

TO: James L. App, City Manager
FROM: Meg Williamson, Interim Public Works Director
SUBJECT: 13th Street Bridge
Environmental Mitigation Implementation
DATE: February 17, 2004

NEEDS: For the City Council to direct staff to perform pre-construction compliance of the mitigation requirements for the 13th Street Bridge Widening project

- FACTS:**
1. On July 18, 2001, the City Council held a public hearing to evaluate and publicly discuss the final design concept. The design concepts the Council focused on met a three-fold standard: congestion relief, public safety, and fiscal responsibility. The Council heard comments, approved URS' conceptual design, and directed staff to prepare construction documents (plans, specifications and estimates) for the project.
 2. The approved design calls for widening the bridge to accommodate four travel lanes (two each way), two turn lanes, two bike lanes, and sidewalks on both sides. Beyond the bridge limits, adjacent streets (North and South River Roads, Creston Road, and Union Road) will also be widened to maximize flow at the intersection and relieve traffic congestion. The design includes ornamental barriers and lights along the bridge, consistent with downtown design elements and those installed along the Veterans Memorial Bridge.
 3. The 13th Street Bridge Widening and Roadway Improvements project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and on December 17, 2002, the City Council adopted the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project.
 4. The adopted Negative Declaration identified the need to remove several trees, including oak trees (see Figure 8 attached). The purpose of this staff report is regarding the need to remove several trees at the northwest quadrant of the project and one 30-inch diameter oak tree (Tree #14 on Figure 8) prior to beginning the construction of the bridge.

ANALYSIS &

CONCLUSION: The adopted Negative Declaration requires the City to conduct all tree removal activities outside of the prime nesting season of raptors (between March 1 and August 15). Construction of the bridge is scheduled to begin this summer. The first phase of the work is to widen the bridge within the Salinas River channel and would require that the trees be removed at the northwest quadrant, including the 30-inch diameter oak tree (see Exhibit 'A') at this time.

POLICY

REFERENCE: Adopted design for the 13th Street Bridge.

Adopted Final Mitigated Negative Declaration

FISCAL

IMPACT: Costs to remove the trees will be funded from the adopted budget for the 13th Street Bridge.

- OPTIONS:**
- a. For the City Council to direct staff to remove several trees (including a 30-inch diameter oak tree) as shown on Exhibit 'A'.
 - b. Amend, modify or reject the above options.

Attachments (2)

- 1) Figure 8 from the Final Negative Declaration
- 2) Exhibit 'A'

Report prepared by:
Ditas Esperanza, P.E.
Capital Projects Engineer



January 22, 2004

Ms. Ditas Esperanza
City of Paso Robles
1000 Spring Street,
Paso Robles, CA 93446

Re: 13th Street Pre-Construction Permitting Compliance and Tree Removal Recommendations

Dear Ditas,

As you know the 13th Street Improvement project design is almost complete and we're fast approaching the advertising phase of the project! Construction should begin June 1st after City award and "Notice To Proceed" scheduled for late May. There are a couple of items in the approved environmental document and permits that we've discussed and that I'd like to pass along action item recommendations on to ensure timely commencement of construction and to minimize the risk of potentially costly delays to the beginning of construction.

The environmental document identified the construction season in the channel to be allowed between June 1st and November 30th (Mitigation Requirement BIO-1) and avoidance of tree removal activities during the prime nesting season for raptors between March 1 and August 15 (BIO-6). If raptors do nest within trees adjacent to the project site then construction may be delayed until after the prime nesting season. The first phase of construction is identified as the work to start the bridge widening within the channel. This phase is going to be hard to construct in one summer season even with the whole of June to November. If the first phase is delayed due to raptor nesting it may cause significant extension of the overall construction period, as well as difficulties in staging and traffic handling of conceptualized stages. Therefore we recommend that the City remove the trees adjacent to the existing bridge and along the "White" property prior to late February to decrease the chances that the beginning of construction in June will be delayed (please see the attached exhibit to this letter).

Additionally, the environmental document requires that any nests under the existing bridge be removed and that netting be placed under the existing bridge to prevent swallow or other birds or bats protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 from nesting/breeding under the bridge during construction activities (BIO-5). We want to remind the City of this action and that it also is to take place prior to late February.

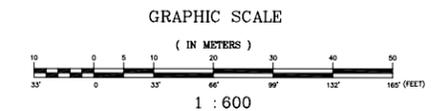
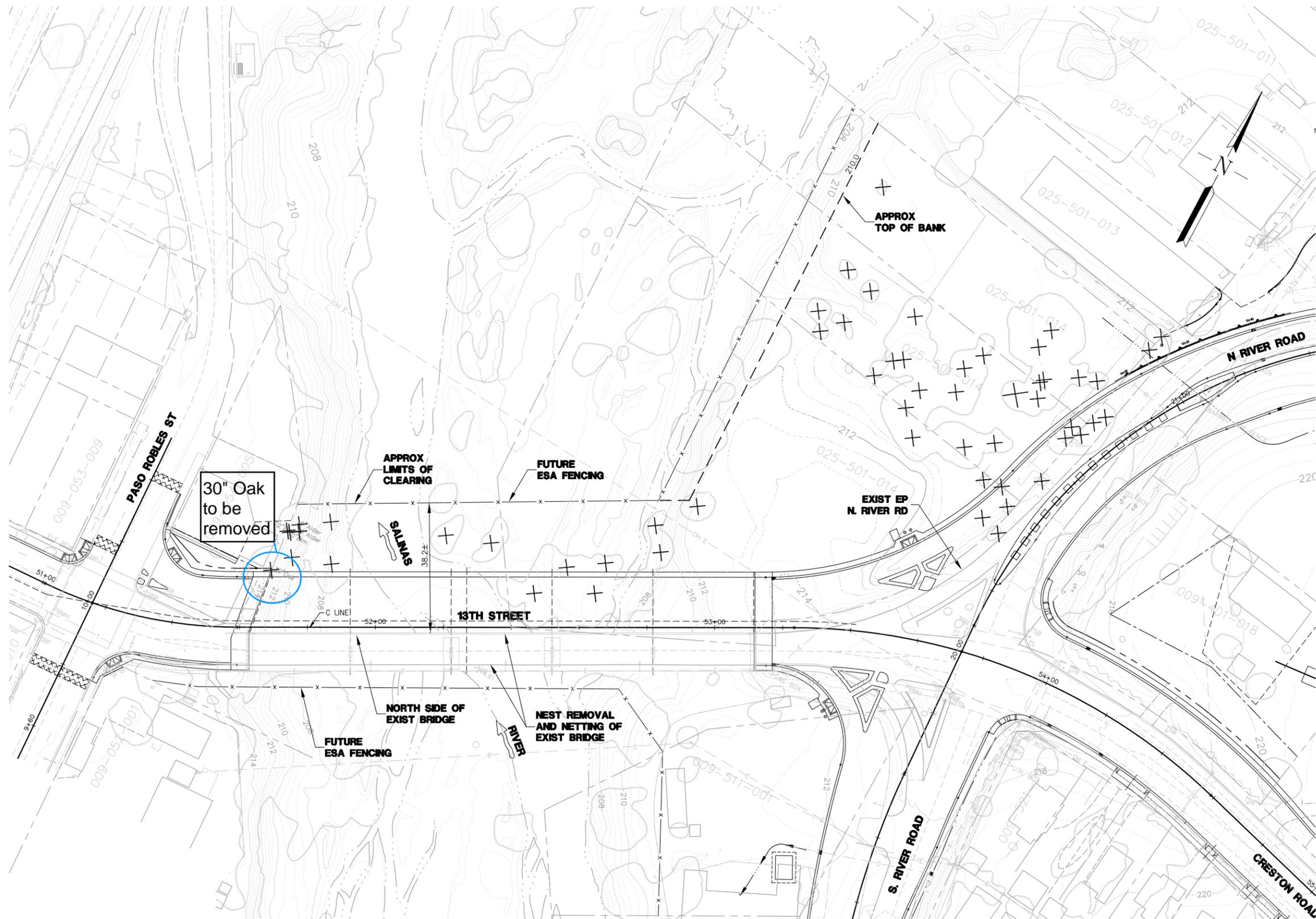
Please feel free to call me at 916-784-3900 if you have any additional questions or concerns, thanks!

Sincerely,

URS Corporation

Jorge Aguilar
Project Manager

c: File



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**PRE CONSTRUCTION PERMITTING
 CONDITION COMPLIANCE AND
 TREE REMOVAL PLAN
 13 TH STREET BRIDGE WIDENING**
 SCALE 1 : 600

JANUARY 21, 2004
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