

2.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

In the past several years, Elk Grove has experienced a large amount of growth, which has resulted in increased traffic and wear on current roadway facilities. As Elk Grove has expanded, the need to maintain clean and attractive roads has become the focus of both residents and business owners. The City of Elk Grove General Plan includes policies that encourage the City to include alternative transportation into planning and development, and provide safe and convenient bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the City. The General Plan also designates Elk Grove Boulevard as a six-lane arterial to accommodate expected traffic levels in the area.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed improvements would be constructed on westbound Elk Grove Boulevard from approximately 500 feet east of Laguna Springs Drive to the southeast corner of an existing residential development called "Woodside Creek" at Big Horn Boulevard, in the City of Elk Grove (See **Figure 2.0-1**). The project would not include any work in the median or on eastbound Elk Grove Boulevard.

2.3 PROJECT PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

To the east and west of the project limits (See **Figure 2.0-2**), westbound Elk Grove Boulevard has been widened to three lanes, and has a curb/gutter, storm drain, bike lane, sidewalk, lighting, and landscaping. However, within the proposed project limits, for a distance of approximately 900 feet, westbound Elk Grove Boulevard has just two travel lanes, with no curb, gutter, bike lane, sidewalks, lighting, or landscaping. This means that vehicles must merge down to two lanes, and pedestrians and bicyclists must travel along the shoulder of the road.

The project has been proposed to provide better access to adjacent residences and businesses while encouraging alternative modes of transportation. The project would improve the appearance, function, and safety of this segment of Elk Grove Boulevard by expanding the roadway from two to three lanes and adding a curb/gutter, storm drain, bike lane, pedestrian sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting. Re-striping would also be required for an additional 500 feet east of the Laguna Springs Drive/Elk Grove Boulevard Intersection to the intersection in order to tie in to the widened roadway.

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CURRENT FACILITIES

To the west and east of the proposed project limits, westbound Elk Grove Boulevard is a three-lane roadway with a sidewalk, curb/gutter, bike lane, storm drain, and a landscaped center median. The north side of the roadway also is landscaped with roadway lighting. From Laguna Springs Drive to Big Horn Boulevard, westbound Elk Grove Boulevard has two 12-foot travel lanes, a five-foot shoulder, and a roadside drainage ditch with no sidewalk or curb/gutter. There is no landscaping within these limits, and there is no lighting.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed project would include improvements on an approximately 900-foot span of westbound Elk Grove Boulevard, between Laguna Springs Drive and Big Horn Boulevard, and

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would tie in to existing improvements outside of the project limits (See **Figure 2.0-3a**). The project would include constructing a new curb/gutter, storm drain, sidewalk, bike lane, lighting, landscaping, driveway approaches, and additional roadway widening to accommodate a new 11-foot travel lane. The intersection of Sabrina Lane at Elk Grove Boulevard and a private driveway approach at Elk Grove Boulevard would be reconstructed, and the roadway would be re-striped. The width of the improvements would be approximately 150 feet, measured north from the existing median. The project would also include roadway re-striping from the Elk Grove Boulevard/Laguna Springs Drive Intersection to approximately 500 feet east of the intersection in order to tie in to the roadway improvements.

2.5 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Construction of the proposed project would include filling the existing roadside ditch, removing several of the existing trees along the adjacent properties, reconstructing Sabrina Lane at the intersection with Elk Grove Boulevard, reconstructing a private drive at the intersection of Elk Grove Boulevard, and saw cutting approximately 12 feet into the existing asphalt along Elk Grove Boulevard for a distance of approximately 900 feet. Construction activities would also include re-striping of the roadway, which would be completed within the roadway footprint. Construction would likely begin in Spring of 2005 and would take approximately 6 months to complete.

2.6 REQUIRED PROJECT APPROVALS

In order for the project to be implemented, the following project approvals would be required:

- Elk Grove City Council- Adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and other actions associated with project approval.

2.7 OTHER PROJECT ASSUMPTIONS

The Initial Study assumes compliance with all applicable state, federal, and local codes and regulations including, but not limited to, the California Building Code, the Guidance Manual of On-site Storm Water Quality Control Measures, the State Health and Safety Code, and the State Public Resources Code.

2.8 TECHNICAL STUDIES

The following technical studies were conducted as part of the environmental analysis for the project:

Noise Study	VRPA Technologies, Inc, November 2004
Biological Resource Survey	City of Elk Grove, November 2004
Air Quality Impacts Study	City of Elk Grove, November 2004

These technical studies are available for review weekdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the City of Elk Grove City Hall, 8400 Laguna Palms Way, Elk Grove, CA 95758.

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