

**FINAL**

**Initial Study and Mitigated  
Negative Declaration**

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31)  
Relocation Project**

*Lead Agency:*

**State of California Department of Forestry  
and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)  
1416 9th Street  
Sacramento, California 94244**

*Prepared for:*

**State of California  
Department of General Services  
Real Estate Services Division  
707 Third Street 3-401  
West Sacramento, California 95605**

**JUNE 2019**



**ECORP Consulting, Inc.**  
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

**Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration  
CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
State Clearinghouse #2019049058**

**June 2019**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**JUNE 11 2019**

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

**Lead Agency:**



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1416 9th Street  
Sacramento, California 94244**

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**California Department of General Services  
Real Estate Services Division  
707 3<sup>rd</sup> Street 3-401  
West Sacramento, California 95605**

**Prepared by:**



**3914 Murphy Canyon Road, Ste A206  
San Diego, CA 92123**

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## NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

**TO:**

Office of Planning and Research  
1400 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**FROM:**

State of California Department of Forestry and Fire  
Protection (CAL FIRE)  
Sacramento Headquarters  
1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
PO BOX 944246  
Sacramento, California 95814

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**SUBJECT:** Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code

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**PROJECT TITLE:** Potrero Fire Station Relocation Project

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State Clearinghouse Number	Contact Person	Telephone Number
2014122022	Stephanie Coleman	(916) 376-1602

**Project Approval:** CAL FIRE approved the Potrero Fire Station Relocation Project on June XX, 2019.

**Project Location:** The Project is located on Round Potrero Road in the unincorporated community of Potrero, California 91963, approximately one mile north of CA-94, within Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 653-100-21.

**Project Description:** The Proposed Project would involve the relocation and replacement of the existing CAL FIRE Station located at 25130 CA-94, Potrero, California. The project involves design and construction of a new fire station and accompanying facilities. The facility would include a mess hall, 12 bed barracks, a three-bay apparatus building, and a pump storage building with a generator. Appurtenance facilities to be constructed on the new project site include a fuel dispensing system, fuel vault, vehicle wash rack, and a flammable material storage building. The Proposed Project would also include on-site improvements such as grading, drainage, paving, walkways, curbs, roads, well drilling and domestic water system with tank storage, septic system, electrical, telephone, irrigation, lighting, fencing, and landscaping.

The Proposed Project would include site preparation, utility extensions and connections, water well, pipelines and 10,000-gallon domestic water storage tank, a 50,000-gallon fire/water irrigation storage tank, septic system, above-ground vehicle fuel storage, propane tanks and lines, sustainable design onsite storm water management features and solar photovoltaic panels, security fencing, and all necessary appurtenances including driveways and interior roads. An overflow parking area is proposed in the southeastern corner of the complex to accommodate increased staff and equipment during a major fire event.

The following site improvements would be required:

- Grading and paving, including site grading, leveling, new PCC-Concrete access drives and parking. Chain link fencing would be required along the western, southern and eastern perimeter of the station site, with provisions for interior security fences with rolling slide gates at interior driveways.
- Utilities, including water storage tanks (one for fire support and one for domestic use), redevelopment of the existing water supply well, and water distribution system; installation of standard septic system; electric and telephone system hook up; communications system; site lighting and installation of storm water collection system including drainage swales and storm water basins.
- Solar panels would be installed over parking spaces to offset 20% of facility energy use.
- Generators would be installed for emergency generation (propane powered) with electrical connection planned from existing overhead distribution.
- No existing utilities in place. Proposed utility design would utilize existing well for potable water system, subsurface disposal for wastewater, and connection to existing overhead power for electricity. There would be a propane tank on site for the generator and a separate LGP tank for the various building appliances.
- A fuel storage tank for vehicles, a 1,000-gallon propane storage tank for domestic service in the buildings and two separate 1,500-gallon propane tanks for the on-site generator.
- Depth of foundations/footers for structures to be approximately 3 to 4 feet deep based on grading plan.

The following offsite improvements would be required:

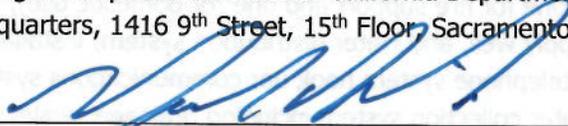
- Improvements for two driveway entrances at Round Potrero Road
- Installation of a drainage conduit under Round Potrero Road

CAL FIRE, as the Lead Agency, has approved the above-described project and has made the following determinations:

- a. There is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project will have a significant effect on the environment;
- b. In accordance with CEQA, a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project was prepared. The Mitigated Negative Declaration has been approved by CAL FIRE, which is the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project. The Mitigated Negative Declaration and record of project approval may be examined at the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Sacramento Headquarters, 1416 9th Street, 15th Floor, Sacramento, California 95814. The Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment and analysis of CAL FIRE;
- c. Mitigation measures were required to be made a condition of approval of the Proposed Project;

- d. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not required to be adopted for the Proposed Project; and
- e. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan was adopted for the Proposed Project.

This is to certify that the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration including comments and responses, the mitigation monitoring and reporting plan, and record of project approval is available to the general public at: State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Sacramento Headquarters, 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, California 95814.

  
Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director of  
Resource Protection and Improvement  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

6/5/19  
Date

Date Received for Filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration Approval**

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**APPROVAL OF POTRERO FIRE STATION RELOCATION PROJECT**

On behalf of the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), I approve the proposed Potrero Fire Station Relocation Project (Proposed Project). CAL FIRE, as Lead Agency for the Proposed Project (State Clearinghouse Number 2019049058), hereby approves the Proposed Project based on the following findings:

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Proposed Project would involve the relocation and replacement of the existing CAL FIRE Station located at 25130 CA-94, Potrero, California. The project involves design and construction of a new fire station and accompanying facilities. The facility would include a mess hall, 12 bed barracks, a three-bay apparatus building, and a pump storage building with a generator. Appurtenance facilities to be constructed on the new project site include a fuel dispensing system, fuel vault, vehicle wash rack, and a flammable material storage building. The Proposed Project would also include on-site improvements such as grading, drainage, paving, walkways, curbs, roads, well drilling and domestic water system with tank storage, septic system, electrical, telephone, irrigation, lighting, fencing, and landscaping.

The Proposed Project would include site preparation, utility extensions and connections, water well, pipelines and 10,000-gallon domestic water storage tank, a 50,000-gallon fire/water irrigation storage tank, septic system, above-ground vehicle fuel storage, propane tanks and lines, sustainable design onsite storm water management features and solar photovoltaic panels, security fencing, and all necessary appurtenances including driveways and interior roads. An overflow parking area is proposed in the southeastern corner of the complex to accommodate increased staff and equipment during a major fire event.

The following site improvements would be required:

- Grading and paving, including site grading, leveling, new PCC-Concrete access drives and parking. Chain link fencing would be required along the western, southern and eastern perimeter of the station site, with provisions for interior security fences with rolling slide gates at interior driveways.
- Utilities, including water storage tanks (one for fire support and one for domestic use), redevelopment of the existing water supply well, and water distribution system; installation of standard septic system; electric and telephone system hook up; communications system; site lighting and installation of storm water collection system including drainage swales and storm water basins.
- Solar panels would be installed over parking spaces to offset 20% of facility energy use.
- Generators would be installed for emergency generation (propane powered) with electrical connection planned from existing overhead distribution.
- No existing utilities in place. Proposed utility design would utilize existing well for potable water system, subsurface disposal for wastewater, and connection to existing overhead

power for electricity. There would be a propane tank on site for the generator and a separate LGP tank for the various building appliances.

- A fuel storage tank for vehicles, a 1,000-gallon propane storage tank for domestic service in the buildings and two separate 1,500-gallon propane tanks for the on-site generator.
- Depth of foundations/footers for structures to be approximately 3 to 4 feet deep based on grading plan.

The following offsite improvements would be required:

- Improvements for two driveway entrances at Round Potrero Road
- Installation of a drainage conduit under Round Potrero Road

## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

CAL FIRE has independently reviewed and considered the information contained in the whole record before it, including the Initial Study for the Proposed Project prior to approving the Proposed Project. The Initial Study, prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), assessed the Proposed Project's potential effects on the environment and the significance of these effects. Based on the whole record before it, CAL FIRE has determined that there is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project would result in significant effects on aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, utilities and service systems and wildfire. Based on the whole record before it, CAL FIRE has determined that, with mitigation, there is no substantial evidence that the Proposed Project would result in significant effects on biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, transportation, and tribal cultural resources.

The Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) was circulated to the public and to responsible public agencies for a public review period of 30 days starting on April 10, 2019. Two comment letters were received, and, together with the responses, are included in the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. As a result of comments received on the Draft IS/MND, no revisions were required to the Draft IS/MND text; however, a traffic impact assessment memorandum and a CAL FIRE letter concluding the tribal consultation period were added to the Appendices. There were no substantial revisions that would require recirculation of the document. A substantial revision according to Section 15073.5 of the *2013 CEQA Statute Guidelines* shall mean:

“(1) A new, avoidable significant effect is identified and mitigation measures or project revisions must be added in order to reduce the effect to insignificance, or

(2) The lead agency determines that the proposed mitigation measures or project revisions will not reduce potential effects to less than significance and new measures or revisions must be required.”

The Notice of Determination for this Proposed Project has been prepared in accordance with CEQA and is hereby approved. The record of approval documents for the Proposed Project will be retained

and made available for public review at the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, Sacramento Headquarters, 1416 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sacramento, California 95814.

CAL FIRE has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the Proposed Project. Upon consideration of this information, and in accordance with CEQA, I hereby approve the Potrero Fire Station Relocation Project.



6/5/19

Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director  
of Resource Protection and Improvement  
Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

Date

**POTRERO FIRE STATION RELOCATION PROJECT**

**Final  
Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**State Clearinghouse Number 2019049058**

**JUNE 2019**

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

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Attachment D – Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31)  
Relocation Project (Separately Provided)

**LIST OF TABLES**

**Table 5-1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the CAL FIRE Potrero Station  
(#31) Relocation Project**

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

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**FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION  
CAL FIRE POTRERO STATION (#31) RELOCATION PROJECT**

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**Lead Agency:** State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

**Project Proponent:** State of California Department of General Services (DGS)

**Project Location:** On Round Potrero Road in the unincorporated community of Potrero, California approximately one mile north of CA-94, within Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 653-100-21.

**Project Description:**

Due to safety and facility-age concerns, CAL FIRE is proposing a relocated, new fire station on a 5.98-acre site in the community of Potrero. The Proposed Project would involve the relocation and replacement of the existing Cal Fire Station located at 25130 CA-94, Potrero, California. The Proposed Project involves design and construction of a new fire station and accompanying facilities. The new station would include a mess hall, 12 bed barracks, a three-bay apparatus building, and a pump storage building with a generator. Appurtenance facilities to be constructed on the new project site include a fuel dispensing system, fuel vault, vehicle wash rack, and a flammable material storage building. The Proposed Project would also include on-site improvements such as grading, drainage, paving, walkways, curbs, roads, well drilling and domestic water system with tank storage, septic system, electrical, telephone, irrigation, lighting, fencing, and landscaping.

No plans have been made for the use of the existing station. It is anticipated that the station would be declared as surplus and vacated.

**Finding:** Based on the information contained in the attached Initial Study, CAL FIRE finds that there would not be a significant effect to the environment because the mitigation measures described herein would be incorporated as part of the Proposed Project.

**Public Review Period:** April 10, 2019 to May 9, 2019

**Mitigation Measures Incorporated into the Project to Avoid Significant Effects:**

**Biological Resources**

**BIO-1: Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species.** Prior to Initial Ground Disturbing Activities, the grading limits will be staked and clearly identifiable. Staking and fencing will be conducted in accordance with BIO-9 guidelines (below) and will occur outside the dripline of adjacent oak trees in order to protect the integrity of the tree.

**BIO-2: Use of Native Plants.** Trees to be planted as part of the project design will be restricted to native trees common within the surrounding area such as coast live oak and western sycamore. Planting of nonnative palms, eucalyptus, tamarisk, etc. will be avoided. Hydroseed mixtures and shrubs will

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

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utilize a native plant palette common to the immediate vicinity, inclusive of nectar sources for native bird and butterfly species.

**BIO-3: Arroyo Toad.** The following Best Management Practices (BMP) shall be implemented:

- All equipment and/or vehicles must be power-washed and clean prior to entering the work area to control the spread of invasive (non-native) weeds.
- Dust produced in or adjacent to riparian areas shall be minimized.
- Cleaning of vehicles and equipment shall take place off-site where feasible. Rinsing of vehicle tires and undercarriage for the purpose of dust control shall be performed within designated bermed areas.
- BMPs shall be inspected before, during, and after rain events. Appropriate action shall be taken when BMPs are found to be inadequate or ineffective. Damaged or worn silt fences, wattles, gravel bags, etc. shall be replaced.
- The Project shall comply with provisions of the Stormwater Pollution prevention (SWPPP) to manage erosion and loss of topsoil on-site and off-site.
- Whenever possible, grading will be phased to limit soil exposure. Finished areas will be revegetated or hydroseeded as soon as possible.
- Sediment basins will be constructed where appropriate and shall include additional filters for drainage (gravel bags, straw wattles, filter fabric, etc.) where necessary.
- Drain inlets will be protected using gravel bags or straw wattles. Check dams will be used to reduce runoff velocities where necessary. Fueling and equipment maintenance will take place within existing paved areas or identified laydown areas and occur at least 100 feet away from drainages.

**BIO-4: Arroyo Toad.** A qualified biologist shall conduct protocol level surveys for arroyo toad in accordance with most recent protocol guidelines which require at least six (6) surveys during the breeding season (March 15 to July 1) with at least one survey conducted in April, May, and June to determine breeding status of arroyo toads within the immediate vicinity of the project. Surveys will be conducted on portions of Potrero Creek that occur adjacent to the site as well as one mile upstream and one mile downstream of the site. Results of the surveys will be submitted to USFWS and formal Section 7 consultation would ensue, with acquisition of an Incidental Take Permit required should this species be found to occur. Should protocol surveys detect arroyo toads within this portion of the creek, preservation of similar upland habitat along Potrero Creek or purchase of mitigation credits in an established mitigation bank that provides connectivity to Potrero Creek would likely be required.

**BIO-5: Arroyo Toad.** Should protocol surveys detect arroyo toads, a qualified arroyo toad biologist will be available during all ground-disturbing activities related to the Proposed Project, including the installation and removal of toad fencing, mentioned below. The biologist must be approved by

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
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the USFWS at least two weeks prior to the start of construction. The arroyo toad biologist will be present each morning prior to ground disturbance activities, and during removal of excavation covers and soil stockpile tarps, to check for any arroyo toads that may have entered the area. The arroyo toad biologist will be on call and available, as needed. The biologist will be on site full-time, for up to 3 days, following any measurable rainfall. If an arroyo toad is found within the fenced areas, the arroyo toad biologist will immediately notify the Service to determine the appropriate action.

- BIO-6: Arroyo Toad.** The approved qualified arroyo toad biologist will conduct contractor education during all project phases. The education program will include a preconstruction briefing for all project personnel describing the arroyo toad and its habitat, the potential presence of arroyo toads adjacent to the project footprint, the importance of the avoidance measures and staying within project boundaries, reporting of potential arroyo toad sightings, and problem reporting and resolution methods. The contractor education will include other special-status natural resources that may occur and the importance of compliance with Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- BIO-7: Arroyo Toad.** Arroyo toads are considered nocturnal; thus, no nighttime work shall occur.
- BIO-8: Arroyo Toad.** During project activities, dirt or sand piles that are left overnight will be covered with tarps or plastic sheets with the edges sealed (e.g., with sandbags, bricks, or 2x4's) to prevent arroyo toads from burrowing into these piles. Holes or trenches will be covered with material such as plywood or solid metal grates with the edges sealed to prevent arroyo toads from falling into holes or trenches. If arroyo toads are observed in or adjacent to the project work site, work must stop immediately, and the biologist must notify the USFWS, after which a formal Section 7 consultation would ensue, and an Incidental Take Permit would be acquired. Similarly, stockpiles will be covered with tarps and/or surrounded with straw wattles or gravel bags. Materials that could impact storm water runoff will be stored in lockers, on pallets, inside rubber berms, indoors, or under a cover. Material storage areas will be located away from existing storm drains and surface waters.
- BIO-9: Arroyo Toad.** Prior to construction activities, temporary silt fencing shall be installed around the perimeter of all project footprints to exclude arroyo toads from entering work areas. Fencing will extend below ground to a depth of about 15 centimeters (6 inches) to prevent arroyo toads from burrowing beneath the fence. If it is not possible to extend fencing below ground, sand bags shall be placed over the bottom lip of the fence to hold it in place. All fencing materials (e.g., mesh, stakes) will be removed promptly following construction and shall be done in the presence of the approved qualified arroyo toad biologist. The approved qualified arroyo toad biologist will be present at the end of the day to check the integrity of the fencing and shall walk the perimeter of the fencing to ensure toads have not become entrapped. The biologist will inform construction personnel when fencing needs repairs. Damage to fencing shall be repaired immediately. Any dirt temporarily moved to install fencing shall remain within the project boundary. Soil layers excavated from the site shall be returned in the same order they were removed (i.e., the topsoil is to be returned to the topmost level).

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

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**BIO-10: Quino Checkerspot Butterfly.** A 10(a)(1)(A) permitted Quino checkerspot biologist shall conduct protocol level surveys for Quino checkerspot butterfly in accordance with most recent protocol guidelines which require weekly surveys during the flight season (3<sup>rd</sup> week of February to 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May). Results of the surveys will be submitted to USFWS and formal Section 7 consultation would ensue, with acquisition of an Incidental Take Permit required should this species be found to occur.

**BIO-11: Quino Checkerspot Butterfly.** Temporary impact areas within the fenced property (such as perimeter areas adjacent to leach fields and detention basins) will be restored with a native hydroseed mixture that includes host plants (*Plantago erecta*, *Plantago patagonica*, *Antirrhinum coulterianum*, *Cordylanthus rigidus*, *Castilleja exserta*, and *Collinsia heterophylla*) and nectar sources (*Lasthenia* spp., *cryptantha* spp., *Gilia* spp., *Linanthus dianthiflorus*, *Salvia columbariae*, and *Lotus* spp.) for Quino checkerspot butterfly.

**BIO-12: Raptors and Migratory Birds.** Initial clearing of vegetation inclusive of removal of the lone tree on the property shall be conducted outside the nesting bird season (February 1 through September 15). A preconstruction nesting bird survey of the entire project site and within 300' of the site shall occur within one to seven days prior to the commencement of construction.

- A. If active nests are found, a no-disturbance buffer around the nest(s) shall be established. The buffer distance shall be established by a qualified biologist in consultation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The buffer shall be maintained until the fledglings are capable of flight and become independent of the nest or the nest is deemed no longer active, to be determined by a qualified biologist. Once the young are independent of the nest and/or the nest is deemed no longer active by a qualified biologist, no further measures are necessary.

**BIO-13: Burrowing Owl.** A qualified biologist shall conduct four breeding season burrowing owl surveys between February 15 and July 15, in accordance with the 2012 CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012) guidelines. All habitat on site and within accessible areas within 500' of the site will be surveyed.

- A. If burrowing owls or active burrows are located, a qualified biologist in consultation with CDFW will develop a burrowing owl exclusion plan following the methods listed in the CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012). Implementation of the plan will result in no significant impacts to the species.

**BIO-14: Burrowing Owl.** If breeding season surveys are negative, two preconstruction surveys for burrowing owl shall be conducted to ensure that overwintering and vagrant burrowing owls do not occupy the site prior to construction activities. The first survey being scheduled between 30 and 14 days before initial ground disturbance (grading, grubbing, and construction), and the second survey being conducted no more than 24 hours prior to initial ground disturbance. If burrowing owls are found to occur during preconstruction surveys a 500' avoidance buffer will be established until a burrowing owl exclusion plan can be developed in consultation with CDFW and

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following the methods listed in the CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012).

**BIO-15: Special-Status Plant Surveys.** Focused special-status plant surveys shall be conducted prior to project implementation. Surveys will be conducted during the identifiable period for the species and known reference populations will be visited, if available, prior to surveys to confirm the phenological status of the species. Two survey periods would be required to correspond to appropriate blooming seasons: April to May and August to October.

- A. If no special-status plants are found within the project area, no further measures pertaining to special-status plants are necessary.
- B. If CNPS List 4 special-status plants are found within the project area, no further measures pertaining to CNPS List 4 species are necessary. Due to their listing status, impacts to CNPS List 4 special-status plants would not be significant and require additional mitigation.
- C. If special-status plants are found within the project area, they shall be avoided to the extent possible. If all potential impacts to the plants can be avoided, no further mitigation measures would be required.
- D. If special-status plants are found within the disturbance area and cannot be avoided, then additional conservation measures, such as seed collection, may need to be implemented based on coordination or consultation with the County, USFWS, or CDFW. Because the East County Plan has not been adopted, consultation with USFWS and CDFW would be required should listed plant species be found to occur. Additional conservation measures would depend on the number of individuals observed, species ranking, and known populations in the surrounding areas.

**BIO-16 Jurisdictional Waters.** A formal jurisdictional delineation shall be performed to determine the extent of the drainages, connectivity with Potrero Creek (if any), and the associated acreages (if any) that fall under federal and state jurisdiction. Prior to the construction of any phase or component of the project that involves impacting drainages, or wetlands through filling, stockpiling, conversion to a storm drain, channelization, bank stabilization, road or utility line crossings, or any other modification to a jurisdictional drainage, a jurisdictional delineation shall be conducted to determine the acreage of project-related impacts to these features. Regulatory permitting shall be performed in compliance with the CWA and the California Fish and Game Code and would require permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and Region Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) before any development could commence. Project specific mitigation for impacts to features jurisdictional to state and federal agencies will be determined during the wetland permitting process. Mitigation could include land conservation and management in perpetuity, on-site habitat enhancement and restoration, payment of in-lieu fees to authorized conservation organizations, or a combination of these measures.

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**Cultural Resources**

**CUL-1:** A qualified archaeologist and Campo monitor, if interested, shall conduct full-time monitoring of all ground disturbing activities that occur during the construction of the Proposed Project.

If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:

- A. If the professional archaeologist and Native American monitor, if present, determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately and no agency notifications are required.
- B. If the professional archaeologist and Native American monitor, if present, determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify CAL FIRE. Construction work can continue in other areas of the project, until the discovery is examined and evaluated. Any testing of cultural resource material as part of evaluation shall occur in consultation with the Campo Band of Mission Indians. Unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources shall include: (1) appropriate documentation (site record(s)) and re-burying on site in a location where the cultural resources will not be disturbed in the future. Paleontological resources shall be treated as prescribed by the CAL FIRE archeologist. The CAL FIRE archeologist will notify the State Representative when work can continue in the area of the discovery.
- C. If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, he or she shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (Assembly Bill [AB] 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the San Diego County Coroner (as per Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, and Assembly Bill 2641 will be implemented. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the project (Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead

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agencies, through consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.

**CUL-2: Monitoring and Response Measures for Potential Unknown Historic Archeological Resources.**

A cultural resources awareness training program will be provided to all construction personnel active on the project site during earth moving activities. The first training will be provided prior to the initiation of ground disturbing activities. The training will be developed and conducted in coordination with a qualified archaeologist meeting the United States Secretary of Interior guidelines for professional archaeologists and Native American monitor, if present. The program will include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations. The worker cultural resources awareness program will also describe appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for resources that have the potential to be located on the project site and will outline what to do and whom to contact if any potential archeological resources or artifacts are encountered.

Where ground disturbing activities occur in native soils, or there is no evidence of extensive past ground disturbances, a qualified archaeologist meeting the United States Secretary of Interior guidelines for professional archaeologists and Native American monitor, if present, will monitor ground-disturbing activities. If evidence of any historic-era subsurface archaeological features or deposits are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities (e.g. ceramic shard, trash scatters), all ground-disturbing activity in the area of the discovery shall be halted until a qualified archeologist and Native American monitor, if present, can access the significant of the find. If after evaluation, a resource is considered significant, all preservation options shall be considered as required by CEQA, including possible data recovery, mapping, capping, or avoidance of the resource. If artifacts are recovered from significant historic archaeological resources, they shall be housed at a qualified curation facility. The results of the identification, evaluation, and/or data recovery program for any unanticipated discoveries shall be presented in a professional-quality report that details all methods and findings, evaluated the nature of significance of the resources, analyzes and interprets the results, and distributes this information to the public.

**Geology and Soils**

**GEO-1: Geotechnical Investigation.** The Proposed Project shall incorporate the recommendations of a project site specific geotechnical investigation as a part of Project implementation. The investigation shall include an evaluation of groundwater depth and quality, liquefaction potential and its associative impacts, site percolation, the potential for radon/radionuclides, and the presence of potentially expansive soils.

**GEO-2: Unanticipated Discovery—Paleontological Resource.** In the event that any fossil materials are encountered during ground-disturbing project-related activities, all activities must be suspended in the vicinity of the find. A paleontologist shall be obtained and empowered to halt or divert ground-disturbing activities. A plan for monitoring and fossil recovery must be completed and implemented before ground-disturbing activities can recommence in the area of the fossil find to allow for the recovery of the find. Recovered fossils shall be analyzed to a point of identification

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
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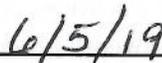
and curated at an established accredited museum repository with permanent retrievable paleontological storage. A technical report of findings shall be prepared with an appended itemized inventory of identified specimens and submitted with the recovered specimens to the curation facility.

**Transportation**

**TRANS-1: Traffic Control Plan.** Prior to the issuance of an encroachment permit, the California Department of General Services Real Estate Services Division (or its contractor) shall prepare a Traffic Control Plan to ensure access and traffic flow along Round Potrero Road is maintained during construction. The Traffic Control Plan shall be approved by the County of San Diego prior to any lane closures.

**This Mitigated Negative Declaration meets the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act. I hereby recommend approval:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Snow, Senior Environmental Planner  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, CAL FIRE has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project and finds that the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration reflect the independent judgment of CAL FIRE. The lead agency further finds that the Project mitigation will be implemented as stated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

**I hereby approve this Mitigated Negative Declaration:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director of Resource  
Protection and Improvement  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

[To be signed upon approval of the Proposed Project after the public review period is complete]

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**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

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**SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION**

This document is the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration including the Responses to Comments and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (Final IS/MND) for the CAL FIRE Potrero Fire Station (#31) Relocation Project (Proposed Project). It has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resource Code Section 21000 et. seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.) as amended.

This Final IS/MND and Responses to Comments document supplements and updates the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Draft IS/MND) released for public review on April 10, 2019.

The State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the Lead Agency for the Proposed Project. On April 10, 2019, CAL FIRE distributed the Draft IS/MND for the Proposed Project to public agencies and the general public for review and comment. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, a 30-day review period, which ended on May 9, 2019, was completed. During the public review period, written comments on the Draft IS/MND were received from Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians and County of San Diego.

This Final IS/MND document is organized as follows:

- Section 1.0 provides a discussion of the purpose of the document and discusses the structure of the document
- Section 2.0 contains a summary of the Project Description
- Section 3.0 includes the comment letters received and responses to these comments
- Section 4.0 includes corrections and revisions made to the Draft IS/MND in response to comments
- Section 5.0 includes the Proposed Project's Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), prepared pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21081.6
- Section 6.0 includes the Notice of Intent, proof of publication, environmental filing receipt, and the Draft IS/MND

This Final IS/MND document and the Draft IS/MND together constitute the environmental document for the Proposed Project.

As a result of comments received on the Draft IS/MND, minor additions were required to the Draft IS/MND Appendices; however, there were no substantial revisions that would require recirculation of the document. A substantial revision according to Section 15073.5 of the 2013 CEQA Statute Guidelines shall mean:

“(1) A new, avoidable significant effect is identified and mitigation measures or project revisions must be added in order to reduce the effect to insignificance, or

(2) The lead agency determines that the proposed mitigation measures or project revisions will not reduce potential effects to less than significance and new measures or revisions must be required.”

## **SECTION 2 PROJECT OVERVIEW**

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### **2.1 Project Location**

The Proposed Project is located on Round Potrero Road in the unincorporated community of Potrero, California approximately one mile north of CA-94, within Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 653-100-21.

### **2.2 Project Description**

The Proposed Project would involve the relocation and replacement of the existing CAL FIRE Station located at 25130 CA-94, Potrero, California. The project involves design and construction of a new fire station and accompanying facilities. The facility would include a mess hall, 12 bed barracks, a three-bay apparatus building, and a pump storage building with a generator. Appurtenance facilities to be constructed on the new project site include a fuel dispensing system, fuel vault, vehicle wash rack, and a flammable material storage building. The Proposed Project would also include on-site improvements such as grading, drainage, paving, walkways, curbs, roads, well drilling and domestic water system with tank storage, septic system, electrical, telephone, irrigation, lighting, fencing, and landscaping.

The Proposed Project would include site preparation, utility extensions and connections, water well, pipelines and 10,000-gallon domestic water storage tank, a 50,000-gallon fire/water irrigation storage tank, septic system, above-ground vehicle fuel storage, propane tanks and lines, sustainable design onsite storm water management features and solar photovoltaic panels, security fencing, and all necessary appurtenances including driveways and interior roads. An overflow parking area is proposed in the southeastern corner of the complex to accommodate increased staff and equipment during a major fire event.

The following site improvements would be required:

- Grading and paving, including site grading, leveling, new PCC-Concrete access drives and parking. Chain link fencing would be required along the western, southern and eastern perimeter of the station site, with provisions for interior security fences with rolling slide gates at interior driveways.
- Utilities, including water storage tanks (one for fire support and one for domestic use), redevelopment of the existing water supply well, and water distribution system; installation of standard septic system; electric and telephone system hook up; communications system; site lighting and installation of storm water collection system including drainage swales and storm water basins.
- Solar panels would be installed over parking spaces to offset 20% of facility energy use.
- Generators would be installed for emergency generation (propane powered) with electrical connection planned from existing overhead distribution.
- No existing utilities in place. Proposed utility design would utilize existing well for potable water system, subsurface disposal for wastewater, and connection to existing overhead power for

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
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electricity. There would be a propane tank on site for the generator and a separate LPG tank for the various building appliances.

- A fuel storage tank for vehicles, a 1,000-gallon propane storage tank for domestic service in the buildings and two separate 1,500-gallon propane tanks for the on-site generator.
- Depth of foundations/footers for structures to be approximately 3 to 4 feet deep based on grading plan.

The following offsite improvements would be required:

- Improvements for two driveway entrances at Round Potrero Road
- Potential left turn pocket on westbound Round Potrero Road at primary driveway entrance
- Installation of a drainage conduit under Round Potrero Road

The construction of the Proposed Project is expected to begin in 2020. Actual construction start will take place when project funding has been fully-secured and all construction contracts have been put in place.

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**SECTION 3 COMMENTS AND RESPONSES**

This section of the document contains copies of the comment letters received during the 30-day public review period, which began on April 10, 2019 and ended on May 9, 2019. In conformance with Section 15088(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines, CAL FIRE has considered comments on environmental issues from reviewers of the Draft IS/MND and has prepared written responses. Two letters were received, commenting on the Draft IS/MND. Additionally, a letter from the State Clearinghouse, acknowledging that CAL FIRE has complied with review requirements, was received. These letters, and the responses to the comments contained in the letters are provided in this section.

**3.1 List of Comment Letters**

A list of public agencies, organizations, and individuals that provided comments on the Draft IS/MND is presented below. The letters and the responses to the comments follow this page.

<b>Letter Number</b>	<b>Sender</b>	<b>Date Received</b>
1	Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians	5/7/2019
2	County of San Diego	5/9/2019
3	Governor's Office of Planning and Research	5/10/2019

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**Letter 1 – Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, Received May 6, 2019**

**LETTER 1**



P.O. Box 908  
Alpine, CA 91903  
#1 Viejas Grade Road  
Alpine, CA 91901

2019 MAY -6 P 2:23

Phone: 6194453810  
Fax: 6194455337  
viejas.com

April 12, 2019

Stephanie Coleman  
Senior Environmental Planner  
CAL FIRE  
P.O. Box 989052- MS509  
West Sacramento, CA 95798

**RE: Potrero CAL FIRE Station Replacement Project**

Dear Ms. Coleman,

The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians ("Viejas") has reviewed the proposed project and at this time we have determined that the project site has cultural significance or ties to Viejas.

1-1

Viejas Band request that a Kumeyaay Cultural Monitor be on site for ground disturbing activities to inform us of any new developments such as inadvertent discovery of cultural artifacts, cremation sites, or human remains.

1-2

Please call me at 619-659-2312 or Ernest Pingleton at 619-659-2314 or email, [rtaran@viejas-nsn.gov](mailto:rtaran@viejas-nsn.gov) or [epingleton@viejas-nsn.gov](mailto:epingleton@viejas-nsn.gov), for scheduling. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ray Teran, Resource Management  
VIEJAS BAND OF KUMEYAAY INDIANS

**Letter 1 Responses to Comments**

**Response to Comment 1-1:**

This letter provides no specific background information addressing the cultural significance of the project site to the Viejas Band. It should be noted that a search of the Sacred Lands File was requested from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento, California. The results of the Sacred Lands File records search were positive, indicating the presence of Native American cultural resources within the Project Area. The NAHC identified 20 Native American groups and individuals with historic or traditional

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ties to the Project Area, including Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians. At the request of DGS/RES/D, information gathering letters were emailed and mailed by U.S. Postal Service to all identified Native American entities on October 16, 2018, including the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians.

Tribal requests for consultation and project involvement were forwarded to the DGS/RES/D and CAL FIRE. AB 52 consultation proceedings were requested by the Campo Band of Mission Indians and the Jamul Indian Village. AB52 consultation was concluded on April 15, 2019.

**Response to Comment 1-2:**

Please refer to the Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources Sections of the document (Sections 4.5 and 4.18, respectively). Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 shall be implemented in order to reduce impacts related to the potential for ground-disturbing activities to expose previously unidentified cultural resources. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 requires that a qualified archaeologist (and Campo monitor, if interested) shall conduct full-time monitoring of all ground disturbing activities that occur during the construction of the Proposed Project. This Mitigation Measure also includes a step-by-step process if resources are discovered. Mitigation Measure CUL-2 details a cultural resources awareness training program that will be provided to all construction personnel active on the project site during earth moving activities. This training will also describe appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for resources that have the potential to be located on the project site and will outline what to do and whom to contact if any potential archeological resources or artifacts are encountered.

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
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Letter 2 – County of San Diego, received May 9, 2019

**LETTER 2**



**County of San Diego**

**MARK WARDLAW**  
DIRECTOR

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
5510 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 310, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123  
(858) 505-6445 General • (858) 694-2705 Codes • (858) 565-5920 Building Servi  
www.SDCPDS.org

**KATHLEEN A. FLANNERY**  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

May 9, 2019

Stephanie Coleman  
Senior Environmental Planner  
P.O. Box 989052 – MS509  
West Sacramento, CA 95798

Via e-mail to: [environmental@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:environmental@dgs.ca.gov)

**REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION'S NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CAL FIRE POTRERO STATION (#31) RELOCATION PROJECT**

Dear Ms. Coleman,

The County of San Diego (County) reviewed the California Department of Forestry and Fire Projection's (CalFire) Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project (Project), dated April 10, 2019.

The County appreciates the opportunity to review the Project and offers the following comments for your consideration. Please note that none of these comments should be construed as County support for this Project.

2-1

**PUBLIC WORKS**

1. The proposed Project is located along County-maintained, Round Potrero Road, which contains a County-maintained 18-inch culvert in front of the Project site. Any pavement, curb/gutter/sidewalk, culverts, utilities, traffic control-related infrastructure, as well as any other infrastructure within the County-maintained road right-of-way that is damaged by the Project shall be replaced to its original condition or better to the satisfaction of the County Department of Public Works (DPW).
  - a. Round Potrero Road was most recently resurfaced in November 2016, so any roadway excavation must also be conducted in accordance with the County's Pavement Cut Policy. Such activities may also require an encroachment and/or excavation permit in consultation with the County. The County requests that CalFire coordinate with County DPW prior to any modification of the County-maintained facilities.

2-2

**WATERSHED PROECTION PROGRAM**

1. The proposed Project includes the construction of large areas of impervious surfaces that may generate potential pollutant and hydromodification impacts to adjacent private parcels, municipal storm sewer system (MS4), and/or local receiving waters located in the unincorporated county. Therefore, the Project may need to consider the following items:

2-3

# CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project

## Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration

Ms. Coleman  
May 9, 2019  
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- a. San Diego Municipal Storm Water Permit Order No. R9-2013-0001, (as amended by Order Nos. R9-2015-0001 and R9-2015-0100). It is recommended that the Project implement permanent Site Design, Source Control, Pollutant Control, and Hydromodification Management practices in accordance with the County of San Diego Model BMP Design Manual: ([http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/DevelopmentandConstruction/BMP\\_Design\\_Manual.html](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/dpw/watersheds/DevelopmentandConstruction/BMP_Design_Manual.html)). County staff is available as a resource to assist in Project design to minimize impacts from stormwater runoff leaving the Project site.

2-3  
ctd.

### LAND WATER QUALITY DIVISION

1. The Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) states that the new fire station will be served by a domestic water system with tank storage. If the domestic water system will serve 25 or more people, a permit will be required from the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS) Program and the existing well on site must meet Title 22 construction and testing standards. Contact Joseph Palmer at 858-505-6640 or [Joseph.Palmer@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:Joseph.Palmer@sdcountry.ca.gov) for DEH SDWS permitting requirements.
2. The IS-MND states that the new fire station will include a mess hall and 12 bed barracks and be served by a septic system. DEH requires submission of a septic layout, including percolation testing and an engineered design with flow calculations, with appropriate fees. Contact Craig Caes at 858-694-2551 or [Craig.Caes@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:Craig.Caes@sdcountry.ca.gov) for DEH Onsite Wastewater Treatment System permitting requirements.
3. The IS-MND states that the Project includes a vehicle wash rack. Wastewater collection systems associated with these facilities are prohibited from discharging to an onsite wastewater treatment system and must be approved through the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board.

2-4

### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS DIVISION (HMD)

1. The Project proposes to store hazardous materials in the following areas:
  - a. PUMP STORAGE BUILDING – proposed generator; and
  - b. APPURTENANCE FACILITIES – proposed fuel dispensing system, fuel vault, vehicle wash rack and flammable material storage building

State departments and agencies are subject to State hazardous waste and hazardous materials requirements that are administered by DEH as a Certified Unified Program Agency. If chemicals/hazardous materials/hazardous wastes stored in these (or any other areas) will hold a volume greater than or equal to 55 gallons, 500 pounds or 200 cubic feet each (e.g. diesel, gasoline, propane, used oil, oily water, etc.), CalFire is required to submit a Hazardous Materials Questionnaire to the HMD and complete a HMD Hazardous Materials Plan Check review before occupying this facility. For your reference, information regarding the plan check requirement can be reviewed at: [https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/hazmat/hazmat/hmd\\_plan\\_check.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/hazmat/hazmat/hmd_plan_check.html)

2-5

2. Any proposed activities involving the storage and handling of hazardous materials or generating hazardous/medical waste will require the operator(s) to apply for a Unified Program Facility Permit through the California Environmental Reporting System (CERS) and comply with local and State laws and regulations. <https://cers.calepa.ca.gov/>
3. Facilities with a total storage capacity of 1,320 gallons or more of petroleum in aboveground tanks, containers, and equipment 55-gallons or greater is subject to the California Aboveground Petroleum

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Storage Act (APSA) and subject to additional regulatory requirements. Facilities with 10,000 or more gallons of petroleum must have their Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure plan certified by a professional engineer. Additional information can be found on our website at:

[https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/hazmat/hmd\\_apsa.html](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/hazmat/hmd_apsa.html)

4. Any and all construction-related hazardous wastes (e.g. fuel, oil, paints, coatings, solvents, etc.) generated and stored onsite must be properly labeled and handled in a manner to prevent release to the environment. In addition, the applicant and/or contractor(s) must ensure any hazardous wastes generated onsite during construction is properly labeled and disposed of by a registered hazardous waste hauler. A Unified Program Facility Permit may also be required for the accumulation and storage of these wastes (see comment 2).
5. The existing Potrero CAL FIRE Station #31 (DEH2002-HUPFP-120704) is currently permitted for a 1,000 gallon aboveground diesel tank. If this tank will not be used at another facility and will be dismantled, recycled, disposed, etc., a hazardous waste tank closure certification is required: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/deh/hmd/pdf/hm-9704.pdf>. This form should be completed and submitted with the request to inactivate the existing permit when the existing facility is no longer operational.
6. Please note, the HMD has the authority pursuant to State law and County Code to regulate facilities that handle or store hazardous materials and/or generate hazardous/medical wastes. The HMD will apply that authority as necessary to protect public health and the environment. Additional information can be found on our website at: <https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/deh/hazmat.html>

2-5  
ctd.

The County appreciates the opportunity to comment on this Project. We look forward to receiving future documents related to this Project and providing additional assistance, at your request. If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact Timothy Vertino, Land Use / Environmental Planner, at (858) 495-5468, or via e-mail at [timothy.vertino@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:timothy.vertino@sdcountry.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Eric Lardy, AICP  
Chief, Advance Planning Division  
Planning & Development Services

E-mail cc: Adam Wilson, Policy Advisor, Board of Supervisors, District 2  
Mel Millstein, Group Program Manager, LUEG  
Lara Barrett, CAO Staff Officer, LUEG  
Jeff Kashak, Land Use/Environmental Planner, DPW  
Kimberly Jones, Land Use/Environmental Planner, DPW  
Mary Bennett, Administrative Analyst, DEH

## **Letter 2 Response to Comments**

### **Response to Comment 2-1:**

Comment noted.

### **Response to Comment 2-2:**

The state will repair/restore any County-maintained roadway in front of the Project site. The need for an Encroachment Permit is identified in Table 2.5-1 of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. The County's Pavement Cut Policy is noted. CalFire will coordinate with County DPW prior to modification of the County-maintained facilities.

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

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**Response to Comment 2-3**

The Project design will comply with County's Storm Water Permit (Order No. R9-2013-0001). The Project is design is intended as a self-contained facility to minimize offsite impacts. CalFire will incorporate source control, pollutant control and hydromodification management practices, and will coordinate with the County in the implementation of these measures.,

**Response to Comment 2-4**

At this time, the onsite domestic water system is intended to serve fewer than 25 people on a daily basis. Should this service level change, CalFire will obtain required permits in conformance with Title 22 construction and testing standards. The need for a County wastewater disposal system permit is identified in IS/MND Table 2.5-1. Percolation testing is included in Mitigation Measure GEO-1. CalFire will coordinate with DEH in meeting permitting requirements. The proposed wash rack will discharge to an onsite detention pond.

**Response to Comment 2-5**

The County Department of Environmental Health's (DEH) authority and responsibility in implementing and enforcing local, state and federal environmental laws as they pertain to public health and safety is summarized on page 4-59 of the IS/MND. CalFire will coordinate with HMD in meeting hazardous materials plan check requirements prior to occupation of the facility. CalFire will comply with Unified Program Facility Permit requirements in the storage and handling of any hazardous material at the Project site. Comments regarding compliance with the State's Aboveground Petroleum Storage Act (APSA) and Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures plan certification are noted. Comments regarding labeling, handling and disposal of construction-related hazardous wastes are noted, as are requirements for any future closure of the aboveground diesel tank at the existing CAL FIRE Station #31 site.

The State Real Estate Service Division (RESO) and CAL FIRE have a vital interest in maintaining public health and safety and will coordinate other state agencies, and County HMD, to protect public health and the environment.

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

**Letter 3 – Office of Planning and Research, received May 15, 2019**



Gavin Newsom  
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Kate Gordon  
Director

**LETTER 3**

May 10, 2019

Stephanie Coleman  
Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of  
PO Box 989052-MS509  
West Sacramento, CA 95798

Subject: CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
SCH#: 2019049058

Dear Stephanie Coleman:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named MND to selected state agencies for review. The review period closed on 5/9/2019, and no state agencies submitted comments by that date. 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 visit: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2019049058/2>, for full details about your project.

Please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process. If you have a question about the above-named project, please refer to the ten-digit State Clearinghouse number when contacting this office.

Sincerely,

  
Scott Morgan  
Director, State Clearinghouse

2019 MAY 15 A 8:53  
REC'D BOS  
REAL ESTATE SERVICES  
PROPERTY & DEVELOPMENT

1400 TENTH STREET P.O. BOX 3044 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-3044  
TEL 1-916-445-0613 state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov www.opr.ca.gov

**Letter 3 Response to Comments**

This letter acknowledges State Clearinghouse receipt of the Draft Initial/Study Mitigated Declaration for distribution and indicates no State agencies responded with comments.

**SECTION 4 REVISIONS TO DRAFT INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE  
DECLARATION**

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The following revisions or additions are made to the Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration following distribution of the Draft IS/MND for public comment:

1. **New Appendix H – Potrero Station Transportation Impact Assessment Memorandum (Fehr & Peers; May 13, 2019).** New Appendix H has been added summarizing results of a transportation impact assessment consisting of the following;
  - A Level of Service assessment under Existing and Existing Plus Project Conditions at the Round Potrero Road/Potrero Valley Road intersection
  - A left-turn pocket assessment under Existing Plus Project Conditions at Round Potrero Road and the Project driveway.

Key findings and conclusions of the assessment are that the Project will not cause significant impacts to the study intersection and does not require a left turn pocket for inbound vehicles. This analysis provides further support for the less than significant impact conclusions in the Draft IS/MND. It does not identify significant new effects, or any significant effects previously examined that would be substantially more severe.

2. **CAL FIRE Letter of April 15, 2019 to Campo Band of Mission Indians.** This letter documents the AB 52 consultation process with the Campo Band, describes modifications to mitigation measures to include provisions for Campo Band tribal monitors during the ground-disturbing phase of the fire station replacement, and indicates the conclusion of tribal cultural resources consultation pursuant to PRC § 21080.3.2(b)(1). This letter is added to Appendix G of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.

The foregoing additions do not constitute a substantial revision to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration that would otherwise require recirculation of the document according to Section 15073.5 of the CEQA Guidelines. No other revisions are made to the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.

## **SECTION 5 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN**

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### **5.1 Introduction**

In accordance with CEQA, an MND that identifies adverse impacts related to the construction activity and operations of the CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project was prepared. The MND identifies mitigation measures that would reduce or eliminate these impacts.

Section 21081.6 of the Public Resources Code and Sections 15091(d) and 15097 of the State CEQA Guidelines require public agencies to adopt a reporting and monitoring program for changes to the project which it has adopted or made a condition of project approval in order to mitigate or avoid significant effects on the environment. An MMRP is required for the Proposed Project, because the IS/MND identified potentially significant adverse impacts related to construction activity, and mitigation measures have been identified to mitigate these impacts. Adoption of the MMRP will occur along with approval of the Proposed Project.

### **5.2 Purpose of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan**

This MMRP has been prepared to ensure that all required mitigation measures are implemented and completed according to schedule and maintained in a satisfactory manner during the construction and operation of the Proposed Project, as required. The MMRP may be modified by CAL FIRE during project implementation, as necessary, in response to changing conditions or other project refinements. Table 5-1 has been prepared to assist the responsible parties in implementing the MMRP. This table identifies the category of significant environmental impact(s), individual mitigation measures, monitoring and mitigation timing, responsible person/agency for implementing the measure, monitoring and reporting procedure, and notation space to confirm implementation of the mitigation measures. The numbering of the mitigation measures follows the numbering sequence in the IS/MND.

### **5.3 Roles and Responsibilities**

CAL FIRE, as Lead Agency, is responsible for oversight of compliance of the mitigation measures in the MMRP.

### **5.4 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan**

The column categories identified in the MMRP table (Table 5-1) are described below.

- **Mitigation Measure** – This column lists the mitigation measures by number.
- **Monitoring Activity/Timing/Frequency/Schedule** – This column lists the activity to be monitored for each mitigation measure, the timing of each activity, and the frequency/schedule of monitoring for each activity.

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- **Implementation Responsibility/Verification** – This column identifies the entity responsible for complying with the requirements of the mitigation measure and provides space for verification initials and date.
  
- **Responsibility for Oversight of Compliance/Verification** – This column provides the agency responsible for oversight of the mitigation implementation and is to be dated and initialed by the agency representative based on the documentation provided by the construction contractor or through personal verification by agency staff.
  
- **Outside Agency Coordination** – This column lists any agencies with which CAL FIRE may coordinate for implementation of the mitigation measure.
  
- **Comments** – This column provides space for written comments, if necessary.

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**Table 5-1  
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Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Monitoring Activity/Timing/ Frequency/ Schedule</b>	<b>Implementation Responsibility/ Verification</b>	<b>Responsibility for Oversight of Compliance/ Verification</b>	<b>Outside Agency Coordination</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<p><b>BIO-1: Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species.</b> Prior to Initial Ground Disturbing Activities, the grading limits will be staked and clearly identifiable. Staking and fencing will be conducted in accordance with BIO-9 guidelines (below) and will occur outside the dripline of adjacent oak trees in order to protect the integrity of the tree.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Stake grading limits</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Prior to construction</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Once prior to construction</p>	<p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>		
<p><b>BIO-2: Use of Native Plants.</b> Trees to be planted as part of the project design will be restricted to native trees common within the surrounding area such as coast live oak and western sycamore. Planting of nonnative palms, eucalyptus, tamarisk, etc. will be avoided. Hydroseed mixtures and shrubs will utilize a native plant palette common to the immediate vicinity, inclusive of nectar sources for native bird and butterfly species.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Ensure plant palette consists of native plants</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Prior to planting and hydroseeding</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Once prior to planting and hydroseeding</p>	<p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>		

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<p><b>BIO-3: Arroyo Toad.</b> The following Best Management Practices (BMP) shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All equipment and/or vehicles must be power-washed and clean prior to entering the work area to control the spread of invasive (non-native) weeds.</li> <li>■ Dust produced in or adjacent to riparian areas shall be minimized.</li> </ul> <p><b>BIO-3: Arroyo Toad continued</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cleaning of vehicles and equipment shall take place off-site where feasible. Rinsing of vehicle tires and undercarriage for the purpose of dust control shall be performed within designated bermed areas.</li> <li>■ BMPs shall be inspected before, during, and after rain events. Appropriate action shall be taken when BMPs are found to be inadequate or ineffective. Damaged or worn silt fences, wattles, gravel bags, etc. shall be replaced.</li> <li>■ The Project shall comply with provisions of the Stormwater Pollution prevention (SWPPP) to manage erosion and loss of topsoil on-site and off-site.</li> <li>■ Whenever possible, grading will be phased to limit soil exposure. Finished</li> </ul>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Implement and inspect BMPs</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Throughout construction</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Throughout construction</p>	<p><b>Project Contractor</b></p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p>		
		<p>Initials</p>	<p>Initials</p>		
		<p>Date</p>	<p>Date</p>		

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<p>areas will be revegetated or hydroseeded as soon as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sediment basins will be constructed where appropriate and shall include additional filters for drainage (gravel bags, straw wattles, filter fabric, etc.) where necessary.</li> </ul> <p><b>BIO-3: Arroyo Toad continued</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Drain inlets will be protected using gravel bags or straw wattles. Check dams will be used to reduce runoff velocities where necessary. Fueling and equipment maintenance will take place within existing paved areas or identified laydown areas and occur at least 100 feet away from drainages.</li> </ul>					
<p><b>BIO-4: Arroyo Toad.</b> A qualified biologist shall conduct protocol level surveys for arroyo toad in accordance with most recent protocol guidelines which require at least six (6) surveys during the breeding season (March 15 to July 1) with at least one survey conducted in April, May, and June to determine breeding status of arroyo toads within the immediate vicinity of the project. Surveys will be conducted on portions of Potrero Creek that occur adjacent to the site as well as one mile upstream and one mile downstream of the site. Results of the surveys will be submitted to USFWS and formal Section 7 consultation would ensue, with acquisition of an</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Six Protocol arroyo toad surveys</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> March 15 to July 1 (Completed 2019)</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> At least one survey conducted in April, May, and June</p>	<p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>Possible coordination with USFWS.</p>	

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<p>Incidental Take Permit required should this species be found to occur.</p> <p><b>BIO-4: Arroyo Toad continued</b></p> <p>Should protocol surveys detect arroyo toads within this portion of the creek, preservation of similar upland habitat along Potrero Creek or purchase of mitigation credits in an established mitigation bank that provides connectivity to Potrero Creek would likely be required.</p>					
<p><b>BIO-5: Arroyo Toad.</b> Should protocol surveys detect arroyo toads, a qualified arroyo toad biologist will be available during all ground-disturbing activities related to the Proposed Project, including the installation and removal of toad fencing, mentioned below. The biologist must be approved by the USFWS at least two weeks prior to the start of construction. The arroyo toad biologist will be present each morning prior to ground disturbance activities, and during removal of excavation covers and soil stockpile tarps, to check for any arroyo toads that may have entered the area. The arroyo toad biologist will be on call and available, as needed. The biologist will be on site full-time, for up to 3 days, following any measurable rainfall.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Have approved biological monitor present during ground-disturbing activities and following rain events</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> As needed</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> As needed</p>	<p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>Possible coordination with USFWS.</p>	

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<p><b>BIO-5: Arroyo Toad continued</b> If an arroyo toad is found within the fenced areas, the arroyo toad biologist will immediately notify the Service to determine the appropriate action.</p>					
<p><b>BIO-6: Arroyo Toad.</b> The approved qualified arroyo toad biologist will conduct contractor education during all project phases. The education program will include a preconstruction briefing for all project personnel describing the arroyo toad and its habitat, the potential presence of arroyo toads adjacent to the project footprint, the importance of the avoidance measures and staying within project boundaries, reporting of potential arroyo toad sightings, and problem reporting and resolution methods. The contractor education will include other special-status natural resources that may occur and the importance of compliance with Best Management Practices (BMPs).</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Worker education training</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Throughout construction when a new worker arrives onsite</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> As needed</p>	<p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>		

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<p><b>BIO-7: Arroyo Toad.</b> Arroyo toads are considered nocturnal; thus, no nighttime work shall occur.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Ensure no nighttime work occurs.</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Throughout construction</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Throughout construction</p>	<p><b>Project Contractor</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>		
<p><b>BIO-8: Arroyo Toad.</b> During project activities, dirt or sand piles that are left overnight will be covered with tarps or plastic sheets with the edges sealed (e.g., with sandbags, bricks, or 2x4's) to prevent arroyo toads from burrowing into these piles. Holes or trenches will be covered with material such as plywood or solid metal grates with the edges sealed to prevent arroyo toads from falling into holes or trenches. If arroyo toads are observed in or adjacent to the project work site, work must stop immediately, and the biologist must notify the USFWS, after which a formal Section 7 consultation would ensue, and an Incidental Take Permit would be acquired.</p> <p><b>BIO-8: Arroyo Toad continued</b></p> <p>Similarly, stockpiles will be covered with tarps and/or surrounded with straw wattles or gravel bags. Materials that could impact storm water runoff will be stored in lockers, on pallets, inside</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Cover dirt or sand piles, holes, stockpiles, and trenches left overnight. Store materials away from existing drains.</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Throughout construction</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Throughout construction</p>	<p><b>Project Contractor</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>		Possible USFWS coordination

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<p>rubber berms, indoors, or under a cover. Material storage areas will be located away from existing storm drains and surface waters.</p>					
<p><b>BIO-9: Arroyo Toad.</b> Prior to construction activities, temporary silt fencing shall be installed around the perimeter of all project footprints to exclude arroyo toads from entering work areas. Fencing will extend below ground to a depth of about 15 centimeters (6 inches) to prevent arroyo toads from burrowing beneath the fence. If it is not possible to extend fencing below ground, sand bags shall be placed over the bottom lip of the fence to hold it in place. All fencing materials (e.g., mesh, stakes) will be removed promptly following construction and shall be done in the presence of the approved qualified arroyo toad biologist.</p> <p><b>BIO-9: Arroyo Toad continued</b></p> <p>The approved qualified arroyo toad biologist will be present at the end of the day to check the integrity of the fencing and shall walk the perimeter of the fencing to ensure toads have not become entrapped. The biologist will inform</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Install exclusion fencing around the perimeter of the project prior to construction; remove fencing immediately following construction. Biologist will check integrity of fencing throughout construction.</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Prior to and immediately following construction</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Biologist will inspect fence throughout construction; Repairs to be made</p>	<p><b>Project Contractor</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p> <p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>		

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<p>construction personnel when fencing needs repairs. Damage to fencing shall be repaired immediately. Any dirt temporarily moved to install fencing shall remain within the project boundary. Soil layers excavated from the site shall be returned in the same order they were removed (i.e., the topsoil is to be returned to the topmost level).</p>	<p>by contractor as needed</p>	<p>Date</p>			
<p><b>BIO-10: Quino Checkerspot Butterfly.</b> A 10(a)(1)(A) permitted Quino checkerspot biologist shall conduct protocol level surveys for Quino checkerspot butterfly in accordance with most recent protocol guidelines which require weekly surveys during the flight season (3<sup>rd</sup> week of February to 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May).</p> <p><b>BIO-10: Quino Checkerspot Butterfly continued</b></p> <p>Results of the surveys will be submitted to USFWS and formal Section 7 consultation would ensue, with acquisition of an Incidental Take Permit required should this species be found to occur.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Protocol level Quino checkerspot butterfly survey</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Weekly surveys 3<sup>rd</sup> week of February to 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in May (completed May 2019)</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Weekly throughout flight season (completed May 2019)</p>	<p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>Possible coordination with USFWS.</p>	
<p><b>BIO-11: Quino Checkerspot Butterfly.</b> Temporary impact areas within the fenced property (such as perimeter areas adjacent to leach fields and detention basins) will be restored with a native hydroseed mixture that includes host plants (<i>Plantago erecta</i>, <i>Plantago patagonica</i>, <i>Antirrhinum coulterianum</i>, <i>Cordylanthus rigidus</i>, <i>Castilleja exserta</i>, and</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Ensure hydroseed mixture includes Quino host plants</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Prior to hydroseeding</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Once</p>	<p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/>		

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<p><i>Collinsia heterophylla</i>) and nectar sources (<i>Lasthenia</i> spp., <i>cryptantha</i> spp., <i>Gilia</i> spp., <i>Linanthus dianthiflorus</i>, <i>Salvia columbariae</i>, and <i>Lotus</i> spp.) for Quino checkerspot butterfly.</p>		Date	Date		
<p><b>BIO-12: Raptors and Migratory Birds.</b> Initial clearing of vegetation inclusive of removal of the lone tree on the property shall be conducted outside the nesting bird season (February 1 through September 15). A preconstruction nesting bird survey of the entire project site and within 300' of the site shall occur within one to seven days prior to the commencement of construction.</p> <p>A. If active nests are found, a no-disturbance buffer around the nest(s) shall be established. The buffer distance shall be established by a qualified biologist in consultation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The buffer shall be maintained until the fledglings are capable of flight and become independent of the nest or the nest is deemed no longer active, to be determined by a qualified biologist. Once the young are independent of the nest and/or the nest is deemed no longer active by a qualified biologist, no further measures are necessary.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Contractor ensures removal of tree between Sept 16 – Jan 31. Preconstruction nesting bird survey</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Survey within 1-7 days prior to start of construction</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Once</p>	<p><b>Project Contractor</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p> <p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>		

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<p><b>BIO-13: Burrowing Owl.</b> A qualified biologist shall conduct four breeding season burrowing owl surveys between February 15 and July 15, in accordance with the 2012 CDFW Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012) guidelines. All habitat on site and within accessible areas within 500' of the site will be surveyed.</p> <p>A. If burrowing owls or active burrows are located, a qualified biologist in consultation with CDFW will develop a burrowing owl exclusion plan following the methods listed in the CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012). Implementation of the plan will result in no significant impacts to the species.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Breeding season burrowing owl surveys</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Between February 15 and July 15</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Four surveys</p>	<p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>		
<p><b>BIO-14: Burrowing Owl.</b> If breeding season surveys are negative, two preconstruction surveys for burrowing owl shall be conducted to ensure that overwintering and vagrant burrowing owls do not occupy the site prior to construction activities. The first survey being scheduled between 30 and 14 days before initial ground disturbance (grading, grubbing, and construction), and the second survey being conducted no more than 24 hours prior to initial ground disturbance. If burrowing owls are found to occur during preconstruction surveys a 500' avoidance buffer will be established until a burrowing owl exclusion plan can be developed</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Two preconstruction surveys (if owls are not detected during breeding season)</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> One survey 30-14 days before initial ground disturbance; one no more than 24 hours prior to initial ground disturbance</p>	<p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	Possible coordination with CDFW	

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<p>in consultation with CDFW and following the methods listed in the CDFW's Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012).</p>	<p><b>Frequency:</b> Two surveys</p>				
<p><b>BIO-15: Special-Status Plant Surveys.</b>          Focused special-status plant surveys shall be conducted prior to project implementation. Surveys will be conducted during the identifiable period for the species and known reference populations will be visited, if available, prior to surveys to confirm the phenological status of the species. Two survey periods would be required to correspond to appropriate blooming seasons: April to May and August to October.</p> <p>A. If no special-status plants are found within the project area, no further measures pertaining to special-status plants are necessary.</p> <p>B. If CNPS List 4 special-status plants are found within the project area, no further measures pertaining to CNPS List 4 species are necessary. Due to their listing status, impacts to CNPS List 4 special-status plants would not</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Special status plant surveys</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> One survey between April and May; one between August and October</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Two surveys</p>	<p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>Possible coordination with County of San Diego, USFWS, or CDFW</p>	

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<p>be significant and require additional mitigation.</p> <p><b>BIO-15: Special-Status Plant Surveys continued</b></p> <p>C. If special-status plants are found within the project area, they shall be avoided to the extent possible. If all potential impacts to the plants can be avoided, no further mitigation measures would be required.</p> <p>D. If special-status plants are found within the disturbance area and cannot be avoided, then additional conservation measures, such as seed collection, may need to be implemented based on coordination or consultation with the County, USFWS, or CDFW. Because the East County Plan has not been adopted, consultation with USFWS and CDFW would be required should listed plant species be found to occur. Additional conservation measures would depend on the number of individuals observed, species ranking, and known populations in the surrounding areas.</p>					
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<p><b>BIO-16: Jurisdictional Waters.</b> A formal jurisdictional delineation shall be performed to determine the extent of the drainages, connectivity with Potrero Creek (if any), and the associated acreages (if any) that fall under federal and state jurisdiction. Prior to the construction of any phase or component of the project that involves impacting drainages, or wetlands through filling, stockpiling, conversion to a storm drain, channelization, bank stabilization, road or utility line crossings, or any other modification to a jurisdictional drainage, a jurisdictional delineation shall be conducted to determine the acreage of project-related impacts to these features. Regulatory permitting shall be performed in compliance with the CWA and the California Fish and Game Code and would require permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and Region Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) before any development could commence. Project specific mitigation for impacts to features jurisdictional to state and federal agencies will be determined during the wetland permitting process.</p> <p><b>BIO-16: Jurisdictional Waters continued</b></p> <p>Mitigation could include land conservation and management in perpetuity, on-site habitat enhancement and restoration, payment of in-lieu fees to authorized conservation organizations, or a combination of these measures.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Jurisdictional delineation survey</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Prior to construction</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Once</p>	<p><b>Project Biologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>Possible coordination with USACE, CDFW, RWQCB</p>	
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<p><b>CUL-1: Archaeological Monitoring:</b> A qualified archaeologist and Campo monitor, if interested, shall conduct full-time monitoring of all ground disturbing activities that occur during the construction of the Proposed Project.</p> <p>If subsurface deposits believed to be cultural or human in origin are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:</p> <p><b>CUL-1: Archaeological Monitoring continued:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. If the professional archaeologist and Native American monitor, if present, determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately and no agency notifications are required.</li> <li>B. If the professional archaeologist and Native American monitor, if present, determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify</li> </ul>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Full time monitoring of ground disturbing activities</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> During ground disturbing activities</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> As needed</p>	<p><b>Project Archaeologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>Possible coordination with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).</p>	
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<p>CAL FIRE. Construction work can continue in other areas of the project, until the discovery is examined and evaluated. Any testing of cultural resource material as part of evaluation shall occur in consultation with the Campo Band of Mission Indians. Unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources shall include: (1) appropriate documentation (site record(s)) and re-burying on site in a location where the cultural resources will not be disturbed in the future.</p> <p><b>CUL-1: Archaeological Monitoring continued:</b></p> <p>Paleontological resources shall be treated as prescribed by the CAL FIRE archeologist. The CAL FIRE archeologist will notify the State Representative when work can continue in the area of the discovery.</p> <p>B. If the find includes human remains, or remains that are potentially human, he or she shall ensure reasonable protection measures are taken to protect the discovery from disturbance (Assembly Bill [AB] 2641). The archaeologist shall notify the San Diego County Coroner (as per Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code). The provisions of Section 7050.5</p>					
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<p>of the California Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.98 of the California Public Resources Code, and Assembly Bill 2641 will be implemented.</p> <p>C. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American and not the result of a crime scene, the Coroner will notify the NAHC, which then will designate a Native American Most Likely Descendant (MLD) for the project (Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code). The designated MLD will have 48 hours from the time access to the property is granted to make recommendations concerning treatment of the remains. If the landowner does not agree with the recommendations of the MLD, the NAHC can mediate (Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code). If no agreement is reached, the landowner must rebury the remains where they will not be further disturbed (Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code). This will also include either recording the site with the NAHC or the appropriate Information Center; using an open space or conservation zoning designation or easement; or recording a reinternment document with the county in which the property is located (AB 2641). Work may not resume within the no-work radius until the lead agencies, through</p>					
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<p>consultation as appropriate, determine that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.</p>					
<p><b>CUL-2: Monitoring and Response Measures for Potential Unknown Historic Archeological Resources.</b> A cultural resources awareness training program will be provided to all construction personnel active on the project site during earth moving activities. The first training will be provided prior to the initiation of ground disturbing activities. The training will be developed and conducted in coordination with a qualified archaeologist meeting the United States Secretary of Interior guidelines for professional archaeologists and Native American monitor, if present. The program will include relevant information regarding sensitive cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations. The worker cultural resources awareness program will also describe appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for resources that have the potential to be located on the project site and will outline what to do and</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Cultural resources awareness training</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Prior to construction and when a new worker arrives onsite</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> As needed</p>	<p><b>Project Archaeologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>		

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<p>whom to contact if any potential archeological resources or artifacts are encountered.</p> <p><b>CUL-2: Monitoring and Response Measures for Potential Unknown Historic Archeological Resources continued:</b></p> <p>Where ground disturbing activities occur in native soils, or there is no evidence of extensive past ground disturbances, a qualified archaeologist meeting the United States Secretary of Interior guidelines for professional archaeologists and Native American monitor, if present, will monitor ground-disturbing activities. If evidence of any historic-era subsurface archaeological features or deposits are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities (e.g. ceramic shard, trash scatters), all ground-disturbing activity in the area of the discovery shall be halted until a qualified archeologist and Native American monitor, if present, can access the significant of the find. If after evaluation, a resource is considered significant, all preservation options shall be considered as required by CEQA, including possible data recovery, mapping, capping, or avoidance of the resource.</p>					
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<p><b>CUL-2: Monitoring and Response Measures for Potential Unknown Historic Archeological Resources continued:</b></p> <p>If artifacts are recovered from significant historic archaeological resources, they shall be housed at a qualified curation facility. The results of the identification, evaluation, and/or data recovery program for any unanticipated discoveries shall be presented in a professional-quality report that details all methods and findings, evaluated the nature of significance of the resources, analyzes and interprets the results, and distributes this information to the public.</p>					
<p><b>GEO-1: Geotechnical Investigation.</b> The Proposed Project shall incorporate the recommendations of a project site specific geotechnical investigation as a part of Project implementation. The investigation shall include an evaluation of groundwater depth and quality, liquefaction potential and its associative impacts, site percolation, the potential for radon/radionuclides, and the presence of potentially expansive soils.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Geotechnical investigation</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Prior to project construction</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Once</p>	<p><b>Project Contractor</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>		

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<p><b>GEO-2: Unanticipated Discovery—Paleontological Resource.</b> In the event that any fossil materials are encountered during ground-disturbing project-related activities, all activities must be suspended in the vicinity of the find. A paleontologist shall be obtained and empowered to halt or divert ground-disturbing activities. A plan for monitoring and fossil recovery must be completed and implemented before ground-disturbing activities can recommence in the area of the fossil find to allow for the recovery of the find. Recovered fossils shall be analyzed to a point of identification and curated at an established accredited museum repository with permanent retrievable paleontological storage. A technical report of findings shall be prepared with an appended itemized inventory of identified specimens and submitted with the recovered specimens to the curation facility.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> If paleontological materials are found then ground disturbing activities must be suspended within a 100-foot radius of the find.</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Throughout construction</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> As required</p>	<p><b>Project Archaeologist</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>Possible coordination with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).</p>	
<p><b>TRANS-1: Traffic Control Plan.</b> Prior to the issuance of an encroachment permit, the California Department of General Services Real Estate Services Division (or its contractor) shall prepare a Traffic Control Plan to ensure access and traffic flow along Round Potrero Road is maintained during construction. The Traffic Control Plan shall be approved by the County of San Diego prior to any lane closures.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b> Traffic control plan (County-approved)</p> <p><b>Timing:</b> Prior to lane closures</p> <p><b>Frequency:</b> Once</p>	<p><b>Project Contractor</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p><b>CAL FIRE</b></p> <hr/> <p>Initials</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p>	<p>Possible coordination with County</p>	

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

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**SECTION 6 LIST OF ATTACHMENTS**

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Attachment A – Notice of Intent

Attachment B – Proof of Public Notice

Attachment C – Environmental Filing Fee

Attachment D – Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project (Separately Provided)

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

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**ATTACHMENT A**

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Notice of Intent

## NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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DATE: April 10, 2019

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE CAL FIRE POTRERO STATION (#31) RELOCATION PROJECT**

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the Lead Agency for the proposed CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project (Proposed Project). CAL FIRE has directed the preparation of an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of an IS/MND is to provide decision makers, public agencies, and the general public with an objective and informative document that facilitates a basic understanding of the Proposed Project and fully discloses the potential environmental effects associated with the Proposed Project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects. CAL FIRE will use the IS/MND to obtain permits, agreements, and approvals from necessary agencies to implement the project.

**Project Location:** The Proposed Project is located on Round Potrero Road in the unincorporated community of Potrero, California approximately one mile north of CA-94, within Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 653-100-21.

**Project Description:** The Proposed Project would involve the relocation and replacement of the existing CAL FIRE Station located at 25130 CA-94, Potrero, California. The project involves design and construction of a new fire station and accompanying facilities. The facility would include a mess hall, 12 bed barracks, a three-bay apparatus building, and a pump storage building with a generator. Appurtenance facilities to be constructed on the new project site include a fuel dispensing system, fuel vault, vehicle wash rack, and a flammable material storage building. The Proposed Project would also include on-site improvements such as grading, drainage, paving, walkways, curbs, roads, well drilling and domestic water system with tank storage, septic system, electrical, telephone, irrigation, lighting, fencing, and landscaping.

The Proposed Project would include site preparation, utility extensions and connections, water well, pipelines and 10,000-gallon domestic water storage tank, a 50,000-gallon fire/water irrigation storage tank, septic system, above-ground vehicle fuel storage, propane tanks and lines, sustainable design onsite storm water management features and solar photovoltaic panels, security fencing, and all necessary appurtenances including driveways and interior roads. An overflow parking area is proposed in the southeastern corner of the complex to accommodate increased staff and equipment during a major fire event.

**Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts:** Potentially significant impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, transportation/traffic, and tribal cultural resources were identified in the Initial Study. All impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the incorporation of mitigation measures.

**Public Review Period:** In compliance with CEQA, CAL FIRE has established a 30-day public review period beginning April 10, 2019 to solicit comments and input on the Draft IS/MND.

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

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To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, written comments are invited from all interested parties. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the Draft IS/MND should be submitted no later than 5:00 pm on May 9, 2019 to:

Attn: Stephanie Coleman, Senior Environmental Planner  
PO Box 989052 - MS509  
West Sacramento, CA 95798

Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the Draft IS/MND may also be submitted electronically no later than May 9, 2019 to the following electronic mailbox:

[environmental@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:environmental@dgs.ca.gov)

Copies of the Draft IS/MND are available for public review at the following locations:

Potrero Branch Library  
24883 Potrero Valley Rd.  
Potrero, CA 91963  
(619) 478-5978

Potrero CAL FIRE Station #31  
25130 Highway 94  
Potrero, CA 91963  
(619) 478-5544

The Draft IS/MND is available for public review online at the following website:

<http://bit.ly/DGSCEQA>

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
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**ATTACHMENT B**

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Proof of Public Notice

PROJECT SITE NOTICE OF INTENT POSTING -- 4/9/10 (1 OF 3 LOCATIONS) (Plus Direct Mailing to Property Owners within 500 ft. of Project Site)



**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
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**ATTACHMENT C**

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Environmental Filing Fee

**CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project  
Final Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration**

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**ATTACHMENT D**

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Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the CAL FIRE Potrero Station (#31) Relocation Project (Separately Provided)

[www.ecorpc consulting.com](http://www.ecorpc consulting.com)

**REDLANDS, CA**  
(909) 307-0046

**SAN DIEGO, CA**  
(858) 279-4040

**ROCKLIN, CA**  
(916) 782-9100

**CHICO, CA**  
(530) 809-2585

**FLAGSTAFF, AZ**  
(858) 232-9602

**SANTA ANA, CA**  
(714) 648-0630

**SANTA FE, NM**  
(714) 222-5932