



CITY OF CALEXICO

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Public Works Department

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION – City of Calexico

The following Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act Section 21091 and 21092 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Name: New River Class I Bicycle Trail Project

Project Applicant: City of Calexico

Project Location: The project would extend from West 2nd Avenue in the south to approximately 560 feet west of AM Thielemann Avenue. Residential uses are located to the immediate north of the project site. South of the project site are the New River, a water sewer treatment plant, and the Calexico International Airport. East of the project site are commercial uses and to the west of the project site is the American Canal.

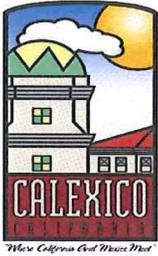
Description of Project: The proposed project consists of three primary components: 1) the construction and operation of a new Class I Bike Trail; 2) the improvement of parkways (e.g. landscaped overlooks) adjacent to the proposed bicycle pathway; and 3) a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge that would span over the New River.

Bicycle Path. The proposed project would construct a new 12-foot wide paved asphalt path with 2-foot wide paved porous concrete shoulders, and minor drainage improvement. The bicycle path would be classified as a Class I Bike Trail because it would provide a completely separated right-of-way for the exclusive use of bicycles and pedestrians, with no cross flow or motorized traffic along the proposed Class I Bike Trail.

The Class I Bike Trail would include informational signs which would be posted along the new Class I bicycle path, including notices, rules and/or restrictions on bikeway usage; and reminders to pet owners to clean up pet waste. Proposed informational signs would be carefully considered and made of easy to clean material. A total of three interpretive signs indicating habitats and species observed from the path and information on the history of the New River would be located along the proposed Class I Bike Trail. The location of the information signs will be determined later during the final design process.

Landscaped Overlooks. The proposed project would also include the creation of landscaped overlooks at both ends and at various locations along the bicycle trail. Native, drought tolerant trees and plants will be planted through within these areas and decomposed granite applied as groundcover. Benches may be installed within selected landscaped overlooks for trail users.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge. The project would also construct one bicycle/pedestrian bridge over the portion of the New River along the proposed Class I Bike Trail near the trail's proposed West 2nd Avenue entrance.



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FINDING

This is to advise that the City of Calexico, acting as the lead agency, has conducted an Initial Study to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environmental and is proposing this Mitigated Negative Declaration based upon the following findings:

- The Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- The Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects but:
 - (1) Proposals made or agreed to by the applicant before this proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration was released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur.
 - (2) There is no substantial evidence before the agency that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.
 - (3) Mitigation measures are required to ensure all potentially significant impacts are reduced of levels of insignificance.

A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

If adopted, the Mitigated Negative Declaration means that an Environmental Impact Report will not be required. Reasons to support this finding are included in the attached Initial Study. The project file and all related documents are available for review at the City of Calexico, Engineering and Development Services Department, 608 Heber Avenue, Calexico CA 92231 (760) 768-2106.

NOTICE

The public is invited to comment on the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration during the review period (October 2, 2015 – October 31, 2015).



Nick Servin, Director of Public Works



Date