CITY OF FRESNO

ADDENDUM TO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

NO. EA-13-003

Addendum prepared in accordance with Section 15164 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines

The full Initial Study and the Master Environmental Impact Report No. 10130 are on file in the Development and Resource Management Department, Fresno City Hall, 3rd Floor 2600 Fresno Street Fresno, California 93721 (559) 621-8277

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NUMBER:

EA-13-003

No posting necessary, pursuant to Section 15164 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines

APPLICANT:

City of Fresno Department of Public Works Capital Management Division 2600 Fresno Street Fresno, CA 93721

PROJECT LOCATION:

Both sides of Santa Fe Avenue between North Blythe and West Palo Alto Avenues, City and County of Fresno, CA.

Site Latitude: 36.833476 N / Longitude: -119.878586 W Township 13 S Range 19 E, Section 2 Mount Diablo Base & Meridian

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

On September 18, 2013, the City of Fresno Development and Resource Management Director approved Environmental Assessment (EA) Application No. EA-13-003 for a capital improvement project to widen Santa Fe Avenue between North Blythe Avenue and West Palo Alto Avenue (approximately a ½-mile segment) from 2 to 4 vehicle travel lanes. The proposed scope of work at the time included addition of one vehicle travel lane and one bike lane in each direction, construction of a median island, installation of new curb and gutter on both sides of the street, undergrounding of a portion of the existing Fresno Irrigation District Bullard canal #124 and right of way acquisitions as necessary to facilitate the project. The proposed project would eliminate the bottleneck caused by this narrower portion of roadway and bring this portion of Santa Fe Avenue into conformance with its planned use as a 4-lane arterial and is consistent with the Bullard Community Plan and the Fresno General Plan.

Two new project elements have been added to the project since the original EA was completed: a water main with fire hydrant and landscape service connection, and a left turn pocket. Each of these improvements are described below:\

Water Main: Approximately 600 lineal feet of 12-inch water main with one fire hydrant and one landscape irrigation service connection will be installed in the street right-of-way between West Sierra

and North Blythe Avenues, which lies within the original street widening project. The purpose of the water main is to connect two "dead end" segments in the water grid and create a looped system. The city's standards for the water grid support looped systems to avoid stagnation of water for health and safety reasons. The water main would be installed in an area already proposed for grading and disturbance by the initial project described in EA-13-003. The fire hydrant would enhance public safety. All General Plan MEIR mitigation measures would apply to the project, including those applicable to grading and discovery of subsurface cultural resources.

It should be noted that this addition of water main and fire hydrant would not be growth inducing, as they would be installed along the frontage of one 3.65 acre property (APN 507-320-001) that is already served by water on two other frontages (North Blythe and West Sierra Avenues). Both endpoints of the water line connect to the existing water grid within existing city limits and would not extend service beyond any urban service boundaries. See attached maps for location and plans for the water line.

Left Turn Pocket: A left turn pocket has been added to the project along southbound Santa Fe Avenue, approximately 788 feet south of Palo Alto Avenue. The left turn pocket will serve to access two properties on the east side of Santa Fe Avenue to provide access to North Pointe church. The design of the turn pocket complies with the city's traffic safety standards and no traffic safety impacts would result from the inclusion of this feature in the project.

Since the proposed project does not create environmental impacts beyond the scope of the Fresno General Plan MEIR, it may be determined that: (1) The project falls within the scope of Environmental Assessment No. EA-13-003; (2) No substantial changes are proposed in the project which require major revisions to the previous environmental finding due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; (3) No substantial changes will occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken; and, (4) No new information, which was not known and could not have been known, at the time the environmental finding for Environmental Assessment No. EA-13-003 was adopted, has become available.

Therefore, the City of Fresno has determined that an addendum to Environmental Assessment No. EA-13-003 is appropriate given that none of the conditions described in Section 15162 of the CEQA Guideline calling for preparation of a subsequent Finding of Conformity have occurred; and, new information added is only for the purposes of providing minor changes or additions, in accordance with Section 15164 of the CEQA Guidelines.

Section 15162 provides that no subsequent environmental analysis shall be prepared for that project unless the lead agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in the light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

FINDINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION 15162 OF THE CEQA GUIDELINES.

(1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which would require major revisions of the previous Finding of Conformity due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;

Finding (1):

Environmental Assessment No. EA-13-003 evaluated and assessed potential impacts related to the widening of Santa Fe Avenue consistent with the Fresno General Plan. Furthermore, considering the proposed addition of the installation of approximately 600 lineal feet of a 12-inch water main and one fire hydrant within the Santa Fe Avenue right of way, and the addition of a left turn pocket, no substantial changes are proposed from those previously evaluated which would require a major revision, and the proposed project will not involve new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified effects.

(2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous Mitigated Negative Declaration due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or,

Finding (2):

Substantial changes have not occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken.

(3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous Finding of Conformity was adopted, shows any of the following: (A) The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous Finding of Conformity; (B) Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous environmental assessment; (C) Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project; and, (D) Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous environmental assessment, would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Finding (3):

No new information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous Finding of Conformity was adopted, has become available.

ADDENDUM PREPARED BY:

Sophia Pagoulatos, Supervising Planner

DATE: September 9, 2015

SUBMITTEQ BY:

Sophia Pagoulatos, Planning Manager DEVELOPMENT & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DEPARTMENT

Attachments:

1. Schematic Drawing

- 2. Water Main Plans
- 3. Left Turn Pocket Plan





