

## Notice of Preparation

**To:** All Interested Parties

**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Rio Mesa Boulevard Project (SCH# 2017101048)

**Date:** October 23, 2019

<b>Lead Agency Name and Address:</b> Madera County 200 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> St. Suite 3100 Madera, CA 93637	<b>Contact Person and Phone Number:</b> Matthew Treber, Planning Director (559) 675-7821
--	--

Madera County will be the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Rio Mesa Boulevard Project. The County Community and Economic Development Department, Planning Division, will prepare the EIR and is requesting information as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the EIR from any interested parties. If you are an agency with statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project, your agency will need to use the EIR prepared by Madera County when considering your permit or other approval for the project. A Draft EIR scoping meeting will be conducted to receive public and agency input on the scope of environmental issues to address in the EIR. The scoping meeting will be held on November 13, 2019, at 4:00 PM at the Madera County Government Center, 200 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Madera, Third Floor Hearing Room.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response to this NOP must be sent at the earliest possible date **but not later than 30 days** after receipt of this NOP. The response deadline is **November 22, 2019**. Please send your response to Jamie Bax, Deputy Director at the address shown above or via email at [jamie.bax@maderacounty.com](mailto:jamie.bax@maderacounty.com).

<b>Project Title:</b> Rio Mesa Boulevard	<b>Project Location:</b> Unincorporated Madera County, east of State Route 41, between Avenue 12 and Avenue 14, as shown on the attached figure.
---	---

**Project Description:** The proposed project would construct a 2.6-mile segment of new road providing a connection between Avenue 12 in the south to a planned segment of Rio Mesa Boulevard within the Tesoro Viejo community to the north. The proposed roadway would include two northbound and two southbound asphalt concrete lanes with six-foot-wide asphalt concrete bike lanes, curbs and gutters, landscaping, and separated sidewalks. The project would also install storm drainage collection and conveyance facilities, water and wastewater conveyance infrastructure, and conduit and pipeline for dry utilities (i.e. electric, telephone, cable, fiber, and/or natural gas).

Within areas that are known as California tiger salamander (CTS) migration corridors, the roadway design includes a 6-inch raised concrete curb at the back of the sidewalk to restrict CTS access to the road and includes a series of box culverts under the road that will allow CTS and other wildlife to safely pass under the roadway and maintain their existing dispersal patterns.

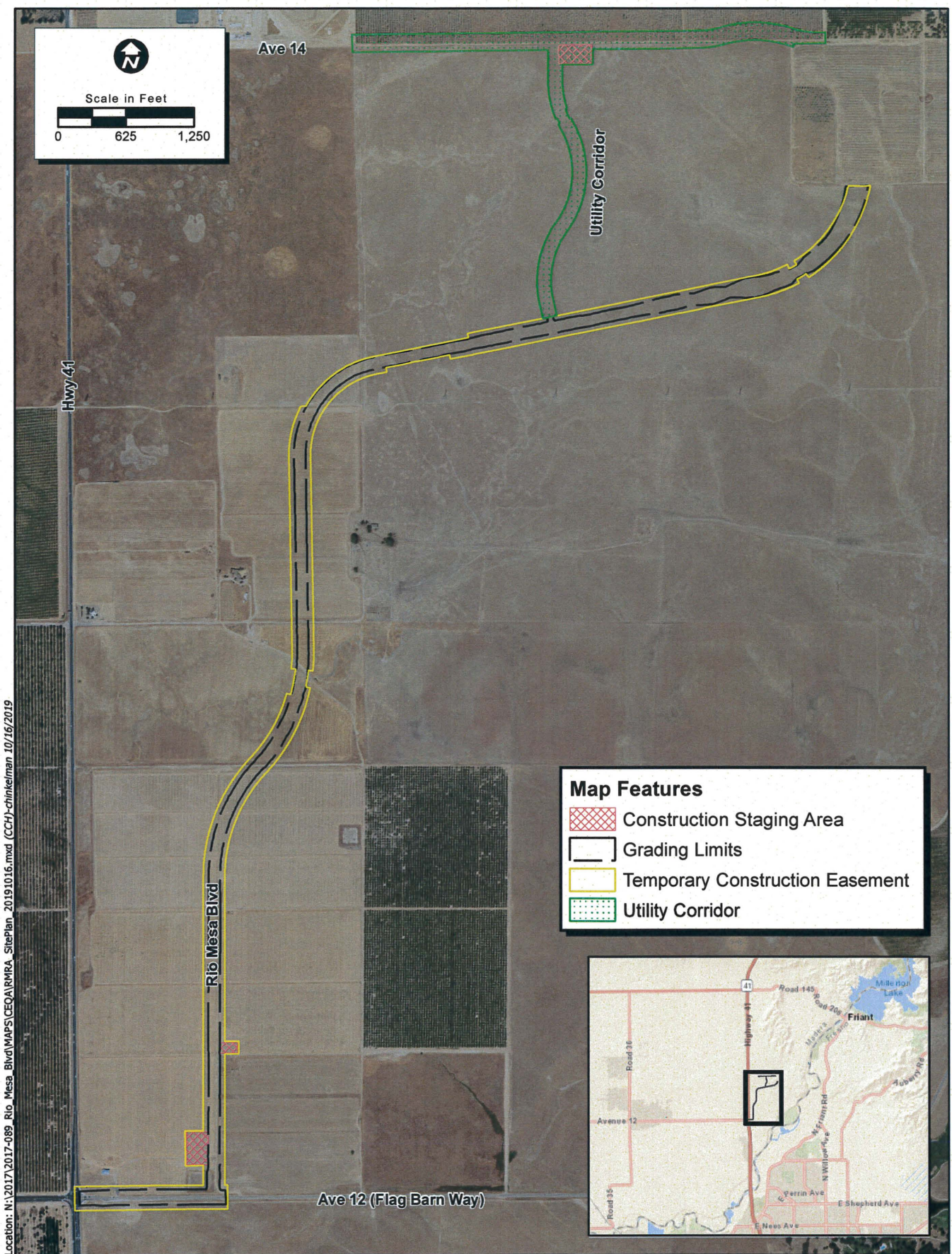
The County circulated a Draft Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed project in October 2017. Based on the comments received on the IS/MND, the County determined that an EIR would be prepared for the project. The EIR will evaluate environmental resource issues as outlined in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq., as amended December 28, 2018).

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 23 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE





Location: N:\2017\2017-089\_Rio\_Mesa\_Bldg\MAPS\CEQA\RMRA\_SitePlan\_20191016.mxd (CCH)-chinkelman 10/16/2019

Map Date: 10/16/2019  
 Photo Source: NAIP (2018)  
 Service Layer Credits: Copyright: ©2015 DeLorme