



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

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PROJECT DELIVERY DIVISION

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January 8, 2004

City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

SUBJECT: GRANT APPLICATIONS: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS (AB 1475/SB10)

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:

Intersection of Millcreek Drive and West El Camino Avenue - Council District 1. (See location map, Attachment A).

Sidewalks on 5th Street between McClatchy Way and Broadway - Council District 4. (See location map, Attachment B).

RECOMMENDATION:

This report recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application for funding to the Safe Routes to School Grant Program (AB1475/SB10) for two projects:

- A new traffic signal and intersection related improvements at Millcreek Drive and West El Camino Avenue. This project will be the City's highest priority project.
- New and upgraded sidewalks on 5th Street between McClatchy Way and Broadway. This project will be the City's second priority project.

CONTACT PERSONS:

Ed Cox, Program Analyst, 808-8434
Hector Barron, Supervising Engineer, 808-2669

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF:

February 3, 2004

SUMMARY:

The Safe Routes to School Grant Program is in its fifth year and will provide 20 to 25 million dollars to local agencies statewide. The purpose of the program is to make safety improvements for school-related travel. Assembly Bill 1475 (1999) and the subsequent Senate Bill 10 (2001) enacted the program.

Proposed projects for the Safe Routes to School Grant Program need to be easily deliverable without major right-of-way issues or complex environmental studies.

Staff recommends applying for funds for two projects:

1. Installation of a new traffic signal and construction of intersection related improvements at Millcreek Drive and West El Camino Avenue. This project will enable safer crossing of West El Camino Avenue for school age children attending Bannon Creek Elementary School.
2. Installation of a new and upgraded sidewalk on the east side of 5th Street between McClatchy Way and Broadway. This project will enable safer passage for school children who walk along 5th Street to Jedediah Smith School.

COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:

None.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Established in 1999, the Safe Routes to School (SR2S) Grant Program came into effect from the passage and signing of Assembly Bill 1475 (AB 1475). In 2001, Senate Bill 10 (SB 10) was enacted, which extended the program for three additional years. It is scheduled to expire on January 1, 2005. The program expects to receive 20 to 25 million dollars in FY 2003/2004, which will be awarded to local jurisdictions statewide. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has established the following factors and criteria to rate Safe Routes to School Grant Program projects:

- Demonstrated needs of the applicant.
- Potential of the proposal for reducing child injuries and fatalities.
- Potential of the proposal for encouraging increased walking and bicycling among students.
- Identification of safety hazards.
- Identification of current and potential walking and bicycling routes to school.
- Consultation and support for projects by school-based associations, local traffic engineers, local elected officials, law enforcement agencies, and school officials.

Caltrans announced a call for projects in November 2003 for the Safe Routes to School Grant Program for FY 2003/2004 funding. Project nominations are due by February 27, 2004.

The City has applied for several Safe Routes to School grants over the past four years. The grants are awarded through a competitive process. Prior to the last round of applications, Caltrans has only been able to award one grant to the City per year. Last year, the City's application for work at the intersection of Millcreek Drive and West El Camino Avenue was not selected by Caltrans to be funded. City Staff was informed that the reason for not funding this project was that the limited funds went to other jurisdictions who had not been awarded grants in the past. The application itself was worthy of being awarded the grant, therefore, staff recommends that the City re-apply for this project.

The Millcreek Drive and West El Camino Avenue project was initiated through a collaboration of Safe Routes to Schools Sacramento, a non-profit child safety advocacy organization, and Bannon Creek Elementary School. This process aided City staff in receiving active participation from the school and widespread community support. As a traffic signal, this project is listed in the signal priority list in the City's Transportation Programming Guide (TPG), which means that it meets required warrants. This signal is ranked number 32 in the TPG. Higher ranked signal locations have been considered, however, with the participatory role needed from the school for this funding source, this is the most deliverable traffic signal at a school location.

As a second priority project, the City will be submitting for funding of sidewalks along the east side of 5th Street between McClatchy Way and Broadway. City staff is currently working with the staff at Jedediah Smith Elementary School in the development of the application. This project appears in the sidewalks to schools section of the TPG and it is ranked number 8. All higher ranked sidewalks to schools projects listed in the TPG were determined to not fit the funding criteria for this funding source, therefore this project is being advanced.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The Safe Routes to School Grant Program (AB 1475/SB10) is a 'reimbursement' program. The reimbursement ratio for all projects will be 90 percent (maximum) with the local agency providing a 10 percent (minimum) local match. The maximum reimbursement amount for any single project is \$450,000. If state funding is obtained, the local match has been reserved in the Miscellaneous Grant Match Program (PN: TX02) and will be transferred when the Capital Improvement Program project is established.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

Applying for Grant funding is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 21065 because it does not involve an activity that will cause a direct or indirect physical change in the environment and does not require further environmental review.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

This project is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan goals to improve and diversify the transportation system and enhance and preserve the neighborhoods.

City Council
Safe Routes to School Grant Program Funds (AB 1475/SB10)
January 8, 2004

ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:

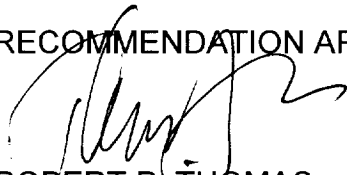
None, since no goods or services are being procured with this action.

Respectfully submitted,



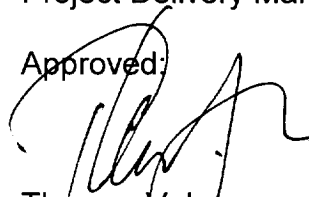
Francesca Lee Halbakken
Project Delivery Manager

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager

Approved:



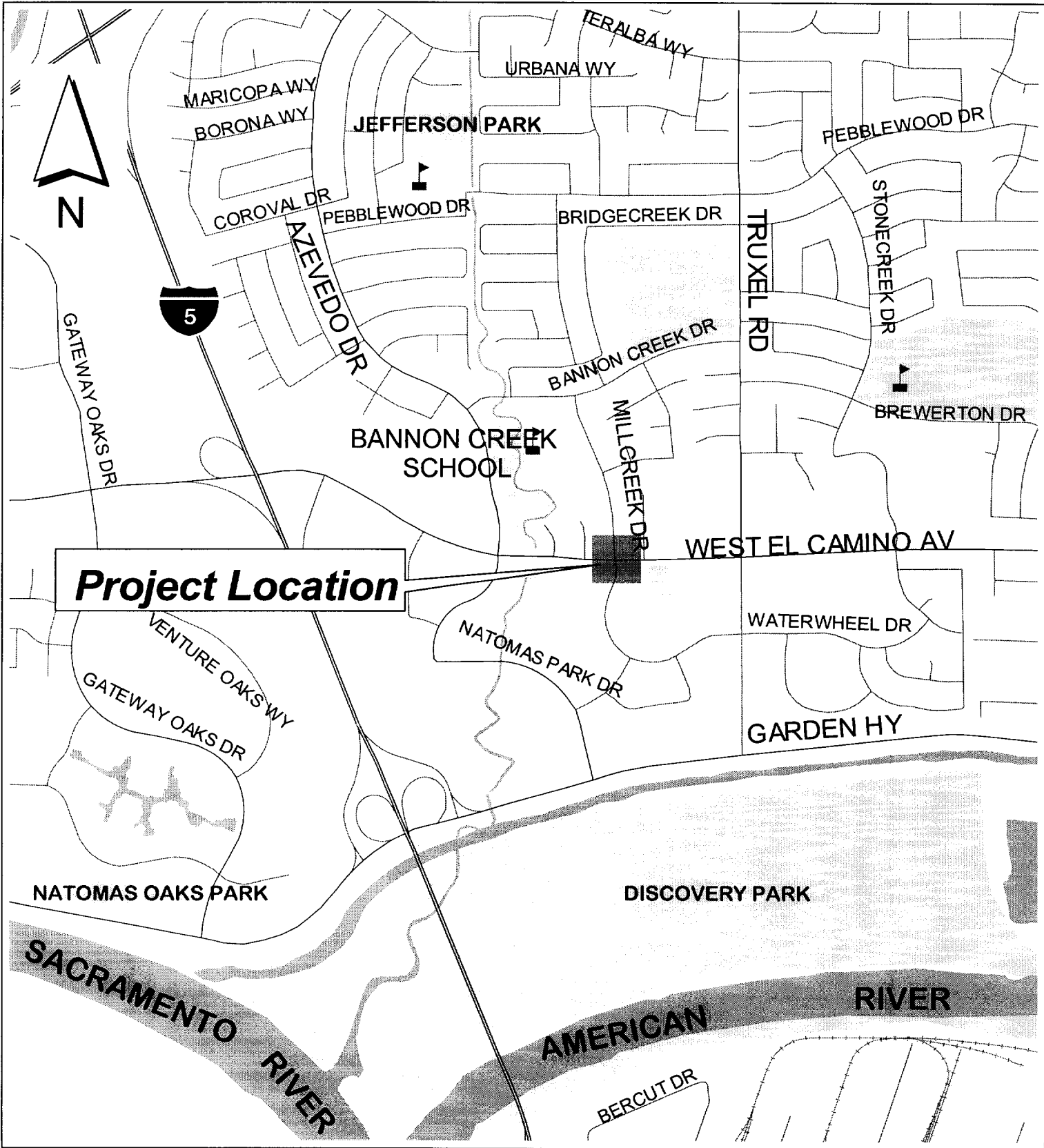
Thomas V. Lee
Deputy City Manager

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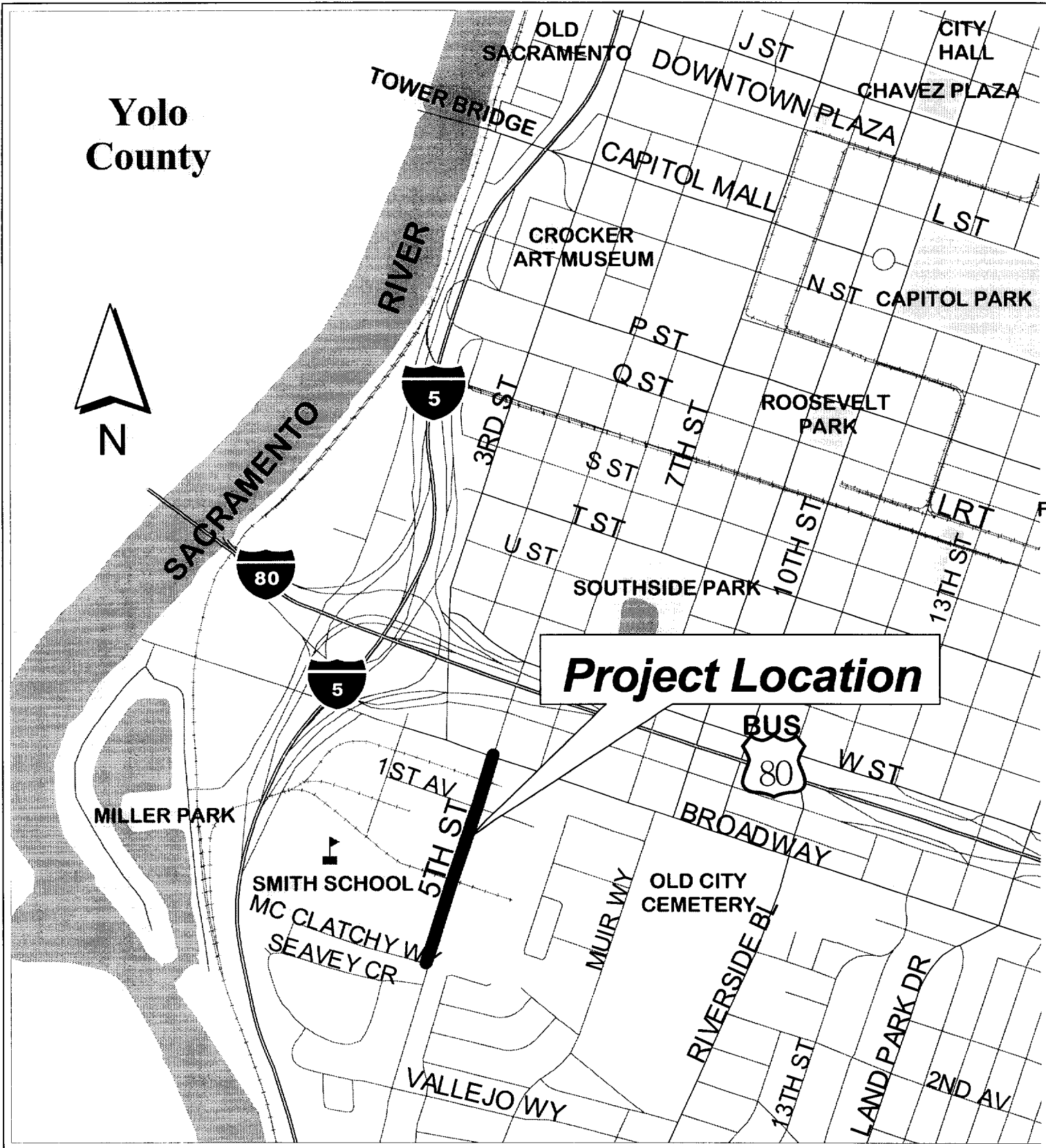
- 1) Attachment A, Location Map, page 5
- 2) Attachment B, Location Map, page 6
- 3) Resolution, page 7

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Location Map for APPLICATION FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT MILLCREEK DRIVE/WEST EL CAMINO INTERSECTION



Location Map for APPLICATION FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT 5TH STREET, McCLATCHY WAY TO BROADWAY



RESOLUTION NO.

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF _____

GRANT APPLICATIONS: AUTHORIZATION TO APPLY FOR SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS (AB 1475/SB10)

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO RESOLVES THAT:

The City Manager is authorized to submit an application for funding to the Safe Routes to School Grant Program (AB1475/SB10) for two projects:

1. A new traffic signal and intersection related improvements at Millcreek Drive and West El Camino Avenue. This project will be the City's highest priority project.
2. New and upgraded sidewalks on 5th Street between McClatchy Way and Broadway. This project will be the City's second priority project.

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK

FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY

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RESOLUTION NO.: _____

DATE ADOPTED: _____