



## COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Travis Seawards, Deputy Director, Development Review Division

**STAFF CONTACT:** David Billesbach, Planner, (805) 568-3319

**DATE:** March 3, 2025

**HEARING DATE:** March 4, 2025

**RE:** Item D-1, Hearing to consider the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission's designation of Arroyo Hondo Bridge as a County Historic Landmark

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Please see attached for a revised "Attachment A - Draft Board of Supervisors Resolution Arroyo Hondo Bridge." The legal description has been updated to reference mile marker "40.98" instead of "41.05."

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors vote to support the Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission's nomination with a modification to the Attachment A Board Resolution to note mile marker "40.98" instead of "41.05" in the Legal Description.

**Attachments:**

A- Draft Board of Supervisors Resolution Arroyo Hondo Bridge

**RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THAT ARROYO HONDO BRIDGE, LOCATED AT U.S. ROUTE 101, POSTMILE 40.98, MEETS THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR A COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARK AND IS WORTHY OF PROTECTION UNDER CHAPTER 18A OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CODE; AND DESIGNATION OF ARROYO HONDO BRIDGE AS COUNTY LANDMARK #57 PRESCRIBING CONDITIONS TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE IT

RESOLUTION No. 2025-

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WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors (hereinafter "Board") has considered the historical significance of ARROYO HONDO BRIDGE located at U.S. Route 101, Postmile 40.98 and as shown on the legal description attached hereto as Exhibit A, in accordance with the requirements, standards, and criteria contained in County Code, Chapter 18A, and has determined that it is worthy of protection as a County Historic Landmark; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the ARROYO HONDO BRIDGE is historically significant because:

1. It is representative of the county's architectural, engineering, political, and economic history. Built in 1918, its reinforced concrete materials and Classical Revival design elements were recognized for their excellence in style and aesthetic qualities, and its function as a transportation link enhanced the economic and political vitality of the South Coast; and
2. It is an outstanding example of the Classical Revival style and the use of cast-in-place concrete to erect monumental bridges in the early twentieth century. It is considered a prototype of the open spandrel parabolic arch bridge accented by Roman-influenced aqueduct style arches and Doric capitals exemplified by Greek architecture; and
3. It has a location with unique physical characteristics and is a view representing an established and familiar visual feature of the Gaviota coastal portion of the county. The location of the bridge on U.S. Route No. 101 is visible from the southbound side of the highway as well as from a pull-off vista point for travelers who may access the bridge as pedestrians as well as learn about its history and the Gaviota Coast; and
4. It embodies elements of architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship that represent a significant structural or architectural achievement or innovation. The structure is recognized as a prototype in the development of the cast-in-concrete, multi-span, reinforced concrete, open spandrel parabolic arch bridge. It utilizes aesthetic design principals that create unity and avoid duality or perfect symmetry and was among the first bridges to use these design principles; and,
5. It reflects significant geographical patterns associated with historical settlement and growth in the region. The bridge was an important transportation improvement which provided a means for reliable highway travel on what became U.S. Route No. 101, and aided in the development of commerce, travel, and tourism along the county's main coastal artery.

NOW, THEREFORE IT IS FOUND, DETERMINED AND RESOLVED as follows:

1. ARROYO HONDO BRIDGE meets the eligibility requirements for a County Historic Landmark as described in County Code, Chapter 18A, Section 18A-3, and is worthy of protection.
2. The Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors hereby designates the ARROYO HONDO BRIDGE as a County Historic Landmark, subject to the following conditions:
  - a. Except as set forth in subsection c. below, demolition, removal or destruction, partially or entirely, or willful negligence resulting in loss of historic integrity, is prohibited unless an application has been submitted to the County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission for comments and the applicant has considered the comments of the Commission.
  - b. Except as set forth in subsection c. below, no alterations, repairs, additions or changes (other than normal maintenance and repair) shall be made unless and until an application has been submitted to the County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission and all plans for such work have first been reviewed by the Commission for comments and the applicant has considered the comments of the Commission.
  - c. The foregoing conditions shall not be imposed in such a way as to infringe upon the right of the owners of the ARROYO HONDO BRIDGE to make any and all reasonable uses of the property, including all routine maintenance activities for operational and functional purposes, that are not in conflict with the purposes of County Code Chapter 18A.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors at Santa Barbara, California, this 4th day of March 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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LAURA CAPPS, CHAIR  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

ATTEST:

MONA MIYASATO  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
RACHEL VAN MULLEM  
COUNTY COUNSEL

By   
Sean Stewart  
Deputy County Counsel

I hereby APPROVE AND CONSENT to designation of the ARROYO HONDO BRIDGE as a County of Santa Barbara Historic Landmark pursuant to County Code, Chapter 18A.

Owner: California Department of Transportation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit A**

Legal Description

A portion of land in the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, as described in the State Highway Deed for State Highway Route 2 (Currently State Highway 101) as recorded on October 28, 1933, in Book 294, Page 168 of Official Records, of said County, more particularly described as;

Only that portion land within the limits of Bridge Number 51-0027Y, also commonly known as Arroyo Hondo Bridge. Located at post mile 40.98 on State Highway Route 2 (Currently State Highway 101).

**END OF DESCRIPTION**