

Mono County Community Development Department

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Date: January 5, 2015
To: Interested individuals
From: Gerry Le Francois, Principal Planner
Re: Convict Lake Road Improvement Project - Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY and INTENT TO ADOPT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Mono County Community Development Department, as lead agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and supporting Initial Study for Convict Lake Road Improvement Project and is providing public notice.

Project Title: Convict Lake Road Improvement Project

Project Location: Convict Lake Road and Convict Lake Trail are located in the Inyo National Forest (INF) in the southern part of Mono County and along the eastern flanks of the Sierra Nevada mountains in California. As shown in the Regional Location Map, the project area is located just south of Highway 395 (near the Mammoth/Yosemite Airport), about 5 miles west of Crowley Lake and about 5 miles east of the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Project Description: Proposed road improvements involve resurfacing, rehabilitation and restoration work for 2.75 miles of Convict Lake Road. The project elements are all located along the existing roadway, and include the following:

- From Mile Post [MP] 0.00 to 1.90, widen the existing roadway to accommodate two 11' travel lane, a 5' shoulder adjacent to the southbound (uphill) travel lane, and a 1' shoulder adjacent to the northbound travel lane, for a total paved width of 28'.
- From MP 1.90 to 2.20, widen the existing roadway to accommodate two 11' travel lanes and 3' shoulders, for a total paved width of 28'.
- From MP 2.20 to 2.75, repair the existing 22' of roadway within the existing alignment.
- Rehabilitate the existing pullouts.
- Grade the ditch, recondition the shoulder, reconstruct the embankment, and pulverize the existing pavement and paving.
- Scale the existing slopes with unstable rock.
- Replace the wooden pedestrian bridge adjacent to the existing vehicular bridge with a wider concrete pedestrian bridge and sidewalk. The new pedestrian bridge will include pedestrian railings to meet current safety standards.
- Retrofit the existing pedestrian railing on the lake side to meet current safety standards.
- Replace old or damaged drainage culverts and extend culverts to accommodate the wider roadway.
- Replace the existing creosote timber walls at the parking area along the lake with rockery walls. Install new pedestrian railings for safety.
- Upgrade regulatory warning signs & guardrails to meet *Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices* standards.

Convict Lake Trail Improvements

Proposed trail improvements focus on removal of existing pavement, addition of a new base course, and overlay the trail with a new asphalt concrete pavement section. The trail improvements will maintain the existing horizontal and vertical alignment along the majority of the trail with minor adjustments to the horizontal alignment. To meet ADA standards, trail realignments are proposed at the south end of the trail, for a distance of approximately 400'. Improvements also include repairing or replacing minor drainage structures, slope armoring to reduce erosion, construction of two sets of stairs, and addition of rest areas as necessary in order to meet ADA standards per Forest Service Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines and the Trail Accessibility Guidelines. Because the proposed project improves the trail largely along its existing alignment, limited vegetation trimming may be required.

There will be a 30-day public review period. Any comments concerning the findings of the proposed Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration must be submitted in writing and received by Mono County no later than 5 p.m. on **January 30**. Comments received will be considered by Mono County prior to certification of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and action on the proposed project. Mono County will adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration on February 3, 2015. The Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and related documents can be viewed online at: <http://monocounty.ca.gov/lrc/page/resources> and scroll down to supporting documents or by visiting the Community Development Department offices in Mammoth Lakes or Bridgeport.

For additional information, comments and/or concerns, contact Gerry Le Francois at 760-924-1810 or at gfrancois@mono.ca.gov.