code
Project	East 8th Street Corridor Improvements Project

R1	Low Density Residential
R2	Medium Density Residential
R3	Medium-High Density Residential
RM	Resource Management
ROG	reactive organic gases
RS-20	Suburban Residential 20,000 square feet minimum
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
Secondary Open Space	OS2
SO <sub>2</sub>	sulfur dioxide
SOI	sphere of influence
SR	State Route
SWPPP	storm water pollution prevention plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TCP	Traffic Control Plan
the Project Area	the East 8th Street corridor from the intersection of East 8th Street and Fir Street to Bruce Road
UBC	Uniform Building Code
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VELB	valley elderberry longhorn beetle
VMT	vehicle miles traveled
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirement
WPCP	Water Pollution Control Plant



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The City of Chico (City) proposes to reconstruct the East 8th Street corridor from the intersection of East 8th Street and Fir Street to Bruce Road (the Project Area) to support increased multimodal transportation safety. The project would implement corridor improvements as identified in the *City of Chico Scenic Street Design Guidelines for East 8th Street* (City of Chico 1999). Corridor improvements include creating a meandering effect in the roadway, constructing separate bicycle and pedestrian facilities to enhance multimodal safety, installing a new underground storm drain system that would connect to an existing outfall at Little Chico Creek, and expanding the sanitary sewer main line within East 8th Street.

## Purpose of the Initial Study

This initial study/mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) has been prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed East 8th Street Corridor Improvements Project (Project) as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Project includes five corridor segments divided into two construction phases, as described in Chapter 2, “Project Description.” Because CEQA requires the whole of the Project to be evaluated for environmental impacts, this IS/MND includes an analysis of environmental impacts for both phases within the entire corridor.

The City is the lead agency for the Project. An IS is an informational document used in the local planning and decision-making process. It is not the purpose of the IS to recommend approval or denial of the Project. The City has prepared this IS to determine whether the Project could have a significant effect on the environment. The purposes of an IS are to:

- provide the lead agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) or negative declaration/mitigated negative declaration (ND/MND);
- enable the lead agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is prepared, thereby enabling the project to qualify for an ND/MND; and
- document the factual basis for the finding, in an ND or MND, that a project would not have a significant effect on the environment.

Based on the findings in this IS, the City has determined that the appropriate environmental clearance document for the Project is an MND because mitigation measures have been included to reduce potentially significant effects of the Project to less-than-significant levels. As the lead agency, the City is required to circulate an MND for public review before adopting it. The public review period must be of sufficient length to allow members of the public to comment on the proposed findings before the MND is adopted. Also, if one or more state agencies will be a responsible or trustee agency or will exercise jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by the Project, the lead agency must send copies of the MND to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to these agencies.

This document is being circulated for a 30-day review period. If comments on this document do not identify any significant environmental concerns, the City intends to adopt an MND for the Project. If significant environmental concerns are identified during the review process, the document will serve as the notice of preparation (NOP) of an EIR. Before approving the Project, the City of Chico Planning Services Director (Planning Services Director) must consider the proposed MND together with any comments received during the public review process. If the Planning Services Director finds, on the basis of the IS and any comments received, that the IS adequately addresses the environmental issues associated with the Project and that no substantial evidence indicates that the Project would have a significant effect on the environment, the MND will be adopted.

## Scope of This Document

This document evaluates the Project's impacts on the following resources and topics:

- aesthetics,
- air quality,
- biological resources,
- cultural resources,
- geology and soils,
- hazards and hazardous materials,
- hydrology and water quality,
- land use and planning,
- noise,

- open space and recreation,
- public services,
- population and housing,
- transportation and circulation, and
- utilities.

## Impact Terminology

The following terms are used in this document to describe the severity, or *significance*, of impacts that would result from the Project.

- The Project is considered to have *no impact* if the analysis concludes that the Project would not affect a particular resource.
- An impact is considered *less than significant* if the analysis concludes that the Project would cause no substantial adverse change to the environment and that impacts would not require mitigation.
- An impact is considered *less than significant with mitigation incorporated* if the analysis concludes that the proposed Project would cause no substantial adverse change to the environment with the inclusion of mitigation measures to which the applicant has agreed.

## Organization of This Document

The content and format of this document, described below, are designed to meet the requirements of CEQA.

- Chapter 1, “Introduction,” identifies the purpose, scope, and terminology of the document.
- Chapter 2, “Project Description,” contains a detailed description of the project location, features, and characteristics.
- Chapter 3, “Initial Study,” contains an evaluation of the environmental impacts of the project.
- Chapter 4, “References Cited,” lists the documents and individuals consulted during the preparation of this document.
- Chapter 5, “List of Preparers,” identifies the individuals involved in preparing this document and their areas of technical specialty.

Technical appendices are found at the end of this document.

# Mitigation Monitoring

A mitigation monitoring program (MMP) will be required for all mitigation measures adopted by the Planning Services Director as conditions of the Project.