

Tuttletown Pavement Widening

State Route 49 in Tuolumne County

10-TUO-49-25.3

10-1G651/10 1800 0037

SCH No.: 2018112022

Initial Study with Negative Declaration



Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation

January 2019



General Information About This Document

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study (IS), which examines the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project located in Tuolumne County, California. Caltrans is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The document tells the reader why the project is being proposed, how the existing environment could be affected by the project, the potential impacts of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

The IS circulated to the public for 30 days between November 13 and December 13, 2018. Comments received during this period are included in Appendix C. Elsewhere throughout this document, a vertical line in the margin indicates a change made since the draft document circulation. Minor editorial changes and clarifications have not been so indicated. Additional copies of this document and the related technical studies are available for review at the Caltrans district office, 1976 E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, Stockton, CA.

The document can also be accessed electronically at the following website:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/d10/projects.html>.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please write to or call Caltrans, Attn: Jaycee Azevedo, Northern San Joaquin Environmental Management Branch, 1976 E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Stockton, CA 95205; (209) 941-1919 (Voice), or use the California Relay Service 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY), 1 (800) 735-2929 (Voice), or 711.

SCH No.: 2018112022
10-TUO-49-25.3
1018000037

Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) Turning Radius Improvement Project along State Route 49
near Tuttletown in Tuolumne County

**INITIAL STUDY
with Negative Declaration**

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

1/29/19

Date



Jaycee Azevedo
Environmental Branch Chief
California Department of Transportation

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Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description


The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to widen the southbound side of the curve between post miles (PM) 25.2 and 25.4 of State Route (SR) 49 in Tuolumne County. In the southbound direction, this will require importing material to fill an area of around 3,700 square feet. As a secondary effect, this would also require replacing and extending the existing culvert in the proposed fill area.

Determination

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project and, following public review, has determined from this study that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons.

The proposed project would have no effect on: Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Geology/Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use/Planning, Mandatory Findings of Significance, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population/Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation and Traffic, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Utilities/Service Systems.

In addition, the proposed project would have no significantly adverse effect on: Aesthetics and Biological Resources.



Jaycee Azevedo
Environmental Branch Chief
California Department of Transportation

1/29/19

Date

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Project Description and Background

Project Title

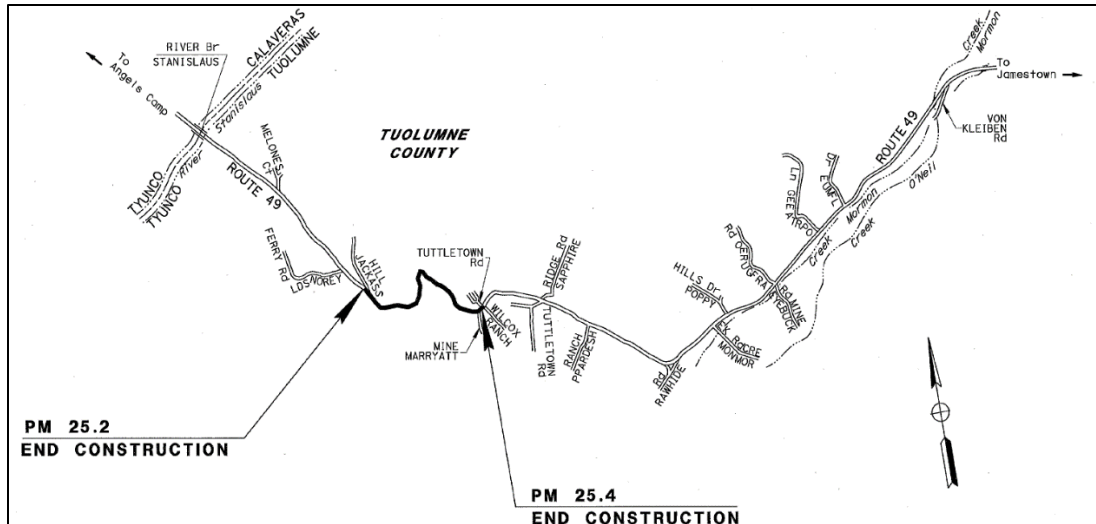
Tuttletown Pavement Widening

Project Location

The project is located near the town of Tuttletown on SR-49 at approximately PM 25.3 in Tuolumne County, California.



Project Vicinity Map



Project Location Map

Description of Project

The purpose of the project is to provide adequate pavement width at the sharp curve to accommodate Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) design vehicles. Inadequate pavement width for southbound truck traffic is causing off-tracking, resulting in delays for the traveling public.

The project would widen the southbound side of the curve at PM 25.3 on SR-49 in Tuolumne County. In the southbound direction, this will require importing material to fill an area of around 3,700 square feet. As a secondary effect, this would also require replacing and extending the existing culvert in the proposed fill area.

Construction activities involved with curve widening would include earthwork operations connected with roadway excavation, structure excavation backfills, ditch excavation, compaction, embankment construction, grading, and placement of shoulder backing. Earthwork activities typically involve the use of heavy equipment, typically consisting of loaders, backhoes, excavators, scrapers, graders, roller-compactors, and dump trucks.

It is proposed to widen the southbound curve by approximately 80 feet from the existing edge of pavement to toe of the proposed new embankment catch line. Widening the existing curve adjacent to the southbound lane (south side of SR-49) would require the placement of fill material to construct the widened roadbed and new highway fill embankment.

During roadway construction, existing drainage facilities, including highway cross-culverts and their associated end treatments, over-side drains, and curb-gutter systems, would be replaced and/or re-constructed. The highway cross-culvert at PM 25.3 carrying an intermittent stream would be replaced with a longer culvert to compensate for highway curve widening. The existing inlet headwall is proposed to be removed and replaced by a new inlet headwall or wingwall after the highway curve widening. The outfall is proposed to receive a flared end section (FES) and a rock energy dissipator.

(RED) system, to be installed along 10 feet of the outfall channel after highway curve widening on the southbound lane. Likewise, the storm-water only highway cross-culvert at PM 25.2 would also require extension to compensate for highway curve widening. The culvert extension would require replacement of the existing grated metal inlet system. The culvert is also proposed to receive a FES and a RED system, to be installed along 10 feet of the outfall channel.

The drainage culvert at PM 25.3 within the project action area (AA) conveys stream flow across the State Highway from an intermittent stream. This intermittent stream may be flowing during construction activities and a “clear water diversion” may be required. Clear water diversion consists of a system of structures and measures intercepting clear surface water runoff upstream of a project site, transporting it around the work area, and discharging it downstream with minimal water quality degradation for either the project construction operations or the construction of the diversion. Clear water diversions are used in a waterway to enclose a construction area and reduce sediment pollution from construction work occurring in or adjacent to water. Work on the culvert at PM 25.3 will be performed when the channel is in a dry or low-flow condition (typically July 1 to October 31).

Project Features and Standard Measures

Containment Measures

The contractor shall implement best management practices (BMPs) to contain construction related material in manageable locations, and prevent debris from entering surface waters during in-water work and for construction operations outside of receiving waters.

BMPs utilized for erosion control will be implemented before, during, and after construction to ensure no silt or sediment enters receiving waters. Areas where a disturbance of soil has occurred will be stabilized appropriately and approved by the Central Valley RWQCB prior to filing the Notice of Termination. The project design team may specify BMPs to be utilized during construction in addition to, or in place of, other temporary measures selected by the contractor.

Compliance with all construction site BMPs is mandatory to minimize the introduction of construction related contaminants and sediment to receiving waters. The contractor shall follow all applicable guidelines and requirements in the 2015 Caltrans Standard Specifications (2015 CSS), Section 13 (Water Pollution Control), including review and implementation of approved measures from the Caltrans Construction Site BMPs Manual. Project specific BMPs shall address (among other things) soil stabilization, sediment control, wind erosion control, vehicle tracking control, non-storm water management, and waste management practices and will be based on the best conventional and best available technology. Caltrans staff and the contractor shall perform routine inspections of the construction area to verify field BMPs are properly implemented, maintained, and are operating effectively and as designed. BMPs and mitigation measures selected must meet the standards and objectives to minimize water pollution impacts set forth in the 2015 CSS.

The contractor will follow Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 14-9.02 and 10-5 to reduce and control temporary construction air emissions. Additionally, Caltrans Standard Specifications 14-8.02 and the use of equipment noise control/administrative measures will minimize temporary construction noise.

De-Watering/Clear Water Diversion Activities

The use of temporary cofferdams to perform “clear water diversions” in order to de-water the proposed construction areas is expected to occur during construction activities. The primary purpose of a cofferdam is to hold out water and unstable soil from the construction area, and thereby allow in-the-dry construction, including culvert rehabilitation and replacement, below the water line. Cofferdams are expected to be constructed using sandbags, aqua-dams, or similar materials; sheet piling is not expected to be used for temporary cofferdam construction. A segment of stream would be de-watered by pumping, and flow upstream of the cofferdam would be diverted around the construction area via conduit. Clear water diversions will be accomplished in accordance with Caltrans March 2003 Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual (NS-5 Clear Water Diversion).

If the work needs to be temporarily de-watered by pumping, wire mesh not larger than 0.2 inches will be used to prevent entrapment or impingement of frogs/tadpoles. Water shall be released downstream at an appropriate rate to maintain downstream flows during construction. De-watering structures will be removed upon completion of activities.

Construction Site Best Management Practices

During construction operations, stockpiling of construction materials, portable equipment, vehicles, and supplies will be restricted to the designated construction staging areas and all operations will be confined to the minimal area necessary.

Project-related vehicle traffic will be restricted to established roads and construction areas. Access roads will be constructed to the minimum amount necessary. Project vehicles will observe a 20-mile-per-hour speed limit while in the action area. Dust control measures will be implemented if necessary.

Plastic mono-filament netting (erosion control matting) or similar material will not be used at the project site. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydro-seeding compounds.

Use of rodenticides and herbicides, including fumigation, the use of poison bait, or other means of poisoning nuisance animals in project areas shall be restricted.

All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.

No firearms shall be allowed on the project site. No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the project site.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The proposed project is located in a rural, wooded area, with surrounding land zoned as rural residential and open public land. The proposed pavement widening would occur at approximately PM 25.3 of SR-49. The curve in the road, along with the subsequent southbound incline, are difficult for trucks to navigate without driving through the unpaved shoulder or into the opposing lane. The proposed project will require partial right-of-way (R/W) acquisitions at three parcels, totaling 0.5772 acres. Two of the parcels are privately owned, and one parcel is owned by the Bureau of Land Management. No utility relocations are anticipated.

Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

Agency	Permit/Approval	Status
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA)	Application for the 1600 Permit will be submitted during the design phase of the project.
Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)	401 Permit	Application for the 401 Permit will be submitted during the design phase of the project.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Letter of Concurrence (LOC)	LOC received from USFWS on July 9th, 2018.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	404 Nationwide Permit	Application for the 404 Permit will be submitted during the design phase of the project.

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CEQA Environmental Checklist

10-TUO-49

25.2 – 25.4

10-1G651

Dist.-Co.-Rte.

P.M/P.M.

E.A.

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. In many cases, background studies performed in connection with the projects indicate no impacts. A NO IMPACT answer in the last column reflects this determination. Where there is a need for clarifying discussion, the discussion is included either following the applicable section of the checklist or is within the body of the environmental document itself. The words "significant" and "significance" used throughout the following checklist are related to CEQA, not NEPA, impacts. The questions in this form are intended to encourage the thoughtful assessment of impacts and do not represent thresholds of significance.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS: Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

III. AIR QUALITY: Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non- attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project:

- a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?
- b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Caltrans has used the best available information based to the extent possible on scientific and factual information, to describe, calculate, or estimate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions that may occur related to this project. The analysis included in the climate change section of this document provides the public and decision-makers as much information about the project as possible. It is Caltrans' determination that in the absence of statewide-adopted thresholds or GHG emissions limits, it is too speculative to make a significance determination regarding an individual project's direct and indirect impacts with respect to global climate change. Caltrans remains committed to implementing measures to reduce the potential effects of the project. These measures are outlined in the climate change section of the document.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?
- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING: Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XII. NOISE: Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING: Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES:

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XV. RECREATION:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS: Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XIX. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Appendix A Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

General

Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown biological, cultural, or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact District 10 Environmental Branch Chief if project changes occur or sensitive resources are discovered.

Biological Resources

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 1: Establish Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Additional direct and indirect impacts to sensitive biological resources throughout the project area will be avoided or minimized by designating these features outside of the construction impact area as “environmentally sensitive areas” (ESAs) on project plans and in project specifications. ESA information will be shown on contract plans and discussed in the Special Provisions. ESA provisions may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the use of temporary orange fencing to identify the proposed limit of work in areas adjacent sensitive resources or to locate and exclude sensitive resources from potential construction impacts. Contractor encroachment into ESAs will be prohibited (including the staging/operation of heavy equipment or casting of excavated materials). ESA provisions will be implemented as a first order of work and remain in place until all construction activities are complete.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 2: Limited Operation Period

Work on the culvert at PM 25.3 will be performed when the channel is in a dry or low-flow condition (typically July 1 to October 31) to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the intermittent stream potentially qualifying as other waters of the U.S.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 3: Environmental Awareness Training for Construction Personnel

An employee education program shall be implemented. Contractors will retain a qualified biologist (familiar with the resources to be protected) to conduct a mandatory contractor/worker environmental awareness training for construction personnel. The awareness training shall be provided to all construction personnel prior to beginning work on the project site for the first time. The program will consist of a brief presentation by persons knowledgeable in the biology and natural history of the regulated species or habitats and legislative protection to explain concerns to contractors, their employees, and/or agency personnel who will enter the project site during construction activities. The program should include the following: A description of the regulated species/habitats and their ecological requirements and/or importance, an explanation of the status of the regulated species/habitat and its protection under existing regulatory framework, and a list of measures being taken to reduce impacts to the regulated species/habitat during project construction and implementation. A fact sheet conveying this information should

be prepared for distribution to the previously referenced people and anyone else who may enter the project site. Proof of this instruction will be submitted to the project proponent, and other overseeing agencies, as appropriate.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 4: Limit Vegetation Removal

Clearing of herbaceous vegetation and/or trimming of woody vegetation may be required at some locations for culvert replacement or culvert lining activities. Vegetation removal shall be limited to the absolute minimum amount required for construction, in accordance with Caltrans March 2003 Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual (SS-2 Preservation of Existing Vegetation).

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 5: Restore/Revegetate Temporarily Affected Areas Onsite

Disturbed areas within the construction limits will be graded to minimize surface erosion and siltation into receiving waters. Disturbed areas will be re-contoured to as close to pre-project condition as possible and will be stabilized as soon as feasible (and no later than October 15th of each construction season) and seeded with appropriate native vegetation in accordance with Caltrans 2015 CSS Sections 20 (Landscape) and 21 (Erosion Control) and Caltrans March 2003 Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual (SS-4 Hydroseeding).

Disturbed areas within the project limits in the riparian zone of the intermittent stream will be revegetated with native willow cuttings collected from within or near the project AA. Revegetation with native willow cuttings will be implemented in accordance with Caltrans 2015 CSS Sections 20-3 and 20-4 (Landscape – Planting, Plant Establishment Work).

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 6: Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning

Vehicle and equipment cleaning shall be performed in accordance with Caltrans March 2003 Construction Site BMPs Manual (NS-8 – Vehicle and Equipment Cleaning) to minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants and potentially invasive plant materials.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 7: Equipment Staging in Weed Free Areas

Staging and storage of equipment should only be done in areas free of infestations of noxious and/or highly invasive weeds. If feasible, any infestations of noxious and/or highly invasive weeds identified during pre-construction surveys would be mechanically removed or would be designated as excluded from contractor's use.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 8: Weed Free Erosion Control and Revegetation Treatments

To further minimize the risk of introducing additional non-native species into the area, only locally adapted plant species appropriate for the project area will be used in any erosion control or revegetation seed mix or stock. Seed used in hydroseed must be in accordance with Caltrans 2015 CSS Section 21-2.02F (Erosion Control – Seed) and the seed mix palette will be determined by the Caltrans Landscape Architect and Caltrans

Biologist. Any imported topsoil will be free of noxious weed seeds and weeds as per Caltrans 2015 CSS Section 21-2.02C (Landscape – Topsoil). No dry-farmed straw will be used, in accordance with Caltrans 2015 CSS Section 21-2.02 (Erosion Control – Straw).

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 9: Preconstruction Surveys for Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog, California Red-Legged Frog, and Western Pond Turtle

The qualifications of any proposed biological monitor(s) will be presented to the USFWS and CDFW for review and written approval at least 2 weeks prior to conducting project activities at the project site.

No more than 24 hours prior to any ground disturbance in a given location, pre-construction surveys will be conducted by a USFWS- and CDFW-approved biologist for California red-legged frog (CRLF), foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF), and western pond turtle (WPT) using USFWS- and CDFW-approved survey protocols. These surveys will consist of walking surveys of the project limits and accessible adjacent areas within at least 50 feet of the project limits. The biologist(s) will investigate all potential CRLF, FYLF and WPT cover sites. This includes thorough investigation of mammal burrows, appropriately sized soil cracks, and debris. The USFWS and CDFW would be contacted within 24 hours if a CRLF, FYLF, or WPT is detected during construction stage surveys. Native non-FESA- and non-CESA-listed vertebrates found in the cover sites will be documented and, if appropriate, relocated to an adequate cover site in the action area vicinity. The entrances and other refuge features within the project limits will be collapsed or removed following investigation and clearance.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 10: Preconstruction Surveys for Migratory Birds and Raptors

If woody vegetation removal, grading, or other project-related improvements are scheduled during the nesting season of protected raptors and migratory birds (February 1st to September 30th), a focused survey for active nests of such birds shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 15 days prior to the beginning of construction. If active nests are found during pre-construction surveys, appropriate no-work buffers will be implemented and Caltrans shall consult with USFWS regarding appropriate additional actions to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and with CDFW to comply with provisions of the Fish and Game Code of California.

If a lapse in project related work of 15 days or longer occurs, another survey and, if required, consultation with USFWS and CDFW will be required before the work can be reinitiated. If contractors perform woody vegetation removal or other construction activities within nesting bird habitat between October 1st to January 31st then no further measures are required.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 11: Construction Site Biological Monitoring for Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog, California Red-Legged Frog, and Western Pond Turtle

A USFWS- and CDFW-approved biologist will be present during all construction-related activities that may affect CRLF, FYLF, WPT, or their habitat.

The approved biologist will have the authority to halt work through coordination with the Resident Engineer or on-site project manager in the event that a CRLF, FYLF, or WPT is observed in the area of impact. The Resident Engineer or on-site project manager will ensure construction activities remain suspended in any area where the biologist has determined that take of the CRLF, FYLF, or WPT could occur. Work will resume once the animal leaves the site of its own volition, once it is determined that the species is not being harassed by or in danger due to construction activities. The USFWS and CDFW would be contacted within 24 hours if a CRLF, FYLF, or WPT is detected during construction stage surveys.

To prevent inadvertent entrapment of CRLF, FYLF, or WPT during construction, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 6 inches deep will be covered at the end of each working day with plywood or similar material. At the beginning of each working day and before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped animal listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) or California Endangered Species Act (CESA) is discovered, the approved biologist or an on-site designee identified by the approved biologist, will immediately place escape ramps or other appropriate structures to allow the animal to escape, and the USFWS and CDFW will be contacted within 24 hours for further guidance.

Avoidance and Minimization Measure 12: Construction Site Biological Monitoring for Migratory Birds and Raptors

A qualified biologist will be present during all construction-related activities that may affect nesting migratory birds and/or raptors.

The approved biologist will have the authority to halt work through coordination with the Resident Engineer or on-site project manager in the event that nesting migratory birds or raptors are observed on the project footprint. The Resident Engineer or on-site project manager will ensure construction activities remain suspended in any area where the biologist has determined that take of the migratory birds or raptors could occur. If active nests are found during construction monitoring surveys, appropriate work stoppage buffers will be implemented (300 feet for raptors and 100 feet for other migratory birds) and Caltrans shall consult with USFWS regarding appropriate additional actions to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and with CDFW to comply with provisions of the Fish and Game Code of California. Work will resume once the qualified biologist, in coordination with USFWS and/or CDFW, has determined the nest is no longer in use or once it is determined that the nesting activity is not in conflict with construction activities.

Mitigation Measure 1: Compensate for Permanent Impacts to Other Waters of the U.S.

Construction of the proposed project is expected to result in the permanent loss of approximately 164.67 square feet (0.003-acre) of intermittent stream potentially qualifying as “other waters” of the U.S.

Table 1: Summary of Impacts to Potentially Jurisdictional OWUS

Feature ID	Cause of Impact	PERM Area (SQFT)	PERM Linear Feet (LF)	PERM Volume (yd3)	TEMP Area (SQFT)	TEMP Linear Feet (LF)	TEMP Volume (yd3)
ST-01	Extend Culvert	25.70	15.5	0.64	0.00	0.00	0.00
	RED and Headwall	18.24	10.0	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Temporary cofferdam	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.5	3.0	0.14
	Temporary Disturbance outside of permanent fill zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.97	10.0	0.55
ST-02	Extend Culvert	100.60	62.5	2.49	0.00	0.00	0.00
	FES and RED	18.33	10.0	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Temporary Disturbance outside of permanent fill zone	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.39	10.0	0.56
Totals:		164.67 sqft PERM	78.0 LF PERM	4.03 yd³ PERM	48.86 sqft TEMP	23.0 LF TEMP	1.25 yd³ TEMP

The permanent loss of potentially jurisdictional waters of the U.S. will be compensated by Caltrans’ participation in the Sacramento USACE and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s (NFWF’s) “In-Lieu Fee (ILF)” program to ensure “no net loss” of functions and values of potentially jurisdictional OWUS. The program operates by making available mitigation credits for purchase by permittees (with the approval of the applicable regulatory agencies), and the credits may be used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements applicable to such permittees for their impacts to aquatic resources. Credits will be purchased in the Calaveras/Stanslaus Rivers Aquatic Resource Service Area.

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Appendix B Species Lists

Plant Species

A list of sensitive plant species and habitats potentially occurring within the project vicinity was developed based on information compiled from the USFWS, CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (“CNDDDB” Rarefind, 2017: Sonora, Columbia, Melones Dam, and Angel’s Camp USGS quads), the California Native Plant Society (“CNPS” Electronic Inventory, 2017), and from the current literature. A list of sensitive plant species considered as part of this evaluation is included in Table 2.

Table 2: Sensitive Plant Species Considered for Environmental Review

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat/ Notes	Bloom Period	Potential to Be Affected by Project
<i>Agrostis hendersonii</i>	Henderson's bent grass	CNPS 3.2	Mesic areas and vernal pools in valley-foothill grassland, BUT, CAL, MER, NAP, SHA, TEH, and TUO Counties.	April-June	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (vernal pools/seasonal wetlands, grassland) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Allium jepsonii</i>	Jepson's onion	CNPS 1B.2	Serpentine or volcanic soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forests, BUT, ELD, PLA, TUO Counties	April-August	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine or volcanic soils) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Allium tuolumnense</i>	Rawhide Hill onion	CNPS 1B.2	Cismontane woodland (serpentine). TUO County.	March-May	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine soils) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Arctostaphylos nissenana</i>	Nissenan manzanita	CNPS 1B.2	Rocky soils, closed-cone conifer forest, chaparral, ELD, TUO Counties	March-May	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (closed-cone conifer forest, chaparra) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Balsamorhiza macrolepis</i>	big-scale balsamroot	CNPS 1B.2	Sometimes serpentine. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. ALA, AMA, BUT, COL, ELD, LAK, MPA, NAP, PLA, SCL, SHA, SOL, SON, TEH, and TUO Counties.	March-June	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine soils) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Brodiaea pallida</i>	Chinese Camp brodiaea	FT, CE, CNPS 1B.1	Vernal streambeds, serpentine soils in cismontane woodlands and valley-foothill grasslands, CAL and TUO Counties	May-June	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine soils) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.

Table 2, Continued

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat/ Notes	Bloom Period	Potential to Be Affected by Project
<i>Chlorogalum grandiflorum</i>	Red Hills soaproot	CNPS 1B.2	Serpentine, gabbroic and other soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland and lower montane coniferous forests, AMA, BUT, CAL, ELD, PLA, and TUO Counties.	May-June	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine soils) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Clarkia biloba ssp. australis</i>	Mariposa clarkia	CNPS 1B.2	Serpentinite. Chaparral, cismontane woodland. MPA and TUO Counties.	April-July	None. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Clarkia rostrata</i>	beaked clarkia	CNPS 1B.3	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. MER, MPA, STA, and TUO Counties	April-May	None. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Cryptantha mariposae</i>	Mariposa cryptantha	CNPS 1B.3	Chaparral (serpentinite, rocky). CAL, MPA, STA, and TUO Counties.	April-June	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine soils, chaparral) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Cryptantha spithamea</i>	Red Hills cryptantha	CNPS 1B.3	Serpentinite, sometimes streambeds, sometimes openings. Chaparral, cismontane woodland. CAL, MPA, and TUO Counties.	April-May	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine soils) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Diplacus pulchellus</i>	yellow-lip pansy monkeyflower	CNPS 1B.2	Vernally mesic, often disturbed areas, clay. Lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps. CAL, MPA, and TUO Counties.	April-July	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (vernal pools/seasonal wetlands, clay soils) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Eryngium pinnatisectum</i>	Tuolumne button-celery	CNPS 1B.2	Mesic. Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, vernal pools. AMA, CAL, SAC, SON, TUO Counties.	May-August	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (vernal pools/seasonal wetlands) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Eryngium spinosepalum</i>	spiny-sepaled button-celery	CNPS 1B.2	Vernal pools in valley-foothill grasslands, CCA, FRE, KRN, MAD, MER, SLO, STA, TUL, and TUO Counties	April-June	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (vernal pools/seasonal wetlands) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Erythranthe marmorata</i>	Stanislaus monkeyflower	CNPS 1B.1	Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, AMA, CAL, FRE, STA, and TUO Counties	March-May	None. Populations of this species in TUO County are considered extirpated. Most recent record in TUO and CAL counties is from 1919. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Erythronium tuolumnense</i>	Tuolumne fawn lily	CNPS 1B.2	Broadleaf upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, TUO County.	March-June	None. Project area is well below species elevational range. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.

Table 2, Continued

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat/ Notes	Bloom Period	Potential to Be Affected by Project
<i>Fritillaria agrestis</i>	stinkbells	CNPS 4.2	Clay, sometimes serpentinite. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. ALA, CCA, FRE, KRN, MEN, MER, MNT, MPA, PLA, SAC, SBA, SBT, SCL, SCR, SLO, SMT, STA, YOU, VEN, and YUB Counties.	March-June	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine or clay soils) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Lagophylla dichotoma</i>	forked hare-leaf	CNPS 1B.1	Clay soils in cismontane woodland and valley-foothill grassland, BUT, CAL, FRE, MER, MNT, SBT, and STA Counties	April-May	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (clay soils) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Lomatium congdonii</i>	Congdon's lomatium	CNPS 1B.2	Serpentinite. Chaparral, cismontane woodland. CAL, MPA, TUO Counties.	March-June	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine soils, chaparral) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Lupinus spectabilis</i>	shaggyhair lupine	CNPS 1B.2	Serpentinite. Chaparral, cismontane woodland. MPA and TUO Counties.	April-May	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine soils, chaparral) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Monardella venosa</i>	veiny monardella	CNPS 1B.1	Heavy clay soils in cismontane woodland and valley-foothill grassland, BUT, SUT, TUO, and YUB Counties.	May-July	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (clay soils) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Navarretia paradoxiclara</i>	Patterson's navarretia	CNPS 1B.3	Serpentine soils, vernal mesic openings, drainages, meadow, and seeps, CAL and TUO Counties.	May-July	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine soils, seasonal wetland) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.
<i>Verbena californica</i>	Red Hills vervain	FT, CT, CNPS 1B.1	Serpentine soils, mesic, seeps, and creeks in cismontane woodland and valley-foothill grasslands, TUO County.	May-September	None. Appropriate habitat for this species (serpentine soils) is not present within project AA. Species was not detected during botanical surveys.

Animal Species

A list of sensitive wildlife species potentially occurring within the project vicinity was developed based on information compiled from the USFWS, NOAA-Fisheries, CDFW, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB “Rarefind”, 2017: Sonora, Columbia, Melones Dam, and Angel’s Camp 7.5-minute USGS quad) and from the current literature. A list of sensitive wildlife species considered as part of this evaluation is included in Table 3.

Table 3: Sensitive Animal Species Considered for Environmental Review

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat and Range	Potential to Be Affected by Project
Invertebrates				
<i>Anodonta californiensis</i>	California floater	CNDDB	Freshwater lakes and slow-moving streams and rivers. Generally in shallow water. Collected from Tulloch Lake	None. Project will not affect habitat capable of supporting this species (lakes or slow pools).
<i>Aphrastochthonius grubbsi</i>	Grubbs' Cave pseudoscorpion	CNDDB	Known from Lost Piton Cave southeast of Angel's Camp, CA	None. Project will not affect habitat capable of supporting this species (limestone caves).
<i>Banksula martinorum</i>	Martins' cave harvestman	CNDDB	Known from Heater Cave, north of Columbia, CA	None. Project will not affect habitat capable of supporting this species (limestone caves).
<i>Banksula melones</i>	Melones Cave harvestman	CNDDB	Limestone caves in the vicinity of New Melones Reservoir on the Stanislaus River, Calaveras/Tuolumne counties. Cave temps range from 14-16 deg C; humidity, from 82-97%. Found under rocks or wandering on floor or walls.	None. Project will not affect habitat capable of supporting this species (limestone caves).
<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	Crotch bumble bee	CNDDB	Coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico. Food plant genera include Antirrhinum, Phacelia, Clarkia, Dendromecon, Eschscholzia, and Eriogonum.	Low. Plant species potentially used as forage for bumblebees occur within the project AA that may be impacted by the proposed project.
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	western bumble bee	CNDDB	Once common & widespread, species has declined precipitously from central CA to southern B.C., perhaps from disease.	Low. Plant species potentially used as forage for bumblebees occur within the project AA that may be impacted by the proposed project.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains, in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	None. Appropriate seasonally aquatic habitat capable of supporting this species is not available within the project AA.
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	valley elderberry longhorn beetle	FT	Occurs only in the Central Valley of California, under approximately 500' elevation, in association with blue elderberry (<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>).	None. Project Action Area is located outside of the range of this species.
<i>Monadenia mormonum buttoni</i>	Button's Sierra sideband snail	CNDDB	Known from the central Sierra Nevada counties. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley & foothill grassland.	Low. Project will affect habitat capable of supporting this species.

Table 3, Continued

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat and Range	Potential to Be Affected by Project
<i>Monadenia mormonum hirsuta</i>	hirsute Sierra sideband snail	CNDDDB	Known only from a few basaltic outcrops in Tuolumne County at Table Mountain. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley & foothill grassland.	None. Project will not affect habitat capable of supporting this species (basalt outcrops).
<i>Punctum hannah</i>	Trinity Spot	CNDDDB	Uncommon localized species with a disjunct range divided between the Klamath Mountains and Sierra Nevada. In moist leaf litter in forests, and in more areas, along streams or near seeps, springs, bogs and swamps.	None. Project will not affect habitat capable of supporting this species. Central Sierra specimens collected from swampy areas.
<i>Stygobromus gradyi</i>	Grady's Cave amphipod	CNDDDB	Known only from Central California. Known only from springs and caves in the Mother Lode karst region.	None. Project will not affect habitat capable of supporting this species (limestone caves).
Fish				
<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	Delta smelt	FT, CE	Sacramento-San Joaquin delta. Seasonally in Suisun bay, Carquinez strait & San Pablo bay. Seldom found at salinities > 10 ppt. Most often at salinities < 2ppt.	None. Project Action Area is located outside of the range of this species.
<i>Lavinia symmetricus ssp.</i> 1	San Joaquin roach	CSC	Tributaries to the San Joaquin River from the Cosumnes River south.	Low. Project AA is located within the range of the species and proposes work in aquatic feature that could provide potential aquatic habitat for this species. Aquatic habitat is located above New Melones Reservoir, a barrier to fish passage.
<i>Lavinia symmetricus ssp.</i> 3	Red Hills roach	CSC	Small streams near Sonora. Found in areas with serpentine soil.	None. Project Action Area is located outside of the range of this species.
<i>Onocorhynchus mykiss</i>	Steelhead, CA Central Valley DPS	FT	Populations in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries	None. Project is located upstream of New Melones Reservoir, a complete barrier to anadromy.
Amphibians				
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	California tiger salamander	FT, CT, CWL	Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows, & vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding.	None. Project Action Area is located outside of the range of this species.
<i>Rana boylei</i>	foothill yellow-legged frog	CC, CSC	Partly-shaded to sunny shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Needs at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying. Needs at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	Low. Project AA is located within the range of the species and proposes work in aquatic feature that may provide marginal aquatic habitat for this species.
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	FT, CSC	Lowlands & foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	Low. Project AA is located within the range of the species and proposes work in aquatic feature that could provide potential aquatic habitat for this species.

Table 3, Continued

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat and Range	Potential to Be Affected by Project
Reptiles				
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	western pond turtle	CSC	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft elevation. Needs basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	Low. Project AA is located within the range of the species and proposes work in aquatic feature that may provide marginal aquatic habitat for this species.
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	coast horned lizard	CSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial, and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	None. Appropriate habitat for this species is not available within project Action Area.
Birds				
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	tricolored blackbird	CT	Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley & vicinity. Largely endemic to California. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few km of the colony.	None. Habitat capable of supporting TCB colony is not available within project AA.
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	prairie falcon	CWL	Inhabits dry, open terrain, either level or hilly. Breeding sites located on cliffs. Forages far afield, even to marshlands and ocean shores.	None. Project will not affect potential nesting habitat for this species (cliffs).
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	bald eagle	CE, CFP	Ocean shore, lake margins, and rivers for both nesting and wintering. Most nests within 1 mile of water. Nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live tree with open branches, especially ponderosa pine. Roosts communally in winter.	None. Project will not affect potential nesting habitat for this species (large trees near open water).
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	osprey	CWL	Ocean shore, bays, freshwater lakes, and larger streams. Large nests built in tree-tops within 15 miles of a good fish-producing body of water.	None. Project will not affect potential nesting habitat for this species (large trees near open water).
	Migratory Birds	MBTA	Ground, vegetation, and/or structure nesting species, including swallows.	Low. Project construction activities may result in disturbances to potential bird nesting habitat but will not result in the take of nesting birds.

Table 3, Continued

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Habitat and Range	Potential to Be Affected by Project
Mammals				
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	pallid bat	CSC	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	None. Potential day-roost or maternity-roost habitat will not be affected by project.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big-eared bat	CSC	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	None. Potential day-roost or maternity-roost habitat will not be affected by project.
<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i>	North American porcupine	CNDDDB	Forested habitats in the Sierra Nevada, Cascade, and Coast ranges, with scattered observations from forested areas in the Transverse Ranges. Wide variety of coniferous and mixed woodland habitat.	None. Project will not affect coniferous woodland habitat.
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	western mastiff bat	CSC	Many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer & deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, chaparral, etc. Roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels.	Low. Potential day-roost or maternity-roost habitat (mature trees) may be affected by project.
<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	western red bat	CSC	Roosts primarily in trees, 2-40 ft above ground, from sea level up through mixed conifer forests. Prefers habitat edges and mosaics with trees that are protected from above and open below with open areas for foraging	Low. Potential day-roost or maternity-roost habitat (mature trees) may be affected by project
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	hoary bat	CNDDDB	Prefers open habitats or habitat mosaics, with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees. Feeds primarily on moths. Requires water.	Low. Potential day-roost or maternity-roost habitat (mature trees) may be affected by project
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma myotis	CNDDDB	Optimal habitats are open forests and woodlands with sources of water over which to feed. Distribution is closely tied to bodies of water. Maternity colonies in caves, mines, buildings or crevices.	None. Potential day-roost or maternity-roost habitat will not be affected by project.
	Bats – Tree roosting species	CSC	Mature trees.	Low. Potential day-roost or maternity-roost habitat (mature trees) may be affected by project

CE: CA Endangered **CT:** CA Threatened **CC:** Candidate for CESA listing **CR:** CA rare; Not presently threatened with extinction, it is in such small numbers that it may become endangered if its present environment worsens. **CSC:** California Special Concern: animals protected under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) or the Natural Communities Conservation Planning Act (NCCPA). **CFP:** California "Fully Protected" species. **FE:** Federal Endangered **FT:** Federal Threatened **FPE:** Federal Proposed Endangered **FPT:** Federal Proposed threatened. **CNDDDB:** Species that have no formal listing or protection status, but appear in the CNDDDB due to their conservation status ranking. **CWL:** "Watch List" CDFW **MBTA:** Birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Rare Plant Ranks (CNPS): **List 1B:** California Native Plant Society list of plants rare, threatened or endangered in California **CNPS List 2:** California native Plant Society list of plants rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere. **CNPS List 3:** California native Plant Society list of plants about which there is a need for more information- a review list. **CNPS List 4:** California native Plant Society list of plants of limited distribution- a watch list. **Rare Plant Threat Ranks (CNPS):** **0.1-**Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat); **0.2-**Fairly threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat); **0.3-**Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

The potential for sensitive biological resources to be affected by the proposed project are defined as follows:

None = No possibility of direct or indirect impacts to the species, species habitat, or resource due to one or more of the following: 1) the range of the species or resource is outside of the project Action Area; 2) appropriate surveys indicate that the species or resource does not occur within the Action Area; 3) there is no appropriate habitat to support the species or resource within or directly adjacent to the Action Area; and/or 4) the proposed project activities or activity type would not affect the species, species habitat, or resource.

Low = Low possibility of direct or indirect impacts to the species or resource. The range of the species or resource overlaps with the project Action Area and potentially suitable habitat may be present or is likely to be present within or directly adjacent to the project Action Area. However, the species or resource is not likely to be affected by the proposed project due to one or more of the following: 1) the species or resource is not likely to occur within the Action Area due to disturbance or environmental constraints or the species or resource is not otherwise likely to occur but cannot be entirely ruled out as absent from the Action Area based on occurrence of nearby records, survey timing, and/or survey accessibility; 2) the proposed project activities or activity type is not expected to affect the species, species habitat, or resource; and/or 3) avoidance measures can be feasibly implemented to prevent impacts to the species, species habitat, or resource during the proposed project activities.

Moderate = Moderate possibility of direct or indirect impacts to the species, species habitat, or resource. The range of species or resource overlaps with the project Action Area and potentially suitable habitat may be present or is present within or directly adjacent to the project Action Area. The species or resource has been observed, recorded, or is otherwise likely to occur within or adjacent to the Action Area, or has been recorded nearby in similar habitats as occur within the project Action Area. The proposed project activities have some potential to result in impacts to the species, species habitat, or resource due to one or more of the following: 1) the species or resource may occur within the Action Area but was not observed because of survey timing, survey accessibility, and/or other limitations; 2) it is unknown if the species will occupy the affected area at the time of construction; 3) avoidance and/or minimization measures can be feasibly implemented to prevent and/or reduce impacts to the species, species habitat, or resource during the proposed project activities; and/or 4) the proposed project activities or activity type is expected to result in *only* indirect impacts to the species, species habitat, or resource.

High = The species, species habitat, or resource has been observed or documented within the Action Area and is expected to be directly impacted (permanently or temporarily) by proposed project activities. Minimization and compensation measures may be implemented, however, no measures can be feasibly implemented to completely avoid the species or resource during the proposed project activities.

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Species List



Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database



Query Criteria: Quad> IS (Sonora (3712084) OR Angels Camp (3812015) OR Columbia (3812014) OR New Melones Dam (3712085))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020	None	Candidate Endangered	G2G3	S1S2	SSC
<i>Agrostis hendersonii</i> Henderson's bent grass	PMPOA040K0	None	None	G2Q	S2	3.2
<i>Allium jepsonii</i> Jepson's onion	PMLIL022V0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Allium tuolumnense</i> Rawhide Hill onion	PMLIL022W0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Anodonta californiensis</i> California floater	IMBIV04020	None	None	G3Q	S2?	
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i> pallid bat	AMACC10010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<i>Aphrastochthonius grubbsi</i> Grubbs' Cave pseudoscorpion	ILARA37010	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	
<i>Arctostaphylos nissenana</i> Nissenan manzanita	PDERI040V0	None	None	G1	S1	1B.2
<i>Balsamorhiza macrolepis</i> big-scale balsamroot	PDAST11061	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Banksula martinorum</i> Martins' cave harvestman	ILARA14070	None	None	G1	S1	
<i>Banksula melones</i> Melones Cave harvestman	ILARA14010	None	None	G1	S1	
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch bumble bee	IIHYM24480	None	None	G3G4	S1S2	
<i>Bombus occidentalis</i> western bumble bee	IIHYM24250	None	None	G2G3	S1	
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> vernal pool fairy shrimp	ICBRA03030	Threatened	None	G3	S3	
<i>Brodiaea pallida</i> Chinese Camp brodiaea	PMLIL0C0C0	Threatened	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
<i>Chlorogalum grandiflorum</i> Red Hills soaproot	PMLIL0G020	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<i>Clarkia biloba ssp. australis</i> Mariposa clarkia	PDONA05051	None	None	G4G5T3	S3	1B.2
<i>Clarkia rostrata</i> beaked clarkia	PDONA050Y0	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	1B.3
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> Townsend's big-eared bat	AMACC08010	None	None	G3G4	S2	SSC



Selected Elements by Scientific Name
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Cryptantha mariposae</i> Mariposa cryptantha	PDBOR0A1Q0	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	1B.3
<i>Cryptantha spithamea</i> Red Hills cryptantha	PDBOR0A2M2	None	None	G2	S2	1B.3
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> valley elderberry longhorn beetle	IICOL48011	Threatened	None	G3T2	S2	
<i>Diplacus pulchellus</i> yellow-lip pansy monkeyflower	PDSCR1B280	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
<i>Erethizon dorsatum</i> North American porcupine	AMAFJ01010	None	None	G5	S3	
<i>Eryngium pinnatisectum</i> Tuolumne button-celery	PDAP10Z0P0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Eryngium spinosepalum</i> spiny-sepaled button-celery	PDAP10Z0Y0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Erythranthe marmorata</i> Stanislaus monkeyflower	PDPHR01130	None	None	G2?	S2?	1B.1
<i>Erythronium tuolumnense</i> Tuolumne fawn lily	PMLIL0U0H0	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	1B.2
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i> western mastiff bat	AMACD02011	None	None	G5T4	S3S4	SSC
<i>Falco mexicanus</i> prairie falcon	ABNKD06090	None	None	G5	S4	WL
<i>Fritillaria agrestis</i> stinkbells	PMLIL0V010	None	None	G3	S3	4.2
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> bald eagle	ABNKC10010	Delisted	Endangered	G5	S3	FP
<i>Lagophylla dichotoma</i> forked hare-leaf	PDAST5J070	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
<i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i> western red bat	AMACC05060	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> hoary bat	AMACC05030	None	None	G5	S4	
<i>Lavinia symmetricus ssp. 1</i> San Joaquin roach	AFCJB19021	None	None	G4T3Q	S3	SSC
<i>Lavinia symmetricus ssp. 3</i> Red Hills roach	AFCJB19028	None	None	G4T1	S1	SSC
<i>Lomatium congdonii</i> Congdon's lomatium	PDAP11B0B0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
<i>Lupinus spectabilis</i> shaggyhair lupine	PDFAB2B3P0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2



Selected Elements by Scientific Name
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Monadenia mormonum buttoni</i> Button's Sierra sideband	IMGASC7071	None	None	G2T1	S1S2	
<i>Monadenia mormonum hirsuta</i> hirsute Sierra sideband	IMGASC7072	None	None	G2T1	S1	
<i>Monardella venosa</i> veiny monardella	PDLAM18082	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i> Yuma myotis	AMACC01020	None	None	G5	S4	
<i>Navarretia paradoxiclara</i> Patterson's navarretia	PDPLM0C150	None	None	G2	S2	1B.3
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i> osprey	ABNKC01010	None	None	G5	S4	WL
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	ARACF12100	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	SSC
<i>Punctum hannai</i> Trinity Spot	IMGAS47080	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	
<i>Rana boylei</i> foothill yellow-legged frog	AAABH01050	None	Candidate Threatened	G3	S3	SSC
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC
<i>Senecio clelandii</i> var. <i>heterophyllus</i> Red Hills ragwort	PDAST8H0R2	None	None	G4?T2Q	S2	1B.2
<i>Stygobromus gradyi</i> Grady's Cave amphipod	ICMAL05460	None	None	G1	S1	
<i>Verbena californica</i> Red Hills vervain	PDVER0N050	Threatened	Threatened	G2	S2	1B.1

Record Count: 53



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office

Federal Building

2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605

Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Phone: (916) 414-6600 Fax: (916) 414-6713



In Reply Refer To:

January 30, 2019

Consultation Code: 08ESMF00-2018-SLI-1150

Event Code: 08ESMF00-2019-E-02406

Project Name: 10-1G651 Tuttle town Curve

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the Service under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

Please follow the link below to see if your proposed project has the potential to affect other species or their habitats under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service:

http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/protected_species/species_list/species_lists.html

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

<http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF>

Please be aware that bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*), and projects affecting these species may require development of an eagle conservation plan (http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/eagle_guidance.html). Additionally, wind energy projects should follow the wind energy guidelines (<http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>) for minimizing impacts to migratory birds and bats.

Guidance for minimizing impacts to migratory birds for projects including communications towers (e.g., cellular, digital television, radio, and emergency broadcast) can be found at: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/towers.htm>; <http://www.towerkill.com>; and <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdIssues/Hazards/towers/comtow.html>.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office

Federal Building

2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605

Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

(916) 414-6600

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 08ESMF00-2018-SLI-1150

Event Code: 08ESMF00-2019-E-02406

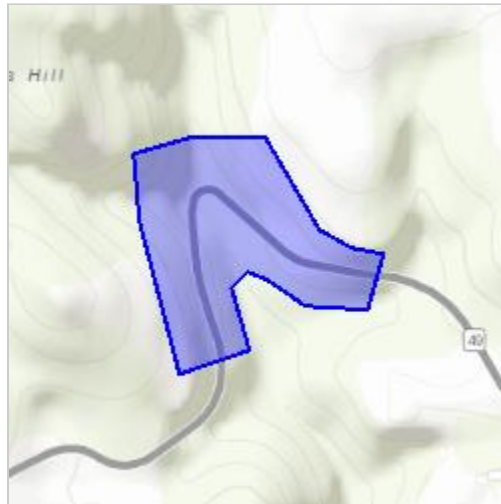
Project Name: 10-1G651 Tuttletown Curve

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Widen Curve for STAA Truck Turn Radius

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/37.99183364195392N120.4681047506188W>



Counties: Tuolumne, CA

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 6 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891	Threatened
California Tiger Salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> Population: U.S.A. (Central CA DPS) There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2076	Threatened

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Delta Smelt <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/321	Threatened

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Chinese Camp Brodiaea <i>Brodiaea pallida</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8290	Threatened
Red Hills Vervain <i>Verbena californica</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7344	Threatened

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

NOAA Fisheries List

10-1G651 Tuttle Town Curve TUO-49
NOAA-Fisheries List – 02-JAN-2019

Quad Name **New Melones Dam**

Quad Number **37120-H5**

ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) -
CCC Coho ESU (E) -
CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -
CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -
SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) -
NC Steelhead DPS (T) -
CCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SC Steelhead DPS (E) -
CCV Steelhead DPS (T) - **X**
Eulachon (T) -
sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) -

ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
NC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat -
Eulachon Critical Habitat -
sDPS Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat -

ESA Marine Invertebrates

Range Black Abalone (E) -
Range White Abalone (E) -

ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -

ESA Sea Turtles

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) -
Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) -
Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) -
North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) -

ESA Whales

Blue Whale (E) -
Fin Whale (E) -
Humpback Whale (E) -
Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) -
North Pacific Right Whale (E) -
Sei Whale (E) -
Sperm Whale (E) -

ESA Pinnipeds

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) -
Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -

Essential Fish Habitat

Coho EFH -
Chinook Salmon EFH - **X**
Groundfish EFH -
Coastal Pelagics EFH -
Highly Migratory Species EFH -

MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds

**See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office
562-980-4000**

MMPA Cetaceans -
MMPA Pinnipeds -

Quad Name **Columbia**
Quad Number **38120-A4**

ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) -
CCC Coho ESU (E) -
CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -
CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -
SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) -
NC Steelhead DPS (T) -
CCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SC Steelhead DPS (E) -
CCV Steelhead DPS (T) -
Eulachon (T) -
sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) -

ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
NC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat -
Eulachon Critical Habitat -
sDPS Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat -

ESA Marine Invertebrates

Range Black Abalone (E) -
Range White Abalone (E) -

ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -

ESA Sea Turtles

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) -
Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) -
Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) -
North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) -

ESA Whales

Blue Whale (E) -
Fin Whale (E) -
Humpback Whale (E) -
Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) -
North Pacific Right Whale (E) -
Sei Whale (E) -
Sperm Whale (E) -

ESA Pinnipeds

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) -
Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -

Essential Fish Habitat

Coho EFH -
Chinook Salmon EFH -
Groundfish EFH -
Coastal Pelagics EFH -
Highly Migratory Species EFH -

MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds

**See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office
562-980-4000**

MMPA Cetaceans -
MMPA Pinnipeds -

Quad Name **Sonora**
Quad Number **37120-H4**

ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) -
CCC Coho ESU (E) -
CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -
CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -
SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) -
NC Steelhead DPS (T) -
CCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SC Steelhead DPS (E) -
CCV Steelhead DPS (T) -
Eulachon (T) -
sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) -

ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
NC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat -
Eulachon Critical Habitat -
sDPS Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat -

ESA Marine Invertebrates

Range Black Abalone (E) -
Range White Abalone (E) -

ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -

ESA Sea Turtles

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) -
Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) -
Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) -
North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) -

ESA Whales

Blue Whale (E) -
Fin Whale (E) -
Humpback Whale (E) -
Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) -
North Pacific Right Whale (E) -
Sei Whale (E) -
Sperm Whale (E) -

ESA Pinnipeds

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) -
Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -

Essential Fish Habitat

Coho EFH -
Chinook Salmon EFH -
Groundfish EFH -
Coastal Pelagics EFH -
Highly Migratory Species EFH -

MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds

**See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office
562-980-4000**

MMPA Cetaceans -
MMPA Pinnipeds -

Quad Name **Angels Camp**
Quad Number **38120-A5**

ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) -
CCC Coho ESU (E) -
CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -
CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -
SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) -
NC Steelhead DPS (T) -
CCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SC Steelhead DPS (E) -
CCV Steelhead DPS (T) -
Eulachon (T) -
sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) -

ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
NC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat -
Eulachon Critical Habitat -
sDPS Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat -

ESA Marine Invertebrates

Range Black Abalone (E) -
Range White Abalone (E) -

ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -

ESA Sea Turtles

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) -
Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) -
Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) -
North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) -

ESA Whales

Blue Whale (E) -
Fin Whale (E) -
Humpback Whale (E) -
Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) -
North Pacific Right Whale (E) -
Sei Whale (E) -
Sperm Whale (E) -

ESA Pinnipeds

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) -
Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -

Essential Fish Habitat

Coho EFH -
Chinook Salmon EFH -
Groundfish EFH -
Coastal Pelagics EFH -
Highly Migratory Species EFH -

MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds

**See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office
562-980-4000**

MMPA Cetaceans -
MMPA Pinnipeds -

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Appendix C Comments and Responses

This appendix contains the comments received during the public circulation and comment period. A Caltrans response follows each comment presented.

At the beginning of the circulation period, Caltrans published notices in the *Union Democrat* newspaper notifying the public about the project and where copies of the draft environmental document would be available for review. The notice offered the opportunity for the public to share their comments through the contact information provided. The document circulation period ran from November 13, 2018, to December 13, 2018.

The comments received from the public and/or other agencies are included in this appendix, along with our responses.

Comment from State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA RECEIVED
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH
CALTRANS DIST 10
2018 DEC 19 AM 8:55



KEN ALEX
DIRECTOR

December 14, 2018

Jaycee Azevedo
California Department of Transportation, District 1
1976 E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Stockton, CA 95205

Subject: 10-1G651 - Tuttle town Pavement Widening
SCH#: 2018112022

Dear Jaycee Azevedo:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on December 13, 2018, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures

cc: Resources Agency

1400 10th Street P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, California 95812-3044
1-916-322-2318 FAX 1-916-558-3184 www.opr.ca.gov

Document Details Report State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2018112022
Project Title 10-1G651 - Tuttle town Pavement Widening
Lead Agency Caltrans #1

Type **Neg** Negative Declaration
Description Note: Review Per Lead

Caltrans proposes to widen the northbound and southbound sides of the curve between PM 25.2 and 25.4 of SR 49 in Tuolumne County. In the southbound direction, this will require importing material to fill an area of around 3,700 sf. As a secondary effect, this would also require replacing and extending the existing culvert in the proposed fill area. The purpose of the project is to make it safer for Surface Transportation Assistance Act trucks to make the turn without getting stuck on the unpaved shoulder, being unable to drive up the following incline, or having to swerve into the opposite lane to make the turn.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Jaycee Azevedo
Agency California Department of Transportation, District 1
Phone 209-941-1919
email
Address 1976 E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
City Stockton
State CA **Zip** 95205
Fax

Project Location

County Tuolumne
City
Region
Lat / Long
Cross Streets SR-49 between intersections with Jackass Hill and Tuttle town Rd
Parcel No.
Township
Range
Section
Base

Proximity to:

Highways
Airports
Railways
Waterways
Schools
Land Use public, RR, Large Lot Residential

Project Issues Aesthetic/Visual; Biological Resources

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Central Valley Flood Protection Board; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 4; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; California Highway Patrol; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Sacramento); State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality; Department of Toxic Substances Control; Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission

Date Received 11/07/2018 **Start of Review** 11/07/2018 **End of Review** 12/13/2018

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

Response to Comment from State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit

Thank you for reviewing and circulating the Draft Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration for the Tuttle town Pavement Widening project.

Comment from Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board



EDMUND G. SNOW, JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

UW
12/13/18

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

DEC 07 2018

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
CERTIFIED MAIL

7018 1830 0001 0062 3466

Jaycee Azevedo
California Department of Transportation
1976 East Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard
Stockton, CA 95205

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, 10-1G651 – TUTTLETOWN PAVEMENT WIDENING PROJECT, SCH# 2018112022, TUOLUMNE COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 7 November 2018 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Negative Declaration* for the 10-1G651 – Tuttle Town Pavement Widening Project, located in Tuolumne County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

I. Regulatory Setting

Basin Plan

The Central Valley Water Board is required to formulate and adopt Basin Plans for all areas within the Central Valley region under Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Each Basin Plan must contain water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, as well as a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives with the Basin Plans. Federal regulations require each state to adopt water quality standards to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and the Antidegradation Policy are the State's water quality standards. Water quality standards are also contained in the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.36, and the California Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.38.

The Basin Plan is subject to modification as necessary, considering applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions and priorities. The original Basin Plans were adopted in 1975, and have been updated and revised periodically as required, using Basin Plan amendments. Once the Central Valley Water Board has adopted a Basin Plan amendment in noticed public hearings, it must be approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and in some cases,

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PATRICK PULUPA, ESQ., EXECUTIVE OFFICER

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

RECYCLED PAPER

the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Basin Plan amendments only become effective after they have been approved by the OAL and in some cases, the USEPA. Every three (3) years, a review of the Basin Plan is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes Basin Planning issues.

For more information on the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins*, please visit our website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/.

Antidegradation Considerations

All wastewater discharges must comply with the Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy contained in the Basin Plan. The Antidegradation Policy is available on page IV-15.01 at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalleywater_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr.pdf

In part it states:

Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State.

This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measured by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives.

The antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes. The environmental review document should evaluate potential impacts to both surface and groundwater quality.

II. Permitting Requirements

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

(SWPPP).

For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml.

Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits¹

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/.

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ.

For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml.

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACOE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water

¹ Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACOE at (916) 557-5250.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACOE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act or Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications.

Waste Discharge Requirements – Discharges to Waters of the State

If USACOE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., “non-federal” waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project may require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation.

For more information on the Water Quality Certification and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit2.shtml.

Dewatering Permit

If the proposed project includes construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, the proponent may apply for coverage under State Water Board General Water Quality Order (Low Risk General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board's Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Risk Waiver) R5-2013-0145. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage under the General Order or Waiver must file a Notice of Intent with the Central Valley Water Board prior to beginning discharge.

For more information regarding the Low Risk General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf

For more information regarding the Low Risk Waiver and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2013-0145_res.pdf

Regulatory Compliance for Commercially Irrigated Agriculture

If the property will be used for commercial irrigated agricultural, the discharger will be required to obtain regulatory coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. There are two options to comply:

1. **Obtain Coverage Under a Coalition Group.** Join the local Coalition Group that supports land owners with the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The Coalition Group conducts water quality monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of its growers. The Coalition Groups charge an annual membership fee, which varies by Coalition Group. To find the Coalition Group in your area, visit the Central Valley Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/for_growers/apply_coalition_group/index.shtml or contact water board staff at (916) 464-4611 or via email at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.
2. **Obtain Coverage Under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Individual Growers, General Order R5-2013-0100.** Dischargers not participating in a third-party group (Coalition) are regulated individually. Depending on the specific site conditions, growers may be required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit a notice of intent, farm plan, and other action plans regarding their actions to comply with their General Order. Yearly costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 10-100 acres are currently \$1,084 + \$6.70/Acre); the cost to prepare annual monitoring reports; and water quality monitoring costs. To enroll as an Individual Discharger under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, call the Central Valley Water Board phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.

Limited Threat General NPDES Permit

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete Notice of Intent must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under the Limited Threat General Order.

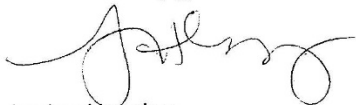
For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf

NPDES Permit

If the proposed project discharges waste that could affect the quality of surface waters of the State, other than into a community sewer system, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. A complete Report of Waste Discharge must be submitted with the Central Valley Water Board to obtain a NPDES Permit.

For more information regarding the NPDES Permit and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit3.shtml

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4812 or Jordan.Hensley@waterboards.ca.gov.



Jordan Hensley
Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento

Response to Comment from Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Thank you for reviewing and commenting on the Draft Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration for the Tuttle town Pavement Widening project. Caltrans has reviewed all of your comments and will comply with all applicable regulatory and permitting requirements for this project.

Letter of Concurrence from US Fish and Wildlife Service



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846



In Reply Refer to:
08ESMF00-
2018-I-2534

JUL 09 2018

Mr. Benjamin Broyles
Environmental Branch Chief, Northern San Joaquin Valley
California Department of Transportation, District 10
P.O. Box 2048
Stockton, California 95201

Subject: Informal Consultation for the Surface Transportation Assistance Act Turn Radius Improvement Project, Tuttletown, Tuolumne County, California

Dear Mr. Broyles:

This letter is in response to your June 8, 2018, letter and supporting documentation to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) requesting our concurrence that the proposed Surface Transportation Assistance Act Turn Radius Improvement Project (proposed project) may effect, but is not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species. The proposed project by California Department of Transportation District 10 (Caltrans), is located north of Tuttletown, Tuolumne County, California, and proposes to widen the northbound and southbound sides of the curve at highway post mile 25.3 on State Route (SR) 49. Further, the existing culvert will need to be replaced and extended. At issue are the proposed project's potential effects on the federally-threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*; CRLF). The proposed project is not within designated or proposed critical habitat for any federally-listed species. Our primary concern and mandate is the protection of federally-listed species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C 1531 *et seq.*) (Act).

We have reviewed the proposed project, including: (1) the June 8, 2018, letter from Caltrans to the Service requesting informal consultation; and (2) *TUO-49 Surface Transportation Assistance Act Turning Radius Improvement Project Biological Assessment*.

The proposed project will address a need for large trucks to safely make the turn located at approximately highway post mile 25.3 on SR 49 in Tuolumne County, California. Caltrans proposes to widen the northbound curve by approximately 25 feet and the southbound curve by approximately 80 feet from the existing edge of pavement to the toe of the proposed new embankment catch line. Widening requires excavation of adjacent hillsides, and placement of 3,700 square feet of fill material in the creek to construct the roadbed. Further, the highway cross culvert would be replaced with a longer culvert to compensate for highway curve widening and a new inlet headwall would be constructed. If necessary, clear water diversions would be used to enclose the construction area and reduce sediment pollution from construction work occurring in or adjacent to water. Construction activities are expected to begin in late April or early May of 2021 and the project is anticipated to complete construction activities in one construction season by December 30, 2021. The action area for the proposed project is estimated at approximately 2.79 acres.

CRLF have historically been recorded from 3.5 to 4.9 miles away from the proposed project, but have not been detected at historic sites in Tuolumne County since 1975. No CRLF were observed

during surveys conducted in 1999 and 2012 at these historic sites, although they still contain suitable breeding habitat (Barry and Fellers 2013). The project lies within the CRLF Recovery Unit 1, but the closest extant records of CRLF occur over 23 miles northwest of the proposed project in Calaveras County and over 35 miles north in El Dorado County. Site specific surveys were conducted on April 5, 2018 by a Caltrans biologist with no CRLF observations recorded.

The proposed project site contains intermittent aquatic and upland habitat potentially suitable for seasonal dispersal and foraging. The creek above and below the culvert are unlikely to support CRLF breeding. The intermittent stream segment above the highway culvert is a relatively high-gradient segment which would sweep away egg masses and tadpoles during flash storm events. On the April 5, 2018, site visit, flows downstream of the highway culvert were too shallow and discontinuous, with surface water infiltrating below ground in some segments. Therefore, it is unlikely that CRLF would breed within the project area. However, there is a small potential the project area could be used as dispersal habitat.

Although CRLF is unlikely to occur, Caltrans will implement avoidance measures that will reduce the potential for adverse impacts to the species and habitat during project activities. Caltrans proposes relevant conservation measures in Section 5.4 of the Biological Assessment (pg. 40-45) that include establishing environmentally sensitive areas, enforcing a limited operating period, implementing erosion control, providing environmental awareness training for construction personnel, limiting vegetation removal, revegetating temporarily affected areas onsite, conducting pre construction surveys, conducting site monitoring during ground disturbance activities, and overall enforcing construction site best practices.

After reviewing all available information, the Service concurs with your determination that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the California red-legged frog. We came to this conclusion based on the following reasons: (1) the project site contains no breeding habitat and has a low likelihood to be used as dispersal habitat; (2) proposed project activities will occur outside CRLF breeding season when the stream is in a dry or low-flow condition (typically July 1 to October 31); (3) distance and reduced habitat connectivity between extant populations and the project site; and (4) the proposed conservation measures will reduce the potential for adverse impacts to the species and species habitat during the proposed project activities. Therefore, unless new information reveals effects of the proposed action that may affect listed species in a manner or to an extent not considered, or a new species or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by the proposed action, no further action pursuant to the Act is necessary.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence for the proposed Turn Radius Improvement Project, please contact Stephanie Eyes, Fish and Wildlife Biologist (stephanie_eyes@fws.gov/(916) 414-6588); or myself (richard_kuyper@fws.gov/(916) 414-6621).

Sincerely,



Rick Kuyper
Chief, Sierra-Cascades Division

ec:

Jason Meigs, Caltrans Associate Environmental Planner, Northern San Joaquin Valley
Environmental Specialist Branch, Caltrans District 10

References Cited

- Barry, S.J. and G.M. Fellers. 2013. History and status of the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) in the Sierra Nevada, California, USA. *Herpetological Conservation and Biology* 8:456-502.

Response to Letter of Concurrence from US Fish and Wildlife Service

Thank you for reviewing and commenting on the Draft Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration for the Tuttle town Pavement Widening project.

List of Technical Studies & Preparers

Air Quality Memo (January 2018) – Terry Goewert

Cultural Screening Memo (May 2018) – Raymond Benson, Nathan Roberts

Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment (May 2018) – Jonathan Schlee

Natural Environment Study – Minimal Impacts (May 2018) – Jason Meigs

Noise Compliance Study (May 2018) – Allam Alhabaly

Scenic Resources Evaluation (June 2018) – Robyn Fong

Water Quality Memo (May 2018) – Allam Alhabaly

Initial Study with Negative Declaration (January 2019) – Alexandros Xides