

# **U.S. Route 101 San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement**

U.S. Route 101 in the City of Goleta in Santa Barbara County

05-SB-101-PM 21.3/21.9

EA 05-1H430

Project ID 0516000073

SCH Number: 2019129047

## **Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact**



Prepared by the  
State of California Department of Transportation

The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 U.S. Code 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 23, 2016, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans.

**September 2020**



## **General Information about this Document**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration, has prepared this Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment with Finding of No Significant Impact, which examines the potential environmental impacts of alternatives being considered for the project in Santa Barbara County, California. Caltrans is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act. Caltrans is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act.

This document explains why the project is being proposed, what alternatives have been considered for the project, how the existing environment could be affected by the project, the potential impacts of each alternative and the proposed avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures associated with the project.

The draft Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment was initially circulated to the public for 35 days between December 13, 2019 and January 17, 2020. The draft Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment was then revised to address new project information and to address public comments pertaining to the City of Goleta's planned multipurpose path project that was collected during the initial public review period.

A revised version of the draft Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment was circulated to the public for 44 days between April 13, 2020 and May 27, 2020. Public comments received during this review period are presented in Appendix I, Comment Letters and Responses.

Additional copies of this document and the related technical studies are available for review at the Caltrans District 5 Office at 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401.

This document may be downloaded at the following website:  
<https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5>

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please write to or call Caltrans, Attention: Matt Fowler, Environmental Planning, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401; 805-542-4603 (Voice), or use the California Relay Service 1-800-735-2929 (TTY), 1-800-735-2929 (Voice), or 711.


SCH Number: 2019129047  
05-SB-101-PM 21.3/21.9  
EA: 05-1H430  
Project ID: 0516000073

Replace the existing San Jose Creek Bridges (Number 51-0163 L/R) with a single-span bridge on U.S. Route 101 at post mile 21.6 in Santa Barbara County

**INITIAL STUDY  
with Mitigated Negative Declaration and  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT with  
Finding of No Significant Impact**

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code  
(Federal) 42 U.S. Code 4332(2)(C)

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Transportation  
and  
California Transportation Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Luchetta  
Office Chief, Central Region  
Environmental Central Coast Office  
California Department of Transportation  
NEPA and CEQA Lead Agency

\_\_\_\_\_  
September 23, 2020  
Date

The following person may be contacted for more information about this document:  
Matthew Fowler, Environmental Branch Chief  
50 Higuera Street  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401  
805-542-4603  
matt.c.fowler@dot.ca.gov

*This page left intentionally blank*

## **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

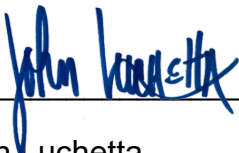
### **Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

For the

U.S. Route 101 San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has determined that the Build Alternative will have no significant impact on the human environment. This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the attached Environmental Assessment, which has been independently evaluated by Caltrans and determined to adequately and accurately discuss the need, environment issues, and impacts of the proposed project and appropriate mitigation measures. It provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. Caltrans takes full responsibility for the accuracy, scope and content of the attached Environmental Assessment and incorporated technical reports.

The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 U.S. Code 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 23, 2016, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans.



---

John Luchetta  
Office Chief  
Central Region Environmental Division  
California Department of Transportation

September 23, 2020

Date

*This page left intentionally blank*

## **Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

### ***Project Description***

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to replace the existing northbound and southbound San Jose Creek Bridges (Bridge Number 51-0163 R/L) which are in Santa Barbara County on U.S. Route 101 at post mile 21.6. The new bridge design would be a single-span bridge. Building the new bridge would involve the following: removing the existing bridge structure and building a new bridge structure, removing the existing slope pavement on the creek banks, installing rock slope protection, replacing traffic barriers to meet current safety standards and minor earthwork. The project would affect nearby vegetation. U.S. Route 101 is a major north-south highway that serves California, Oregon, and Washington. Within the project limits, U.S. Route 101 consists of a six-lane freeway, with three lanes in each direction. The project is in an urban environment, which consists of residential, commercial and industrial land uses.

### ***Determination***

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

The project would have no effect on existing or future land use, coastal resources, wild and scenic rivers, parks and recreation facilities, farmland, timberland, growth, community character and cohesion, environmental justice, utilities, cultural resources, paleontological resources, and mineral resources.

The project would have less than significant effects on visuals/aesthetics resources, emergency systems/services, traffic and transportation, wildfire hazards, hydrology and floodplains, geology and soils, greenhouse gases, hazardous materials, air quality, and noise levels.

The project would have no significant adverse effect on water quality or biological resources because the following mitigation measures will be implemented:

### ***Water Quality Measures***

- Project-related work in the creek will not be conducted during the wet season.
- A water diversion/dewatering management plan will be implemented to allow for work in the wetted channel.
- Appropriate Best Management Practices for water pollution control, erosion control and stormwater management will be implemented during project construction.

### ***Biological Resource Measures***

- Pre-construction surveys will be conducted for special-status species before removing vegetation.
- Vegetation and tree removal will be kept to the minimum required for project completion.
- Before project construction begins, environmental sensitive area fencing will be installed within the project site to keep construction activities out of those areas.
- Biological monitoring will be conducted during various stages of project construction.
- Invasive, non-native species will be controlled to the maximum extent possible.
- Areas disturbed by project construction will be restored to conditions that would allow them to function as potential habitat for species.
- On-site compensatory mitigation will be required for the project. Temporary impacts to wetlands and jurisdictional areas will require a 1 to 1 replacement ratio. Native plant replacement will require a 1 to 1 replacement ratio. It is anticipated that impacts to riparian trees will require a 3 to 1 replacement ratio.



---

John Luchetta  
Office Chief, Central Region  
Environmental Central Coast Office  
California Department of Transportation

---

September 23, 2020

Date



## Table of Contents

<b>Chapter 1</b>	Proposed Project.....	1
1.1	Introduction.....	1
1.2	Purpose and Need.....	3
1.2.1	Purpose.....	3
1.2.2	Need .....	3
1.3	Project Description .....	4
1.4	Project Alternatives.....	5
1.4.1	Build Alternative .....	6
1.4.2	No-Build (No-Action) Alternative .....	6
1.5	Identification of a Preferred Alternative.....	7
1.6	Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Discussion Prior to the “Draft” Initial Study/Environmental Assessment.....	7
1.6.1	Alternative 1 .....	8
1.6.2	Alternative 2 .....	8
1.7	Permits and Approvals Needed .....	9
<b>Chapter 2</b>	Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures .....	11
2.1	Human Environment.....	15
2.1.1	Consistency with State, Regional and Local Plans and Programs ....	15
2.1.2	Cultural Resources.....	20
2.2	Physical Environment.....	23
2.2.1	Hydrology and Floodplain .....	23
2.2.2	Water Quality and Stormwater Runoff.....	25
2.2.3	Geology, Soils, Seismicity and Topography .....	31
2.3	Biological Environment.....	34
2.3.1	Natural Communities.....	34
2.3.2	Wetlands and Other Waters .....	39
2.3.3	Plant Species .....	43
2.3.4	Animal Species .....	44
2.3.5	Threatened and Endangered Species.....	53
2.3.6	Invasive Species .....	64
2.4	Construction Impacts.....	67
2.5	Cumulative Impacts .....	75
<b>Chapter 3</b>	CEQA Evaluation.....	85
3.1	Determining Significance under CEQA.....	85
3.2	CEQA Environmental Checklist .....	85
3.2.1	Aesthetics .....	86
3.2.2	Agriculture and Forest Resources.....	87
3.2.3	Air Quality .....	89
3.2.4	Biological Resources.....	89
3.2.5	Cultural Resources.....	93
3.2.6	Energy.....	94
3.2.7	Geology and Soils .....	95

3.2.8	Greenhouse Gas Emissions .....	97
3.2.9	Hazards and Hazardous Materials .....	98
3.2.10	Hydrology and Water Quality .....	101
3.2.11	Land Use and Planning .....	104
3.2.12	Mineral Resources .....	104
3.2.13	Noise .....	105
3.2.14	Population and Housing .....	106
3.2.15	Public Services.....	106
3.2.16	Recreation.....	107
3.2.17	Transportation .....	108
3.2.18	Tribal Cultural Resources.....	109
3.2.19	Utilities and Service Systems .....	110
3.2.20	Wildfire .....	111
3.2.21	Mandatory Findings of Significance .....	113
3.3	Climate Change.....	115
3.3.1	Regulatory Setting.....	115
3.3.2	Environmental Setting .....	119
3.3.3	Project Analysis.....	122
3.3.4	Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies.....	124
3.3.5	Adaptation .....	127
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>Comments and Coordination.....</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Chapter 5</b>	<b>List of Preparers .....</b>	<b>135</b>
<b>Chapter 6</b>	<b>Distribution List.....</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Appendix A</b>	<b>Preliminary Project Layout.....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Appendix B</b>	<b>FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map.....</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Appendix C</b>	<b>Preliminary Project Cross Section .....</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>Appendix D</b>	<b>Jurisdictional Waters Area Map .....</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>Appendix E</b>	<b>Resource Study Area Map.....</b>	<b>147</b>
<b>Appendix F</b>	<b>Title VI Policy Statement.....</b>	<b>149</b>
<b>Appendix G</b>	<b>Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Summary .....</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Appendix H</b>	<b>Comment Letters and Responses .....</b>	<b>179</b>
	<b>List of Technical Studies .....</b>	<b>199</b>

## List of Figures

Figure 1-1 Project Vicinity Map .....	2
Figure 1-2 Project Location Map .....	3
Figure 3-1: U.S. 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions .....	120
Figure 3-2 California 2017 Greenhouse Gas Emissions .....	121
Figure 3-3 Change in California Gross Domestic Product, Population, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions since 2000.....	121
Figure 3-4 California Climate Strategy .....	124

*This page left intentionally blank*

# **Chapter 1**      Proposed Project

---

## **1.1 Introduction**

The California Department of Transportation (known as Caltrans), as assigned by the Federal Highway Administration, is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (known as NEPA). Caltrans is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (known as CEQA).

California participated in the “Surface Transportation Project Delivery Pilot Program” (Pilot Program) pursuant to 23 U.S. Code 327, for more than five years, beginning July 1, 2007, and ending September 30, 2012. The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (P.L. 112-141), signed by President Barack Obama on July 6, 2012, amended 23 U.S. Code 327 to establish a permanent Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program. As a result, Caltrans entered into a Memorandum of Understanding pursuant to 23 U.S. Code 327 (NEPA Assignment Memorandum of Understanding) with the Federal Highway Administration. The NEPA Assignment Memorandum of Understanding became effective on October 1, 2012, and was renewed on December 23, 2016, for a term of five years. In summary, Caltrans continues to assume Federal Highway Administration responsibilities under NEPA and other federal environmental laws in the same manner as was assigned under the Pilot Program, with minor changes.

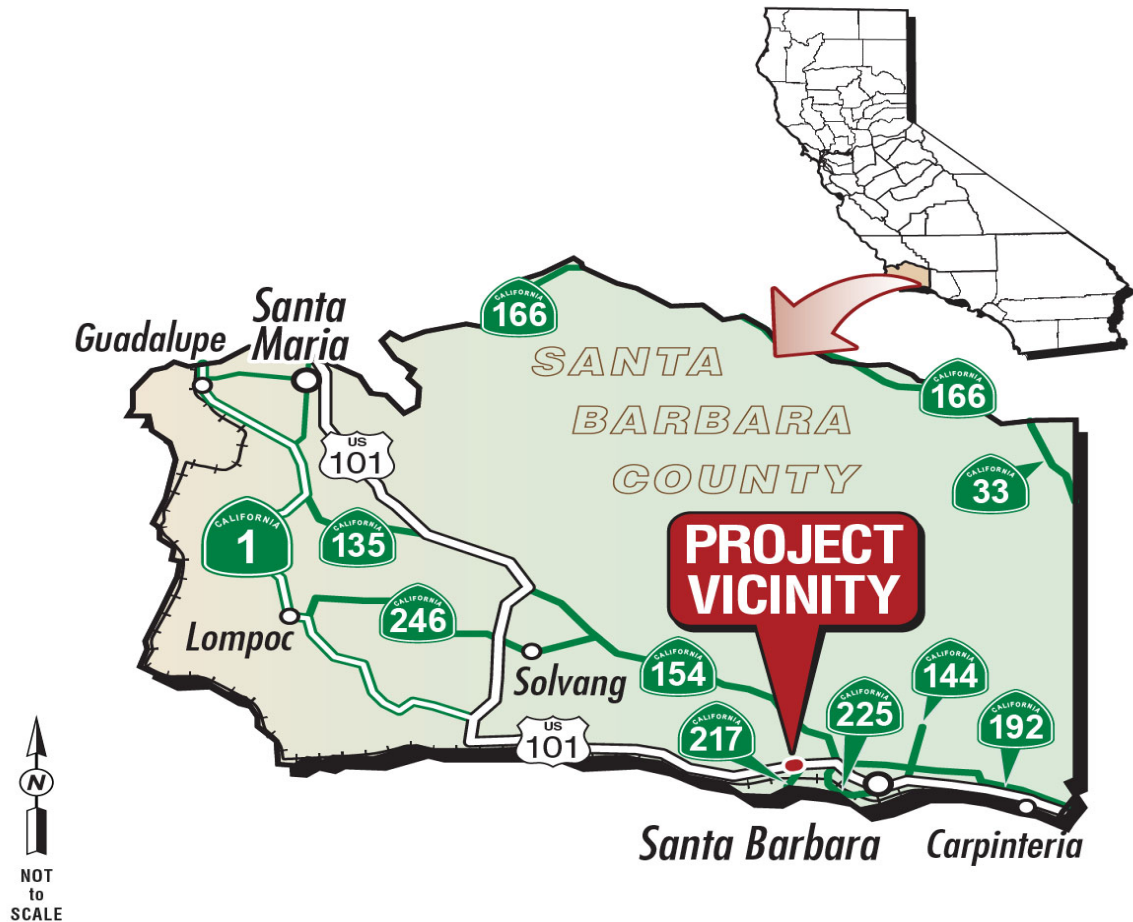
With NEPA Assignment, the Federal Highway Administration assigned, and Caltrans assumed all of the U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary’s responsibilities under NEPA. This assignment includes projects on the State Highway System and Local Assistance Projects off the State Highway System within the state of California, except for certain categorical exclusions that the Federal Highway Administration assigned to Caltrans under the 23 U.S. Code 326 Categorical Exemption Assignment Memorandum of Understanding, projects excluded by definition, and specific project exclusions.

Caltrans proposes to replace the existing northbound and southbound San Jose Creek Bridges, which are in the City of Goleta in Santa Barbara County on U.S. Route 101 at post mile 21.6. Within the project limits, U.S. Route 101 consists of a six-lane freeway, with three lanes in each direction. The project is in an urban environment, which consists of residential, commercial and industrial land uses.

Figures 1-1 and 1-2 show the project vicinity map and the project location map, respectively.

Appendix A provides a preliminary layout for the project and activities required for project completion.

**Figure 1-1 Project Vicinity Map**

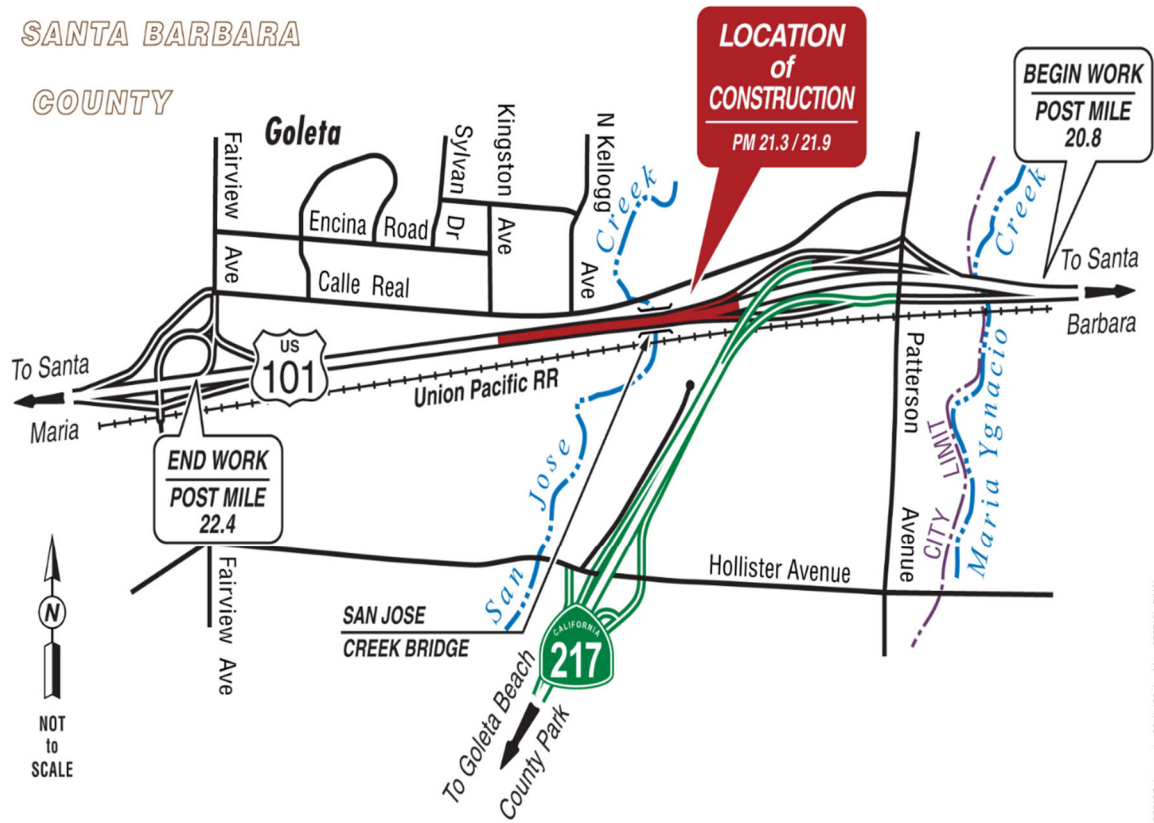


Past bridge inspections have found that the existing northbound and southbound bridge structures contain reactive aggregate in the concrete, which have the potential to compromise the structural integrity of the bridges.

Funds from the 2018 State Highway Operation and Protection Program will finance the project. The project was included in the Santa Barbara Association of Governments' approved 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program, under the State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

The total cost estimate for project construction is about \$19,515,000, with an estimated escalated cost of about \$22,350,000. Project construction is expected to start in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and end in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Project construction is expected to take about 280 working days spread between two construction seasons. Typical construction season occurs between June to October.

**Figure 1-2 Project Location Map**



## 1.2 Purpose and Need

### 1.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the project is to address the structural deficiencies of the northbound and southbound San Jose Creek Bridges to ensure the function and reliability of U.S. Route 101.

### 1.2.2 Need

Based on recommendations in the Structure Replacement and Improvement Needs Report, the Bridge Maintenance Strategy Fact Sheet, and Bridge Inspection Reports, replacing the northbound and southbound San Jose Creek Bridges (Bridge Number 51-0163 R/L) is required. The Structure Replacement and Improvement Needs Report, the Bridge Maintenance Strategy Fact Sheet and Bridge Inspection Reports has identified a need that requires replacing both the substructure and superstructure of the bridges to remedy the issue of reactive aggregate in the concrete and to ensure the function and reliability of this link in the California transportation system.

### 1.3 Project Description

The existing San Jose Creek Bridges consists of separate northbound and southbound structures. However, the bridges will be treated as a single structure throughout the remainder of the document because the new replacement bridge structure will be designed as a single structure that will accommodate both the northbound and southbound lanes. Caltrans proposes to replace the existing San Jose Creek Bridge because of the presence of alkali-silica reactions identified in the concrete. Alkali-silica reactions are chemical reactions that occur within the concrete, resulting in visible cracks and spalling. The presence of alkali-silica reactions has the potential to weaken concrete, which could negatively affect the structural integrity of the bridge.

The existing San Jose Creek Bridge was built in 1946 and widened in 1989. The existing structure is about 100 feet long and 114 feet wide and has three spans with 58 columns placed in the creek channel. The bridge has six 12-foot-wide lanes, two 8-foot-wide inside shoulders, two 8-foot-wide outside shoulders, and a 22-foot-wide center median.

The new bridge will be at the same location as the existing bridge. The new bridge will be designed as a single-span bridge with dimensions and features similar to the existing bridge. The new bridge will not require columns or foundations in the creek. The new bridge design will incorporate several of Caltrans' standards for highway design, structure design and seismic design to meet current requirements.

The project will require temporary creek access during the bridge demolition and construction process. The majority of permanent and temporary construction impacts associated with the project are anticipated to occur within the existing state right-of-way. However, the project will require temporary construction easements and permanent drainage easements to install rock slope protection downstream of the bridge abutment. .

The project will also involve drainage work, guardrail and barrier work, roadway repaving, retaining wall adjustment, sign relocation, vegetation clearing and tree removal. The project will limit the amount of disturbance to the creek, the surrounding vegetation, and the existing landscape. Utility work is not anticipated to be required for the project.

During project construction, traffic lanes will be temporarily reduced from three lanes to two lanes for both the northbound and southbound direction within the project limits. This will allow U.S. Route 101 to remain open and allow travelers to pass through the project site while project construction is in progress. Lane reductions will require installing temporary concrete barriers on the roadway and construction warning signs between project limits. Temporary concrete barriers will be installed outside of normal traffic hours. Temporary construction warning signs will be installed before construction starts. During project construction, the speed limit in the project area will be reduced from 65 miles per hours to 55 miles per hour. When



feasible, project activities associated with temporary traffic management and traffic control will be conducted at night to avoid daytime peak traffic hours.

During project construction the U.S. Route 101 northbound on-ramp from Patterson Avenue and the U.S. Route 101 southbound off-ramp to Patterson Avenue will remain accessible to travelers. In order to keep the two ramps accessible during construction, temporary realignments of the ramps will be required. Temporary realignments of the ramps will require expanding the width of the existing ramps and shifting the usable lanes on the ramps. In order to temporarily realign the two ramps, it is anticipated that temporary short-term ramp closures will be required to install temporary paving, install temporary barriers and to keep ramp areas free of traffic during realignment work. Any required temporary short-time ramp closures will occur for no more than 12 hours at a time, outside of normal peak traffic hours and for no more than two consecutive days. It is also anticipated that any temporary short-term ramp closures could be conducted at night whenever feasible and appropriate. Once the temporary ramp realignment work is completed, the two ramps will be reopened to traffic. The two ramps will be maintained and remain accessible for the remainder of project construction. During project construction, the other ramps for Patterson Avenue will not be disturbed. The ramps on State Route 217 are not anticipated to be disturbed by the project. Project staging and storage sites will be located within Caltrans right-of-way and within the project area.

In addition, the project will include Caltrans' standard measures and plans that are typically included on all Caltrans projects. Caltrans' standard measures and plans are considered features of the project. Caltrans' standard measures and plans are not implemented to address specific effects, impacts or circumstances of a project, but are implemented as a component of the project to address generic and typical issues often encountered in Caltrans' projects and is evaluated as a feature of the project. Caltrans' standard measures and plans allow for little discretion regarding their implementation. Caltrans' standard measures and plans typically includes, but no limited to; Best Management Practices, Landscape Architecture Landscape Planting Plan, Biological Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, Cultural Monitoring Plan, Hazardous Waste Management Plan, Transportation Management Plan, Caltrans' Highway Design Manual Standards, Caltrans' Standard Specifications, Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions and Caltrans' Non-Standard Special Provisions.

## **1.4 Project Alternatives**

Two alternatives are under consideration for the project: a Build Alternative and a No-Build Alternative.

The alternatives that are under consideration were developed by an interdisciplinary team. Several criteria were taken into consideration when evaluating the various alternatives for the project, including, the project's purpose and need, cost, design, construction strategies and environmental impacts.

### **1.4.1 Build Alternative**

The Build Alternative will replace the existing bridge with a new, single-span bridge. The new bridge will be about 100 feet long and about 129 feet wide, with six 12-foot-wide lanes, a 10-foot-wide inside shoulder, and a 10-foot-wide outside shoulder. The new bridge will remain on the existing horizontal centerline alignment. The new southbound lanes will be on a higher profile to match the elevation of the northbound lanes. The structural depth of the new bridge deck will be 3 feet and 11 inches. The new bridge will be designed to meet current Caltrans' standards for highway design, seismic design, safety design and hydraulic designs. The new bridge will also meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency's floodway requirements and will not encroach on the base floodplain.

The new bridge will include new barriers that will meet Caltrans' current design standards and will include aesthetic treatments. The existing landscape and irrigation within the median barrier will be replaced in kind. Roadway pavement work will be required to match the existing road grade with the new bridge. A section of an existing retaining wall west of the bridge and along the southbound shoulder will be changed as part of the road grade adjustment. Work on the retaining wall will include removing and replacing existing metal beam guardrails with concrete barriers.

New abutments will be built to accommodate the new wider single bridge structure and will involve installing cast-in-drilled-hole piles. The new bridge will incorporate precast prestressed concrete girders. The new bridge deck will be poured in place. Construction of the new bridge will also involve removing the existing concrete columns in the creek channel.

The existing sack-crete and concrete lining on the embankment of the creek will be removed and replaced with rock slope protection. Rock slope protection would protect the creek banks and bridge abutments from erosion. Rock slope protection will be installed from the existing state right-of-way to the north and south of the bridge. A temporary construction easement and a permanent drainage easement will be required to add rock slope protection to the south of the bridge. The Build Alternative will also involve work on an existing drainage ditch that is northeast of the bridge to improve drainage conditions.

### **1.4.2 No-Build (No-Action) Alternative**

Under the No-Build Alternative, the existing San Jose Creek Bridge would not be replaced. No modifications would be made to the existing bridge structure. None of the other improvements conducted for the project would be constructed under the No-Build Alternative. This alternative would not address the reactive aggregate found in the substructure and superstructure of the existing bridge. The presence of alkali-silica reactions in the bridge concrete would continue to negatively affect the structural integrity of the bridge and could potentially reduce the functionality and reliability of U.S. Route 101.

## **1.5 Identification of a Preferred Alternative**

A Build Alternative and a No-Build Alternative were the only alternatives considered for the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment. After public circulation of the draft Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment, the two alternatives were further evaluated. Caltrans identified the Build Alternative as the preferred alternative after consideration of the project's purpose and need, funding, schedule, construction methods and its potential to impact environmental resources.

The preferred alternative meets the purpose and need of the project. This alternative will address the structural deficiencies caused by the presence of reactive aggregates found in the concrete of the existing San Jose Creek Bridge on U.S. Route 101. This alternative will ensure that the bridge structure over San Jose Creek continues to function reliably as a component of the State's highway system.

The preferred alternative will result in temporary and permanent impacts to environmental resources. The project will result in temporary impacts due to construction disturbance, which will be offset by construction monitoring and post-construction restoration. The project will result in permanent impacts from structural features that will be added to the project area. However, the new structural features constructed by the project will also provide environmental benefits by improving existing drainage conditions and habitats. The preferred alternative will include Caltrans' standard plans and measures that are applicable to the project in order to address any temporary and permanent impacts associated with the project.

Caltrans has determined that the No-Build Alternative will not satisfy the project's purpose and need because it would not address the structural deficiency of the existing bridge structure caused by the presence of reactive aggregates in the concrete. The No-Build alternative will not be able to ensure the reliability and functionality of the existing bridge structure to serve as a component of the State's highway system.

## **1.6 Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Further Discussion Prior to the "Draft" Initial Study/Environmental Assessment**

Three potential build alternatives were originally considered during the project's preliminary development process. Alternative 1 and Alternative 2 were eliminated after early preliminary investigations and before the preparation of the draft environmental document. General descriptions of Alternative 1 and Alternative 2, along with the reasons for eliminating them from further discussion are provided below.

The Build Alternative was originally identified as Alternative 3.

### **1.6.1 Alternative 1**

Alternative 1 would have replaced the existing northbound and southbound San Jose Creek Bridges with a new wider single bridge that would have accommodated the northbound and southbound lanes. The new bridge would have been approximately 100 feet long, with six 12-foot-wide lanes, an 8-foot-wide inside shoulder, and 10-foot-wide outside shoulders. The new bridge would have been a single-span structure with precast prestressed concrete components. Alternative 1 would have used Accelerated Bridge Construction methods.

Under Alternative 1, the new bridge would have used wide-flange girders, which would have made the structural depth of the new bridge deck about 4 feet and 9 inches. The wide-flange girders would have also made the bridge deck thicker and would have lowered the elevation of the bridge soffit.

Alternative 1 was rejected because the elevation of the new bridge soffit would have encroached on the existing base flood elevation as defined by the San Jose Creek's Federal Emergency Management Agency floodway maps.

It was anticipated that the new structure would have put the bridge soffit several inches below the anticipated flood water surface level and could have potentially exposed the bridge deck to flood waters. For this alternative to not encroach on the base flood elevation, the entire bridge would have needed to be raised.

Raising the new bridge structure would have required permanent modifications to the northbound on-ramp and the southbound off-ramp for Peterson Avenue, required reconstruction of the bridge approach on the highway, and required extensive modifications to the adjacent retaining wall. Raising the new bridge structure would have required more construction work, resulting in substantial increase to the project scope and cost. The anticipated construction work required for Alternative 1 also had a greater potential for the project to affect environmental resources such as biological and visual resources. Due to the possibility of multiple project-related issues and impacts, Alternative 1 was rejected.

### **1.6.2 Alternative 2**

Alternative 2 would have replaced the existing northbound and southbound San Jose Creek Bridge with a new wider single bridge that would have accommodated the northbound and southbound lanes. The new bridge would have been approximately 100 feet long, with six 12-foot-wide lanes, an 8-foot-wide inside shoulder, and 10-foot-wide outside shoulders. The new bridge would have been a two-span structure with a precast prestressed voided concrete slab and would have required installing support columns in the creek. Alternative 2 would have used Accelerated Bridge Construction methods.

Under Alternative 2, the new bridge would have had a structural depth of 2 feet and 2 inches, which would have made the bridge deck and the elevation of the bridge soffit similar to the existing bridge. Alternative 2 would have required installing support columns in the middle of the creek and would have also required the use of falsework to construct the bridge structure.

Alternative 2 was considered but was rejected because it was anticipated that installing the support columns in the middle of the creek would have resulted in severe environmental impacts to the creek, which would have required extensive mitigation efforts. Additionally, requiring falsework to build the bridge would have potentially resulted in additional impacts to environmental resources and/or additional limitations to the construction schedule. Due to the anticipated impacts to environmental resources and potentially extensive amounts of mitigation, Alternative 2 was rejected.

## **1.7 Permits and Approvals Needed**

The following permits, licenses, agreements, certifications, and/or approvals are required for the project before construction starts:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Section 404 Nationwide Permit for impacts to waters of the U.S. will be obtained prior to project construction.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Programmatic Biological Opinion for threatened and endangered species was obtained on May 11, 2020 (Appendix H).
- National Marine Fisheries Service: Biological Opinion for threatened and endangered species was obtained on July 31, 2020 (Appendix H).
- Regional Water Quality Control Boards: Section 401 Certification for impacts to waters of the U.S. will be obtained prior to project construction.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement for impacts to streams under the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's jurisdiction will be obtained prior to project construction.

*This page left intentionally blank*

## **Chapter 2** Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

---

### **Topics Considered but Determined Not to Be Relevant**

As part of the scoping and environmental analysis for the project, the following environmental issues were considered, but no adverse impacts were identified. There is no further discussion of these issues in the document.

**Land Use:** The project is located within existing State right-of-way and on existing highway prism. The land use around the project area is identified as a mix of residential, commercial and industrial. The project is anticipated to be consistent with existing land use plans and is not anticipated to change or affect any existing or future land use in the vicinity (see Appendix A).

**Relocations and Real Property Acquisition:** The project is not anticipated to result in the relocation of residences or business. The project will require a temporary construction easement and a permanent drainage easement from one private industrial property, identified as Santa Barbara County Assessor's Parcel Number 017-090-082. The required temporary construction easement is anticipated to be less than 1,000 square feet. The required permanent drainage easement is anticipated to be less than 100 square feet and will be an addition to an existing drainage easement that is already on the property. Temporary and permanent easements are not anticipated to affect the existing operation on the property. Easement acquisition will be coordinated with the property owner after the project has been approved. All other project-related work is anticipated to occur within the existing state right-of-way. (see Appendix A).

**Coastal Zone:** Based on the Santa Barbara County Coastal Zone map, the project is outside the Coastal Zone. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to impact coastal resources.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers:** There are no wild and scenic rivers in or near the project area, according to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System list, provided by the National Park Service. Therefore, no impacts to wild and scenic rivers will occur.

**Parks and Recreation Facilities and Section 4(f) Resources:** There are no historic sites, parks and recreational resources, wildlife or waterfowl refuges, which meet the definition of a Section 4(f) resource within the project vicinity. Therefore, the project is not subject to Section 4(f) provisions of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Although the project does not involve work on an existing park or recreational facility, project construction activities may cause temporary indirect impacts or nuisances to parks in the nearby vicinity. This is further discussed in Section 2.4 Construction Impacts.

**Farmland/Timberland:** According to the California Department of Conservation's Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, no farmlands or vacant lands that have been mapped as Prime Farmlands, Unique Farmlands, Farmlands of Statewide Importance, or Farmlands of Local Importance occur within the vicinity of the project. Additionally, there are no timberlands within the project area. Therefore, the project will have no effect on farmlands or timberlands.

**Growth:** The project will not alter the existing roadway capacity and is limited to replacing the existing San Jose Creek Bridge and repaving roadway surfaces (see Chapter 1). The project will not alter existing or future accessibility in the region. Therefore, the project will not cause direct or indirect growth-related impacts in the vicinity.

**Community Impacts:** The project will require a permanent drainage easement for one private industrial property, identified as Santa Barbara County Assessor's Parcel Number 017-090-082. The permanent drainage easement is anticipated to be less than 100 square feet and will be an addition to an existing drainage easement that is already on the property. The required permanent drainage easement is not anticipated to affect the existing operation on the property. Easement acquisition will be coordinated with the property owner after the project has been approved. Project construction is not anticipated to cause community impacts in the project area. The project will not increase or decrease public access in the project area. The project will not affect the community's character because the new bridge will be similar in design and appearance to the existing bridge (see Appendix C).

**Environmental Justice:** The project is located on U.S. Route 101 and primarily within an existing roadway prism. No minority or low-income populations that would be adversely affected by the project have been identified in the project area (Census Data estimate 2018). Therefore, the project is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12898.

**Utilities:** During project construction, existing utilities within the project footprint will be avoided and protected. Utility work is not anticipated at this time.

**Emergency Services:** The project will replace the existing bridge with a new bridge of a similar design at the same location (see Chapter 1). The new bridge will not alter existing planned routes for emergency responses or evacuations. Therefore, the project will not permanently impact emergency services' plans or activities in the region. However, project construction may cause minor impacts to emergency services' response times. This is further discussed in Section 2.4 Construction Impacts.

**Visuals/Aesthetics:** The project will replace an existing bridge with a new bridge of a similar design and would not alter the existing visual quality. The project is anticipated to have little effects on the existing visual quality of the area. As seen from U.S. Route 101, the primary public viewpoint, the new bridge will be noticeable for a short duration by the traveling public. The creek and distant hills will remain visible and continue to contribute to the scenic vista of the area. The project will not substantially reduce the visual character of the surrounding setting. The project location is not classified as an Officially Designated State Scenic Highway. The



project will not add new lighting or new sources of glare. The project will include landscaping to restore areas disturbed by the project. Therefore, no visual impacts are anticipated for the project (Visual Impact Assessment, February 12, 2019).

**Traffic and Transportation:** The project will replace an existing bridge with a new bridge of a similar design at the same location (see Chapter 1). The new bridge will not alter existing traffic or transportation patterns in the region. Therefore, the project will not cause permanent impacts to traffic or transportation. Project construction have the potential to cause temporary impacts to traffic on U.S. Route 101 and is further discussed in Section 2.4 Construction Impacts.

**Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities:** U.S. Route 101 is restricted to motor vehicle traffic only. There are no pedestrian or bicycle facilities within Caltrans' right-of-way. Therefore, the project will not impact pedestrian or bicycle facilities. However, the City of Goleta has future plans to build a multipurpose path that would cross underneath the existing San Jose Creek Bridge. The City of Goleta has secured funding for the multipurpose path, but design and construction plans for that project have not been approved. Caltrans and the City of Goleta are in coordination to ensure that both the new San Jose Creek Bridge and the proposed multipurpose path can be constructed with minimal conflicts. The new bridge design is not anticipated to conflict with the future multipurpose path. This is further discussed in Section 2.1.1 Consistency with State, Regional and Local Plans and Programs.

**Paleontology:** The probability of the project encountering paleontological resources is low because work will occur on or near a bridge site that has been previously disturbed. (Paleontology Assessment, July 6, 2018)

**Hazardous Waste and Materials:** The project has a low potential of encountering or disturbing hazardous materials. The project is not near any known hazardous sites. Project activities may disturb potentially hazardous materials typically found within the existing bridge or roadway features. The project will incorporate Caltrans' standard practices to test for and control potentially hazardous materials that may be encountered during the project construction process. Any materials or substances identified as hazardous will be treated and handled as required by Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions, and as required by state and federal regulations. The project is not anticipated to cause adverse effects as a result of encountering, disturbing or transporting hazardous materials. (Hazardous Waste Technical Memo, February 14, 2018)

**Air Quality:** The project will replace the existing bridge with a new bridge of a similar design at the same location. The new bridge will not alter current vehicle travel patterns or alter current air quality trends in the region. The project will not alter the existing highway capacity. The project is exempt under 40 Code of Federal Regulations 93.126 as "Reconstructing Bridges (no additional travel lines)". The project is in an attainment or unclassified area for all current National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Therefore, transportation conformity requirements do not apply. However, project construction could cause relatively minor, temporary impacts to air quality in the project vicinity. This is further discussed in Section 2.4 Construction

Impacts. (Revised Air Quality, Noise, and Greenhouse Gas Memo, February 12, 2020)

**Energy:** The project would not increase the existing capacity on the highway or on the bridge and is unlikely to change existing energy consumption during operation. The project would not cause a permanent new demand for energy consumption. Energy use during project construction would be temporary; methods and procedures that would help conserve energy, such as using recycled materials or shutting off idling equipment, would be implemented.

**Noise:** The project will replace the existing bridge with a new bridge of a similar design at the same location and repave the roadway. Because the project will not alter the freeway's capacity or alter the existing alignment, local noise levels are not anticipated to change as a result of the project. The project is not anticipated to cause permanent noise-related impacts. However, project construction operations could cause intermittent or sporadic noises that could cause temporary noise nuisance or impacts to nearby receptors. This is discussed further in Section 2.4 Construction Impacts. (Revised Air Quality, Noise and Greenhouse Gas Memo, February 12, 2020)

**Wildfire:** The project is in an urban area and is not within a wildfire hazard zone (Santa Barbara County Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps). The new bridge is not anticipated to change existing conditions in a way that would affect wildfire occurrences or affect wildfire incidents. The project will incorporate Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions that pertain to fire prevention. The project will also incorporate precautions set forth by the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health's Fire Protection and Prevention Guidance, and by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Fire Prevention Plan and Emergency Action Plan.

## 2.1 Human Environment

### 2.1.1 Consistency with State, Regional and Local Plans and Programs

#### *Affected Environment*

##### *State*

The project is on U.S. Route 101 and is within a state right-of-way. The project is included in the 2018 State Highway Operation and Protection Program, which is derived from the state's Transportation Concept Report that was prepared for District 5. The Transportation Concept Report was developed by the state of California in coordination with Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Transportation Planning Agencies and helps to guide the development of California's state highway systems. In the Transportation Concept Report, District 5 includes Santa Cruz County, San Benito County, Monterey County, San Luis Obispo County, and Santa Barbara County.

##### *Regional*

The project is within Santa Barbara County, and is included in the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' approved 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program. The program is under the State Highway Operation and Protection Program Grouped Project Listing—Bridge Rehabilitation and Reconstruction. The project is also included in the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' approved 2040 Regional Transportation Plan under the project number GO-202. The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments is a regional planning agency that is composed of Santa Barbara County and all of the incorporated cities within the county. One of the responsibilities of the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments is to provide regional and transportation planning for the county.

##### *Local*

The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project is within the boundary of the City of Goleta.

#### General Plan

The City of Goleta's General Plan was adopted on October 2, 2006 and was amended on December 3, 2019. A general plan is a planning guideline used to direct the future goals and development in a city. The City of Goleta's General Plan includes the following elements: land use, open space, conservation, safety, visual and historic resources, transportation, public facilities, noise, and housing.

The general plan's transportation element identifies U.S. Route 101 as a designated freeway that provides east to west access in the region. U.S. Route 101 contains interchanges to major north-south arterial networks in the city. The general plan

identifies that the limited number of north-south crossing on U.S. Route 101 is influencing local traffic conditions.

### Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

On October 16, 2018, the Goleta City Council adopted the completed Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The master plan replaced the Interim Bicycle Transportation Plan that was adopted in 2009. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan provides goals and objectives to create infrastructure, programs, and policies in the city's general plan.

The general plan is the main document that specifies goals and policies that relate to walking and bicycling. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan outlines broad improvements within public rights-of-way that would be developed and built after the city council directs project funding and prioritization, which is anticipated to occur over the next 10 to 20 years. The Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan would be updated in future years as new programs and projects are identified. The City of Goleta has several multimodal paths plans that are currently being proposed and considered. The plans are intended to provide connections to and from major urban centers in the region.

One such multimodal path is the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path, which would follow along the San Jose Creek. This multipurpose path would stretch from Calle Real to the north, to the existing Obern Trail to the south. Portions of the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project would occur in the right-of-way of Caltrans, Union Pacific Railroad, Santa Barbara County, and the City of Goleta. Each responsible agency would be required provide oversight for part of the multipurpose path that is within their respective right-of-way.

The City of Goleta is coordinating with Santa Barbara County, Union Pacific Railroad, and Caltrans on the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project. As the implementing agency, the City of Goleta would be responsible for all aspects of the project, including preparing and completing project investigations, reports, and design materials. The project has gone through several feasibility studies and alternate alignment studies, which were conducted between 2009 and the present day. The City of Goleta has been granted funding for the project.

The project is currently being developed in two portions: the middle extent and the southern extent. For the middle extent, a Class 1 multipurpose path would be built along the west side of San Jose Creek and would extend from Hollister Avenue to Calle Real. The middle extent would be broken into two segments: Segment 1 and Segment 2. Segment 1, which would extend north from Hollister Avenue to Armitos Avenue, would be built as part of the City of Goleta's Hollister/Kellogg Park project. Segment 2 would extend north from Armitos Avenue to Calle Real. Segment 2 would require the multipurpose path to cross Union Pacific Railroad's tracks and U.S. Route 101. Preliminary designs for Segment 2 are currently being conducted.

The southern extent would run south from Hollister Avenue along the new Class 2 bike facility proposed along Kellogg Avenue. The proposed Class 2 bike facility would be built with the Ekwil Street project. The multipurpose path would then cross the San Jose Creek to the east via a bicycle/pedestrian bridge and follow along the western side of State Route 217. Near where San Jose Creek meets with San Pedro Creek, the multipurpose path would cross State Route 217 and connect with the existing Class 1 Obern Trail. Preliminary designs for the southern extent are currently being conducted.

Although the City of Goleta has been granted funding for the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project, the project's design is still in the preliminary stage; construction for the project has not been approved. Current maps for the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path are still preliminary and are subject to change before construction for the project is approved. Based on preliminary mapping from the City of Goleta regarding Segment 2 of the middle extent for the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project, the project is proposing to build an undercrossing beneath the existing San Jose Creek Bridge on U.S. Route 101 that is within a Caltrans' right-of-way.

The City of Goleta is coordinating with Caltrans regarding current proposals for portions of Segment 2 of the middle extent that occurs within Caltrans' right-of-way. Caltrans will be involved in the oversight for all project materials for the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project, which is within a Caltrans' right-of-way. Caltrans has classified the project as a federal oversight project and is the designated NEPA lead. The San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project has been assigned the Federal Project Number 0518000229 for Caltrans' oversight processes.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

#### ***State***

The project is anticipated to be consistent with the State Highway Operation and Protection Plan because the bridge replacement will ensure the protection and operation of the U.S. Route 101 corridor. The project is anticipated to be consistent with the Transportation Concept Report's vision for the U.S. Route 101 corridor because it will ensure reliable travel access on the bridge.

#### ***Regional***

The project is limited to the San Jose Creek Bridge location and is not anticipated to affect regional planning or development. The project is anticipated to be consistent with the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' Regional Transportation Plans because it will replace the existing bridge with no capacity increases.

## *Local*

### General Plan

The project is not anticipated to conflict with the following General Plan elements:

#### Transportation

The scope of the project is to replace the existing San Jose Creek Bridge on U.S. Route 101. The project will not interfere with the City of Goleta's existing or future collaborations with other agencies to develop non-interchange crossings that would improve north to south connections for bicycles, pedestrians, or traffic. To complete the project, temporary, unavoidable construction activities will need to occur on the highway. Project construction activities will require traffic control to keep traffic outside of construction areas and to maintain traffic access into the project area.

#### Noise

The project will not increase traffic capacity or alter the existing highway alignment. Therefore, the project will not result in permanent changes to existing ambient noise levels associated with traffic noise. The project is anticipated to generate unavoidable temporary construction noise. The majority of construction activities will be conducted during the day, however, installing temporary barriers for traffic management and traffic control would occur at night to avoid peak traffic hours.

### Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project is not anticipated to affect the southern extent or Segment 1 of the middle extent of the proposed San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project. The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project is not anticipated to significantly affect Segment 2 of the middle extent of the proposed San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project.

Based on preliminary information from the City of Goleta, Caltrans anticipates the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project to improve existing bridge conditions and better accommodate Segment 2 of the proposed San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project. The new bridge design will:

Remove existing piers underneath the bridge, creating a more open environment underneath the bridge. It is anticipated that the free span bridge design would be more appealing to users of the proposed multipurpose path.

Remove the existing concrete-paved creek banks and replaced with rock slope protection. Rock slope protection will be installed below the existing grade and at a shallower grade than the existing concrete-paved creek banks. After installing rock slope protection, the creek banks will have a gentler slope, which will provide additional space that could be used for the proposed multipurpose path.

Increase clearances underneath the bridge that will improve clearance for the proposed multipurpose path.

Be very similar to existing bridge design and is not anticipated to impede or hinder the design or the construction of Segment 2 of the middle extent for the proposed multipurpose path.

It is anticipated that Caltrans and the City of Goleta will continue to collaborate on the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project on U.S. Route 101, and on the proposed Segment 2 of the middle extent for the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project to reduce potential impacts and conflicts between each project.

There is the potential that construction of the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project and the construction of Segment 2 of the middle extent for the proposed San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project may occur concurrently. However, for both projects to be constructed at the same time, the proposed San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project will require construction approval from the City of Goleta, as well as approval from Caltrans, who is the designated NEPA lead. For the City of Goleta to obtain approval from Caltrans, the city will need to provide Caltrans with a set of finalized project documents and materials for the proposed San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures***

The following measures will be implemented to minimize potential impacts as a result of the project:

#### **General Plan**

No measures will be required for the transportation element because the project will not conflict with the transportation element. The project will include Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions and Caltrans' Standard Specifications. Both standards will execute traffic control strategies and actions to control traffic within the project area during the construction period.

No measures will be required for the noise element because the project will not conflict with the noise element. The project will include Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions and Caltrans' Standard Specifications. Both standards will execute noise control strategies and actions within the project area during the construction period.

#### **Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**

To avoid conflicts in the project's schedule, process and construction, Caltrans and the City of Goleta are actively collaborating on projects that are being proposed in the local area.

It is anticipated that continued collaboration between the City of Goleta and Caltrans will be required to avoid and minimize potential schedule, design and construction conflicts between the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project and the proposed San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project.

There is the potential to further avoid and minimize construction conflict between the two projects. There is the opportunity for the new bridge construction process to also include the construction of the multipurpose path that is located within the new bridge footprint. This would allow for both projects to be construction at the same time because they are occurring at the same location. For this opportunity to occur, the City of Goleta will need approvals for the following documents for their proposed San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path:

- Final Project Report
- Final Design Plans

In addition, the City of Goleta and Caltrans will need to approve the following agreements in order to share the responsibilities related to construction cost and maintenance cost of the multipurpose path that would be located within Caltrans' right-of-way:

- Funding Agreement
- Maintenance Agreement

If final documents and agreements are approved, the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project would be able to incorporate the portion of the multipurpose path that is underneath the bridge as a component of the bridge replacement construction plan. Construction of the new bridge and the multipurpose path underneath the bridge could be built by a single construction crew.

## **2.1.2 Cultural Resources**

### ***Regulatory Setting***

The term "cultural resources," as used in this document, refers to the "built environment" (e.g., structures, bridges, railroads, water conveyance systems, etc.), places of traditional or cultural importance, and archaeological sites (both prehistoric and historic), regardless of significance. Under federal and state laws, cultural resources that meet certain criteria of significance are referred to by various terms including "historic properties," "historic sites," "historical resources," and "tribal cultural resources." Laws and regulations dealing with cultural resources include:

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, sets forth national policy and procedures for historic properties, defined as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects included in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic



properties and to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation the opportunity to comment on those undertakings, following regulations issued by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 Code of Federal Regulations 800). On January 1, 2014, the First Amended Section 106 Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the Advisory Council of Historic Preservation, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Department went into effect for Department projects, both state and local, with Federal Highway Administration involvement. The Programmatic Agreement implements the Advisory County on Historic Preservation's regulations, 36 Code of Federal Regulations 800, streamlining the Section 106 process and delegating certain responsibilities to the Department. The Federal Highway Administration's responsibilities under the Programmatic Agreement have been assigned to the Department as part of the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program (23 U.S. Code 327).

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the consideration of cultural resources that are historical resources and tribal cultural resources, as well as "unique" archaeological resources. California Public Resources Code Section 5024.1 established the California Register of Historical Resources and outlined the necessary criteria for a cultural resource to be considered eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources and, therefore, a historical resource. Historical resources are defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(j). In 2014, Assembly Bill 52 added the term "tribal cultural resources" to CEQA; Assembly Bill 52 is commonly referenced instead of CEQA when discussing the process to identify tribal cultural resources (as well as identifying measures to avoid, preserve, or mitigate effects to them). Defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074(a), a tribal cultural resource is a California Register of Historical Resources or local register eligible site, feature, place, cultural landscape, or object which has a cultural value to a California Native American tribe. Tribal cultural resources must also meet the definition of a historical resource. Unique archaeological resources are referenced in Public Resources Code Section 21083.2.

Public Resources Code Section 5024 requires state agencies to identify and protect state-owned historical resources that meet the National Register of Historic Places listing criteria. It further requires the Department to inventory state-owned structures in its rights-of-way.

### ***Affected Environment***

Discussion of this section is based on the Cultural Resources Review that was completed for this project on September 10, 2018.

Letters were sent out to regional Native American tribal groups as part of Section 106 consultation and formal notification required under Assembly Bill 52 on December 19, 2018.

The project is within a highly developed area that has been highly disturbed and changed several times and has been subject to regular maintenance as a state-owned property. A review of cultural resource documentation on state file revealed that the project area had previously been surveyed with a negative result for cultural resources. A field survey conducted as part of the Cultural Resources Review did not detect the presence of any archaeological or cultural resource on the surface of the project area. The cultural survey did confirm a substantial level of disturbance at the project site from past construction activities, which suggest a low probability for intact subsurface archaeological deposits.

The existing southbound bridge was built in 1946 and widened in 1989. The existing northbound bridge was built in 1961 and widened in 1989. The existing San Jose Creek Bridge was determined to be a Category 5 bridge under Caltrans' Statewide Historic Bridge Inventory and is not considered to be an historic resource. The existing bridge is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources.

No built cultural environment or cultural resources were identified adjacent to the project site.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

An invitation for consultation as part of Section 106 was offered and no formal consultation has been requested by recipients.

The Cultural Resources Review in accordance with Section 106 completed for the project found that the project will not affect cultural resources or historic properties.

The project does not have the potential to affect any cultural built environmental resources directly or indirectly.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

No cultural resource-related measures are required for the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project.

The project will include the following Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions that deal with the chance discovery of previously unknown cultural materials or human remains during project construction:

- If cultural materials are discovered during construction, all earth-moving activity within and around the immediate discovery area will be diverted until a qualified archaeologist can assess the nature and significance of the find.
- If human remains are discovered during construction, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities will stop in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the county coroner will be contacted. If the remains are thought by the coroner to Native

American the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, will then notify the Most Likely Descendent. At this time, the individual who discovers the remains will contact the District 5 Environmental Branch, so they can work with the Most Likely Descendent on the respectful treatment and arrangement of the remains. Additional provisions of Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 must be followed as applicable.

## **2.2 Physical Environment**

### **2.2.1 Hydrology and Floodplain**

#### ***Regulatory Setting***

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) directs all federal agencies to refrain from conducting, supporting, or allowing actions in floodplains, unless it is the only practicable alternative. Federal Highway Administration requirements for compliance are outlined in 23 Code of Federal Regulations 650, Subpart A.

To comply, the following must be analyzed:

- Practicability of alternatives to any longitudinal encroachments.
- Risks of the action.
- Impacts on natural and beneficial floodplain values.
- Support of incompatible floodplain development.
- Measures to minimize floodplain impacts and preserve/restore any beneficial floodplain values affected by the project.

The base floodplain is defined as “the area subject to flooding by a flood or tide having a one percent chance of being exceeded in any given year.” An encroachment is defined as “an action within the limits of the base floodplain.”

#### ***Affected Environment***

A location hydraulic study was completed for the project on November 6, 2018.

A revised location hydraulic study was completed for the project on February 4, 2020.

The San Jose Creek floodplain stretches from the foothills north of U.S. Route 101 to State Route 217, where the San Jose Creek joins the San Pedro Creek. The San Jose Creek joins the San Pedro Creek about 1.7 miles downstream from the project location.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency designates San Jose Creek as a floodway. This means that the channel's capacity to discharge floodwaters must be preserved to ensure that there are no developments on the floodway that could increase upstream flood elevations. The San Jose Creek floodway designation ends just downstream of the State Route 217 bridge. Based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Study, dated November 4, 2015, the 100-year peak flood discharge is 5,400 cubic feet per second at the San Jose Creek Bridge.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Insurance Rate Map (see Appendix B) indicates that the San Jose Creek Bridge is within "Zone AE," which indicates that the project location is at high risk for flooding. Based on the mapping, the flood elevation is indicated to be 56 feet at the bridge location. Additionally, the project sits in an area that the Federal Emergency Management Agency designates as a Special Flood Hazard Area, where floodplain management regulations must be enforced.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

The project will replace the existing multi-span bridge with a single-span bridge at the existing location. The existing bridge columns in the channel and the concrete paving on the channel banks will be removed. Rock slope protection will be installed in place of the concrete paving to protect the creek banks from erosion (see Appendix C).

The project will improve the floodway because it will include the following design features:

- Rock slope protection will be installed at a shallower slope, which will extend the creek banks and increase the cross-sectional area of the channel.
- Removing the existing columns in the creek will reduce impediments in the channel and improve flow.

These design features are anticipated to reduce the flood elevation at the bridge location and reduce the chances of the bridge becoming inundated in a flood event.

The project will not encroach into the base floodplain and is not anticipated to have a significant impact on the existing floodplain or floodway.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The project is not anticipated to adversely affect existing hydrology or floodplains. Therefore, no avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures are anticipated for the project.

## 2.2.2 Water Quality and Stormwater Runoff

### ***Regulatory Setting***

#### *Federal Requirements: Clean Water Act*

In 1972, Congress amended the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, making the addition of pollutants to waters of the U.S. from any point source (any discrete conveyance such as a pipe or a human-made ditch) unlawful, unless the discharge complies with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. This act and its amendments are known today as the Clean Water Act. Congress has amended the act several times. In the 1987 amendments, Congress directed dischargers of stormwater from municipal and industrial/construction point sources to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit scheme.

The following are important Clean Water Act sections:

- Sections 303 and 304 require states to issue water quality standards, criteria, and guidelines.
- Section 401 requires an applicant for a federal license or a permit to conduct any activity that may result in a discharge to waters of the U.S. to obtain certification from the state, confirming that the discharge will comply with other provisions of the act. This is most frequently required in tandem with a Section 404 permit request (see below).
- Section 402 establishes National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, a permitting system for discharges of any pollutant into waters of the U.S., except dredged or fill material. Regional Water Quality Control Boards administer this permitting program in California. Section 402(p) requires permits for discharges of stormwater from industrial/construction sites and municipal separate storm sewer systems.
- Section 404 establishes a permit program for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. This permit program is administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The goal of the Clean Water Act is “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.”

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues two types of 404 permits: General and Individual. There are two types of General permits: Regional and Nationwide. Regional permits are issued for a general category of activities that are similar in nature and cause minimal environmental effects. Nationwide permits allow a variety of minor project activities, with no more than minimal effects.

Ordinarily, projects that do not meet the criteria for Regional and Nationwide permits may be permitted under one of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Individual permits. There are two types of Individual permits: Standard permits and Letters of Permission. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ decision to approve Individual

permits is based on compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 404 (b)(1) Guidelines (40 Code of Federal Regulations 230) and whether permit approval is in the public's best interest.

The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, which were developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, allow the discharge of dredged or fill material into the aquatic system (i.e., waters of the U.S.) only if there is no practicable alternative with less adverse effects. The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines state that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may not issue a permit if a "least environmentally damaging practicable alternative" to the proposed discharge is available that would have lesser effects on waters of the U.S. and no other significant adverse environmental consequences. According to the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, documentation is needed to confirm that a sequence of avoidance, minimization, and compensation measures has been followed, in that order.

The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines also restrict permitting activities that violate water quality or toxic effluent standards, jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, violate marine sanctuary protections, or cause "significant degradation" to waters of the U.S. (The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines "effluent" as "wastewater, treated or untreated, that flows out of a treatment plant, sewer, or industrial outfall.")

In addition, every permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, even if not subject to the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, must meet general requirements (see 33 Code of Federal Regulations 320.4). A discussion of the "least environmentally damaging practicable alternative," if any, is included in the Wetlands and Other Waters section.

#### *State Requirements: Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act*

California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (known as the Porter-Cologne Act), enacted in 1969, provides the legal basis for water quality regulation within California. This act requires a "report of waste discharge" for any discharge of waste (liquid, solid, or gaseous) to land or surface waters that may impair the beneficial uses of surface and/or groundwater in the state. It predates the Clean Water Act and regulates discharges to waters of the state. Waters of the state include more than just waters of the U.S., such as groundwater and surface waters that are not considered waters of the U.S. In addition, it prohibits discharges of "waste," as defined; this definition is broader than the Clean Water Act definition of "pollutant." Discharges under the Porter-Cologne Act are permitted by waste discharge requirements and may be required even when the discharge is already permitted or exempt under the Clean Water Act.

The State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards are responsible for establishing the water quality standards (objectives and beneficial uses) required by the Clean Water Act and regulating discharges to ensure compliance with the standards. Details about water quality standards in a

project area are included in the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board Basin Plan. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards designate beneficial uses for all water body segments in their jurisdictions, then set the criteria necessary to protect those uses. As a result, the water quality standards developed for particular water segments are based on the designated use and vary, depending on that use.

In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board identifies waters that failed to meet standards for specific pollutants. These waters are then state listed in accordance with Clean Water Act Section 303(d). If the state determines that waters are impaired for one or more constituents and the standards cannot be met through point-source or non-point-source controls (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits or Waste Discharge Requirements), the Clean Water Act requires establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads. Total Maximum Daily Loads specify allowable pollutant loads from all sources (point, non-point, and natural) for a given watershed.

#### *State Water Resources Control Board and Regional Water Quality Control Boards*

The State Water Resources Control Board administers water rights, sets water pollution control policy, issues water board orders on matters of statewide application, and oversees water quality functions throughout the state by approving Basin Plans, Total Maximum Daily Loads, and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits. Regional Water Quality Control Boards are responsible for protecting the beneficial uses of water resources within their jurisdiction by using their planning, permitting, and enforcement authorities to meet this responsibility.

#### *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program*

##### *Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems*

Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act requires the issuance of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for five categories of stormwater discharges, including discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems. A municipal separate storm sewer system is defined as “any conveyance or system of conveyances (roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, human-made channels, and storm drains), owned or operated by a state, city, town, county, or other public body having jurisdiction over stormwater, that is designed or used for collecting or conveying stormwater.” The State Water Resources Control Board has identified Caltrans as an owner/operator of a municipal separate storm sewer system under federal regulations. Caltrans’ municipal separate storm sewer system permit covers all Caltrans’ rights-of-way, properties, facilities, and activities in the state. The State Water Resources Control Board or Regional Water Quality Control Boards issue National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for 5 years, and permit requirements remain active until a new permit has been adopted.

Caltrans' municipal separate storm sewer system permit, Order Number 2012-0011-DWQ (adopted on September 19, 2012, and effective on July 1, 2013), as amended by Order Number 2014-0006-EXEC (effective January 17, 2014), Order Number 2014-0077-DWQ (effective May 20, 2014), and Order Number 2015-0036-EXEC (confirmed and effective April 7, 2015), has three basic requirements:

1. Caltrans must comply with the requirements of the Construction General Permit (see below),
2. Caltrans must implement a year-round program in all parts of the state to effectively control stormwater and non-stormwater discharges, and
3. Caltrans' stormwater discharges must meet water quality standards through implementation of permanent and temporary (construction) Best Management Practices, to the maximum extent practicable, and other measures the State Water Resources Control Board determines to be necessary to meet the water quality standards.

To comply with the permit, Caltrans developed the Stormwater Management Plan to establish stormwater pollution controls related to highway planning, design, construction, and maintenance throughout California. The Stormwater Management Plan assigns responsibilities within Caltrans for implementing stormwater management procedures and practices as well as training, public education and participation, monitoring and research, program evaluation, and reporting. The Stormwater Management Plan describes the procedures and practices Caltrans uses to reduce pollutants in stormwater and non-stormwater discharges. It also outlines procedures and responsibilities for protecting water quality, including through the selection and implementation of Best Management Practices. The proposed project would be programmed to follow the guidelines and procedures outlined in the latest Stormwater Management Plan to control stormwater runoff.

#### *Construction General Permit*

The Construction General Permit, Order Number 2009-0009-DWQ (adopted on September 2, 2009, and effective on July 1, 2010), as amended by Order Number 2010-0014-DWQ (effective February 14, 2011) and Order Number 2012-0006-DWQ (effective on July 17, 2012), regulates stormwater discharges from construction sites with a disturbed soil area of 1 acre or more as well as smaller sites that are part of a larger common plan of development. By law, all stormwater discharges associated with construction activities, such as clearing, grading, and excavation, that result in soil disturbance totaling at least 1 acre must comply with the provisions of the General Construction Permit. Construction activity that results in soil disturbances of less than 1 acre is subject to the Construction General Permit if there is potential for significant water quality impairment resulting from the activity, as determined by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Operators of regulated construction sites are required to develop Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans; implement sediment, erosion, and pollution prevention control measures; and obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit.



The Construction General Permit separates projects into risk levels 1, 2, and 3. Risk levels are determined during the planning and designing phases and are based on the potential for erosion and subsequent transport to receiving waters. Requirements are based on the determined risk level. For example, a risk level 3 project (highest risk) would require potential hydrogen and turbidity monitoring for stormwater runoff as well as aquatic biological assessments during specified seasonal windows before construction and after construction.

For all projects that are subject to the permit, applicants are required to develop and implement an effective Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. In accordance with Caltrans' Stormwater Management Plan and Caltrans' Standard Specifications, a Water Pollution Control Program is necessary for projects with a disturbed soil area of less than 1 acre.

### *Section 401 Permitting*

Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, any project requiring a federal license or permit that may result in a discharge to waters of the U.S. must obtain Section 401 certification, which certifies that the project complies with state water quality standards. The most common federal permit that triggers a Section 401 permit certification is the Clean Water Act Section 404 permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Section 401 permit certifications are obtained from the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board, depending on the project location, and are required before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues a Section 404 permit.

In some cases, the Regional Water Quality Control Board may have specific concerns about discharges associated with a project. As a result, the Regional Water Quality Control Board may issue a set of requirements, known as Waste Discharge Requirements, under the State Water Code (Porter-Cologne Act) to define activities (such as the inclusion of specific features, effluent limitations, monitoring, and plan submittals) that are to be implemented to protect or benefit water quality. Waste Discharge Requirements can be issued to address both the permanent and temporary discharges of a project.

### ***Affected Environment***

A water quality assessment was completed for the project on July 6, 2018.

The project will occur in the City of Goleta in Santa Barbara County. San Jose Creek flows from north to south and originates within the Santa Ynez Mountains. In the project area, San Jose Creek travels under Calle Real and U.S. Route 101. South of the project site, the San Jose Creek is parallel to State Route 217 on the west until it merges with San Pedro Creek and Atascadero Creek, eventually flowing to the Pacific Ocean.

The portion of San Jose Creek that is within the project footprint is regulated by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Central Coast Basin

Plan. The San Jose Creek watershed is identified on the 2008 Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board 303(d) list for Total Maximum Daily Loads (priority schedule of impaired waters).

### ***Environmental Consequences***

The project will involve the demolition and new construction of the San Jose Creek Bridge on U.S. Route 101 and the installation of rock slope protection in the creek channel.

During demolition and construction, various project activities will occur above, next to, and within the creek bed. It is anticipated that construction-related activities will result in temporary and intermittent impacts on water quality as fugitive dust and materials may enter the creek. Construction activities are not anticipated to cause long-term impacts to water quality.

The project is not anticipated to cause long-term impacts to water quality because the project will incorporate Caltrans' Best Management Practices to protect water quality. Temporary Best Management Practices will be implemented before, during and after project construction. Permanent Best Management Practices will be implemented after project construction and as a component of the project. All construction work in the creek will be conducted when the channel is dry, when feasible, to avoid impacts to water quality.

The project not anticipated to cause long-term negative impacts to water quality. The project will install rock slope protection to prevent erosion during high-flow storms and provide a benefit to water quality.

The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project is not anticipated to change the existing water discharge rates or water discharge patterns in the San Jose Creek because the new bridge design will be similar to the existing bridge design. The creek's alignment will not be changed after the project is complete.

Project construction is anticipated to cause approximately 0.92 acre of disturbed soil, which takes into consideration construction access routes, bridge demolition and construction areas, excavation areas, and potential contractor storage/staging areas. Based on the final total quantity of disturbed soils, the project may be required to incorporate additional permanent treatment or structural Best Management Practices into the project design. Any potential impacts to water quality will be addressed, eliminated, or minimized to the maximum extent possible by incorporating the appropriate permanent and temporary Best Management Practices along with Caltrans' standard measures and plans into the project.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

To minimize impacts to water quality and stormwater runoff, the following measures will be implemented:

1. The project will implement the following Best Management Practices:
  - a) Job site management
  - b) Preparation of a Water Pollution Control Program to determine the feasibility of incorporating permanent treatment or structural Best Management Practices into the final project design
  - c) Temporary Best Management Practices will include, but will not be limited to, the following:
    - i. Hydraulic mulch
    - ii. Check dams
    - iii. Drainage inlet protection
    - iv. Fiber rolls
    - v. Stabilized construction entrance
    - vi. Designated concrete washout
    - vii. Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing
2. The project will implement appropriate Caltrans' Standard Specification and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions pertaining to water quality and water pollution control.

### **2.2.3 Geology, Soils, Seismicity and Topography**

#### ***Regulatory Setting***

For geologic and topographic features, the key federal law is the Historic Sites Act of 1935, which establishes a national registry of natural landmarks and protects "outstanding examples of major geological features." Topographic and geologic features are also protected under CEQA.

This section discusses geology, soils, and seismic concerns as they relate to public safety and project design. Earthquakes are prime considerations in the design and retrofit of structures. Structures are designed using Caltrans' Seismic Design Criteria. The Seismic Design Criteria provide the minimum seismic requirements for highway bridges designed in California. A bridge's category and classification determine its seismic performance level and the methods used for estimating seismic demands and structural capabilities. For more information, please see Caltrans' Division of Engineering Services, Office of Earthquake Engineering, and Seismic Design Criteria.

### ***Affected Environment***

A preliminary geotechnical report was prepared for the project on August 19, 2016.

#### ***Regional Geology and Seismicity***

The project area is on the Goleta coastal alluvial plain and is near the Dos Pueblos Canyon and the Santa Barbara plains. The Goleta plain is in the western Transverse Ranges, along an east/west-trending segment of the Southern California coastline. The coastal plain, which has a low elevation, slopes gently seaward from the Santa Ynez Mountains (to the north) to the Santa Barbara Channel to the south.

The Santa Barbara coastal plain area is dominated by the Santa Barbara fold and fault belt and the overlapping Santa Ynez Mountains uplift. The Santa Barbara belt is an east/west-trending zone of potentially active folds and faults that spans the entire coastal plain, then widens to the northwest as it continues into the lower southern part of the Santa Ynez Mountains. The coastal plain includes several mesas and hills with potentially active folds and partially buried faults from the Santa Barbara fold and fault belt.

The project is not on a known fault line. However, there are multiple known faults found in the region. The project site is about 1.3 miles south-southwest of the San Jose Fault, 1.4 miles north of the More Ranch Fault, 2.1 miles northwest of the Mission Ridge-Arroyo Parida-Santa Ana Fault, 3.6 miles north-northeast of the Ventura-Pitas Point Fault, and 3.7 miles north of the Red Mountain Fault.

#### ***Site Conditions***

The project area is covered by Holocene and upper Pleistocene alluvium and colluvium, which consists mostly of a mix of silt, sand, and gravel deposits as a result of drainage, alluvial fans, and floodplains. The deposits are believed to be found under much of the Goleta and Santa Barbara areas. Geomorphic surfaces underlain by alluvium and colluvium commonly contain soil profiles that have weak to moderate erosion potential. The thickness of alluvial and colluvium deposits is generally up to 35 feet.

Two soil units cover the project site: Elder sandy loam at 21.2 percent and the Elder-Soboba complex at 78.8 percent. The Elder sandy loam soils are alluvial fan deposits. These soils are well-drained and have low runoff, high permeability, and a slight erosion hazard. The Elder-Soboba complex consists of two components: Elder sandy loam soil and Soboba soil. The Soboba soil consists of valley deposits, with coarse stony and gravelly alluvium from sandstone. These soils contain stony loam sand and very gravelly sand. These well-drained soils have medium runoff, high permeability, and a slight erosion hazard.

The groundwater elevation within the project area is between 29.9 feet and 38.8 feet. The ground shaking potential of the project area is classified as “strong.” Due to

the soil composition and shallow groundwater elevation within the project area, the potential for liquefaction is minimal.

Past investigations have determined that the subsurface materials within the project site contain loose sand and are considered a corrosive material. Further investigations will be conducted to better determine the presence of corrosive subsurface materials before project construction. The project will adopt appropriate design elements that will protect the new bridge from corrosive materials.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

Although the project area could experience strong seismic ground shaking in the event of a large earthquake, the project will be designed according to Caltrans' Seismic Design Criteria, as provided in the Highway Design Manual, that will minimize the potential risk to construction workers and the traveling public in the event of such a large earthquake.

There is a low risk for landslides because of the relatively flat topography of the project area, and because the project will not involve large cuts and fill, or steep excavation work. It is anticipated that earth-retaining and shoring systems will be used during earthwork to minimize unstable soils because of excavations.

Ground-disturbing earthwork associated with construction could increase soil erosion rates and the loss of topsoil. However, the potential for erosion will be minimal because of the types of soil in the project area. The Best Management Practices described in Section 2.2.2, Water Quality and Stormwater Runoff, will further minimize erosion and the loss of topsoil.

The project will limit the amount of earthwork necessary to complete the project.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The following measures will be implemented for the project to avoid and or minimize potential impacts:

1. The project will minimize the amount of soil disturbance necessary to complete the project.
2. Additional subsurface investigation will be conducted before to project construction to identify subsurface conditions and to help determine appropriate final design elements required to protect the new bridge structure from potential geologic hazards.

## 2.3 Biological Environment

### 2.3.1 Natural Communities

#### ***Regulatory Setting***

This section of the document discusses natural communities of concern. The focus of this section is on biological communities, not individual plant, or animal species. This section also includes information on wildlife corridors, fish passage, and habitat fragmentation. Wildlife corridors are areas of habitat used by wildlife for seasonal or daily migration. Habitat fragmentation involves the potential for dividing sensitive habitat and thereby lessening its biological value.

Habitat areas that have been designated as critical habitat under the Federal Endangered Species Act are discussed in Section 2.3.5, Threatened and Endangered Species. Wetlands and Other Waters are discussed in Section 2.3.2.

#### ***Affected Environment***

The information and analysis contained in this section are based on the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project Natural Environment Study prepared in March 2019. The Natural Environment Study included biological surveys that were conducted during appropriate survey seasons.

The biological study area for the project is defined as the area that may be directly, indirectly, temporarily, or permanently affected by construction and construction-related activities. The biological study area for the project occurs along U.S. Route 101 and San Jose Creek and is about 23 acres.

The biological study area occurs on a coastal plain at the base of the Santa Ynez Mountains, within the City of Goleta and just west of Santa Barbara. The Pacific Ocean is 1.6 miles south of the biological study area. The San Jose Creek watershed originates in the Santa Ynez Mountains. The upper source of the creek starts near San Marcos Pass and flows down the west side of the mountains; several small ephemeral streams merge into San Jose Creek along the way. The creek merges into a single main channel as it enters the coastal plain, about 1 mile upstream of the biological study area.

Within the biological study area are several natural communities mixed together. Major natural community types found within the biological study area are described individually below.

#### ***Coast Live Oak Woodland (Quercus agrifolia Woodland Alliance)***

This community contains coast live oak with more than 50 percent of relative cover in the tree canopy. Within the biological study area, coast live oak woodland can be found in various locations along the U.S. Route 101 right-of-way. Approximately 0.7 acre of this community occurs in the biological study area.

*Black Cottonwood (Populus trichocarpa)*

This community contains black cottonwood with more than 50 percent of relative cover in the tree layer. This community can be found in the biological study area in the San Jose Creek south of U.S. Route 101. Associated species include the arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and the Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*). This community also supports high-quality habitat for various raptors. Approximately 0.14 acre of the community occurs in the biological study area.

*Arroyo Willow Thickets (Salix lasiolepis Shrubland Alliance)*

The community is characterized as arroyo willow with more than 50 percent of relative cover in the shrub or tree canopy. In this community, arroyo willow is the dominant species in the overstory. This community can be found in the riparian corridor of the San Jose Creek, and upstream and downstream of the existing U.S. Route 101 bridge. Associated species include the western sycamore (*Plantanus racemosa*) and the tall flatsedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*). This community supports high-quality habitat for various nesting birds and other species that frequent riparian habitats, such as raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), striped skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), and Virginia opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*). Approximately 0.1 acre of this community occurs in the biological study area.

*Sandbar Willow Thickets (Salix exigua Shrubland Alliance)*

This community is characterized as sandbar willow with more than 50 percent of relative cover. This community can be found on the northwest side of the San Jose Creek, next to the U.S. Route 101 northbound bridge. This community supports high-quality habitat for various nesting birds and other species that frequent riparian habitats. Approximately 0.02 acre of this community occurs in the biological study area.

*California Sycamore Woodland (Platanus racemosa Woodland Alliance)*

This community is characterized as the California sycamore with more than 30 percent of relative cover in the tree canopy. This community can be found in the biological study area in the San Jose Creek, and north and south of U.S. Route 101. Associated species include the arroyo willow and the Douglas nightshade (*Solanum douglasii*). This community supports high-quality habitat for various raptors. Approximately 0.3 acre of this community occurs in the biological study area.

*Eucalyptus Groves (Eucalyptus ssp. Woodland Semi-Natural Alliance)*

This community contains eucalyptus with more than 80 percent of relative cover in the tree layer. Species found on-site include blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and lemon gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*). Within the biological study area, these trees occur on the shoulders of U.S. Route 101 and have very large, extensive canopies that often cover the vegetation below. Eucalyptus groves may provide perching and nesting habitat for various bird species. Approximately 1.56 acres of eucalyptus groves occur in the biological study area.

### *Giant Reed Series (Arundo donax Herbaceous Semi-Natural Alliance)*

The giant reed series is described as having more than 60 percent of relative cover in the herbaceous and shrub layers. This community is typically found in riparian areas, along low-gradient streams and ditches, or in marshes. The California Invasive Plant Council considers the giant reed series an invasive species. Within the biological study area, this community is found on the south side of U.S. Route 101, along the margins of the San Jose Creek. This dense, tall community is about 5 feet to 9 feet high and almost completely composed of the giant reed series, which might support foraging habitat for various bird species and wildlife. Approximately 0.27 acre of the giant reed series occurs in the biological study area.

### *Ruderal/Disturbed Vegetation*

Ruderal/disturbed vegetation occurs in areas that are subjected to frequent disturbance. For example, it occurs on the edges of pavement where vehicle impacts have compacted the soil. It also occurs in the mowed and maintained portions of Caltrans' rights-of-way where small amounts of annual non-native grassland are interspersed with roadside plantings. Ruderal/disturbed vegetation in the biological study area is dominated by weedy species such as Canadian horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), and wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*). These species are subjected to routine disturbance from vehicles and mowing. They typically do not support habitat for sensitive species. Approximately 2.47 acres of ruderal/disturbed vegetation occur in the biological study area.

### *Ornamental Vegetation*

These mostly exotic landscape plantings consist of trees and shrubs that would not occur naturally in the region. However, ornamental vegetation occurs along U.S. Route 101 and within the biological study area. The species include silk oak (*Grevillea robusta*), spider gum (*Eucalyptus conferruminata*), Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Santa Cruz Island ironwood (*Lyonothamnus floribundus* ssp. *aspleniifolius*), silverleaf cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster pannosus*), and oleander (*Nerium oleander*). Ornamental vegetation may support nesting opportunities for birds and roosting opportunities for bats, but it typically does not support habitat for other sensitive species. Santa Cruz Island ironwood and toyon are native species. Silk oak and silverleaf cotoneaster are considered invasive species by the California Invasive Plant Council. Approximately 4.44 acres of ornamental vegetation occur in the biological study area.

### *Intermittent Stream*

The intermittent stream channel in the San Jose Creek is a habitat feature, defined as the area of the creek contained by the ordinary high-water mark within the biological study area. From about 229 feet upstream of the U.S. Route 101 northbound bridge to just a few feet past the U.S. Route 101 southbound bridge, the banks of the San Jose Creek are lined with concrete paving; the center is an incised



stream channel. This channel is filled with coarse sand and, seasonally, with sparse vegetation. Sand bar willow (*Salix exigua* var. *hindsiana*), tall flatsedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*), and willow herb (*Epilobium ciliatum* ssp. *ciliatum*) grow here during summer and fall and when the creek has no surface water. Short-duration high-velocity flows in the winter tend to clear the incised channel of vegetation. The intermittent stream channel in the biological study area supports migration habitat for steelhead trout when the creek is flowing and provides a migration corridor for urban wildlife. Approximately 0.3 acre of intermittent stream occurs in the biological study area.

### *Habitat Connectivity and Migration*

Native terrestrial wildlife may use the San Jose Creek as a highway undercrossing. Passerine birds use the riparian corridor of the San Jose Creek for migration, foraging, and nesting. However, no birds were seen nesting in trees or under the U.S. Route 101 bridge within the biological study area.

Fish migration may be possible along the San Jose Creek from the Pacific Ocean to the bedrock waterfall, which is approximately 3.70 miles upstream from the U.S. Route 101 bridge. This waterfall is about 30 feet high and serves as a natural barrier to fish. The passage quality for fish in the San Jose Creek is at its highest during the wet season, when there are potential outflows to the Pacific Ocean that allow for fish in-migration and out-migration.

Within the project limits, the California Fish Passage Assessment Database identifies the San Jose Creek channel below the U.S. Route 101 bridge as “Not a Barrier.” Caltrans’ hydraulics unit completed a fish passage analysis for the project and determined that the existing U.S. Route 101 bridge does not negatively affect fish passage conditions along the San Jose Creek and is not considered a fish barrier.

### *Environmental Consequences*

The project will cause temporary and permanent impacts to natural communities identified in the project area. During project construction, vegetation removal and tree trimming will be required to provide access and clearance for equipment and personnel. Most of the vegetation removal will occur in areas next to the existing bridge and creek, in areas used for construction storage and staging, and along the roadway shoulders. The project will also remove the median planters just east and west of the bridge. The project will limit the level of disturbance to natural communities by limiting the number of access routes and staging/storage areas required for project completion.

The project is estimated to result in temporary impacts on the following communities: 0.21 acre of coast live oak woodland, 0.10 acre of black cottonwood forest, 0.03 acre of arroyo willow thickets, 0.17 acre of California sycamore woodland, 0.02 acre of sandbar willow thickets, 0.15 acre of eucalyptus groves, and 0.79 acre of

ornamental vegetation. Temporary impacts will mostly be the result of temporary access routes and temporary staging/storage sites required during construction.

The project will result in permanent impacts to the following communities: 0.003 acre of California sycamore woodland, 0.006 acre sandbar willow thickets, 0.003 acre ornamental vegetation, 0.30 acre of giant reeds and 0.63 acre of ruderal/disturbed vegetation. Permanent impacts to California sycamore and giant reeds will result from the installation of rock slope protection in the creek channel. Permanent impacts to sandbar will thicket and ornamental vegetation will result from the widening of the northbound bridge deck. Permanent impacts to ruderal/disturbed vegetation will result from retaining wall work and roadway repaving. Although the project will cause permanent impacts, the impacts will be perceived as a benefit because they will remove predominantly invasive and weedy species.

The project will result in temporary and permanent impacts to the San Jose Creek channel. Temporary impacts will result from the removal of the existing bridge abutments and columns, the removal of concrete paving found on the embankments and in the creek, and temporary construction related disturbance. Permanent impacts will result from the installation of new larger bridge abutments, rock slope protection at new locations and new pavement. However, project impacts to the San Jose Creek channel are anticipated to cause a net benefit. Removing the existing bridge columns will improve channel flow and improve fish passage conditions within the project's limits. Installing rock slope protection will directly replace the concrete paving. Rock slope protection is anticipated to be more beneficial to the San Jose Creek than paved concrete because it improves permeability and provides opportunity for revegetation.

### *Migration and Travel Corridors*

The project has the potential to temporarily affect the passage of native terrestrial wildlife in the project area. In the daytime, when construction activity and disturbances are present, most wildlife species would be discouraged from entering the project area. For nocturnal wildlife species, construction debris, parked equipment, or other project-related items stored on the project site may temporarily obstruct wildlife passage at night.

The project will maintain the existing fish passage characteristics of the channel below U.S. Route 101 and the natural bottom along the streambed. The existing and post-construction conditions meet the high-flow and low-flow fish passage criteria for young salmonids. The conditions also meet the high-flow fish passage criteria for adult salmonids. However, the depth for adult salmonids is slightly below the recommended 1 foot for low-flow conditions. According to Caltrans' fish passage analysis, the un-grouted rock slope protection proposed for the channel banks will not affect fish passage because the water surface elevations will not rise high enough to contact these surfaces during fish passage.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The following measures will be implemented to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts as a result of project-related activities:

1. Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing, or flagging, will be installed around the anticipated maximum boundary of the project's working limits required for project completion in order to prevent unnecessary disturbances to habitats and vegetation within the project area.
2. Special provisions for the installation of Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing or flagging will be included in the construction contract and identified in the project plans. Prior to the start of construction activities, Environmentally Sensitive Areas will be delineated in the field and approved by qualified Caltrans' environmental division staff.
3. Impacts to native species will require the project to conduct restoration plantings onsite. Restoration plantings will consist of native species appropriate for the project area.

### **2.3.2 Wetlands and Other Waters**

#### ***Regulatory Setting***

Wetlands and Other Waters are protected under a number of laws and regulations. At the federal level, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, more commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act (33 U.S. Code 1344), is the main law that regulates wetlands and surface waters. One purpose of the Clean Water Act is to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Waters of the U.S. include navigable waters, interstate waters, territorial seas, and other waters that may be used in interstate or foreign commerce. The lateral limits of jurisdiction over non-tidal water bodies extend to the ordinary high-water mark, in the absence of adjacent wetlands. When adjacent wetlands are present, Clean Water Act jurisdiction extends beyond the ordinary high-water mark to the limits of the adjacent wetlands. To classify wetlands for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, a three-parameter approach is used that includes the presence of hydrophytic (water-loving) vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils (soils formed during saturation/inundation). All three parameters must be present, under normal circumstances, for an area to be designated as a jurisdictional wetland under the Clean Water Act.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act establishes a regulatory program that provides that a discharge of dredged or fill material cannot be permitted if a practicable alternative exists that would be less damaging to the aquatic environment or if the nation's waters would be significantly degraded. The Section 404 permit program is run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with oversight by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issues two types of 404 permits: General and Individual. There are two types of General permits: Regional and Nationwide. Regional permits are issued for a general category of activities that are similar in nature and cause minimal environmental effects. Nationwide permits allow a variety of minor project activities, with no more than minimal effects.

Ordinarily, projects that do not meet the criteria for a Regional or a Nationwide Permit may be permitted under one of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Individual permits. There are two types of Individual permits: Standard permits and Letters of Permission. For Individual permits, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' decision to approve is based on compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 Code of Federal Regulations 230) and whether permit approval is in the public's best interest. The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, which were developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, allow the discharge of dredged or fill material into the aquatic system (waters of the U.S.) only if there is no practicable alternative with less adverse effects. The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines state that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may not issue a permit if a "least environmentally damaging practicable alternative" to the proposed discharge is available that would have lesser effects on waters of the U.S. and no other significant adverse environmental consequences.

The Executive Order for the Protection of Wetlands (Executive Order 11990) also regulates the activities of federal agencies with regard to wetlands. Essentially, Executive Order 11990 states that a federal agency, such as the Federal Highway Administration and/or Caltrans, as assigned, cannot undertake or provide assistance for new construction in wetlands unless the head of the agency finds: (1) that there is no practicable alternative to the construction and (2) the proposed project includes all practicable measures to minimize harm. A Wetlands Only Practicable Alternative Finding must be made.

At the state level, wetlands and waters are regulated primarily by the State Water Resources Control Board, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. In certain circumstances, the California Coastal Commission (or the Bay Conservation and Development Commission or the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency) may also be involved. Sections 1600–1607 of the California Fish and Game Code require any agency that proposes a project that will substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of a river, stream, or lake or substantially change the bed or bank of a river, stream, or lake to notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife before beginning construction. If the California Department of Fish and Wildlife determines that the project may substantially and adversely affect fish or wildlife resources, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement will be required. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdictional limits are usually defined by the top of the stream or lake bank or the outer edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is wider. Wetlands under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction may or may not be included in the area covered by

the Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement obtained from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Regional Water Quality Control Boards were established under the Porter-Cologne Act to oversee water quality. Discharges under the Porter-Cologne Act are permitted by Waste Discharge Requirements and may be required even when the discharge is already permitted or exempt under the Clean Water Act. In compliance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards also issue water quality certifications for activities that may result in a discharge to waters of the U.S. This is most frequently required in tandem with a Section 404 permit request. See the Water Quality section for more details.

### ***Affected Environment***

The information and analysis contained in this section are based on the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project Natural Environment Study prepared by Caltrans in March 2019.

A Jurisdictional Waters Assessment was done as part of the Natural Environment Study and is based on the review of relevant literature and a thorough on-site investigation to determine the presence of three parameters within the study area: aquatic vegetation, saturated soil, and wetland hydrology. The delineation method used was conducted in accordance with the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual for the Arid West Region*. (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2008)

A delineation of the ordinary high-water mark was made in the biological study area on July 11, 2018. Potential jurisdictional areas identified in the biological study area included the San Jose Creek and a concrete-lined perennial drainage that runs from Calle Real to San Jose Creek. A total of 0.369 acre of potential Clean Water Act “other waters” was delineated within the biological study area. Three-parameter Clean Water Act wetlands do not occur in the biological study area. A total of 1.4 acres fall within Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdiction. A map of jurisdictional water areas within the project vicinity is shown in Appendix D.

The biological study area is outside the coastal zone and is not under the jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

The project will cause temporary impacts on jurisdictional U.S. Army Corps of Engineers “other waters.” The project will cause temporary and permanent impacts on California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Regional Water Quality Control Board jurisdictional areas.

The project will temporarily affect the following: 0.182 acre of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act “other waters;” 0.742 acre of Regional Water Quality

Control Board jurisdiction; and 0.742 acre of California Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdiction. These impacts are anticipated to be the result of direct and indirect effects from project activities that will occur within the project site.

The project will permanently affect 0.062 acre of Regional Water Quality Control Board jurisdiction and 0.062 acre of California Department of Fish and Wildlife jurisdiction. Permanent impacts will be caused by the addition of rock slope protection to a small portion of the creek bank downstream of the new bridge. Permanent impacts will occur in areas with mostly exotic and invasive species and a very small area of California sycamore woodland.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The following measures will be implemented to avoid and minimize potential impacts on jurisdictional and wetland areas resulting from the project:

1. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing, or flagging will be installed around jurisdictional waters as well as the dripline of any trees that are to be protected within the project limits. Caltrans-defined Environmentally Sensitive Areas will be noted on design plans and delineated in the field prior to the start of construction activities.
2. During construction, all project-related hazardous materials spills within the project site will be cleaned up immediately. Readily accessible spill prevention and cleanup materials will be kept on-site by the contractor at all times during construction.
3. During construction, erosion control measures will be implemented. Appropriate temporary Best Management Practices will be installed as needed between the project site and jurisdictional “other waters” and riparian habitat. At a minimum, erosion controls will be maintained by the contractor daily throughout the construction period.
4. During construction, cleaning and refueling of equipment and vehicles will occur only within a designated staging area. This area will either be a minimum of 100 feet from aquatic areas or, if the area is less than 100 feet from aquatic areas, surrounded by barriers or secondary containment items (e.g., fiber rolls or equivalent). The staging areas will conform to the Best Management Practice applicable to attaining zero discharge of stormwater runoff. At a minimum, all equipment and vehicles will be checked and maintained by the contractor daily to ensure proper operation and avoid potential leaks or spills.
5. Habitat restoration and native re-plantings will be required for the project. It is anticipated that compensatory mitigation can occur entirely within the project site, consisting of native plants appropriate to the project area. Plant restoration is proposed at a 1 to 1 ratio for acreage of temporary and permanent impacts. It is anticipated that a 3 to 1 replacement ratio will be

required for impacts to riparian trees. A plant establishment period will be required as part of the replanting process.

### **2.3.3 Plant Species**

#### ***Regulatory Setting***

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife have regulatory responsibility for the protection of special-status plant species. “Special-status” species are selected for protection because they are rare and/or subject to population and habitat declines. Special-status is a general term for species that are provided varying levels of regulatory protection. The highest level of protection is given to threatened and endangered species; these are species that are formally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act and/or the California Endangered Species Act. See Section 2.3.5, Threatened and Endangered Species, for detailed information about those species.

This section of the document discusses all other special-status plant species, including California Department of Fish and Wildlife species of special concern, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service candidate species, and California Native Plant Society rare and endangered plants.

The regulatory requirements for the Federal Endangered Species Act can be found at 16 U.S. Code 1531, et seq. (see also 50 Code of Federal Regulations 402). The regulatory requirements for the California Endangered Species Act can be found at California Fish and Game Code Section 2050, et seq. Caltrans projects are also subject to the Native Plant Protection Act, found in California Fish and Game Code Sections 1900—1913, and the California Environmental Quality Act, found in California Public Resources Code Sections 21000—21177.

#### ***Affected Environment***

The information and analysis contained in this section are based on the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project Natural Environment Study prepared by Caltrans in March 2019.

Floristic botanical surveys were completed in the biological study area on April 20, June 18, July 11, and September 11, 2018. The surveys consisted of walking a meandering strip of land within the project limits where all areas could be visually inspected.

Potential habitat occurs within the biological study area for the following special-status plant species: marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*), Santa Barbara morning-glory (*Calystegia sepium* ssp. *binghamiae*), southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *Australis*), Gambel’s watercress (*Nasturtium gambelii*), and Hoffmann’s bitter gooseberry (*Ribes amarum* var. *hoffmannii*). However, no special-status plant species were seen during the surveys.

The Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*) is identified as a species of interest and was found in the biological study area. The Southern California black walnut was often used in the early 1900s as a disease-resistant rootstock for commercial farming of the Persian walnut (*Juglans regia*). The City of Goleta once had a thriving walnut industry and was the walnut capital of the U.S. It is common to find the Southern California black walnut along the banks of creeks throughout the central coast and parts of Santa Barbara County. The Southern California black walnut found in the San Jose Creek is likely an escaped migrant and should not be considered native to the biological study area.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

Although potential habitat occurs within the biological study area for several special-status plant species, the habitat areas are marginal. No special-status plant species were seen during field surveys, and none are anticipated to occur within the project area. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to affect any special-status plant species.

Based on a lack of suitable habitat and no observations during appropriately timed floristic surveys, the Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 effects determination is that the project will have no effect on the following federally listed plant species:

- Marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*)
- Salt marsh bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus maritimum* ssp. *maritimum*)
- Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*)
- Gambel's watercress (*Nasturtium gambelii*)

Critical habitat for these federally listed plant species will not be affected.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The project is not anticipated to impact plant species. No avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures are proposed for plant species.

## **2.3.4 Animal Species**

### ***Regulatory Setting***

Many state and federal laws regulate impacts on wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife are responsible for implementing these laws. This section discusses potential impacts and permit requirements associated with animals that are not listed or proposed for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act or the California Endangered Species Act. Species that are listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered are discussed in Section 2.3.5, Threatened and Endangered Species. All other special-



status animal species are discussed here, including California Department of Fish and Wildlife fully protected species and species of special concern and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service candidate species.

Federal laws and regulations relevant to wildlife include the following:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

State laws and regulations relevant to wildlife include the following:

- California Environmental Quality Act
- Sections 1600–1603 of the California Fish and Game Code
- Sections 4150 and 4152 of the California Fish and Game Code

### ***Affected Environment***

The information and analysis contained in this section are based on the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project Natural Environment Study prepared by Caltrans in March 2019.

The biological study area includes potential habitat for several special-status animal species that include the following:

- Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)
- Southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*)
- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)
- Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa*)
- Northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*)
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*)
- Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*)
- Two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*)
- Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*)
- Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
- Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)
- Other nesting birds (*class Aves*)
- Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)
- Western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis californicus*)
- Western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*)

Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*)

San Diego desert woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*)

Although there are suitable and marginal habitats for special-status animal species within the biological study area, none were seen in the biological study area during field surveys. However, special-status animal species have the potential to occur in the biological study area during construction, given the presence of potential habitat.

Based on a lack of suitable habitat and no observations during field surveys, the Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 effects determination is that the project will have no effect on the following federally listed animal species:

Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*)

Tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)

Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus marmoratus*)

Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*)

Light-footed Ridgway's rail (*Rallus obsoletus levipes*)

California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*)

The following discussions are limited to species that could potentially be present in the biological study area and/or have the potential to be affected by the project.

Because of their threatened and/or endangered status, the following animal species are discussed in Section 2.3.5, Threatened and Endangered Species: Southern California steelhead, California red-legged frog, southwestern willow flycatcher, and least Bell's vireo.

*Coast Range Newt*

The Coast Range newt is known to occur along coastal drainages, from Mendocino County to San Diego County. The portion of the San Jose Creek that occurs in the biological study area is unlikely to provide surface water that lasts long enough for the aquatic life cycle of this species, and upland areas in the vicinity are highly developed. However, there are California Natural Diversity Database records of the species in the upper watershed and nearby creeks; therefore, the Coast Range newt's presence cannot be ruled out.

*Northern California Legless Lizard*

The Northern California legless lizard occurs in moist, warm, loose soil with plant cover. It also occurs in sparsely vegetated areas in beach dunes, chaparrals, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrubs, and stream terraces with native tree cover. Potentially suitable habitat was found in the biological study area.

### *Western Pond Turtle*

The western pond turtle occurs in quiet waters, including ponds, lakes, streams, and marshes; it is typically found near the deepest parts. The portion of the San Jose Creek that is within the project limit does not provide a deep pool. Also, surface water in the creek may not last long enough to support the western pond turtle. However, the species has been recorded in nearby creeks and cannot be ruled out as absent.

### *Coast Horned Lizard*

The coast horned lizard occurs in a variety of habitats but is usually found in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Potentially suitable habitat is present in the biological study area.

### *Two-Striped Garter Snake*

The two-striped garter snake occurs in the coastal parts of California, from Salinas to Baja California, at elevations up to 7,000 feet. It is found along streams with rocky beds and a permanent source of freshwater. Within the biological study area, permanent aquatic habitat is present in the concrete perennial drainage ditch.

### *Cooper's Hawk*

Cooper's hawk occurs in mostly open, interrupted, or marginal woodlands. It nests in riparian growths of deciduous trees and live oaks as well as canyon bottoms and river floodplains. Trees in the biological study area are potential suitable nesting habitat.

### *Other Nesting Birds*

In addition to the individually described bird species, the biological study area contains many trees that are suitable for various other bird species. No nesting birds were seen in the biological study area during surveys but there is potential for future nesting.

### *Pallid Bat*

The pallid bat occurs on rocky outcrops, cliffs, and crevices with access to open habitats for foraging. The pallid bat is also found near water and is often associated with open, sparsely vegetated grasslands. Although the bridges at the project site do not have crevices or protected acute angles, the weep holes on the bridges may provide roosting locations for this species. No evidence of roosting was seen during daytime surveys.

### *Western Mastiff Bat*

The western mastiff bat is found in many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrubs, grasslands, and chaparrals. It

roosts in crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees, and tunnels. Although the bridges at the project site do not have crevices, trees in the biological study area could provide roosting locations for this species. No evidence of roosting was seen during daytime surveys.

#### *Western Red Bat*

The western red bat roosts mostly in trees, often in edge habitats next to streams, fields, or urban areas. Trees in the biological study area could provide roosting locations for this species. No evidence of roosting was seen during daytime surveys.

#### *Yuma Myotis*

The Yuma myotis occurs in a variety of habitats but is usually found close to standing water such as lakes and ponds. It roosts in caves, attics, buildings, mines and under bridges. Weep holes in the bridges of the project may provide roosting locations for this species. No evidence of roosting was seen during daytime surveys.

#### *San Diego Desert Woodrat*

The San Diego desert woodrat occurs from Baja California northward to northern San Luis Obispo County. It is typically found in woodlands and coastal scrub habitats. San Diego desert woodrats build nests in a variety of locations and are known to adapt to their local habitat. San Diego desert woodrats do not always use rock piles for nesting. Although no San Diego desert woodrat nests were found in the biological study area, the species could nest in the biological study area before construction starts.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

Special-status species that have the potential to be present during project construction and/or may be affected by the project are discussed below.

#### *Coast Range Newt, Western Pond Turtle, and Two-Striped Garter Snake*

The Coast Range newt, the western pond turtle, and the two-striped garter snake are being addressed together because they have similar habitat requirements, potential project-related impacts, and avoidance and minimization measures.

Project construction have the potential to injure or kill Coast Range newts, western pond turtles, or two-striped garter snakes if these animals are present during construction or present during the dewatering of the San Jose Creek. If it is required to capture and relocate these animals, they could be subjected to stresses that could cause adverse effects. Workers or construction equipment could injure or kill these animals by accidentally crushing them. Erosion and sedimentation could also occur, which could directly or indirectly affect water quality. The potential for impacts on these species is expected to be low because they were not found within the biological study area during surveys. However, this could change over time as each

species expands its population and/or migrates through or colonizes the creek corridor.

#### *Northern California Legless Lizard and Coast Horned Lizard*

The Northern California legless lizard and the coast horned lizard are being addressed together because they have similar habitat requirements, project-related impacts, and avoidance and/or minimization measures.

Northern California legless lizards and coast horned lizards could be injured or killed if they are present during project construction. If it is required to capture and relocate these animals, they could be subjected to stresses that could cause adverse effects. Workers or construction equipment could injure or kill these animals by accidentally crushing them. The project is not anticipated to affect these species after avoidance and minimization measures are used.

#### *Cooper's Hawk and Other Nesting Birds*

Cooper's hawk and other nesting birds are being addressed together because they have similar habitat requirements, project-related impacts, and avoidance and minimization measures.

Removing and trimming vegetation and/or demolishing the existing bridge could directly impact active bird nests and any eggs or young birds living in the nests. Noise and other disturbances associated with construction activities could indirectly impact active bird nests and could change perching, foraging, and/or nesting behaviors. While temporary loss of vegetation that supports potential nesting habitat could occur, this will be mitigated by habitat restoration. The project is not anticipated to affect bird species after avoidance and minimization measures are used.

#### *Pallid Bat, Western Red Bat, Yuma Myotis, and Other Bat Species*

The pallid bat, the western red bat, the Yuma myotis, and other bat species are being addressed together because they have similar habitat requirements, project-related impacts, and avoidance and minimization measures.

The project could directly impact bats if they are roosting on the bridge before construction starts. Direct impacts could injure or kill bats or harass them to the point where they could change their roosting behaviors. Noise and other disturbances associated with project construction could indirectly impact bats, which could also change their roosting behaviors. Implementing pre-activity surveys and exclusion measures will reduce the potential for adverse effects to bats species.

Although minor night work is expected to be a component of project construction, night work will occur only after trees near the U.S. Route 101 bridges are removed, and bats are excluded from the human-made bat box under the bridge on Calle Real. Any bats that may be roosting in trees outside of the project limits are unlikely

to experience light and noise effects greater than those generated from normal traffic on U.S. Route 101 or in the surrounding urban area. Although there will be a temporary loss of service for bats that use the bat box under the bridge on Calle Real, nearby bridges would provide alternative roosting opportunities.

When trees are removed, and the bridges are replaced, there may be a temporary loss of roosting habitat if bats are present before construction starts. However, the bridges will be replaced, and new trees will be planted. Implementing bat exclusion netting may also temporarily remove roosting habitat until the new bridges are built.

#### *San Diego Desert Woodrat*

Although the project is not anticipated to impact the San Diego desert woodrat directly or indirectly, construction activities could disrupt, injure or kill them. Implementing avoidance, and minimization measures will reduce the potential for impacts.

#### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The following measures will be implemented to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant impacts under CEQA for special-status animal species.

#### *Coast Range Newt, Western Pond Turtle, and Two-Striped Garter Snake*

1. Prior to initiation of stream dewatering, Caltrans will conduct a worker environmental training program, including a description of the Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, and two-striped garter snake; their legal/protected status; their proximity to the project site; and avoidance/minimization measures to be implemented during the project.
2. Prior to construction, a biologist, determined qualified by Caltrans, will survey the biological study area and capture and relocate Coast Range newts, two-striped garter snakes, and western pond turtles, if present, to suitable habitat upstream within the biological study area. Observations of species of special concern or other special-status species will be documented on California Natural Diversity Database forms and submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife upon project completion. If these species or other aquatic species of special concern are observed during construction, they will likewise be relocated by a qualified biologist to suitable habitat outside the impact area.

#### *Northern California Legless Lizard and Coast Horned Lizard*

3. All excavation and vegetation removal within suitable habitat will be monitored by a qualified biologist. The qualified biologist will be on-site and monitoring during all new excavations and vegetation removal within suitable habitat.

4. Northern California legless lizards, coast horned lizards, or any species discovered during monitoring, excluding state or federal listed species, will be captured and relocated by the qualified biologist to suitable habitat outside the biological study area. Observations of species of special concern or other special-status species will be documented on California Natural Diversity Database forms and submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife upon project completion.

*Cooper's Hawk and Other Nesting Bird Species*

5. If feasible, tree removal and trimming will be scheduled to occur from October 1 to January 31, outside of the typical nesting bird season, to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds. If it is not feasible to conduct this work outside of the nesting bird season, a nesting bird survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to the start of construction. If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist will determine an appropriate buffer, or a monitoring strategy based on the habits and needs of the species. The buffer area will be avoided, or the monitoring strategy implemented until a qualified biologist has determined that the nest is no longer active.
6. It is recommended that bird nests be excluded from the existing bridge. Nesting bird exclusion methods may include, installation of thick plastic sheeting, one-way exclusion devices over drain holes, removing/knocking down nests before they contain eggs or nestlings, or other methods approved by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The required time for installation of bird exclusion devices is outside of the nesting season (i.e., implement exclusion methods from October 1 to January 31).
7. During construction, active bird nests will not be disturbed and eggs or young of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code will not be killed, destroyed, injured, or harassed at any time. If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist will determine an appropriate buffer using Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing or a monitoring strategy based on the habits and needs of the species. The buffer area will be avoided, or the monitoring strategy implemented until a qualified biologist has determined that the nest is no longer active.

*Pallid Bat, Western Red Bat, Yuma Myotis, and Other Bat Species*

8. A qualified biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey of the Route 101 and Calle Real bridges for bat activity at least 14 days prior to construction. If any roosting bats or evidence of roosting is observed, exclusion devices will be installed over the roosting habitat when bats are not present.
9. At least 14 days prior to construction, the human-made bat box under the bridge on Calle Real will be covered with an exclusion device when bats are

not present. The exclusion device will be removed at the completion of construction.

10. If tree removal is required during the bat maternity roosting season (February 15 to September 1), a bat roost survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 7 days prior to removal. If an active bat roost is found, Caltrans will coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine an appropriate buffer, based on the habits and needs of the species. Readily visible exclusion zones will be established in areas where roosts must be avoided, using Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing. Work in the buffer area will be avoided until a qualified biologist has determined that roosting activity has ceased. Active bat maternity roosts will not be disturbed or destroyed at any time.
11. Compensatory Mitigation: The existing Route 101 bridges showed no signs that they supported roosting bats. Only a single nest for a cliff swallow was found; the nest could have been used by bats for roosting (although it was broken). No bat roosting habitat is anticipated to be permanently lost as a result of the project. Impacts on vegetation will be offset by replacement plantings within the project limits, which will also replace potential roosting habitat. No additional compensatory mitigation is proposed for bats.

#### *San Diego Desert Woodrat*

12. No more than 14 days prior to construction activities, a pre-construction survey will be conducted within the biological study area by a qualified biologist to determine the presence or absence of woodrat middens.
13. If woodrat middens are located during this survey, the qualified biologist will establish an Environmentally Sensitive Area with a 25-foot buffer around each midden. No project activities requiring grading, mechanized equipment or vehicles, or large crews will be allowed within the 25-foot protective buffer.
14. If project activities cannot avoid affecting the middens, then a qualified biologist will dismantle the middens by hand prior to grading or vegetation removal activities. The midden dismantling will be conducted such that the midden material is removed slowly while personnel look for young woodrats. The material will be placed in a pile at the closest undisturbed adjacent habitat but more than 50 feet from construction activities.
15. If young are encountered during midden dismantling, the dismantling activity will be stopped, and the material replaced back on the nest. The nest will be left alone, then rechecked in 2 to 3 weeks to see if the young are out of the nest or capable of being out on their own (as determined by a qualified biologist); once the young can fend for themselves, the nest dismantling can continue.



### 2.3.5 Threatened and Endangered Species

#### ***Regulatory Setting***

The main federal law protecting threatened and endangered species is the Federal Endangered Species Act, found at 16 U.S. Code 1531, et seq. (see also 50 Code of Federal Regulations 402). This act, and later amendments, provides for the conservation of endangered and threatened species as well as the ecosystems upon which they depend. Under Section 7 of this act, agencies such as the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans, as assigned, are required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service to ensure that they are not undertaking, funding, permitting, or authorizing actions that are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. Critical habitat is defined as geographic locations that are critical to the existence of a threatened or endangered species. The outcome of consultation under Section 7 may include a biological opinion, with an incidental take statement or a letter of concurrence. Section 3 of the Federal Endangered Species Act says that *take* means to “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect” or initiate any attempt at such conduct.

California has enacted a similar law at the state level, the California Endangered Species Act, found at California Fish and Game Code Section 2050, et seq. The California Endangered Species Act emphasizes early consultation to avoid potential impacts on rare, endangered, and threatened species and develop appropriate planning to offset project-caused losses of listed species and their essential habitats. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is the agency responsible for implementing the California Endangered Species Act. Section 2080 of the California Fish and Game Code prohibits take of any species that has been determined to be an endangered species or a threatened species. Section 86 of the California Fish and Game Code says that *take* means to “hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.”

The California Endangered Species Act allows for take that is incidental to otherwise lawful development projects; for these actions, an incidental take permit is issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. For species listed under both the Federal Endangered Species Act and the California Endangered Species Act and requiring a biological opinion under Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife may also authorize impacts on California Endangered Species Act species by issuing a consistency determination under Section 2080.1 of the California Fish and Game Code.

Another federal law—the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976—was established to conserve and manage fishery resources found off the coast, as well as anadromous species and continental shelf fishery resources of the U.S., by exercising (A) sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring, exploiting, conserving, and managing all fish within the exclusive

economic zone established by Presidential Proclamation 5030, dated March 10, 1983, and (B) exclusive fishery management authority beyond the exclusive economic zone over such anadromous species, continental shelf fishery resources, and fishery resources in special areas.

### ***Affected Environment***

The information and analysis contained in this section are based on the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project Natural Environment Study prepared by Caltrans in March 2019.

An updated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list and an updated National Marine Fisheries Service species list was obtained for the project on August 17, 2020 (Appendix H).

No federally designated critical habitat for federally listed plant species occurs within the biological study area.

No Essential Fish Habitat for federally managed species was identified within the project limits.

Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was conducted for potential impacts to the California red-legged frog and its associated critical habitat, the southern willow flycatcher, and least bell's vireo. The Programmatic Biological Opinion for potential impacts to the California red-legged frog and its associated critical habitat was obtained on May 2020 (appendix H)

Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service was conducted for potential impacts to the Southern California steelhead and associated critical habitat. The Biological Opinion for potential impacts to the Southern California steelhead and associated critical habitat was obtained on July 2020 (appendix H).

### ***Southern California Steelhead and Critical Habitat***

The Southern California steelhead is federally designated as an endangered species. The species is known to occur in cold-water anadromous streams and in coastal lagoons. The federal distinct population segment listing refers to runs in coastal basins from the Santa Maria River to the U.S./Mexico border.

Suitable habitat for the Southern California steelhead occurs in the San Jose Creek within the biological study area. However, none were seen during surveys along the San Jose Creek. No surface water was present in the biological study area during multiple surveys from April 20 to October 25 in 2018. Surface water was present during one survey conducted on January 10, 2019.

Though Southern California steelhead are known to use the San Jose Creek, only a small amount of information on their presence is available. The habitat quality of the creek channel in the biological study area can be characterized as low, and the occurrence of surface water is seasonally limited. Based on the information available, the presence of young Southern California steelhead in the biological study area cannot be ruled out should water be present during construction. Southern California steelhead presence is inferred within the biological study area, but with an estimated low likelihood for presence.

The San Jose Creek also occurs within federally designated Southern California steelhead critical habitat, South Coast Hydrologic Unit 3315. Within the biological study area, the San Jose Creek was determined to support the Southern California steelhead, primary constituent element 3 (i.e., freshwater migration corridors free of obstruction). The concrete-lined slopes of the San Jose Creek under the U.S. Route 101 bridges are not a barrier to fish passage.

#### *California Red-Legged Frog*

The California red-legged frog is a federally threatened species. It is known to occur within aquatic habitats with little or no flow, or surface water, until early June. Within the biological study area and areas within dispersal distance to the biological study area, there is potentially suitable aquatic breeding and non-breeding habitat, dispersal habitat, and upland habitat. However, the biological study area is not close to known breeding habitats. Although the species was not seen during surveys, its presence cannot be ruled out.

#### *Southwestern Willow Flycatcher*

The southwestern willow flycatcher is a federal and state endangered species. It is known to live in woodlands in Southern California. For nesting, it requires dense riparian habitats. Habitat that is not suitable for nesting may be used for migrating and foraging. Marginal foraging and migration habitat may occur in the willow and cottonwood trees within the biological study area. However, these riparian trees are not suitable for nesting because of the lack of density and disturbances from the freeway. No critical habitat for this species occurs within the biological study area. The nearest record of a southwestern willow flycatcher is more than 24 miles away near the City of Buellton.

#### *Least Bell's Vireo*

Least Bell's vireo is a federal and state endangered species. It is known to occur within Southern California during the summer. It occurs in dense, low, shrubby vegetation in riparian areas near water or in dry river bottoms below 2,000 feet. Least bell's vireo nests along the margins of bushes or twigs of willow or mesquite. Marginal foraging and migration habitat may occur in the willow trees upstream of the U.S. Route 101 bridges. However, these riparian trees are not suitable for nesting because they lack density and are exposed to loud noises from the freeway. No critical habitat for this species occurs within the biological study area. The

nearest record of a least Bell's vireo is more than 24 miles away near the City of Buellton, near the Santa Ynez River.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

Based on the lack of suitable habitat and the lack of observations during appropriately timed floristic surveys, the Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 effects determination is that the project will have no effect on the following federally listed plant species:

- Marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*)
- Salt marsh bird's-beak (*Cordylanthus maritimum* ssp. *maritimum*)
- Contra Costa goldfields (*Lasthenia conjugens*)
- Gambel's watercress (*Nasturtium gambelii*)

There will be no effect on critical habitat for these federally listed plant species.

Based on the lack of suitable habitat, the Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 effects determination is that the project will have no effect on the following federally listed animal species:

- Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*)
- Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)
- Tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*)
- Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*)
- Light-footed Ridgway's rail (*Rallus obsoletus levipes*)
- California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*)

There will be no effect on federally designated critical habitat for these animal species.

### ***Southern California Steelhead and Critical Habitat***

Project construction activities could impact Southern California steelhead. Implementing a dewatering plan could cause take of individual Southern California steelhead or temporarily disrupt them within the biological study area. Work will be scheduled in the San Jose Creek channel during the dry season when water is not expected to be present in the creek. The dry season is typically from June to October. However, water may still be present in the creek channel during the dry season, which will require implementing a dewatering plan to allow for work in the creek. Therefore, impacts to Southern California steelhead cannot be ruled out.

The Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 effects determination is that the project may affect and is likely to adversely affect the federally endangered Southern California steelhead. The basis for this determination is the inferred presence of the Southern California steelhead, which is based on available information. The potential

for take of the species will exist during dewatering, capturing, and relocating activities. An unknown number of Southern California steelhead could be subjected to take, but the potential is expected to be low because of seasonally low-flow rates and low-quality habitat within the project limits.

For federally designated Southern California steelhead critical habitat, the Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 effects determination found that the project may affect and is likely to adversely affect federally designated Southern California steelhead critical habitat. It is anticipated that 0.16 acre of critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead will be temporarily affected. The basis for this determination is that dewatering activities could temporarily disrupt Southern California steelhead dispersal; work in the creek bed could temporarily impact critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead. The extent of potential effects is estimated to be low and restricted to the dry season. However, no permanent impacts to Southern California steelhead critical habitat will occur in the San Jose Creek. There are no fish passage barriers currently at the project site, and the project will maintain the existing fish passage characteristics and natural streambed.

#### *California Red-Legged Frog*

The project could injure or kill California red-legged frogs if they are present during construction or during dewatering within the San Jose Creek. Capturing and relocating California red-legged frogs could subject them to stresses that could cause adverse effects. Workers or construction equipment could injure or kill California red-legged frogs by accidentally crushing them. In addition, erosion and sedimentation could occur, which could directly or indirectly affect water quality. Pre-construction surveys, construction monitoring, and capture and relocation will reduce any chance of take.

Permanent aquatic habitat in the perennial drainage that runs from Calle Real to the San Jose Creek will be affected by the project and could result in take and/or loss of service for the animals (if present). Although the placement of a check dam and a diversion pipe within a portion of the San Jose Creek could cause a temporary loss of aquatic habitat for the animals, such effects are estimated to be minor.

The Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 effects determination found that the project may affect and is likely to adversely affect the California red-legged frog because the presence of the species cannot be ruled out. There will be a low, but possible potential for take of the species during dewatering and construction activities. The Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 effects determination is that the proposed project will have no effect on California red-legged frog critical habitat, as none occurs within the biological study area.

#### *Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Least Bell's Vireo*

Caltrans anticipates the bird nesting season to occur from February 1 to September 30. During construction, removing vegetation and demolishing the existing bridges could directly affect active bird nests and any eggs or young birds in the nests if

avoidance and minimization measures are not implemented. Indirect impacts could also result from noise and disturbances associated with construction, which could alter perching, foraging, and/or nesting behaviors. Implementing avoidance and minimization measures, such as appropriate timing for vegetation removal, pre-activity surveys, and exclusion zones, will reduce the potential for adverse effects on nesting bird species.

The Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 effects determination found that the project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect the least Bell's vireo and the southwestern willow flycatcher because the riparian vegetation within the biological study area is unlikely to be suitable nesting habitat. However, the presence of both species cannot be ruled out because marginally suitable foraging habitat for them is present within the project area.

The project is not likely to adversely affect these species because avoidance, and minimization measures will be used to protect all nesting bird species that are protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the California Fish and Game Code.

Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures will make the potential for effects insignificant (under the Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 definitions) and discountable in that adverse effects will have very low chance of occurring. There will be no effect on critical habitat for the least bell's vireo or the southwestern willow flycatcher because none occurs in or near the biological study area. No take is anticipated to occur, and a California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2081 permit will not be required.

The southwestern willow flycatcher and the least Bell's vireo are also state listed taxa under the California Endangered Species Act. However, because these taxa are not expected to be encountered during construction, and measures will be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting birds, California Endangered Species Act compliance will not be required.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The following measures will be implemented to reduce potentially significant impacts under CEQA to threatened and endangered species to less than significant.

#### ***Southern California Steelhead and Critical Habitat***

The avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures listed throughout Section 2.2 will reduce impacts on steelhead critical habitat.

The measures listed below will reduce impacts on the Southern California steelhead:

1. Prior to initiation of stream dewatering, a qualified biologist will conduct a worker environmental training program, including a description of steelhead, its legal/protected status, proximity to the project site, avoidance/minimization

measures to be implemented during the project, and the implications of violating the Federal Endangered Species Act and permit conditions.

2. During construction, instream work, will be limited to the low-flow period, from June 1 and October 31, in any given year when surface water is likely to be at the seasonal minimum to avoid adult steelhead spawning migration and peak smolt migration. Deviations from this work window will be made only with permission from Caltrans and the relevant regulatory agencies.
3. A qualified biologist will be retained with experience in Southern California steelhead biology and ecology; aquatic habitats; biological monitoring, including dewatering; and capturing, handling, and relocating fish species. The biological monitor(s) will continuously monitor the placement and removal of any creek diversion and dewatering system to capture steelhead and other native fish species and relocate them to suitable habitat as appropriate. The monitor(s) will capture steelhead in the biological study area just prior to dewatering and any remaining stranded steelhead immediately after dewatering. Steelhead will be relocated to suitable habitat upstream of the work area, using methods approved by the appropriate regulatory agencies. This may include, but not necessarily be limited to, seine-netting, dip-netting, providing aerated water in buckets for transport, and ensuring adequate water temperatures during transport. The biologist will note the number of steelheads observed in the affected area, the number of steelheads captured and relocated, and the date and time of the collection and relocation.
4. During instream work, if pumps are incorporated to assist in temporarily dewatering the site, intakes will be completely screened with no larger than  $\frac{3}{32}$ -inch (2.38-millimeter) wire mesh to prevent steelhead and other sensitive aquatic species from entering the pump system. Pumped water will be directed through a silt filtration bag and/or into a settling basin, allowing the suspended sediment to settle out prior to re-entering the stream(s) outside of the isolated area.
5. When the biological monitors are on-site, they will monitor erosion and sediment controls to identify and correct any conditions that could adversely affect steelhead or steelhead habitat. The biological monitors will be granted the authority to halt work activity as necessary and recommend measures to avoid/minimize adverse effects on steelhead and steelhead habitat.
6. Vibration and oscillation of piles will be used to the greatest extent feasible to install piles and reduce the need for hammer driving.

#### *California Red-Legged Frog*

7. Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologists will participate in activities associated with the capture, handling, and monitoring of California red-legged frogs.

8. Ground disturbance will not begin until written approval is received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the biologist is qualified to conduct the work.
9. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will survey the project area no more than 48 hours before the onset of work activities. If any life stage of the California red-legged frog is found and the individuals are likely to be killed or injured by work activities, the approved biologist will be allowed sufficient time to move them from the site before work begins. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will relocate the California red-legged frogs the shortest distance possible to a location that contains suitable habitat where they will not be affected by the activities associated with the project. The relocation site will be in the same drainage to the extent practicable. Caltrans will coordinate with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the relocation site prior to the capture of any California red-legged frogs.
10. Before any activities begin on a project, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training will include a description of the California red-legged frog and its habitat, the specific measures that are being implemented to conserve the California red-legged frog for the current project, and the boundaries within which the project may be accomplished. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session, with a qualified person on hand to answer any questions.
11. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will be present at the work site until all California red-legged frogs have been removed, workers have been instructed, and disturbance of habitat has been completed. After this time, Caltrans will designate a person to monitor on-site compliance with all minimization measures. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will ensure this monitor receives the training outlined above regarding the identification of California red-legged frogs. If the monitor or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist recommends that work be stopped because California red-legged frogs could be affected in a manner not anticipated by Caltrans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during review of the proposed action, that person will notify the resident engineer immediately. The resident engineer will resolve the situation by requiring that all actions that are causing the effects be halted. When work is stopped, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be notified as soon as possible.
12. During project activities, all trash that may attract predators or scavengers will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and debris will be removed from work areas.
13. All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles will occur at least 60 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies and not in a location from where a spill would drain directly toward aquatic habitat, unless otherwise



- preapproved by the necessary agencies. The monitor will ensure that habitat contamination does not occur during operations. Prior to the onset of work, Caltrans will ensure that a plan is in place for a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.
14. Habitat contours will be returned to a natural configuration at the end of the project activities. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Caltrans determine that it is not feasible, or modification of original contours would benefit the California red-legged frog.
  15. The number of access routes, size of staging areas, and the total area of activity will be limited to the minimum necessary to complete the project. Environmentally Sensitive Areas will be established to confine access routes and construction areas to the minimum area necessary to complete construction and minimize the impact on California red-legged frog habitat; this goal includes locating access routes and construction areas outside of wetlands and riparian areas to the maximum extent practicable.
  16. Caltrans will attempt to schedule work at times of the year when impacts to the California red-legged frog would be minimal. For example, work that would create large pools that support breeding would be avoided, to the maximum degree practicable, during the breeding season (November through May). Isolated pools, which are important to maintaining California red-legged frog populations through the driest portions of the year, would be avoided, to the maximum degree practicable, during late summer and early fall. Habitat assessments, surveys, and technical assistance between Caltrans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during project planning will be used to assist in scheduling work activities and avoiding sensitive habitats during key times of year.
  17. To control sedimentation during and after project completion, Caltrans will implement the Best Management Practices outlined in any authorizations or permits issued under the authorities of the Clean Water Act. If Best Management Practices are ineffective, Caltrans will attempt to remedy the situation immediately, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
  18. If a work site is to be temporarily dewatered by pumping, intakes will be completely screened with wire mesh not larger than 0.2 inch to prevent California red-legged frogs from entering the pump system. Water will be released or pumped downstream at an appropriate rate to maintain downstream flows during construction. Upon completion of construction activities, any diversions or barriers to flow will be removed in a manner that allows the flow to resume with the least disturbance to the substrate. Alteration of the streambed will be minimized to the maximum extent possible;

any imported material will be removed from the streambed upon completion of the project.

19. Unless approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, water will not be impounded in a manner that attracts California red-legged frogs.
20. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will permanently remove any exotic species, such as bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*), signal and red swamp crayfish (*Pacifasticus leniusculus*; *Procambarus clarkii*), and centrarchid fishes from the project area, to the maximum extent possible. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will be responsible for ensuring that his or her activities comply with the California Fish and Game Code.
21. If Caltrans demonstrates that disturbed areas have been restored to conditions that allow them to function as habitat for California red-legged frog, these areas will not be included in the amount of total habitat permanently disturbed.
22. To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between work sites by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Task Force will be followed at all times.
23. Project sites will be revegetated with an assemblage of native riparian, wetland, and upland vegetation suitable for the area. Locally collected plant materials will be used to the extent practicable. Invasive exotic plants will be controlled to the maximum extent practicable. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Caltrans determine that it is not feasible or practical.
24. Caltrans will not use herbicides as the primary method for controlling invasive exotic plants. However, if it is determined that the use of herbicides is the only feasible method for controlling invasive plants at a specific project site, the following additional protective measures for the California red-legged frog will be implemented:
  - a) Caltrans will not use herbicides during the breeding season for the California red-legged frog.
  - b) Caltrans will conduct surveys for the California red-legged frog immediately prior to the start of herbicide use. If found, California red-legged frogs will be relocated to suitable habitat far enough from the project area that no direct contact with herbicide would occur.
  - c) Giant reed and other invasive plants will be cut and hauled out by hand and painted with glyphosate-based products, such as Aquamaster® or Rodeo®.

- d) Licensed and experienced Caltrans personnel or a licensed and experienced contractor will use a hand-held sprayer for foliar application of Aquamaster® or Rodeo® where large monoculture stands occur at an individual project site.
- e) All precautions will be taken to ensure that no herbicide is applied to native vegetation.
- f) Herbicides will not be applied on or near open water surfaces (no closer than 60 feet from open water).
- g) Foliar applications of herbicide will not occur when wind speeds are more than 3 miles per hour.
- h) No herbicides will be applied within 24 hours of forecast rain.
- i) Applications of herbicides will be done by qualified Caltrans personnel or contractors to ensure that overspray is minimized, and all applications are in accordance with label recommendations; all required and reasonable safety measures will be implemented. A safe dye will be added to the mixture to visually denote treated sites. Application of herbicides will be consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs, Endangered Species Protection Program, county bulletins.
- j) All herbicides, fuels, lubricants, and equipment will be stored, poured, or refilled at least 60 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies in a location where a spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat, unless otherwise preapproved by the necessary agencies. Prior to the onset of work, Caltrans will ensure that a plan is in place for a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and taking the appropriate measures should a spill occur.

*Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Least Bell's Vireo*

- 25. If feasible and regulatory approvals allow, tree removal and trimming will be scheduled to occur from October 1 and January 31, outside of the typical nesting bird season, to avoid potential impacts on nesting birds. If it is not feasible to conduct this work outside the nesting bird season, nesting bird surveys should be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to the start of construction. If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist will determine an appropriate buffer or a monitoring strategy, based on the habits and needs of the species. The buffer area will be avoided, or the monitoring strategy will be implemented until a qualified biologist has determined that the nest is no longer active.
- 26. If the least Bell's vireo and/or southwestern willow flycatcher is observed within 100 feet of the biological study area during construction, a qualified biologist will implement an exclusion zone. Work will be avoided within the

exclusion zone until the least Bell's vireo and/or southwestern willow flycatcher is located more than 100 feet from project-related disturbance. If an active least Bell's vireo and/or southwestern willow flycatcher nest is observed within 100 feet of the biological study area, all project activities will immediately cease, and Caltrans will contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife within 48 hours. If required, Caltrans will then initiate formal Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as California Endangered Species Act coordination for least Bell's vireo and/or southwestern willow flycatcher and implement additional measures as necessary.

### **2.3.6 Invasive Species**

#### ***Regulatory Setting***

On February 3, 1999, President William J. Clinton signed Executive Order 13112, requiring federal agencies to combat the introduction or spread of invasive species in the U.S. The order defines invasive species as "any species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to that ecosystem whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." The Federal Highway Administration guidance issued on August 10, 1999, directs use of the state's invasive species list, maintained by the California Invasive Species Council, to define the invasive species that must be considered as part of the National Environmental Policy Act analysis for a proposed project.

#### ***Affected Environment***

The information and analysis contained in this section are based on the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project Natural Environment Study prepared by Caltrans in March 2019.

Invasive plant species from the online California Invasive Plant Council database that were seen within the biological study area include the following:

- Giant reed (*Arundo donax*)
- Hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*)
- Red brome (*Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens*)
- Slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*)
- Black mustard (*Brassica nigra*)
- Ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*)
- Silverleaf cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster pannosus*)
- Foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*)

Bermuda buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*)  
Soft chess Brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*)  
Rabbitsfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*)  
Wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*)  
Castor bean (*Ricinus communis*)  
Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*)  
Smilo grass (*Stipa miliacea* var. *miliacea*)  
Silk oak (*Grevillea robusta*)

The following exotic plant species have a “high” invasiveness rating and were observed in the biological study area: giant reed, Hottentot fig and red brome.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

It is anticipated that invasive plants within the project area will be removed as part of construction-related vegetation removal. However, ground disturbance, and other activities related to construction, could introduce or help propagate invasive species within the project area. In addition, the project will involve replanting using native vegetation and will discourage invasive species from establishing as part of the replanting efforts.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The following measures will be implemented to avoid and/or minimize potential invasive species impacts caused by project construction activities.

1. During construction, Caltrans will ensure that the spread or introduction of invasive exotic plant species will be avoided to the maximum extent possible.
2. Only clean fill will be imported. When practicable, invasive exotic plants in the project site will be removed and properly disposed of. All vegetation removed from the construction site will be taken to a landfill to prevent the spread of invasive species. If soil from weedy areas must be removed off-site, the top 6 inches containing the seed layer in areas with weedy species will be disposed of at a landfill as well. Landscape plantings and the erosion-control seed mix will not include any species from the California Invasive Plant Council Invasive Plant Inventory (California Invasive Plant Council 2017).
3. Construction equipment will be free of excessive dirt that may contain weed seed before entering the construction site. If necessary, wash stations, either on-site or off-site, will be established for construction equipment under the guidance of Caltrans to avoid or minimize the spread of invasive plants and/or seed within the construction area.

4. All giant reed within the project limits will be removed mechanically, removing as much root and rhizome material as possible.
5. The appropriate herbicide selected, and its application will follow these guidelines:
  - a. Chemical treatments for giant reed will be a glyphosate-based herbicide approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for use near wetlands, such as Aquamaster® or Rodeo®.
  - b. All precautions will be taken to ensure that no herbicide is applied to native vegetation.
  - c. Herbicides will not be applied on or near open water (no closer than 60 feet from open water).
  - d. Foliar applications of herbicide will not occur when wind speeds exceed 3 miles per hour.
  - e. No herbicides will be applied within 24 hours of forecast rain.
  - f. Application of all herbicides will be done by qualified Caltrans personnel or contractors to ensure that overspray is minimized, all applications are made in accordance with label recommendations, and all required and reasonable safety measures are implemented. A safe dye will be added to the mixture to visually denote treated sites. Application of herbicides will be consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs, Endangered Species Protection Program, county bulletins.
  - g. All herbicides, fuels, lubricants, and equipment will be stored, poured, or refilled at least 60 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies in a location where a spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat. Prior to the onset of work, Caltrans will ensure that a plan is in place for a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and taking the appropriate measures should a spill occur.
6. A follow-up control strategy involving foliar spraying of an appropriate herbicide over the leaves of any re-sprouting giant reed will occur no sooner than 21 days in the excavated areas and no later than 42 days in excavated areas. Additional follow-up spraying of any regrowth will be conducted in the next growing season. Licensed and experienced Caltrans personnel or a licensed and experienced contractor will use a hand-held sprayer for follow-up foliar applications of herbicide.
7. On-site mitigation replacement plantings will include native plant species. The erosion-control seed mix will include California native plants that are suitable for the vicinity.

## 2.4 Construction Impacts

Project construction is expected to start in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The project is expected to be completed in the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

For the build alternative, construction of the new bridge is expected to take about 280 working days, spread between two construction seasons to avoid construction during the rainy season—November to May. Project activities that are not related to work on the bridge structures may continue throughout the expected project duration.

The build alternative will require a two-stage construction process for the new bridge. There are currently two strategies that could be adopted to conduct the two-stage construction process.

For the first strategy, stage one will involve construction on half of the northbound lanes and half of the southbound lanes simultaneously, while maintaining the other half of both lanes for traffic use. Stage two will involve construction on the opposite half of both the northbound and southbound lanes simultaneously, while traffic is redirected to the completed half that was built during stage one. Once stage two is complete, all northbound and southbound lanes will reopen to traffic.

For the second strategy, stage one will involve construction of all the northbound lanes at one time and will require traffic to be redirected to the southbound lanes. Redirecting traffic will require construction of a temporary median crossover on the east and west sides of the bridge. Stage two will involve redirecting traffic to the newly constructed northbound lanes so construction could start on the southbound lanes. Once stage two is complete, all northbound and southbound lanes will be reopened to traffic, and the temporary median crossover will be removed. The second strategy is currently the preferred two-stage construction process for the project (see Appendix C).

Both of the two-stage construction strategies will require the northbound and southbound lanes within the project area to be reduced from three lanes to two lanes during construction in order to keep traffic outside of work areas. During construction, both the northbound direction and the southbound direction of U.S. Route 101 within the project limits will be maintained and kept open for continued traffic use. At the end of the construction process, all existing lanes on the northbound direction and the southbound direction within the project area will be reopened.

The project will implement Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions that pertain to traffic management and traffic control during project construction. Caltrans' traffic management and traffic control will include actions and strategies to maintain traffic access within the project area, while keeping the traveling public separated from construction activities. Within the project area, the speed limit will be temporarily reduced to 55 miles per hour, temporary

construction warning signs will be installed to inform the traveling public, and temporary barriers will be installed to separate traffic from construction areas.

During project construction, the existing U.S. Route 101 northbound on-ramp from Patterson Avenue, and the U.S. Route 101 southbound off-ramp to Patterson Avenue will require temporary work. The other on-ramp and off-ramp on Patterson Avenue and on State Route 217 will remain accessible to traffic. To keep the U.S. Route 101 northbound on-ramp from Patterson Avenue, and the U.S. Route 101 southbound off-ramp to Patterson Avenue accessible during project construction, temporary paving will be installed to temporarily realign the ramps. Temporary barriers will also be installed to separate traffic from active work sites near the ramps. To install temporary paving and temporary barriers on these two ramps, short-term closures on the two ramps will be required. Short-term ramp closures are not expected to occur for more than 12 hours at a time, and for no more than two consecutive days. They are also expected to occur outside of normal peak traffic hours. Whenever feasible and appropriate, project activities that require ramp closures will be conducted at night. Once temporary paving and temporary barriers are installed, both ramps will be temporarily realigned and reopened to traffic throughout the duration of project construction. At the end of project construction, the two ramps will be restored to match conditions prior to project construction.

The project will require a temporary construction easement and a permanent drainage easement from one property on the southeastern corner of the bridge. The property is identified as Santa Barbara County Assessor's Parcel Number 017-090-082. Caltrans has an existing drainage easement that is on the property. The temporary construction easement is required to access the existing drainage easement. The new permanent drainage easement will be added to the existing drainage easement. The temporary construction easement and the permanent drainage easement are required to install new rock slope protection on the new bridge abutments. The temporary construction easement and the permanent drainage easement will be obtained in coordination with the property owner once the project has been approved.

Temporary construction areas will be required for project construction. The project will require temporary construction routes within existing Caltrans' right-of-way to access the bridge and the creek. Project staging and storage is anticipated to be within a Caltrans' right-of-way and on pre-disturbed areas. Establishing temporary construction areas may require vegetation removal or tree trimming. All temporary construction areas will be restored to existing or improved conditions at the end of construction.

The project will involve earthwork associated with removing existing bridge abutments, removing existing sack-crete, removing concrete lining on the embankment, installing new bridge abutments, installing rock slope protection, changing existing retaining walls, and restoring sites. In addition, construction activities will involve roadway repaving, re-painting roadway striping, re-installing



guardrails, re-installing median barriers, and conducting drainage work and aesthetic treatments.

During construction, temporary environmentally sensitive areas will be identified within the project area to prevent areas of environmental concern from being disturbed by construction activities. Typically, environmentally sensitive areas within the project area will be identified by temporary fencing or flagging in the field.

### ***Affected Environment***

#### ***Parks and Recreation Facilities***

There are two publicly owned lands that contain parks within 0.5 mile of the project area. Armitos Park is located about 0.2 mile from the project and is a 0.9-acre park with an open field and playground area. Old Town Park sits about 0.3 mile from the project and is a 4.0-acre park that contains a multi-purpose field, numerous courts, skateboard plaza, splash pad, walking paths and picnic areas.

#### ***Emergency Services***

U.S. Route 101 provides access to State Route 217 and local roadways along the U.S. Route 101 alignment. The San Jose Creek Bridge provides access to areas near the project site. During project construction, emergency services may require access to the San Jose Creek Bridge and the project site.

Emergency services in the project area are provided by the Santa Barbara City Fire Department, the Goleta Police Department, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office, and the California Highway Patrol. Santa Barbara County Fire Station 12 at 5330 Calle Real is the only Santa Barbara Fire Department within 0.5 mile of the project area. The next-nearest station is about 2 miles west of the project area.

There are no police stations within 0.5 mile of the project area. The nearest police station is about 2 miles east of the project area at 4434 Calle Real. The nearest California Highway Patrol office is about 2 miles west of the project area.

#### ***Traffic and Transportation***

U.S. Route 101 is a major north-south traffic corridor that runs through California. U.S. Route 101 provides connections between much of the communities, towns, and cities along the California coast.

Within the City of Goleta, U.S. Route 101 is a six-lane highway, with three lanes in each direction. Highway access is controlled by an on-ramp and an off-ramp, which are connected to local roads. Within the City of Goleta, U.S. Route 101 is an east-west traffic corridor that is regularly used by commuters entering and exiting the region.

The Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District is the public transit agency that serves Santa Barbara County. A few routes travel along U.S. Route 101 and through the project area.

### *Air Quality*

The City of Goleta is within the South Central Coast Air Basin, which includes Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County. Air quality conditions are subject to local topography and weather conditions. The coastal region has low levels of air pollutants and low ozone values due to prevailing wind patterns.

The City of Goleta is within Santa Barbara County and is part of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, which has general air quality regulatory authority. The district does not have emissions thresholds for short-term construction activities. It is generally accepted that construction-related emissions are dependent on the characteristics of individual projects. However, the City of Goleta requires implementation of standard emission and dust control techniques for all construction activities.

### *Noise*

The project is in a mostly urban section of Santa Barbara County in the City of Goleta. There are scattered homes and businesses near the highway and around the project limits.

Within the project area, the majority of ambient noise is generated by traffic and the railroad. Traffic noise is related to traffic volumes and the speed of traveling vehicles, which can range from 75 to 90 A-weighted decibels near the highway. The maximum immediate noise level of passing trains ranges from 96 to 100 A-weighted decibels at 100 feet from the railroad tracks.

Ambient noise in the project area is relatively high due to noises generated by traffic and the railroad. The intensity of ambient noise is anticipated to vary depending on the time of day and the source of the noise.

## ***Environmental Consequences***

### *Parks and Recreation Facilities*

Construction activities will generate noise that users of Armitos Park and Old Town Park could hear. Although the noise may be heard, the noise will be temporary and intermittent. Construction activities are not anticipated to generate a substantial amount of noise that will prevent people from using the parks. Construction activities will also generate dust in the project area. However, given the distance of the parks from the project area, construction-generated dust is not anticipated to affect the parks.

### *Emergency Services*

During project construction, traffic control and lane reduction will be required in the project area, which could delay emergency services' response times if traveling through the project limits. It is anticipated that during project construction, access for emergency services will be maintained in the project area. Construction activities that could limit or restrict emergency service access will be coordinated with emergency service providers.

In addition, access to on-ramps and off-ramps within the project area will be maintained during project construction. No long-term emergency access restrictions are anticipated for this project. Construction activities are not anticipated to substantially affect existing emergency evacuation plans for the region in the event of an emergency.

### *Traffic and Transportation*

During project construction, both the northbound and southbound lanes on U.S. Route 101 will be temporarily reduced from three lanes to two lanes within the project area in order to conduct work on the bridge. However, traffic access on U.S. Route 101 will be maintained during project construction. The reduction of available travel lanes within the project area will be temporary and is expected to cause temporary and intermittent delays to traffic traveling through the project area. Temporary lane reduction has the potential to cause more than normal traffic congestion in the area.

During project construction, the U.S. Route 101 northbound on-ramp from Patterson Avenue, and the U.S. Route 101 southbound off-ramp to Patterson Avenue will require short-term closures to conduct work that will allow for temporary ramp realignment. Temporary ramp realignment will allow the ramps to remain accessible to traffic during project construction. Short-term closures of these two ramps will be minor. The closures will occur for no more than 12 hours at a time, for no more than two consecutive days, and outside of normal peak traffic hours. When feasible and appropriate, the closures will occur at night. The short-term ramp closures may require traffic to temporarily use other nearby on-ramps and off-ramps outside of the project area, at either Fairview Avenue or at Turnpike Road, until work on the two ramps are completed and the temporary ramp realignment are usable by travelers. The temporary short-term ramp closures may contribute to temporary and intermittent delays to traffic traveling between U.S. Route 101 and Patterson Avenue in the project area.

No ramp closures are expected for the U.S. Route 101 southbound on-ramp from Patterson Avenue, and the U.S. Route 101 northbound off-ramp to Patterson Avenue. No ramp closures are expected for the on-ramp or the off-ramp on the State Route 217 and Patterson Avenue interchange, or on the State Route 217 and U.S. Route 101 interchange.

Project construction is not anticipated to affect existing or future local road designs and configurations, including existing and future pedestrian routes, bicycle routes, and public transit routes.

### *Air Quality*

Certain construction activities can be the source of temporary impacts air quality. These potential impacts include dust-producing activities that occur during demolition, grading, and paving. During construction, the project will generate temporary air pollutants. The exhaust from construction equipment contains hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, suspended particulate matter, and odors. Using heavy equipment during project construction could generate fugitive dust that will temporarily impact local air quality if large amounts of excavation, soil transport, and subsequent fill operations are necessary. The effects of construction equipment on air quality can vary substantially from day to day, depending on the level of activity, the specific type of operation, and the prevailing weather conditions.

### *Noise*

Noise levels in the project area may experience short-term and intermittent increases due to project-related construction activities. The level of construction noise will vary, and will be based on the construction activity type, the location of construction, and the type of construction equipment used. It is anticipated that the noise generated by project construction activities will not be substantially higher than the ambient noise level in the area. Pile driving is not required for this project. The majority of construction activities will be conducted during the day during normal working hours. Nighttime construction activities will be limited and are not anticipated to generate considerable amounts of noise.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The project will incorporate the measures listed below to address potential temporary impacts associated with construction activities.

- Parks and Recreation Facilities

It is anticipated that temporary impacts on parks and recreational facilities would result from construction activities that generate noise and dust. Measures to address construction-generated noise and dust are discussed in the Noise and Air Quality portions of this section.

- Emergency Services

Temporary construction impacts on emergency services are anticipated to be minor as emergency services will still be allowed to access the project area during construction. The project will coordinate and notify regional emergency service providers of construction related activities to provide advance notice and

to allow for planning. Emergency service providers will be notified of any project activities that may have the potential to restrict or prevent emergency service access within the project area. The project will include Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions that pertain to actions and strategies that will help to maintain a safe environment for construction workers and the traveling public.

- Traffic and Transportation

Temporary construction impacts on traffic and transportation is anticipated to be minor as traffic access will be maintained within the project area. The project will include Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions that pertain to traffic management and traffic control. Caltrans' traffic management and traffic control plans will include typical actions and strategies implemented during project construction to maintain traffic access within the project area while keeping the traveling public separated from construction activities. These strategies will include but is not limited to: reduction of travel lanes to allow for construction to occur and traffic to continue simultaneously, reduction of the speed limit to reduce the potential for traffic incidents, and installation of construction warning signs to inform the public.

To minimize impact to traffic as a result of short-term temporary ramp closures, the following will be implemented: ramp closures will not exceed 12 continuous hours, ramp closures will not occur for more than two consecutive days, ramp closures will occur outside of normal peak traffic hours and ramp closures will occur at night when feasible and appropriate.

- Air Quality

Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions pertaining to dust control and dust palliative application are required for all project construction to effectively reduce and control impacts related to temporary construction emissions. The provisions for Caltrans' Standard Specifications Section 10-5, Dust Control, and Section 14-9, Air Pollution Control, require the contractor to comply with all California Air Resources Board and Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District rules, ordinances, and regulations. In addition, the project-level Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will provide water pollution control measures that will cross-correlate with standard dust emission minimization measures, such as covering soil stockpiles, watering haul roads, watering excavation and grading areas, and so on. Furthermore, the project will include Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions pertaining to the collection and containment of debris and trash in order to effectively capture all waste materials, thereby preventing any materials from entering the creek or migrating off-site during windy conditions. All stockpiled construction debris should, at a minimum, be covered daily or be off-hauled as soon as possible.

- Noise

In addition to Caltrans' Standard Specification Section 14-8, Noise and Vibration, the following control measures will be implemented to minimize noise and vibration during periods of construction:

- a) Use equipment with manufacturer's recommended noise abatement measures, such as mufflers, engine enclosures and engine vibration isolators intact and operational. All construction equipment should be inspected at periodic intervals during construction to ensure proper maintenance and presence of noise control devices.
- b) Notify surrounding residences in advance of the construction schedule when unavoidable construction noise and upcoming construction activities are anticipated to produce an adverse noise environment above the local ambient noise. This notice will be given 2 weeks in advance. Notices should be published in local news media with the dates and duration of proposed construction activity. The District 5 Public Information Office posts notices of proposed construction and potential community impacts after receiving notice from the resident engineer.
- c) Include the following general measures in the resident engineer folder and implement as appropriate to further minimize temporary construction noise impacts:
  - I. Whenever possible, limit all phases of construction to acceptable hours, Monday through Friday.
  - II. Shield especially loud pieces of stationary construction equipment.
  - III. Locate portable generators, air compressors, etc., away from sensitive noise receptors.
  - IV. Limit the grouping of major pieces of equipment that operate in one area to the greatest extent feasible.
  - V. Place heavily trafficked construction areas, such as the maintenance yard, as well as equipment, tools, and construction-oriented operations, in locations that would be least disruptive to surrounding sensitive noise receptors.
  - VI. Consult the district's noise staff if complaints are received during the construction process.

## 2.5 Cumulative Impacts

### *Regulatory Setting*

Cumulative impacts are those that result from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, combined with the potential impacts of the project. A cumulative effects assessment looks at the collective impacts posed by individual land use plans and projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively substantial impacts taking place over a period of time.

Cumulative impacts on resources in the project area may result from residential, commercial, industrial, or highway development as well as agricultural development, including a conversion to more intensive agricultural cultivation. These land use activities can degrade habitat and species diversity through consequences such as displacement and fragmentation of habitats and populations, alteration of hydrology, contamination, erosion, sedimentation, disruption of migration corridors, changes in water quality, and the introduction or promotion of predators. They can also contribute to potential community impacts identified for a project, such as changes in community character, traffic patterns, housing availability, and employment.

California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines Section 15130 describes when a cumulative impact analysis is necessary and what elements are necessary for an adequate discussion of cumulative impacts. The definition of cumulative impacts under the California Environmental Quality Act can be found in Section 15355 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines. A definition of cumulative impacts under the National Environmental Policy Act can be found in 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.7.

### *Affected Environment*

The information and analysis contained in this section are based on the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project Natural Environment Study prepared by Caltrans in March 2019.

Identifying the resources to consider is the first step in preparing a cumulative impact analysis. The project could have an effect on wetlands and other waters, California red-legged frogs, Southern California steelhead, and Southern California steelhead critical habitat.

The Resource Study Area was identified by considering the effects that past, present, current, and reasonably foreseeable future projects could have on local wetlands and other waters, and the population of Southern California steelhead and their associated habitat. Resource Study Areas used for analysis of cumulative impacts are typically broader than project study areas to get a better perspective of the cumulative impacts on a resource.

The Resource Study Area identified for this analysis is the San Jose Creek watershed because areas within the greater watershed share a common drainage.

The San Jose Creek watershed is about 8.81 square miles and flows south from the Santa Ynez Ridge to San Jose Creek's confluence with the San Pedro Creek near the ocean (Appendix E).

Historical land uses in the Resource Study Area included agriculture (orchards) and oil drilling. Major modern changes to the area involved the development of the Goleta Slough, which included numerous transportations, commercial and residential developments. These modern changes included, the building of the Santa Barbara Airport, State Route 217, and University of California, Santa Barbara campus. All of these developments have had an impact on the ecology of the area and on the health of riparian habitats along the San Jose Creek.

Since the first wells were drilled in the Goleta area, dependence on groundwater has likely affected the frequency and quantity of surface water conditions in the San Jose Creek. The continuing effects of present land uses, such as agriculture, in the upper watershed continue to draw water from the local aquifer.

During field visits to the project area, trash, graffiti, and homeless encampments have been seen under the existing San Jose Creek Bridge. No information could be found on how long these activities have been occurring or if these sorts of activities are occurring in other parts of San Jose Creek. It is likely that these activities have negatively affected the condition of San Jose Creek.

#### *Wetlands and Other Waters*

In the history of the Western U.S., wetland and riparian resources have been heavily affected. These effects were caused in large part by agricultural and urban development, which on many occasions would permanently remove wetland and riparian resources. Regulatory agencies have sought to off-set the additional loss of wetlands and riparian habitat with restoration and revegetation requirements for projects within their respective jurisdictions.

The current health of wetlands and other waters is considered to be moderate to poor. The trend for wetland and riparian habitats along the San Jose Creek is considered stable or slightly improving, but invasive species continue to degrade the habitat value for wildlife.

#### *Southern California Steelhead and Associated Habitat*

Detailed information on the current and historical population of Southern California steelhead in the San Jose Creek is scarce. While it is unknown what, if any, aquatic surveys have been conducted recently, no observation records of Southern California steelhead could be found for the San Jose Creek since 2002. No Southern California steelhead were seen during the project's biological surveys.

Considering the historical abundance of Southern California steelhead in the region, and the fact that they can populate creeks by straying into non-natal waters, the San Jose Creek likely supported a population of Southern California steelhead in the



past. In 1942, the Goleta Slough was mostly filled-in for a World War II air station—now the Santa Barbara Airport—and the lower San Jose Creek was realigned for this project. In 1975, about 1.15 miles of the lower section of the San Jose Creek was realigned again and channelized into a flood control channel for the construction of State Route 217. This may have been the single largest effect on the Southern California steelhead population in the San Jose Creek because the concrete channel was considered to be a fish passage barrier. In addition, channelization of the creek removed potential suitable Southern California steelhead habitat. In 2012, the lower creek was remediated as part of phase 1 of the City of Goleta's San Jose Creek Flood Control and Fish Passage project.

It is estimated that the Southern California steelhead federal distinct population segment has declined from 32,000 to 46,000 returning adults historically, to currently fewer than 500 returning adults. Population levels and available spawning habitat for the Southern California steelhead federal distinct population segment began trending substantially downward in the early 20th century. This eventually led to the original listing of the Southern California steelhead evolutionary significant unit (the predecessor to the federal distinct population segment) as federally endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 1997. Given the historical context and the likelihood that Southern California steelhead have been substantially impacted over time, this species has been subjected to cumulative impacts. According to the latest available status review (National Marine Fisheries Service 2016), there is little new evidence to suggest that the status of the Southern California steelhead federal distinct population segment has changed considerably in either direction since the last status review was completed in 2011. New information available on anadromous runs since the 2011 review remains limited but does not appear to suggest a change in extinction risk. (National Marine Fisheries Service 2011) The population of the Southern California steelhead in the San Jose Creek has been heavily impacted over the last 200 years. The current health of the Southern California steelhead population is in decline, but the trend is considered to be stable.

Critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead was designated in 2005. The health of critical habitat for Southern California steelhead along California's west coast is diminishing. Ongoing and future threats could include coastal development projects, construction of highways, water diversions, flood control maintenance activities, overgrazing of riparian habitats, competition and/or predation from non-native species, introduction of non-native plants, habitat disturbances, diseases, and climate changes. While there have been declines in quality along the San Jose Creek watershed for Southern California steelhead critical habitat within the Resource Study Area, there have been no evidence of increased degradation of this habitat in recent years. The current health of Southern California steelhead critical habitat in the Resource Study Area is assessed as being poor, but the trend is considered stable.

### ***California Red-Legged Frog***

No detailed historical data for the California red-legged frog specific to the Resource Study Area could be found during the literature review for the Natural Environment Study. It is likely that the species could have historically occurred in the Resource Study Area based on the historical abundance of California red-legged frogs in the region and nearby populations. It is estimated that this species has been eliminated from about 70 percent of its historic range due to habitat loss and destruction, and possibly due to the introduction of predatory species such as the American bullfrog. A final recovery plan for this species was approved in 2002. In areas that have been designated critical habitat, some form of management will need to take place to address current and future threats to the species and maintain the physical and biological features necessary for conservation of the species. According to the final recovery plan for the California red-legged frog, delisting the species could occur by 2025 if recovery criteria are met. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2002, Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog). No California red-legged frogs were seen during biological surveys for the project, and no California Natural Diversity Database records for the species occur in the Resource Study Area. The current health of California red-legged frogs is poor, and the overall trend for the species is considered stable or slightly improving. However, invasive predators continue to threaten individual species.

The Resource Study Area does not occur within California red-legged frog critical habitat. Commercial and residential development may have caused unsuitable habitat conditions that led to the removal of the species from the watershed. Therefore, the current health of California red-legged frog critical habitat is poor. However, threats to potential California red-legged frog critical habitat within the Resource Study Area are low, and the trend of suitable habitat in the Resource Study Area is stable.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

Information on current and probable future projects was obtained from the planning departments of Caltrans, the City of Goleta, and the City of Santa Barbara. For this analysis, projects within the Resource Study Area that are in proximity to the San Jose Creek and have the potential to affect the resources identified were prioritized. The following reasonably foreseeable future projects have been identified:

#### ***Caltrans' Project***

- San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project, State Route 217 (EA: 05-1C360)

Caltrans proposes to replace the existing San Jose Creek Bridge in Santa Barbara County on State Route 217 from post miles 0.9 to 1.4. The project is currently in the Project Approval and Environmental Document phase. The project is included in the 2019 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program for Santa Barbara County that was prepared by the Santa Barbara

County Association of Governments and is proposed for funding from the State Highway Operation and Protection Program. The project would replace the existing bridge over San Jose Creek, which was found to show evidence of reactive aggregates in the concrete. The bridge would be replaced with a wider structure to provide standard lane and shoulder widths, and a standard bike/pedestrian path along the outside shoulder of the eastbound lane. The new bridge structure would include features that would allow the structure to be raised to accommodate future sea level rise. No additional rights-of-way would be required because all permanent and temporary construction impacts would occur within the existing right-of-way. The project is expected to start construction in 2022 and would be completed by 2025.

### *City of Goleta Projects*

- San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path

The San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path is part of the 1999 Goleta Transportation Improvement Plan. When completed, the path would be about 3 miles long, and would run alongside the San Jose Creek. The San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path would stretch north from Cathedral Oaks Road to the Atascadero Creek/Obern Trail in the south. The project would be built in two portions: the middle extent and the southern extent. The middle extent extends from Calle Real to Hollister Avenue. The middle extent proposes to cross beneath the San Jose Creek Bridge on U.S. Route 101 and the Union Pacific Railroad. Portions of the middle extent are currently under construction. The southern extent extends from Hollister Avenue to the existing Class 1 Atascadero Creek/Obern Trail. The southern extent proposes a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over the San Jose Creek near Kellogg Way, along with an undercrossing beneath State Route 217 near San Pedro Creek. The southern extent is currently undergoing preliminary design.

- Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement Project

The City of Goleta proposes to replace the existing Hollister Avenue Bridge, which has been deemed functionally out of date. The bridge was built using reactive aggregate and is not capable of accommodating 100-year storm/flood conditions. The project would replace the existing bridge with one that is up to current design standards and could withstand 100-year storm flows. The new bridge would be at the same location as the existing bridge. The project would widen the San Jose Creek channel immediately downstream from the new bridge so that the channel could accommodate 100-year flood flows and, could conform to the San Jose Creek Capacity Improvement and Fish Passage project that has been completed downstream. The project is part of the City of Goleta's San Jose Creek Flood Control and Fish Passage project that would provide fish passage improvements along the creek channel. The project would build a low-flow fish passage channel and weirs. The project would also improve the channel upstream from the bridge. A final Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration

was completed on August 18, 2015. The project is expected to start construction in the 2019/2020 fiscal year.

- Old Town Village Mixed-Use Project

In 2015, the City of Goleta approved a new mixed-use development near the corner of South Kellogg Avenue and Kellogg Way. The project would build 113 town homes, 34 live-work units, and 28 shopkeeper units on a 12-acre lot that was previously used for agriculture. A final Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration was completed in May 2015 and included an addendum to the Goleta General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report. The project is currently under construction and is identified as the Winslowe in Goleta by City Ventures Development.

### *Wetlands and Other Waters*

The project on U.S. Route 101 will impact jurisdictional waters and/or riparian habitat that will be small in scale; on-site compensatory mitigation will be implemented. Impacts to water quality are not anticipated. Removing invasive giant reed series and subsequently replanting native arroyo willow trees, and other native plants, will benefit the ecology of the project area. The project will also incorporate appropriate measures to reduce temporary and permanent impacts to riparian areas.

Regarding the other proposed projects in the Resource Study Area:

- The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project on State Route 217

This project is anticipated to impact riparian and wetland areas temporarily and permanently because work would be along the San Jose Creek. Impacts to water quality are not anticipated. The project is expected to adopt measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts to wetlands and other waters. The project is also expected to potentially adopt additional conditions to comply with project permitting requirements. Replanting native plants is expected to be required as part of the project. Also, Caltrans' standard practices would remove any invasive species found within the project site as part of project construction.

- The San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project

This project is anticipated to impact jurisdictional and/or riparian habitat because it would build bridges and an undercrossing that would require work along the creek banks. The project is expected to implement compensatory mitigation, and replant native plants to mitigate for any disturbances to the creek channel.

- Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement Project

Based on the final Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement project would minimally impact riparian

or wetland resources. The project would use measures to off-set project impacts through restoring riparian and wetland resources.

- Old Town Village Mixed-Use Project

The Old Town Village Mixed-Use project sits on a lot that was previously used for agriculture. The final Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration does not have a discussion on wetlands. The project is not anticipated to impact wetlands or riparian areas.

Based on the analysis of cumulative impacts to wetlands and other waters in the Resource Study Area, while there has been and continues to be a significant cumulative impact to wetland and other waters, the project will not result in a significant contribution to the cumulative impact on wetlands and other waters within the Resource Study Area. The project is anticipated to cause a cumulative benefit by removing invasive plant species within the riparian areas, removing human-made structures from the creek channel, and replanting appropriate native vegetation within the project site.

*Southern California Steelhead and Associated Habitat*

The project on U.S. Route 101 will temporarily impact critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead. Project construction activities will cause the temporary impacts. However, the project will have measures in place to reduce the potential for temporary impacts to Southern California steelhead and their habitat. In-stream construction is anticipated to occur during the dry season to avoid potential impacts Southern California steelhead. Restoring the creek area will help off-set impacts to Southern California steelhead habitat. Impacts to Southern California steelhead and their habitat will be small in scale and the project is not anticipated to substantially contribute to cumulative Southern California steelhead impacts. On-site mitigation and revegetation, along with removing invasive species associated with the project, may have a long-term benefit for Southern California steelhead and their habitat.

Regarding the other proposed projects in the Resource Study Area:

- The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project on State Route 217

The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project on State Route 217 may potentially impact Southern California steelhead and their habitat because the project would involve work in and/or around the creek channel. The project is expected to include measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate potential impacts to Southern California steelhead and their habitat as part of the project.

- San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path Project

The San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project may temporarily affect Southern California steelhead habitat with the construction of the pedestrian/bicycle bridges and undercrossing. It is anticipated that any

potential impacts to Southern California steelhead habitat would be mitigated with on-site restoration. The project may be able to avoid potential impacts to Southern California steelhead if construction of the bridges and the undercrossing are conducted when the creek is dry.

- Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement Project

Based on the final Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement project is not anticipated to potentially impact Southern California steelhead because the project would be built during the dry season when there is no water in the creek. Project completion is expected to improve passage and habitat conditions for Southern California steelhead.

- Old Town Village Mixed-Use Project

The Old Town Village Mixed-Use project is on a lot that was previously used for agriculture. The project would not involve work in the San Jose Creek. It is anticipated that the project would not have the potential to impact Southern California steelhead.

Based on the analysis of potentially cumulative impacts to Southern California steelhead trout in the Resource Study Area, although there has been and continues to be a significant cumulative impact to Southern California steelhead trout, the project will not result in a significant contribution to cumulative impacts on Southern California steelhead or Southern California steelhead critical habitat within the Resource Study Area. The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project is not anticipated to contribute to a substantial adverse cumulative impact to Southern California steelhead trout. The project is however anticipated to result in a cumulative benefit to Southern California steelhead habitat by removal of invasive species and reducing the number of human-made structures within the creek channel, which will help improve creek conditions for Southern California steelhead species and habitat.

### *California Red-Legged Frog*

The project on U.S. Route 101 will have the potential to impact the California red-legged frog. Project construction could potentially result in take and/or loss of California red-legged frogs if the frogs are found within the project site. The project will use appropriate measures to avoid impacting the California red-legged frog during project construction. Avoiding construction during the wet season and conducting pre-construction surveys are anticipated to reduce the potential impacts to California red-legged frogs. With current project design measures in place, it is anticipated that the project would have minimal impact to California red-legged frog and have the potential to restore their habitat.

Regarding the other proposed projects in the Resource Study Area:

- San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project on State Route 217

The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project on State Route 217 is anticipated to temporarily impact California red-legged frog habitat. The San Jose Creek channel would be disturbed during project construction. The project would avoid impacting California red-legged frogs and their habitat by minimizing the total project's construction area and avoiding work in the creek during the wet season. Temporary impacts to California red-legged frog habitat would be mitigated, and measures would be included to avoid impacting California red-legged frogs.

- San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path Project

The San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project may temporarily affect California red-legged frogs and their potential habitat with the construction of the pedestrian/bicycle bridges and undercrossing. The project is expected to implement measures to address temporary and permanent impacts to California red-legged frog habitat. The project has the potential to impact California red-legged frogs because project construction would involve disturbance to the San Jose Creek banks and channel. The project is expected to adopt measures to reduce the potential for impacts to California red-legged frogs.

- Hollister Avenue Bridge Replacement Project

Based on the final Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Hollister Bridge Replacement project is not anticipated to impact the California red-legged frog because the species is unlikely to occur in the project area. The project site is also not within critical habitat for the California red-legged frog. In addition, project construction is expected to occur during the dry season when there is no water in the creek.

- Old Town Village Mixed-Use Project

Based on the final Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Old Town Village Mixed-Use project would temporarily impact riparian areas. The disturbance to riparian areas would not create new significant impacts beyond those identified in the Goleta General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report. Disturbance of riparian areas may include potential habitat for the California red-legged frog. Measures identified in the Goleta General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report would be used to protect riparian areas.

Based on analyses of cumulative impacts to California red-legged frogs in the Resource Study Area, there have been continued and significant cumulative impacts to California red-legged frogs and their critical habitat. The project will not result in a significant cumulative impact to California red-legged frogs or their critical habitat within the Resource Study Area. The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project, when considered in a cumulative effects context, is not anticipated to result in substantially significant impacts to the California red-legged frog. The project has the

potential to result in a cumulative benefit to California red-legged frog habitat by removing invasive species and reducing the number of human-made elements in the creek channel. These changes will improve overall creek conditions for the species.



## **Chapter 3**      **CEQA Evaluation**

---

### **3.1      Determining Significance under CEQA**

The project is a joint project by Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration and is subject to state and federal environmental review requirements. Project documentation, therefore, has been prepared in compliance with both the National Environmental Policy Act (known as NEPA), and the California Environmental Quality Act (known as CEQA). The Federal Highway Administration's responsibilities for environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 U.S. Code 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 23, 2016, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans. Caltrans is the lead agency under NEPA and CEQA.

One of the main differences between NEPA and CEQA is the way significance is determined. Under NEPA, significance is used to determine whether an environmental impact statement, or a lower level of documentation, will be required. NEPA requires that an environmental impact statement be prepared when the proposed federal action (project) as a whole has the potential to "significantly affect the quality of the human environment." The determination of significance is based on context and intensity. Some impacts determined to be significant under CEQA may not be of sufficient magnitude to be determined significant under NEPA. Under NEPA, once a decision is made regarding the need for an environmental impact statement, it is the magnitude of the impact that is evaluated, and no judgment of its individual significance is deemed important for the text. NEPA does not require that a determination of significant impacts be stated in the environmental document.

CEQA, on the other hand, does require Caltrans to identify each "significant effect on the environment" resulting from the project and ways to mitigate each significant effect. If the project may have a significant effect on any environmental resource, then an environmental impact report must be prepared. Each and every significant effect on the environment must be disclosed in the environmental impact report and mitigated if feasible. In addition, the CEQA Guidelines list a number of "mandatory findings of significance," which also require the preparation of an environmental impact report. There are no types of actions under NEPA that parallel the findings of mandatory significance of CEQA. This chapter discusses the effects of this project and CEQA significance.

### **3.2      CEQA Environmental Checklist**

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. Potential impact determinations include Significant and Unavoidable Impact, Less Than Significant with Mitigation

Incorporated, Less Than Significant Impact, and No Impact. In many cases, background studies performed in connection with a project will indicate that there are no impacts to a particular resource. A No Impact answer reflects this determination. The words “significant” and “significance” used throughout the following checklist are related to CEQA, not NEPA, impacts. The questions in this checklist are intended to encourage the thoughtful assessment of impacts and do not represent thresholds of significance.

Project features, which can include both design elements of the project, and standardized measures that are applied to all or most Caltrans projects such as Best Management Practices and measures included in the Standard Plans and Specifications or as Standard Special Provisions, are considered to be an integral part of the project and have been considered prior to any significance determinations documented below; see Chapters 1 and 2 for a detailed discussion of these features. The annotations to this checklist are summaries of information contained in Chapter 2 to provide you with the rationale for significance determinations; for a more detailed discussion of the nature and extent of impacts, please see Chapter 2. This CEQA evaluation incorporates by reference the information contained in Chapters 1 and 2.

### **3.2.1 Aesthetics**

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Aesthetics***

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

#### **Less Than Significant**

The bridge will minimally affect scenic vistas in the area. As seen from U.S. Route 101, the main public viewpoint, the project will affect views for a short duration. The creek and distant hills will remain visible and will continue to contribute to scenic vistas. The bridge will be built with minor changes to the alignment and deck profiles. However, these changes will not reduce or block views of the surrounding scenic vistas. As a result, the project will have little to no adverse effect on the existing scenic vistas, including, but not limited to, views of the creek and views of the inland mountains. (Visual Impact Assessment, February 12, 2019)

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

#### **Less Than Significant**

The project is not in an area that has been classified as an Officially Designated State Scenic Highway. Project construction will require removing vegetation and trees, which will be replaced at the end of construction. (Visual Impact Assessment, February 12, 2019)

c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

### **Less Than Significant**

Although the existing San Jose Creek Bridge is visible in the immediate project vicinity, it is not architecturally unique, and does not establish a particularly memorable style in support of a high-quality visual setting. Project elements above the bridge deck, such as the roadside railing and the median barrier, will be visible. However, these types of elements are already seen from the existing bridge structures and the nearby roadside. Their replacement will not add new or unexpected visual elements. This minor visual change will not be unexpected in the immediate highway context, which includes bridge structures and other utilitarian elements. Any vegetation removal associated with the project will be replanted, which will result in a natural visual condition. The intact visual character of the setting will not be substantially reduced by the changes. (Visual Impact Assessment, February 12, 2019)

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?

### **No Impact**

The project proposes no new lighting or sources of glare and will not affect daytime or nighttime views. (Visual Impact Assessment, February 12, 2019)

## **3.2.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources**

### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Agriculture and Forest Resources***

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

**No Impact**

Based on the City of Goleta's online land use maps (<https://www.cityofgoleta.org/city-hall/planning-and-environmental-review/general-plan>) the project is not within Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Therefore, the project will not convert these farmland types to non-agricultural use.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

**No Impact**

Based on the City of Goleta's online zoning maps (<http://www.goletazoning.com/>) the project is not in an area that is zoned for agricultural use. Therefore, the project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?

**No Impact**

Based on the City of Goleta's online zoning maps (<http://www.goletazoning.com/>) the project is not in an area zoned for forestland, timberland, or timberland production. Therefore, the project will not conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland, or timberland production.

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

**No Impact**

Based on the City of Goleta's online land use maps (<https://www.cityofgoleta.org/city-hall/planning-and-environmental-review/general-plan>) the project is not within forest land. Therefore, the project will not result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

**No Impact**

Based on the City of Goleta's online land use maps (<https://www.cityofgoleta.org/city-hall/planning-and-environmental-review/general-plan>) the project is not within or next to agricultural lands or forest lands. The project will not potentially affect agricultural lands or forest lands in the project area.

### 3.2.3 Air Quality

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Air Quality***

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

Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

**No Impact**

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District regulates air quality in Santa Barbara County. Santa Barbara County is considered to be a nonattainment area (an area that does not meet the primary standard) with respect to California's ambient air quality standards for ozone, and for airborne particulate matter that is less than 10 microns in diameter.

The project will not increase roadway capacity, and there will be no difference in long-term air emissions with or without the project. In addition, projects that do not further degrade air quality in the basin are consistent with the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District's state air quality attainment goals as stated in its State Implementation Plan. Therefore, the project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. (Revised Air Quality, Noise and Greenhouse Gas Memo, June 5, 2018)

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

**No Impact**

Santa Barbara County is considered a nonattainment area with respect to California's ambient air quality standards for ozone and for airborne particulate matter that is less than 10 microns in diameter. Santa Barbara

County is considered an attainment area (a geographic area that meets or does better than the primary standard) with respect to federal air quality conformity requirements. The project will involve the reconstruction of an existing bridge without adding additional travel lanes in Santa Barbara County and is exempt under 40 Code of Federal Regulations 93.126 as “Reconstructing Bridges (no additional travel lines)”. Since no additional lanes will be added to the roadway, and the capacity will not be increased on the roadway, there will be no difference in long-term air emissions with or without the project. Because the project is not anticipated to degrade air quality, it will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase in any criteria pollutant. (Revised Air Quality, Noise and Greenhouse Gas Memo, February 12, 2020)

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

**Less Than Significant**

The project site is surrounded by a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial land uses. Due to the relatively small scale and scope of the project, there is low potential for the project to expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of inhalable pollutants that will be considered significant.

It is anticipated that during project construction, the project will generate temporary air pollutants such as exhaust from construction equipment, which could contain hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, carbon monoxide, suspended particulate matter, and odors. Equipment operation will generate fugitive dust that may temporarily affect the local air quality. However, Caltrans’ Standard Specification sections that pertain to air pollution control, emission reduction, dust control, and dust palliative will be implemented for all construction activities, which will effectively reduce and control potential impacts to air quality. (Revised Air Quality, Noise and Greenhouse Gas Memo, February 12, 2020)

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

**Less Than Significant**

Operating construction equipment and using construction materials during the project have the potential to emit emissions and odors that may affect nearby homes and businesses. Construction activities are anticipated to occur during a typical eight-hour working day, which will limit the daily generation of emissions or odors. Odors and other emissions caused by construction activities are not anticipated to adversely affect a substantial number of people because of the small scale and scope of the project.

In addition, Caltrans’ Standard Specification sections that pertain to air pollution control, emission reduction, dust control, and dust palliative will be

implemented for all construction activities, which will effectively reduce and control potential impacts to air quality. (Revised Air Quality, Noise and Greenhouse Gas Memo, February 12, 2020)

### **3.2.4 Biological Resources**

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Biological Resources***

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

#### **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

Within the biological study area, marginal and suitable habitats for special-status species are present. During appropriately timed environmental surveys of the biological study area, no special-status species were seen. Due to the presence of marginal and suitable habitats for special-status species within the biological study area, the project has the potential to affect special-status species within the project limits. The project will implement avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures to avoid potentially significant impacts to special-status species and their associated habitats, as discussed in Sections 2.3.3, 2.3.4 and 2.3.5. (Natural Environment Study, March 2019)

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

#### **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

Various natural communities were identified within the biological study area. The biological study area also contains riparian habitats. In addition, the San Jose Creek occurs within a federally designated critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead. The project will cause temporary and permanent impacts to natural communities, riparian habitats, and a critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead. However, project impacts will be reduced to less than significant by implementing avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures as discussed in Sections 2.3.1, 2.3.2 and 2.3.5. (Natural Environment Study, March 2019)

- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

**Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

The project will cause temporary impacts to jurisdictional U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' "other waters." The project will also cause temporary and permanent impacts to jurisdictional areas of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Regional Water Quality Control Boards. These temporary impacts to jurisdictional areas will be caused by dewatering, vegetation removal, bridge demolition, debris removal, rock slope protection installation, equipment access, and foot traffic. Permanent impacts to jurisdictional areas of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Regional Water Quality Control Boards will be caused by installing rock slope protection around the new bridge abutments. Measures and compensatory mitigation described in section 2.3.2 will be implemented to minimize impacts on protected wetlands.

- d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

**Less Than Significant**

The biological study area contains locations and conditions that could provide opportunities for bird nesting and bat roosting during their migration. The San Jose Creek also provides fish passage opportunities. The project will require removing trees that could be used for bird nesting. The project will require replanting any trees lost with native trees as part of revegetation efforts. Removing the existing bridge will remove existing potential roosting locations for bats, however, the project will install a new bridge in its place. The project will involve construction activities in the creek, but these activities will be scheduled in the dry season when there is little to no flow in the creek. The project is anticipated to temporarily impact resident or migratory species. Based on the hydraulic study conducted for the project, the new bridge design will not affect the current fish passage because it will maintain the existing fish passage characteristics and the natural streambed bottom. In addition, the project will implement avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures to avoid potential significant impacts to migratory species as described in sections 2.3.4 and 2.3.5. There are no native wildlife nursery sites within the project limits. (Natural Environment Study, March 2019)



e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

**Less Than Significant**

Based on the City of Goleta General Plan, the project is in the vicinity of riparian zones and raptor roosting habitats. The City of Goleta has policies in its General Plan to protect these resources.

Project activities will require removing riparian vegetation and could potentially disrupt raptor roosting habitats. However, the project will revegetate disturbed riparian zones and will limit the potential disturbance to nesting birds as discussed in Sections 2.3.1 and 2.3.4. The project is anticipated to temporarily impact riparian zones and raptor roosting habitats, which will result in a less than significant impact. (Natural Environment Study, March 2019)

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

**No Impact**

Based on available city and county mapping data, the project is not within the jurisdiction of a habitat conservation plan or a natural communities conservation plan; Therefore, the project will not conflict with any such plan.

**3.2.5 Cultural Resources**

***CEQA Significance Determinations for Cultural Resources***

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

**No Impact**

The San Jose Creek Bridge was determined to be a Category 5 bridge in the Caltrans Statewide Historic Bridge Inventory. Therefore, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources. The existing bridge is not considered a historic resource for the purposes of CEQA. Therefore, the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. (Cultural Resources Review, September 10, 2018)

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

**No Impact**

The field survey did not detect the presence of any visible archaeological resources on the surface. In addition, the survey confirmed the substantial level of disturbance the project site has endured from past construction activities, suggesting a low probability for intact subsurface archaeological deposits. Therefore, the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource. (Cultural Resources Review, September 10, 2018)

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

**Less Than Significant**

Because of the high level of ground disturbance around the project site, the probability of encountering human remains during construction will be low. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to disturb any human remains. If previously unknown human remains are discovered during project construction, it is Caltrans' standard procedure to follow the California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, which states that further disturbances and activities should stop in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the county coroner should be contacted. If the county coroner thinks the remains are Native American, he or she will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, will then notify the Most Likely Descendant. The person who discovers the remains will contact the District 5 Environmental Branch, so that they may work with the Most Likely Descendant on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 must be followed as applicable. (Cultural Resources Review, September 10, 2018)

### **3.2.6 Energy**

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Energy***

Would the project:

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

**Less Than Significant**

The project will follow Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions, which include construction practices that will

reduce and limit the consumption of energy resources during project construction, such as turning off idling equipment, limiting material transport, limiting night work, etc. The project will not require excessive consumption of energy resources for operation once it is completed.

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

### **No Impact**

The project is not anticipated to conflict with or obstruct existing state or local energy plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency (see Section 3.3, Climate Change).

## **3.2.7 Geology and Soils**

### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Geology and Soils***

Would the project:

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

### **Less Than Significant**

The potential for fault rupture is minimal at the project site. The project is not on any known fault, but the regional geology is dominated by the Santa Barbara fold and fault belt and the overlapping Santa Ynez Mountain uplift, which have several known faults in the project area. The project site is about 1.27 miles south-southwest of the San Jose Fault, 2.1 miles northwest of the Mission Ridge-Arroyo Parida-Santa Ana Fault, 1.44 miles north of the More Ranch Fault, 3.7 miles north of the Red Mountain Fault, and 3.56 miles north-northeast of the Ventura-Pitas Point Fault. (Structures Preliminary Geotechnical Report, August 19, 2016)

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

### **Less Than Significant**

The project is anticipated to experience strong seismic ground shaking in the event of a large earthquake. However, the project will be designed according to Caltrans' seismic standards, as provided in Caltrans' Highway Design Manual, which will minimize the risk of loss, injury, or death that could result from strong seismic ground shaking.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

**Less Than Significant**

The potential for seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction is minimal at the project site. (Structures Preliminary Geotechnical Report, August 19, 2016)

iv) Landslides?

**Less Than Significant**

Based on topographic maps of the project area, the project site is in a relatively flat area and away from any steep slopes. Although landslides are not anticipated to occur within the project area, landslides that may occur upstream on the San Jose Creek could potentially affect the project site.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

**Less Than Significant**

Ground-disturbing earthwork associated with construction could increase soil erosion rates and the loss of topsoil. The potential for erosion will be minimal because of the types of soil in the project area. The Best Management Practices described in section 2.2.2 will further minimize erosion and the loss of topsoil.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

**Less Than Significant**

The project region is an alluvial plain that contains geologic structures such as folds and faults. The region has been classified as “strong” for ground shaking intensity by the California Geological Survey. The project site has minimal potential for unstable soils and the project is not anticipated to create unstable soil conditions on-site or off-site. (Structures Preliminary Geotechnical Report, August 19, 2016)

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

**Less Than Significant**

Based on preliminary geotechnical investigations, expansive soils are not anticipated to be found within the project site. Additional geotechnical investigation will be conducted before project construction to determine soil conditions within the project site. If expansive soils are identified, the appropriate Caltrans’ design standards will be incorporated into the project to

address potential issues associated with expansive soils. (Structures Preliminary Geotechnical Report, August 19, 2016)

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

**No Impact**

The project will not involve a septic system or an alternative wastewater disposal system; therefore, there will be no impact.

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

**No Impact**

The project will not directly or indirectly destroy unique paleontological resources or sites because none are anticipated to be found within the project limits. There are no unique geologic features within the project limits.

### **3.2.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Greenhouse Gas Emissions***

Would the project:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

**Less Than Significant**

The project will not generate enough greenhouse gas emissions to significantly impact the environment. Construction-related greenhouse gas emissions will be unavoidable due to material processing, delivery, on-site construction equipment, and potential traffic delays. Emissions will be produced at different levels throughout the construction phase. Frequency and occurrence could be reduced through innovations in plans and specifications, and by implementing better traffic management and traffic control during construction phases.

The greenhouse gas emission discussion is based on climate change guidance provided by Caltrans' Division of Environmental Analysis. According to the guidance, there are several categories of projects that will most likely have minimal or no increase in operational greenhouse gas emissions, including roadway improvement projects, such as this project. Greenhouse gas emissions are discussed further in Section 3.3 Climate Change.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

**No Impact**

The project will not change the existing highway capacity or alignment, and will not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gasses. Construction contracts will include all of Caltrans' Standard Specifications that require compliance with the California Air Resources Board's air district rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes, some of which could contribute to reducing construction greenhouse gas emissions, such as idling equipment restrictions, appropriate source point, etc.

**3.2.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

***CEQA Significance Determinations for Hazards and Hazardous Materials***

Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

**Less Than Significant**

During project construction, the project may use and/or encounter potentially hazardous substances, such as petroleum-derived products, industrial chemicals, compounds, and materials, etc. These materials will be transported into and out of the project site as needed.

Any potentially hazardous substances used and/or encountered during construction will be regulated and controlled to ensure that their potential for affecting the public or the environment will be avoided, minimized, and/or mitigated to comply with Caltrans' Standard Specifications and state and federal requirements. If project construction encounters an unknown substance, appropriate testing will be conducted. If the unknown substance is identified as a hazardous substance, it will be treated and handled appropriately to comply with Caltrans' Standard Specifications and state and federal requirements. The project will incorporate Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Measures to ensure that potentially hazardous substances will not significantly affect the public or the environment. (Hazardous Waste Technical Memo, February 14, 2018)

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

**Less Than Significant**

Construction activities have the potential to cause spills and/or the release of potentially hazardous substances. The project will incorporate Caltrans' Standard Specifications to prevent and control spills and releases, which will reduce the potential for hazardous substances to significantly affect the public or the environment.

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

**Less Than Significant**

Based on the City of Goleta's online maps, the project is about 0.25 miles northwest from St. Raphael School.

Equipment operation during construction will produce emissions and air pollutants, but the concentrations of emissions and air pollutants are not anticipated to reach hazardous levels (see Section 3.2.8). The project will incorporate Caltrans' Standard Specifications to reduce potential emissions and air pollutants generated from equipment operations. During project construction, the project may use and/or encounter potentially hazardous substances, such as petroleum-derived products, industrial chemicals, compounds, and materials, etc. Any potentially hazardous substances used and/or encountered during construction will be regulated and controlled to ensure that their potential for affecting the public or the environment will be avoided and/or minimized to comply with Caltrans' Standard Specifications and state and federal requirements. The project will incorporate Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Measures to ensure that potentially hazardous substances will not significantly affect the public or the environment. (Hazardous Waste Technical Memo, February 14, 2018)

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

**No Impact**

The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. (Hazardous Waste Technical Memo, February 14, 2018)

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

**No Impact**

Based on the City of Goleta's online maps, the project is about 1.2 miles northeast from the Santa Barbara Airport. No private airstrip is within 2 miles of the project site. The project will not expose workers or residents within the project area to safety hazards or excessive noise associated with airport operations.

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

**Less Than Significant**

Although access on U.S. Route 101 will be maintained during project construction, the roadway capacity within the project limits will be temporarily reduced, which could cause more than normal traffic congestion. More than normal traffic congestion could potentially delay emergency response times or emergency evacuations in the project area.

The project will implement Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions that pertain to coordinating with emergency service providers and emergency response planners. During project construction, both groups will be notified of project activities that have the potential to affect emergency response plans or evacuation plans.

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

**No Impact**

Based on available Fire Hazard Severity Map for Santa Barbara County, the project site is not immediately surrounded by wildlands or in an area that is at considerable risk of wildland fires. The project site is in an urban setting, surrounded by a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial land uses.



### 3.2.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Hydrology and Water Quality***

Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

#### **Less Than Significant**

During project construction, a variety of activities will occur next to, above, and within the San Jose Creek. Construction-related activities have the potential to temporarily and intermittently impact water quality because fugitive dust and other materials may enter the San Jose Creek. To avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to water quality, all work in the San Jose Creek will be conducted during the dry season, when the creek is most likely to be dry. If water is present during the dry season, temporary avoidance and/or minimization measures will be implemented to ensure that construction activities will not significantly affect the creek or its water quality. The project will also implement permanent and temporary Best Management Practices and Caltrans' Standard Specifications to prevent and/or reduce potential impacts to water quality during construction to less than significant.

The project will not involve the discharge of wastewater. Portable toilets will be placed within the project site and at a considerable distance away from the San Jose Creek channel. Any liquid waste generated by project activities will be collected, contained, and disposed of in a manner that is appropriate to the substance. (Water Quality Assessment, July 6, 2018)

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

#### **No Impact**

Project construction activities or facility operations will not require excessive volumes of water. The project will not substantially decrease local groundwater supplies because substantial amounts of water are not necessary for project completion or operation. The project will not involve activities that could interfere with groundwater recharge or impede on the sustainable groundwater management of the local basin.

The project will involve replanting native plants as part of measures for biological resources. Caltrans complies with water conservation requirements set by executive orders that were issued during Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s term. One of Caltrans' goals is to reduce water consumption by 50 percent compared to 2013 baseline usage. Caltrans often plans and designs

temporary and/or permanent irrigation systems that will minimize water consumption.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on-site or off-site;

#### **Less Than Significant**

The project will involve earthwork, removing existing paved surfaces, and installing rock slope protection. However, the project will incorporate appropriate erosion control measures, permanent and temporary Best Management Practices, and Caltrans' Standard Specifications to minimize the potential for erosion or siltation on-site or off-site. (Water Quality Assessment, July 6, 2018)

ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-site or off-site;

#### **No Impact**

The project will involve removing existing paved surfaces, reducing the presence of impermeable surfaces, and decreasing the amount of surface runoff. The new bridge will be similar in dimension and design and will not substantially change the existing surface runoff from the bridge surface. Installing rock slope protection will reduce the existing presence of impermeable surfaces. Therefore, the project will not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which will result in flooding on-site or off-site. (Revised Location Hydraulic Study, February 4, 2020)

iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

#### **No Impact**

The project will remove existing paved surfaces which will reduce water runoff. The project will not create additional impervious surfaces that will substantially create or contribute to water runoff that will exceed the capacity of existing drainage systems or introduce additional sources of polluted runoff.

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

**No Impact**

The project is within a designated floodway of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The project will replace an existing bridge with a single-span bridge at the same location. The existing bridge has 52 columns within the floodway and the project will remove the existing 52 columns, and associated elements from the floodway. The removal of the columns from the floodway will reduce impediments to flood flows and improve flood flows at the bridge location. The project will also remove concrete slope paving beneath the bridge and replace them with rock slope protection. Installing rock slope protection will increase the cross-sectional area beneath the bridge and will reduce the flood water elevation at the project location. The project will not impede or redirect flood flows. (Revised Location Hydraulic Study, February 4, 2020)

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

**No Impact**

The project is not within a designated flood hazard zone or within the reach of a tsunami. (Revised Location Hydraulic Study, February 4, 2020)

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

**No Impact**

The project region is regulated by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Central Coast Basin Plan. The project will comply with applicable regulations and policies that pertain to protecting water resources in the region.

The project will coordinate and comply with several organizations and their regulations such as the California Fish and Game Code Section 5650, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Section 1601, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Section 404 permit, and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards' Section 401 Water Quality Certification. (Water Quality Assessment, July 6, 2018)

### 3.2.11 Land Use and Planning

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Land Use and Planning***

Would the project:

- a) Physically divide an established community?

##### **No Impact**

The project will replace an existing bridge with a new bridge at the same location on U.S. Route 101. The project will not physically divide an established community.

- b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

##### **No Impact**

The majority of project activities will occur within an existing state right-of-way. The project will require a temporary construction easement and a permanent drainage easement to install rock slope protection. However, the temporary easement and the permanent easement associated with the project are not anticipated to conflict with any existing land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

### 3.2.12 Mineral Resources

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Mineral Resources***

Would the project:

- a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

##### **No Impact**

Based on mapping provided by the California Department of Conservation, there are no mineral resources that will be of value to the region and the residents of the state within the project area.

- b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

##### **No Impact**

Based on the City of Goleta's General Plan, there are no existing or planned resource recovery sites within the project area.

### 3.2.13 Noise

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Noise***

Would the project result in:

a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

#### **Less Than Significant**

The project will not add capacity to the highway and the new bridge structure will be located at the same location. Long-term ambient noise levels in the project vicinity are not anticipated to change once the project is completed. Construction activities have the potential to cause short-term increase in ambient noise levels. Construction-related noise will vary based on the activities and their proximity to nearby receptors. Noise generated during project construction will be temporary, intermittent, and is not anticipated to substantially exceed ambient noise levels in the project area. Construction activities are not anticipated to cause adverse noise conditions to the surrounding area. The majority of construction activities will be conducted during the day. Construction activities are not anticipated to exceed 86 A-weighted decibels at 50 feet from the source during nighttime operations. The project will include Caltrans' Standard Specifications that pertain to noise control and minimization measures to reduce the project's potential for noise impacts. (Revised Air Quality, Noise and Greenhouse Gas Memo, February 12, 2020)

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

#### **Less Than Significant**

The project will require installing piles as part of the construction for the new bridge abutments. The project will use cast-in-drilled-hole piles, which will require using a boring machine. Typical pile installation lasts a few days and is not anticipated to cause excessive groundborne vibrations or excessive noise levels. (Revised Air Quality, Noise and Greenhouse Gas Memo, February 12, 2020)

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

#### **No Impact**

Based on the City of Goleta's online maps, the project is about 1.2 miles northeast from the Santa Barbara Airport. No private airstrip is within 2 miles of the project site. The project will not expose people living or working in the

project area to excessive noise levels because it is outside the range of airport traffic or other airport operations.

### 3.2.14 Population and Housing

#### ***CEQA Significance and Determinations for Population and Housing***

Would the project:

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

#### **No Impact**

The project will replace an existing bridge on an existing highway without altering the current highway capacity. The project will not change accessibility or influence growth. No direct or indirect impacts on unplanned population growth in the area will occur.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

#### **No Impact**

The project will require a permanent drainage easement that is less than 100 square feet from a single parcel. The drainage easement is not anticipated to displace any existing homes or businesses, result in acquiring the entire parcel, or affect existing properties.

### 3.2.15 Public Services

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Public Services***

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

Fire protection?

#### **No Impact**

The project will replace an existing bridge with a new bridge at the same location on U.S. Route 101. The project will not require altering or building facilities related to fire protection.

Police protection?

**No Impact**

The project will replace an existing bridge with a new bridge at the same location on U.S. Route 101. The project will not require altering or building facilities related to police protection.

Schools?

**No Impact**

The project will replace an existing bridge with a new bridge at the same location on U.S. Route 101. The project will not require altering or building facilities related to schools.

Parks?

**No Impact**

The project will replace an existing bridge with a new bridge at the same location on U.S. Route 101. The project will not require altering or building facilities related to parks.

Other public facilities?

**No Impact**

The project will replace an existing bridge with a new bridge at the same location on U.S. Route 101. The project will not require altering or building facilities related to other public facilities.

### **3.2.16 Recreation**

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Recreation***

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

**No Impact**

The project will replace an existing bridge with a new bridge at the same location on U.S. Route 101. The project will not increase demand or use at existing neighborhood and regional parks. Therefore, the project will have no impact.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

**No Impact**

The project will replace an existing bridge with a new bridge at the same location on U.S. Route 101. The project does not involve building or expanding new or existing recreational facilities. The project will have no impact.

**3.2.17 Transportation**

***CEQA Significance Determinations for Transportation***

a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

**Less Than Significant**

During construction, temporary lane reductions within the project area have the potential to cause more than normal traffic delays in the project area. These effects will be temporary and minor, and U.S. Route 101 will remain open throughout construction. The project is not anticipated to conflict with any program plan, ordinance, or policy that addresses the circulation system, including mass transit and non-motorized travel, and relevant components, including, but not limited to, intersections, streets, highways and freeways, and pedestrian and bicycle paths. Replacing the bridge will ensure that the highway system continues to operate at this location. The project will not prevent the construction of a multipurpose path that would pass beneath U.S. Route 101 at the San Jose Creek Bridge.

b) Conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

**Less Than Significant**

The project proposes to replace an existing bridge on U.S. Route 101, which is a high transit corridor. The project is not anticipated to significantly alter vehicle miles traveled once project construction is complete. The project may cause temporary traffic delays during construction.

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

**No Impact**

The project will comply with current standards in Caltrans' Highway Design Manual.



d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

**Less Than Significant**

The project is not anticipated to cause inadequate emergency access. During project construction, U.S. Route 101 will require temporary lane reductions that could cause additional traffic congestion. However, U.S. Route 101 will remain open to traffic and for emergency access. As part of Caltrans' standard construction practices, any temporary road closures that are required for the project will be communicated to the appropriate emergency service providers and planners. Caltrans will coordinate with emergency service providers and planners to ensure that adequate emergency access is maintained through the project construction period.

**3.2.18 Tribal Cultural Resources**

***CEQA Significance Determinations for Tribal Cultural Resources***

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

a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or

**No Impact**

A review of available cultural resource documentation revealed that the project area has been previously surveyed with negative results for cultural resources. A field survey of the project site confirmed that past construction activities have caused substantial level of disturbance in the project area, which suggests a low probability for the presence of intact archaeological deposits of cultural importance. The project will not have the potential to affect cultural related resources. (Cultural Resources Review, September 10, 2018)

b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency will consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

**No Impact**

Consultations with the California Native American Heritage Commission and various Native American tribes were conducted for the project. As part of the consultations, letters describing the project, a request for comment, and a

request for information on Native American concerns were sent on September 7, 2018. No responses have been received to date. In addition, no tribal cultural resources have been identified in the project area. Therefore, the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. (Cultural Resources Review, September 10, 2018)

### **3.2.19 Utilities and Service Systems**

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Utilities and Service Systems***

Would the project:

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

#### **No Impact**

The project will not build new water or wastewater treatment facilities and will not require the expansion of existing facilities. The project will be replacing an existing bridge over the San Jose Creek on U.S. Route 101.

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

#### **Less Than Significant**

The project will use minimal water during construction and will not require water to be supplied once it is completed.

The project will involve replanting native plants as part of measures for biological resources. Caltrans complies with water conservation requirements set by executive orders that were issued during Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s term. One of Caltrans' goals is to reduce water consumption by 50 percent compared to 2013 baseline usage. Caltrans often plans and designs temporary irrigation systems to minimize water consumption.

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

#### **No Impact**

The project will replace an existing bridge over the San Jose Creek on U.S. Route 101. The new bridge structure will not generate wastewater. Portable restrooms will be used during project construction.

d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

**Less Than Significant**

Project demolition and construction are anticipated to generate solid waste. However, any solid waste generated during project construction will be collected and transported to an appropriate recycling, disposal, or processing facility that is properly equipped and capable of handling solid waste materials as required by Caltrans' standards. The project is not anticipated to generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure. In addition, the project will incorporate recycled materials into the project design, where appropriate and feasible.

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

**Less Than Significant**

Caltrans' standards require the project to comply with federal and state statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Solid waste that can be recycled will be collected, transported, and processed at appropriate recycling facilities. It is anticipated that certain construction waste, such as concrete, steel, and asphalt, could be recycled and reused on other projects. The project is not anticipated to conflict with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

### 3.2.20 Wildfire

***CEQA Significance Determinations for Wildfire***

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

**Less Than Significant**

Traffic access within the project area will be maintained during project construction. Caltrans will coordinate with regional emergency service providers and planners to ensure that project activities do not conflict with adopted emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans. Adopted emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans are not anticipated to change as a result of the project.

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

**Less Than Significant**

The project is not within an area identified as a high fire hazard severity zone (Santa Barbara County - Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map), and the surrounding area is defined as urban land use. The project will not expose workers to known fire risks and hazards during construction. Project activities have the potential to create an unintended fire. However, the project will incorporate precautions to prevent fire incidents from occurring during construction as part of the code of safe practices in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health – Fire Protection and Prevention guidance.

c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

**Less Than Significant**

As part of the project, a nearby overhead sign will need to be shifted to accommodate repaving work. The relocation will not exacerbate fire risk or cause ongoing impacts to the environment. Project activities have the potential to create an unintended fire. However, the project will incorporate precautions to prevent fire incidents from occurring during construction as part of the code of safe practices in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health – Fire Protection and Prevention guidance.

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

**Less Than Significant**

The region farther upstream from the project is identified as a high fire hazard severity zone (Santa Barbara County – Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map), and the San Jose Creek is identified as a floodway channel. There is a potential for post-fire debris, material, and runoff to enter the San Jose Creek and pass through the project site. In the event of an emergency, the project site is anticipated to be evacuated as part of the code of safe practices in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health – Fire Protection and Prevention guidance.

### 3.2.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

#### ***CEQA Significance Determinations for Mandatory Findings of Significance***

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

#### **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

The project has the potential to affect several species and their associated habitats within the project area. In addition, the project will cause temporary and permanent impacts to existing plant communities, wetlands, and riparian zones. However, the project will incorporate multiple avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures that will reduce the potential for impacts or off-set any anticipated impacts. See Chapter 2 for additional details.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

#### **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated**

The project will remove an existing bridge and build a new bridge at the same location. The new bridge will be similar in design and appearance to the existing bridge. As part of the project, rock slope protection will be installed in the San Jose Creek to prevent erosion and protect new bridge abutments. The project is in a developed urban environment, so the presence of species or habitats that are of considerable value is low. The potential for the project to disturb environmental resources is anticipated to be relatively to be minor.

The project does have the potential to contribute to cumulative impacts to biological species and habitats. The project will cause the permanent loss of riparian habitat and could kill individual special-status species during project construction. However, due to the marginal quality of existing habitats and the low potential for special-status species to occur within the project area, the project is not anticipated to cause substantial impacts to biological species or habitats (see section 2.5). In addition, the project will remove non-native invasive species, remove unnecessary human built features, and restore disturbed sites with native vegetation. These efforts have the potential to improve existing habitats within the project area.

The project will also incorporate avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures that will reduce and/or off-set impacts to environmental resources

(see Chapter 2). Therefore, the project is not anticipated to substantially contribute to cumulative impacts to biological species or habitats.

c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

### **Less Than Significant**

During project construction, the project has the potential to affect human beings due to potential temporary increases in noise and air pollution (see section 2.4). However, the project will implement avoidance and minimizations measures as required by Caltrans's Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions that pertain to noise and air pollution to reduce potential effects to human beings.

Project construction is anticipated to cause temporary and minor traffic delays within the project area, which could potentially affect emergency services' response times or affect evacuation times in emergency situations (see section 2.4). To minimize potential impacts to emergency services or emergency evacuation plans, traffic access within the project area will be maintained. In addition, the project will include Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions that pertain to the coordination and communication with local emergency service providers and planners to minimize potential project conflicts with existing emergency routes and plans.

### 3.3 Climate Change

Climate change refers to long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, wind patterns, and other elements of the earth's climate system. An ever-increasing body of scientific research attributes these climatological changes to greenhouse gas emissions, particularly those generated from the production and use of fossil fuels.

While climate change has been a concern for several decades, the establishment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change by the United Nations and World Meteorological Organization in 1988 led to increased efforts devoted to greenhouse gas emissions reduction and climate change research and policy. These efforts are primarily concerned with the emissions of greenhouse gases generated by human activity, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) tetrafluoromethane (CF<sub>4</sub>), hexafluoroethane (C<sub>2</sub>F<sub>6</sub>), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), and various hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Carbon dioxide is the most abundant greenhouse gas; while it is a naturally occurring component of Earth's atmosphere, fossil-fuel combustion is the main source of additional, human-generated carbon dioxide.

Two terms are typically used when discussing how we address the impacts of climate change: "greenhouse gas mitigation" and "adaptation." Greenhouse gas mitigation covers the activities and policies aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit or "mitigate" the impacts of climate change. Adaptation, on the other hand, is concerned with planning for and responding to impacts resulting from climate change (such as adjusting transportation design standards to withstand more intense storms and higher sea levels). This analysis will include a discussion of both.

#### 3.3.1 Regulatory Setting

This section outlines federal and state efforts to comprehensively reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources.

##### ***Federal***

To date, no national standards have been established for nationwide mobile-source greenhouse gas reduction targets, nor have any regulations or legislation been enacted specifically to address climate change and greenhouse gas emissions reduction at the project level.

The National Environmental Policy Act (known as NEPA) (42 U.S. Code Part 4332) requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making a decision on the action or project.

The Federal Highway Administration recognizes the threats that extreme weather, sea-level change, and other changes in environmental conditions pose to valuable transportation infrastructure and those who depend on it. The Federal Highway

Administration therefore supports a sustainability approach that assesses vulnerability to climate risks and incorporates resilience into planning, asset management, project development and design, and operations and maintenance practices. This approach encourages planning for sustainable highways by addressing climate risks while balancing environmental, economic, and social values—“the triple bottom line of sustainability.” Program and project elements that foster sustainability and resilience also support economic vitality and global efficiency, increase safety and mobility, enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, and improve the quality of life.

Various efforts have been promulgated at the federal level to improve fuel economy and energy efficiency to address climate change and its associated effects. The most important of these was the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 (42 U.S. Code Section 6201) and Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards. This act establishes fuel economy standards for on-road motor vehicles sold in the U.S. Compliance with federal fuel economy standards is determined through the Corporate Average Fuel Economy Standards program on the basis of each manufacturer’s average fuel economy for the portion of its vehicles produced for sale in the U.S.

Energy Policy Act of 2005, 109th Congress H.R.6 (2005–2006): This act sets forth an energy research and development program covering: (1) energy efficiency; (2) renewable energy; (3) oil and gas; (4) coal; (5) the establishment of the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs within the Department of Energy; (6) nuclear matters and security; (7) vehicles and motor fuels, including ethanol; (8) hydrogen; (9) electricity; (10) energy tax incentives; (11) hydropower and geothermal energy; and (12) climate change technology.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is responsible for setting greenhouse gas emission standards for new cars and light-duty vehicles to significantly increase the fuel economy of all new passenger cars and light trucks sold in the U.S. The current standards require vehicles to meet an average fuel economy of 34.1 miles per gallon by 2016. The Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration are currently considering appropriate mileage and greenhouse gas emissions standards for 2022–2025 light-duty vehicles for future rulemaking.

The Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration issued a Final Rule for “Phase 2” for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles to improve fuel efficiency and cut carbon pollution in October 2016. The agencies estimate that the standards will save up to 2 billion barrels of oil and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by up to 1.1 billion metric tons over the lifetimes of model year 2018–2027 vehicles.



## **State**

California has been innovative and proactive in addressing greenhouse gas emissions and climate change by passing multiple senate and assembly bills, and executive orders including, but not limited to, the following:

- Executive Order S-3-05 (June 1, 2005): The goal of this order is to reduce California's greenhouse gas emissions to: (1) year 2000 levels by 2010, (2) year 1990 levels by 2020, and (3) 80 percent below year 1990 levels by 2050. This goal was further reinforced with the passage of Assembly Bill 32 in 2006 and Senate Bill 32 in 2016.
- Assembly Bill 32, Chapter 488, 2006, Núñez and Pavley, The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006: Assembly Bill 32 codified the 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals outlined in Executive Order S-3-05, while further mandating that the California Air Resources Board create a scoping plan and implement rules to achieve "real, quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases." The Legislature also intended that the statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit continue in existence and be used to maintain and continue reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases beyond 2020 (Health and Safety Code Section 38551(b)). The law requires the California Air Resources Board to adopt rules and regulations in an open public process to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas reductions.
- Executive Order S-01-07 (January 18, 2007): This order sets forth the low carbon fuel standard for California. Under this executive order, the carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels is to be reduced by at least 10 percent by the year 2020. The California Air Resources Board re-adopted the low carbon fuel standard regulation in September 2015, and the changes went into effect on January 1, 2016. The program establishes a strong framework to promote the low-carbon fuel adoption necessary to achieve the governor's 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- Senate Bill 375, Chapter 728, 2008, Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection: This bill requires the California Air Resources Board to set regional emissions reduction targets for passenger vehicles. The Metropolitan Planning Organization for each region must then develop a "Sustainable Communities Strategy" that integrates transportation, land-use, and housing policies to plan how it will achieve the emissions target for its region.
- Senate Bill 391, Chapter 585, 2009, California Transportation Plan: This bill requires the State's long-range transportation plan to identify strategies to address California's climate change goals under Assembly Bill 32.
- Executive Order B-16-12 (March 2012) orders State entities under the direction of the governor, including the California Air Resources Board, the California Energy Commission, and the California Public Utilities Commission, to support the rapid commercialization of zero-emission vehicles. It directs

these entities to achieve various benchmarks related to zero-emission vehicles.

- Executive Order B-30-15 (April 2015) establishes an interim statewide greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 to ensure California meets its target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. It further orders all state agencies with jurisdiction over sources of greenhouse gas emissions to implement measures, pursuant to statutory authority, to achieve reductions of greenhouse gas emissions to meet the 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets. It also directs the California Air Resources Board to update the Climate Change Scoping Plan to express the 2030 target in terms of million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents. Finally, it requires the California Natural Resources Agency to update the state's climate adaptation strategy, Safeguarding California, every 3 years, and to ensure that its provisions are fully implemented.
- Senate Bill 32, Chapter 249, 2016, codifies the greenhouse gas reduction targets established in Executive Order B-30-15 to achieve a mid-range goal of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.
- Senate Bill 1386, Chapter 545, 2016, declared "it to be the policy of the state that the protection and management of natural and working lands...is an important strategy in meeting the state's greenhouse gas reduction goals, and would require all state agencies, departments, boards, and commissions to consider this policy when revising, adopting, or establishing policies, regulations, expenditures, or grant criteria relating to the protection and management of natural and working lands."
- Assembly Bill 134, Chapter 254, 2017, allocates Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds and other sources to various clean vehicle programs, demonstration/pilot projects, clean vehicle rebates and projects, and other emissions-reduction programs statewide.
- Senate Bill 743, Chapter 386 (September 2013): This bill changes the metric of consideration for transportation impacts pursuant to CEQA from a focus on automobile delay to alternative methods focused on vehicle miles traveled, to promote the state's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and traffic related air pollution and promoting multimodal transportation while balancing the needs of congestion management and safety.
- Senate Bill 150, Chapter 150, 2017, Regional Transportation Plans: This bill requires the California Air Resources Board to prepare a report that assesses progress made by each Metropolitan Planning Organization in meeting their established regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.
- Executive Order B-55-18, (September 2018) sets a new statewide goal to achieve and maintain carbon neutrality no later than 2045. This goal is in addition to existing statewide targets of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

### 3.3.2 Environmental Setting

The project is in the city of Goleta in Santa Barbara County. Goleta experiences significant traffic and congestion that is exacerbated by the limited north-south crossing on U.S. Route 101 and the lack of a street grid system.

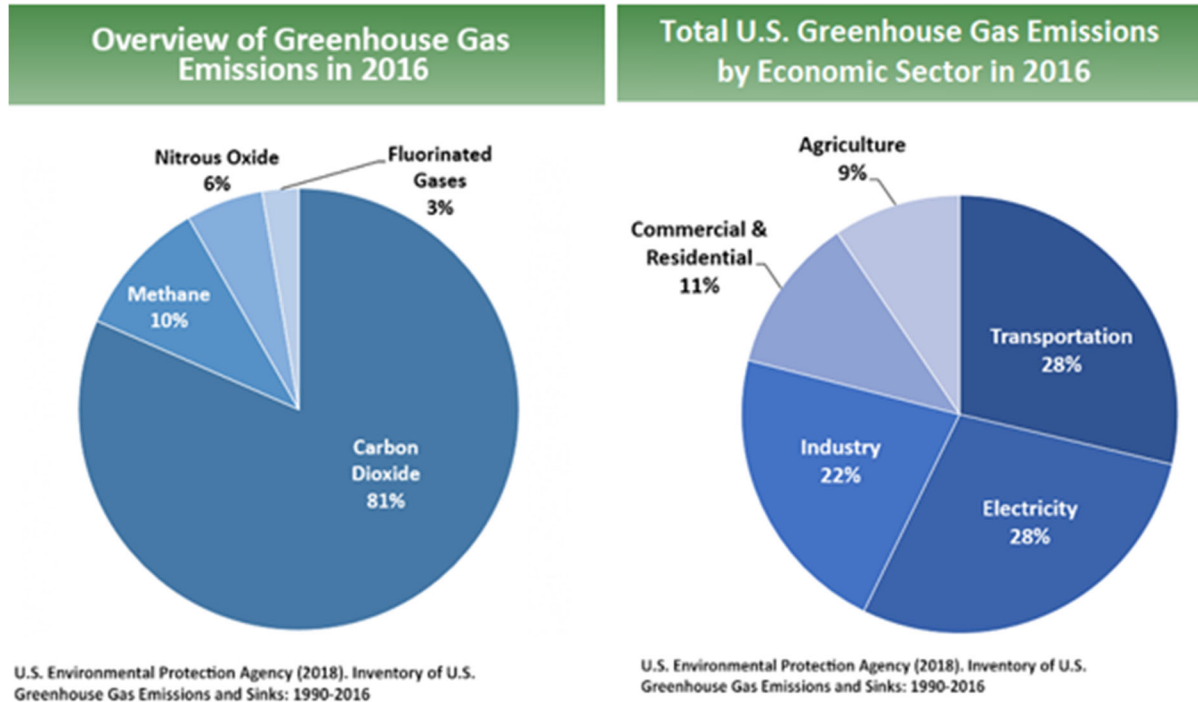
U.S. Route 101 is a major north-south highway that serves California, Oregon, and Washington. The area that surrounds the project is mainly urban and consists of a mix of residential, commercial, and industrial uses. Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' regional transportation plan/sustainable communities strategy guides transportation and housing development in the project area.

A greenhouse gas emissions inventory estimates the amount of greenhouse gases discharged into the atmosphere by specific sources over a period of time, such as a calendar year. Tracking annual greenhouse gas emissions allows countries, states, and smaller jurisdictions to understand how emissions are changing and what actions may be needed to attain emission reduction goals. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is responsible for documenting greenhouse gas emissions nationwide, and the California Air Resources Board does so for the state, as required by Health and Safety Code Section 39607.4.

#### ***National Greenhouse Gas Inventory***

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency prepares a national greenhouse gas inventory every year and submits it to the United Nations in accordance with the Framework Convention on Climate Change. The inventory provides a comprehensive accounting of all human-produced sources of greenhouse gases in the U.S., reporting emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and nitrogen trifluoride. It also accounts for emissions of carbon dioxide that are removed from the atmosphere by “sinks” such as forests, vegetation, and soils that uptake and store carbon dioxide (carbon sequestration). The 1990-2016 inventory found that of the 6,511 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents of greenhouse gas emissions in 2016, 81 percent is carbon dioxide, 10 percent is methane, and 6 percent is nitrous oxide; the balance consists of fluorinated gases. In 2016, greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector accounted for nearly 28.5 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions (see Figure 3-1).

**Figure 3-1: U.S. 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

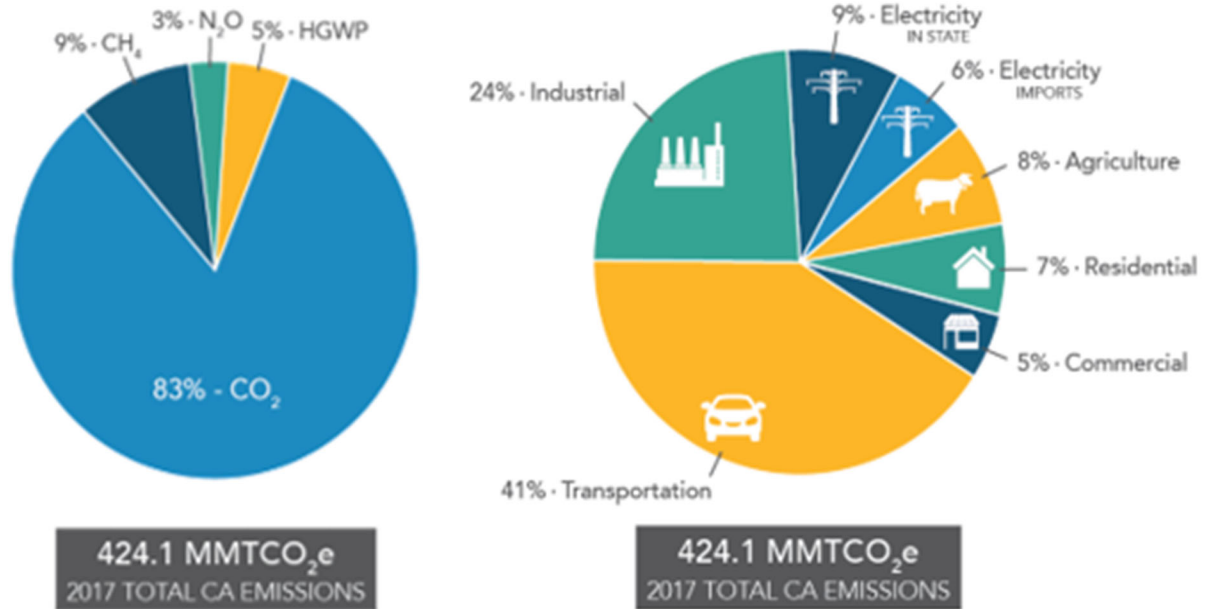


### ***State Greenhouse Gas Inventory***

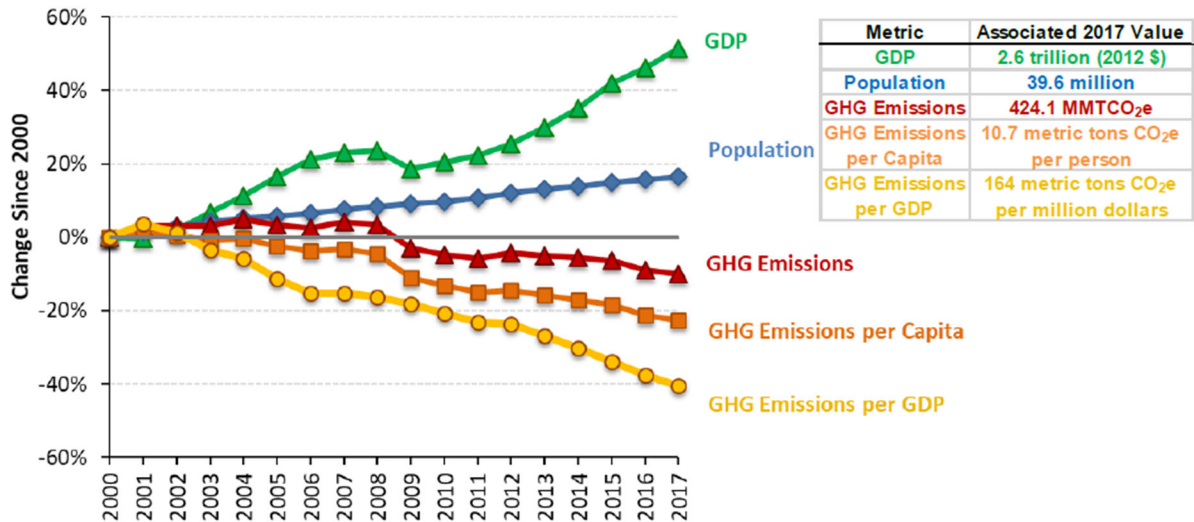
The California Air Resources Board collects greenhouse gas emissions data for transportation, electricity, commercial/residential, industrial, agricultural, and waste management sectors each year (see Figure 3-2). It then summarizes and highlights major annual changes and trends to demonstrate the state's progress in meeting its greenhouse gas reduction goals (see Figure 3-3). The 2019 edition of the greenhouse gas emissions inventory found total California emissions of 424.1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents for 2017, with the transportation sector responsible for 41 percent of total greenhouse gases. It also found that overall statewide greenhouse gas emissions declined from 2000 to 2017 despite growth in population and state economic output.

Assembly Bill 32 required the California Air Resources Board to develop a scoping plan that describes the approach California would take to achieve the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and to update it every 5 years. The California Air Resources Board adopted the first scoping plan in 2008. The second updated plan, California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan, adopted on December 14, 2017, reflects the 2030 target established in Executive Order B-30-15 and Senate Bill 32. The Assembly Bill 32 Scoping Plan and the subsequent updates contain the main strategies California would use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**Figure 3-2 California 2017 Greenhouse Gas Emissions**



**Figure 3-3 Change in California Gross Domestic Product, Population, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions since 2000**



### Regional Plans

The California Air Resources Board sets regional targets for California's 18 Metropolitan Planning Organizations to use in their Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategies to plan future projects that would cumulatively achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals. Targets are set at a percent reduction of passenger vehicle greenhouse gas emissions per person from 2005

levels. The project was included in the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' approved 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (2013) under the project number Go-202. The regional reduction target for Santa Barbara County Association of Governments is 13 percent by 2020 and 17 percent by 2035. The Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan, Energy Element, Goal 8.3, instructs the county to implement the Energy and Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from community-wide sources by a minimum of 15 percent from 2007 baseline emissions by 2020. The Energy and Climate Action Plan includes greenhouse gas reduction measures such as T4, enhance alternative and active transportation; T5, complete an integrated bikeway system; and BE10, implement best management practices for construction equipment operation. The Santa Barbara County Multi-Modal Transportation Network Vulnerability Assessment identifies portions of the U.S. Route 101 corridor in the project vicinity as vulnerable to climate change hazards such as flooding, wildfire, and landslide, and expects the county to produce a regional climate adaptation strategy.

The city of Goleta's General Plan/Coastal Land Use Plan Conservation Element directs the city to produce a greenhouse gas inventory and a greenhouse gas reduction plan. Goleta's Climate Action Plan, published in July 2014, fulfilled that directive. Goleta established a greenhouse gas reduction goal of 11 percent below its 2007 emissions by 2020, and a preliminary target of 26 percent below 2020 emissions by 2030. Implementing a bikeways plan is among Goleta's Climate Action Plan strategies for achieving these goals. The General Plan Safety Element also addresses flood risk.

### 3.3.3 Project Analysis

Greenhouse gas emissions from transportation projects can be divided into those produced during operation of the state highway system and those produced during construction. The main greenhouse gases produced by the transportation sector are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and hydrofluorocarbons. Carbon dioxide emissions are a product of the combustion of petroleum-based products, like gasoline, in internal combustion engines. Small amounts of methane and nitrous oxide are emitted during fuel combustion. In addition, a small amount of hydrofluorocarbon emissions is included in the transportation sector.

The CEQA Guidelines generally address greenhouse gas emissions as a cumulative impact due to the global nature of climate change (Public Resources Code, Section 21083(b)(2)). As the California Supreme Court explained, "because of the global scale of climate change, any one project's contribution is unlikely to be significant by itself." (*Cleveland National Forest Foundation v. San Diego Association of Governments* (2017) 3 Cal.5th 497, 512.) In assessing cumulative impacts, it must be determined if a project's incremental effect is "cumulatively considerable" (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064(h)(1) and 15130).

To make this determination, the incremental impacts of the project must be compared with the effects of past, current, and probable future projects. Although

climate change is ultimately a cumulative impact, not every individual project that emits greenhouse gases must necessarily be found to contribute to a significant cumulative impact on the environment.

### ***Operational Emissions***

The purpose of the project is to address the structural deficiencies of the San Jose Creek Bridge to ensure U.S. Route 101 is functional and reliable. The project will not add travel lanes, increase the vehicle capacity of the roadway, or increase vehicle miles traveled. Completing the project will not prevent construction of the bikeway proposed by the City of Goleta. While some greenhouse gas emissions during the construction period will be unavoidable, no increase in operational greenhouse gas emissions is anticipated.

### ***Construction Emissions***

Construction greenhouse gas emissions will be caused by material processing, on-site construction equipment, and traffic delays. These emissions will be produced at different levels throughout the construction phase; their frequency and occurrence can be reduced through innovations in plans and specifications, and by implementing better traffic management and traffic control during construction phases. Greenhouse gas emissions produced during construction can be off-set to some degree by longer intervals between maintenance and rehabilitation activities.

Construction Climate Change emissions were estimated using Caltrans' Construction Emissions Tool, which used default settings for a bridge replacement project. The estimated average carbon dioxide emissions total is 124 tons per year, or a total of 155 tons generated over a construction period of about 16 months.

All construction contracts include Caltrans' Standard Specifications Section 7-1.02A and 7-1.02C, Emissions Reduction, which require contractors to comply with all laws applicable to the project and to certify that they are aware of and will comply with all California Air Resources Board emission reduction regulations. Construction contracts also include Section 14-9.02, Air Pollution Control, which requires contractors to comply with all air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes. Certain common regulations, such as equipment idling restrictions and reducing construction vehicle emissions can also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A Traffic Management Plan will be carried out during project construction to minimize construction-related traffic delays and emissions.

### ***CEQA Conclusion***

Although the project will cause a slight increase in greenhouse gas emissions during construction, the project will not cause an increase in operational greenhouse gas emissions. As discussed above, the project will comply with all applicable requirements, such as Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District's rules for the South Central Coast Air Basin, and restricting idling equipment. Additionally, a Traffic Management Plan will be implemented, which will minimize construction-related traffic delays and related greenhouse gas emissions. No increase in

operational greenhouse gas emissions will occur once the project is completed. Construction-related emissions will be limited through compliance with state and air district requirements and traffic management efforts. The project will not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted to reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases. With the implementation of construction greenhouse gas-reduction measures, the impact will be less than significant.

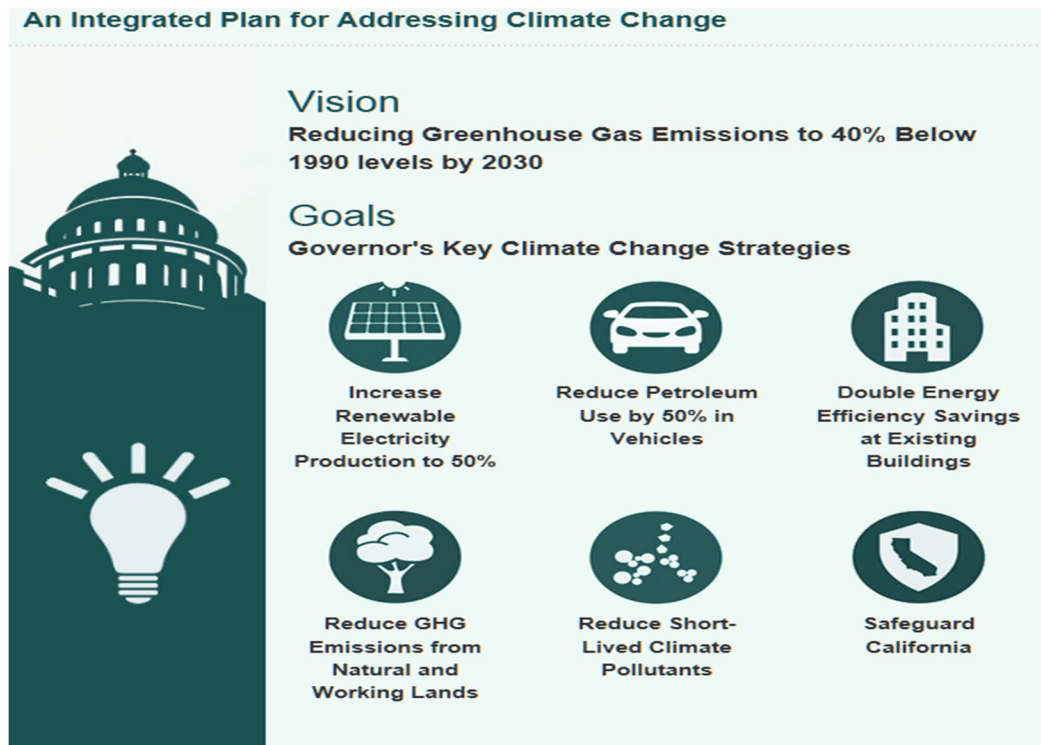
Caltrans is firmly committed to implementing measures to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The following section outlines these measures.

### 3.3.4 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies

#### *Statewide Efforts*

Major sectors of the California economy, including transportation, will need to reduce emissions to meet the 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas emissions targets. Former Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. promoted greenhouse gas reduction goals (see Figure 3-4) that involved (1) reducing today's petroleum use in cars and trucks by up to 50 percent; (2) increasing from one-third to 50 percent our electricity derived from renewable sources; (3) doubling the energy efficiency savings achieved at existing buildings and making heating fuels cleaner; (4) reducing the release of methane, black carbon, and other short-lived climate pollutants; (5) managing farms and rangelands, forests, and wetlands so they can store carbon; and (6) periodically updating the state's climate adaptation strategy, *Safeguarding California*.

**Figure 3-4 California Climate Strategy**





The transportation sector is important to the people and economy of California. To achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, it is vital that the state build on past successes in reducing criteria and toxic air pollutants from the transportation and goods movement. Greenhouse gas emission reductions will come from cleaner vehicle technologies, lower-carbon fuels, and a reduction of vehicle miles traveled. A key state goal for reducing greenhouse gas emissions is to reduce today's petroleum use in cars and trucks by up to 50 percent by 2030.

In addition, Senate Bill 1386 (Wolk 2016) established as state policy the protection and management of natural and working lands and requires state agencies to consider that policy in their own decision making. Trees and vegetation on forests, rangelands, farms, and wetlands remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through biological processes and sequester the carbon in aboveground matter and belowground matter.

### *Caltrans Activities*

Caltrans continues to be involved in the governor's Climate Action Team as the California Air Resources Board works to implement Executive Orders S-3-05 and S-01-07 and help achieve the targets set forth in Assembly Bill 32. Both Executive Order B-30-15, (2015), and Senate Bill 32 (2016), set an interim target to cut greenhouse gas emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The following major initiatives are underway at Caltrans to help meet these targets.

### *California Transportation Plan (CTP 2040)*

The California Transportation Plan is a statewide, long-range transportation plan to meet our future mobility needs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2016, Caltrans completed the California Transportation Plan 2040, which establishes a new model for developing ground transportation systems, consistent with carbon dioxide reduction goals. It serves as an umbrella document for all the other statewide transportation planning documents. Over the next 25 years, California will be working to improve transit and reduce long-run repair and maintenance costs of roadways and developing a comprehensive assessment of climate-related transportation demand management and new technologies rather than continuing to expand capacity on existing roadways.

Senate Bill 391 (Liu 2009) requires the California Transportation Plan to meet California's climate change goals under Assembly Bill 32. Accordingly, the California Transportation Plan 2040 identifies the statewide transportation system needed to achieve maximum feasible greenhouse gas emission reductions while meeting the state's transportation needs. While Metropolitan Planning Organizations have primary responsibility for identifying land use patterns to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the California Transportation Plan 2040 identifies additional strategies in Pricing, Transportation Alternatives, Mode Shift, and Operational Efficiency.

### *Caltrans Strategic Management Plan*

The Strategic Management Plan, released in 2015, creates a performance-based framework to preserve the environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, among other goals. Specific performance targets in the plan that will help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions include:

- Increasing percentage of non-auto mode share
- Reducing vehicle miles traveled
- Reducing Caltrans' internal operational (buildings, facilities, and fuel) greenhouse gas emissions

### *Funding and Technical Assistance Programs*

In addition to developing plans and performance targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Caltrans also administers several sustainable transportation planning grants. These grants encourage local and regional multimodal transportation, housing, and land use planning that furthers the region's Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy; contributes to the state's greenhouse gas reduction targets, and advances transportation-related greenhouse gas emission reduction project types/strategies; and supports other climate adaptation goals (e.g., *Safeguarding California*).

### *Caltrans Policy Directives and Other Initiatives*

Caltrans Director's Policy 30 Climate Change (June 22, 2012) is intended to establish a Department policy that will ensure coordinated efforts to incorporate climate change into Departmental decisions and activities. *Caltrans Activities to Address Climate Change* (April 2013) provides a comprehensive overview of Caltrans' statewide activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from agency operations.

### *Project-Level Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategies*

The following measures will also be implemented in the project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and potential climate change impacts from the project.

The project will include a Transportation Management Plan that will reduce delays and related short-term increases in greenhouse gas emissions from disruptions in traffic flow. If portable changeable message signs are required as part of the Transportation Management Plan, message signs will be solar powered when possible and will not result in greenhouse gas emissions during use.

Caltrans' Standard Specifications Section 14-9, Air Quality, requires contractors to comply with all federal, state, regional, and local rules, regulations, and ordinances related to air quality. Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District's requirements will apply to the project. Requirements that reduce vehicle emissions, such as limits on idling time, may help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The project proposes to revegetate previously disturbed areas, where applicable, following construction completion. Landscaping reduces surface warming and, through photosynthesis, removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

### **3.3.5 Adaptation**

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is only one part of an approach to addressing climate change. Caltrans must plan for the effects of climate change on the state's transportation infrastructure and strengthen or protect the facilities from damage. Climate change is anticipated to produce increased variability in precipitation, rising temperatures, rising sea levels, variability in storm surges and their intensity, and in the frequency and intensity of wildfires. Flooding and erosion can damage or wash out roads; longer periods of intense heat can buckle pavement and railroad tracks; storm surges combined with a rising sea level can inundate highways. Wildfire can directly burn facilities and indirectly cause damage when rain falls on denuded slopes that landslide after a fire. Effects will vary by location and may, in the most extreme cases, require that a facility be relocated or redesigned. Accordingly, Caltrans must consider these types of climate stressors in how highways are planned, designed, built, operated, and maintained.

#### ***Federal Efforts***

Under NEPA assignment, Caltrans is obligated to comply with all applicable federal environmental laws and Federal Highway Administration National Environmental Policy Act regulations, policies, and guidance.

The U.S. Global Change Research Program delivers a report to Congress and the president every 4 years, in accordance with the Global Change Research Act of 1990 (15 U.S. Code Chapter 56A Section 2921 et seq). The Fourth National Climate Assessment, published in 2018, presents the foundational science and the “human welfare, societal, and environmental elements of climate change and variability for 10 regions and 18 national topics, with particular attention paid to observed and projected risks, impacts, consideration of risk reduction, and implications under different mitigation pathways.” Chapter 12, “Transportation,” presents a key discussion of vulnerability assessments. It notes that “asset owners and operators have increasingly conducted more focused studies of particular assets that consider multiple climate hazards and scenarios in the context of asset-specific information, such as design lifetime.”

The U.S. Department of Transportation Policy Statement on Climate Adaptation in June 2011 committed the department to “integrate consideration of climate change impacts and adaptation into the planning, operations, policies, and programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation in order to ensure that taxpayer resources are invested wisely, and that transportation infrastructure, services and operations remain effective in current and future climate conditions.”

The Federal Highway Administration Order 5520 (Transportation System Preparedness and Resilience to Climate Change and Extreme Weather Events,

December 15, 2014) established Federal Highway Administration policy to strive to identify the risks of climate change and extreme weather events to current and future transportation systems. The Federal Highway Administration has developed guidance and tools for transportation planning that foster resilience to climate effects and sustainability at the federal, state, and local levels.

### ***State Efforts***

Climate change adaptation for transportation infrastructure involves long-term planning and risk management to address vulnerabilities in the transportation system. California's Fourth Climate Change Assessment is the state's effort to "translate the state of climate science into useful information for action" in a variety of sectors at both statewide and local scales. It adopts the following key terms used widely in climate change analysis and policy documents:

- *Adaptation* to climate change refers to adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or anticipated climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities.
- *Adaptive capacity* is the "combination of the strengths, attributes, and resources available to an individual, community, society, or organization that can be used to prepare for and undertake actions to reduce adverse impacts, moderate harm, or exploit beneficial opportunities."
- *Exposure* is the presence of people, infrastructure, natural systems, and economic, cultural, and social resources in areas that are subject to harm.
- *Resilience* is the "capacity of any entity—an individual, a community, an organization, or a natural system—to prepare for disruptions, to recover from shocks and stresses, and to adapt and grow from a disruptive experience." Adaptation actions contribute to increasing resilience, which is a desired outcome or state of being.
- *Sensitivity* is the level to which a species, natural system, or community, government, etc., would be affected by changing climate conditions.
- *Vulnerability* is the "susceptibility to harm from exposure to stresses associated with environmental and social change and from the absence of capacity to adapt." Vulnerability can increase because of physical (built and environmental), social, political, and/or economic factor(s). These factors include, but are not limited to: ethnicity, class, sexual orientation and identification, national origin, and income inequality. Vulnerability is often defined as the combination of sensitivity and adaptive capacity as affected by the level of exposure to changing climate.

Several key state policies have guided climate change adaptation efforts to date. Recent state publications produced in response to these policies draw on these definitions.

- Executive Order S-13-08, issued by then-governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in November 2008, focused on sea-level rise and resulted in the *California*

*Climate Adaptation Strategy* (2009), updated in 2014 as *Safeguarding California: Reducing Climate Risk (Safeguarding California Plan)*. The *Safeguarding California Plan* offers policy principles and recommendations and continues to be revised and augmented with sector-specific adaptation strategies, ongoing actions, and next steps for agencies.

- Executive Order S-13-08 also led to the publication of a series of sea-level rise assessment reports and associated guidance and policies. These reports formed the foundation of an interim *State of California Sea-Level Rise Interim Guidance Document* in 2010, with instructions for how state agencies could incorporate “sea-level rise projections into planning and decision making for projects in California” in a consistent way across agencies. The guidance was revised and augmented in 2013. *Rising Seas in California—An Update on Sea-Level Rise Science* was published in 2017 and its updated projections of sea-level rise and new understanding of processes and potential impacts in California were incorporated into the *State of California Sea-Level Rise Guidance Update* in 2018.
- Executive Order B-30-15, signed in April 2015, requires state agencies to factor climate change into all planning and investment decisions. This executive order recognizes that effects of climate change other than sea-level rise also threaten California’s infrastructure. At the direction of Executive Order B-30-15, the Office of Planning and Research published *Planning and Investing for a Resilient California: A Guidebook for State Agencies* in 2017, to encourage a uniform and systematic approach. Representatives of Caltrans participated in the multi-agency, multidisciplinary technical advisory group that developed this guidance on how to integrate climate change into planning and investment.
- Assembly Bill 2800 (Quirk 2016) created the multidisciplinary Climate-Safe Infrastructure Working Group, which in 2018 released its report, *Paying it Forward: The Path Toward Climate-Safe Infrastructure in California*. The report provides guidance to agencies on how to address the challenges of assessing risk in the face of inherent uncertainties still posed by the best available science on climate change. It also examines how state agencies can use infrastructure planning, design, and implementation processes to address the observed and anticipated climate change impacts.

## Caltrans Adaptation Efforts

### *Caltrans Vulnerability Assessment*

Caltrans is conducting climate change vulnerability assessments to identify segments of the State Highway System vulnerable to climate change effects including precipitation, temperature, wildfire, storm surge, and sea-level rise. The approach to the vulnerability assessments was tailored to the practices of a transportation agency, and involves the following concepts and actions:

- *Exposure*—Identify Caltrans’ assets exposed to damage or reduced service life from anticipated future conditions.

- *Consequence*—Determine what might occur to system assets in terms of loss of use or costs of repair.
- *Prioritization*—Develop a method for making capital programming decisions to address identified risks, including considerations of system use and/or timing of anticipated exposure.

The climate change data in the assessments were developed in coordination with climate change scientists and experts at federal, state, and regional organizations at the forefront of climate science. The findings of the vulnerability assessments will guide analysis of at-risk assets and the development of adaptation plans to reduce the likelihood of damage to the State Highway System, allowing Caltrans to both reduce the costs of storm damage and to provide and maintain transportation that meets the needs of all Californians.

### *Project Adaptation Analysis*

#### *Sea-Level Rise*

The project is outside the coastal zone and is not in an area prone to sea-level rise. Accordingly, direct impacts to transportation facilities due to projected sea-level rise are not anticipated.

#### *Floodplains*

The project site is next to a Federal Emergency Management Agency designated Zone AE floodplain with a base flood elevation of 56 feet at the San Jose Creek Bridge at U.S. Route 101. The location is designated as a Federal Emergency Management Agency Special Flood Hazard Area. As described in Section 2.2.1, Hydrology and Floodplain, the new bridge design will remove the existing bridge columns in the creek, remove concrete paving on the bank, reduce the bank slopes, and install rock slope protection. These changes will result in a greater cross-sectional area underneath the bridge. These features will decrease the water surface elevation and provide a margin of resilience to potential future higher flood flows if future precipitation events become more intense, as anticipated under climate change conditions in Santa Barbara County.

## Chapter 4      Comments and Coordination

---

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis required, potential impacts and avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation for this project has been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including Project Development Team meetings, interagency coordination meetings, and so on. Public participation was sought through the release and review of the draft Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Environmental Assessment. This chapter summarizes the results of Caltrans' efforts to identify, address, and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

### ***Biological Coordination***

**April 19, 2018:** Biologist John Moule submitted a request online through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website for an official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list for the project. The online tool *Information for Planning and Consulting* generated a list the same day.

**April 19, 2018:** John Moule generated an official National Marine Fisheries Service species list from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration California Species List Tool for the project area. The official National Marine Fisheries Service species list was received via email the same day.

**September 20, 2018:** John Moule contacted Jessica Adams (National Marine Fisheries Service) via email to inquire about suitable dates for dewatering.

**November 11, 2018:** John Moule updated the official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website for the project. The Information for Planning and Consultation website generated a list the same day.

**November 11, 2018:** John Moule updated the official National Marine Fisheries Service species list from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration California Species List Tool for the project area.

**February 27, 2019:** John Moule updated the official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website for the project. The Information for Planning and Consultation website generated a list the same day.

**February 27, 2019:** John Moule updated the official National Marine Fisheries Service species list from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration California Species List Tool for the project area.

**August 2, 2019:** Biologist Connor Ritchie obtained an updated official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website for the project.

**August 2, 2019:** Connor Ritchie obtained an updated official National Marine Fisheries Service species list from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration California Species List Tool for the project area.

**October 22, 2019:** Connor Ritchie prepared an addendum to the Natural Environment Study that was originally prepared on March 4, 2019, to address proposed changes to rock slope protection installation.

**March 11, 2020:** Connor Ritchie obtained an updated official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website for the project.

**March 11, 2020:** Connor Ritchie obtained an updated official National Marine Fisheries Service species list from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration California Species List Tool for the project area.

**May 11, 2020:** Project obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a Programmatic Biological Opinion for California red-legged frog and its critical habitat and a letter of concurrence for southern willow flycatcher and least bell's vireo (Appendix H).

**July 32, 2020:** Project obtained a Biological Opinion from National Marine Fisheries Services for Southern California steelhead and its critical habitat (Appendix H).

**August 17, 2020:** Connor Ritchie obtained an updated official U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website for the project.

**August 17, 2020:** Connor Ritchie obtained an updated official National Marine Fisheries Service species list from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration California Species List Tool for the project area.

### ***Hydrology Coordination***

**February 28, 2019:** Transportation Engineer Kristen Inkrott notified the City of Goleta's floodplain administrator that project staff would be preparing a floodplain study and would likely prepare a Conditional Letter of Map Revision and submit the Federal Emergency Management Agency "M.T.-2" floodplain application to the city before project completion.

### ***Cultural Resources Coordination***

**December 19, 2018:** Archaeologist Damon Haydu sent out letters to regional Native American tribal groups as part of Section 106 consultation and formal notification required under Assembly Bill 52. Invitation for consultation was offered and no formal consultation was requested by recipients.



## **Public Participation**

The draft environmental document was approved on October 23, 2019. The document was then circulated for public review between December 13, 2019, to January 17, 2020. Based on the availability of new project information and public comments received during the public review period, the draft environmental document was revised to include new information and to address initial public comments pertaining to the City of Goleta's multimodal path. The revised draft environmental document was approved on April 6, 2020. The document was then recirculated for public review between April 13, 2020 to May 27, 2020. Public comments received during the recirculation of the draft environmental document are presented in Appendix I, Comment Letters and Responses.

*This page intentionally left blank*

## **Chapter 5**      List of Preparers

---

This chapter lists Caltrans' staff members and consultant staff members who were responsible for preparing and reviewing the document and the supporting technical studies for the project.

### **Caltrans Staff**

Myles Barker, Myles, Editorial Specialist. B.A., Mass Communication and Journalism, California State University, Fresno; 5 years of writing and editing experience. Contribution: Technical Editor.

Robert Carr, Associate Landscape Architect. B.S., Landscape Architecture, California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo; over 20 years of experience preparing Visual Impact Assessments. Contribution: Visual Impact Assessment.

Matt Fowler, Senior Environmental Planner. B.A., Geographic Analysis, San Diego State University; 18 years of experience in environmental planning. Contribution: Oversight of the Initial Study and Environmental Assessment.

Geramaldi, Associate Environmental Planner (Generalist). B.S., Environmental Geography, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; 4 years of environmental planning experience. Contribution: Coordinated the environmental process, provided consultant oversight of the Initial Study, and prepared the Initial Study.

Damon Haydu, Associate Environmental Planner (Archaeology). M.A., Cultural Resources Management, Sonoma State University; over 20 years of experience in all phases of cultural resource management. Contribution: Cultural Resources Review.

Kristen Inkrott, P.E., Transportation Engineer (Civil). B.S., Environmental Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; over 25 years of experience in water resources and hydraulic engineering. Contribution: Hydraulic recommendations, Location Hydraulic Study.

Joel Kloth, Engineering Geologist. B.S., Geology, California Lutheran University; over 30 years of experience in petroleum geology, geotechnical geology, and environmental engineering/geology and hazardous waste. Contribution: Initial Site Assessment.

Lindsay Kozub, Associate Environmental Planner (Architectural Historian). M.A., History/Cultural Resource Management; B.A., History; B.S., Business, Colorado State University; 8 years of experience in historical research and analysis, historic preservation, and cultural resource management. Contribution: Cultural Resources Review.

Isaac Leyva, Engineering Geologist. B.S., Geology, California State University, Bakersfield; A.S., Cuesta College; over 20 years of experience in petroleum geology, environmental, and geotechnical engineering. Contribution: Initial Site Assessment, Paleontology Technical Report, Water Quality Assessment.

Karl Mikel, Senior Transportation Engineer. M.S., Civil/Environmental Engineering; B.S., Environmental Engineering, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; 17 years of professional experience in air quality and noise assessment. Contribution: Air Quality, Noise and Greenhouse Gas Memo.

John Moule, Consultant Associate Biologist/Environmental Planner. B.S., Biology, Humboldt State University; over 20 years of natural resource and biology experience. Contribution: Natural Environment Study.

Connor Ritchie, Biologist/Environmental Planner (Natural Science). B.S., Biological Science, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; 4 years of natural resource and biology experience. Contribution: Natural Environment Study.

#### **Consultant Staff – ICF Staff**

Mario Anaya, Senior Environmental Planner. M.P.A., Urban Planning, California State University, Northridge; B.A., Global Studies, University of California, Los Angeles; 10 years of experience in environmental planning. Contribution: Preparation of the draft Initial Study.

Jennifer Andersen, AICP, Senior Associate. B.A., International Relations, University of Southern California; 7 years of experience in environmental planning. Contribution: Preparation of the draft Initial Study.

Will Herron, Environmental Planner. B.A., International Relations, University of Southern California; 2 years of experience in environmental planning. Contribution: Preparation of the draft Initial Study.

Andrew Johnson, Environmental Planner. M.A., Public Policy, University of Southern California; B.A., Business Administration, Pepperdine University. Contribution: Preparation of the draft Initial Study.

## **Chapter 6**      Distribution List

---

City of Goleta Planning Office  
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B  
Goleta, California 93117

County of Santa Barbara Planning Office  
123 East Anapamu Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

Goleta Valley Library  
500 North Fairview Avenue  
Goleta, California 93117

Santa Barbara Public Library  
40 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, California 93101

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Ventura Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, California 93003

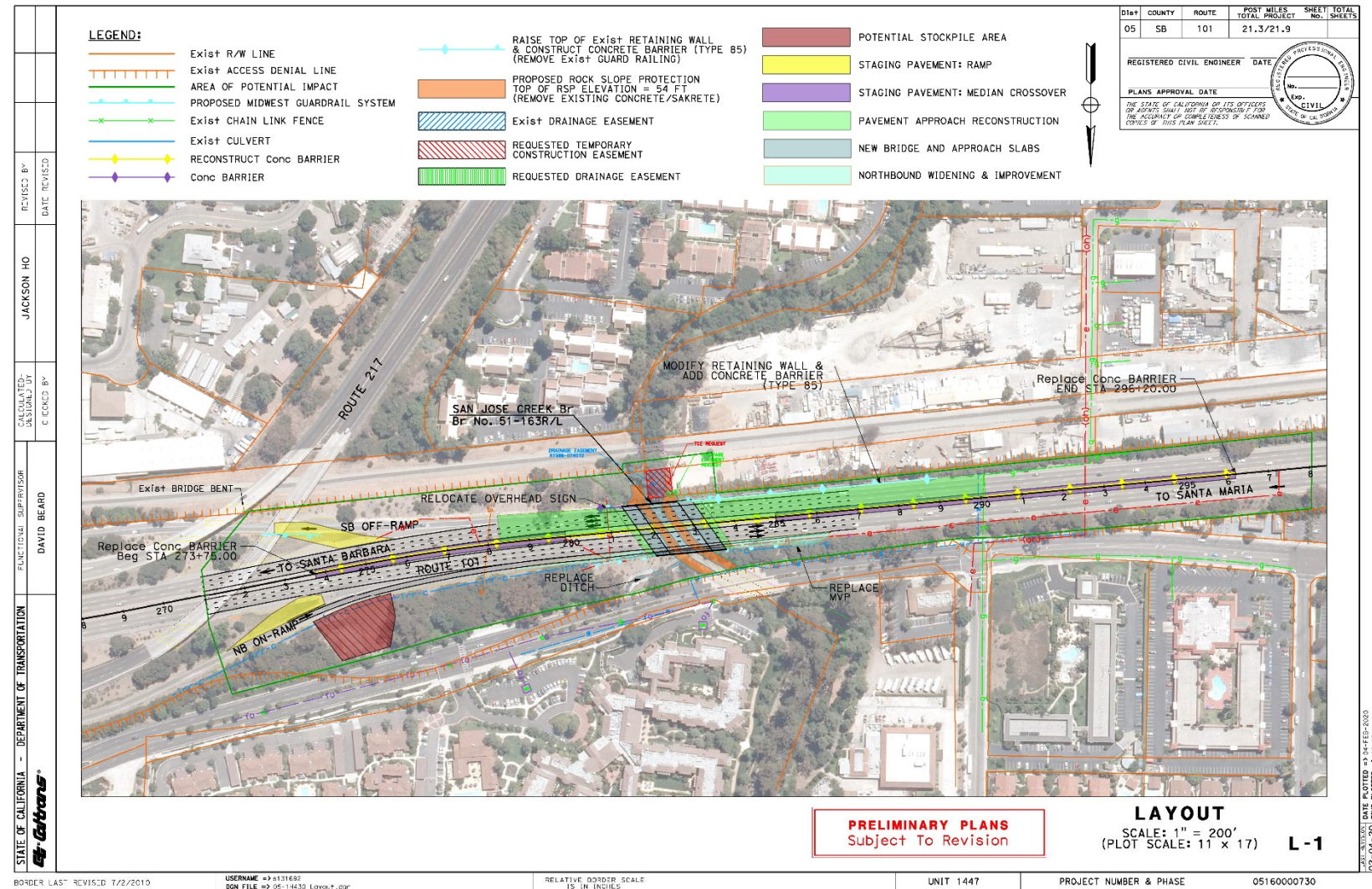
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District  
915 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90017

California Department of Fish and Wildlife—South Coast Region  
3883 Ruffin Road  
San Diego, California 92123

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board  
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101  
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

*This page intentionally left blank*

# Appendix A Preliminary Project Layout

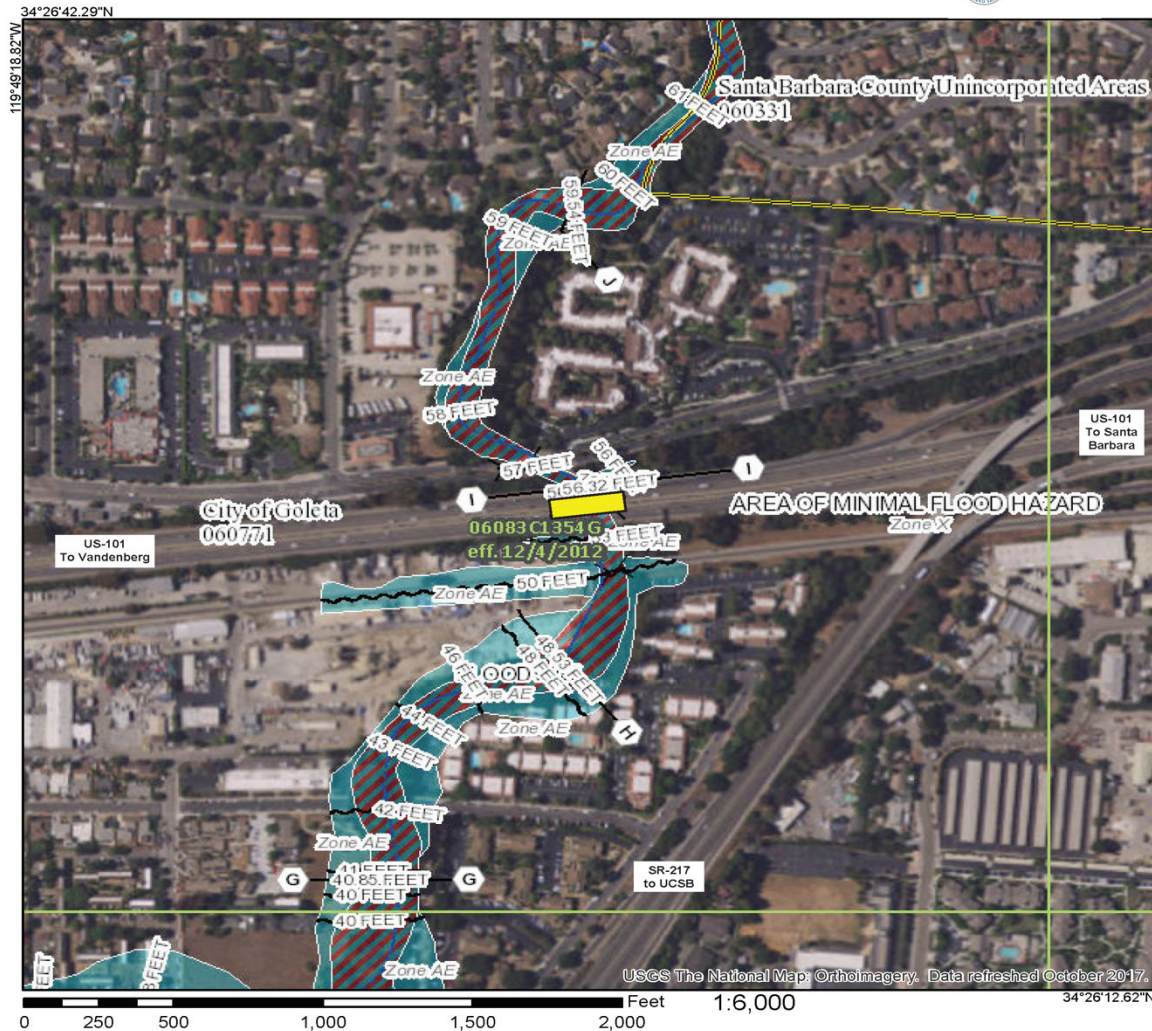


*This page intentionally left blank*



# Appendix B FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map

## National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



### Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS	Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) Zone A, V, A99
	With BFE or Depth Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR
	Regulatory Floodway
OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD	0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile Zone X
	Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard Zone X
	Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes, Zone X
	Area with Flood Risk due to Levee Zone D
OTHER AREAS	NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard Zone X
	Effective LOMRs
GENERAL STRUCTURES	Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
	Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
OTHER FEATURES	20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
	17.5 Coastal Transect
	Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
	Limit of Study
	Jurisdiction Boundary
OTHER FEATURES	Coastal Transect Baseline
	Profile Baseline
MAP PANELS	Digital Data Available
	No Digital Data Available
	Unmapped
	Location of San Jose Creek Bridge

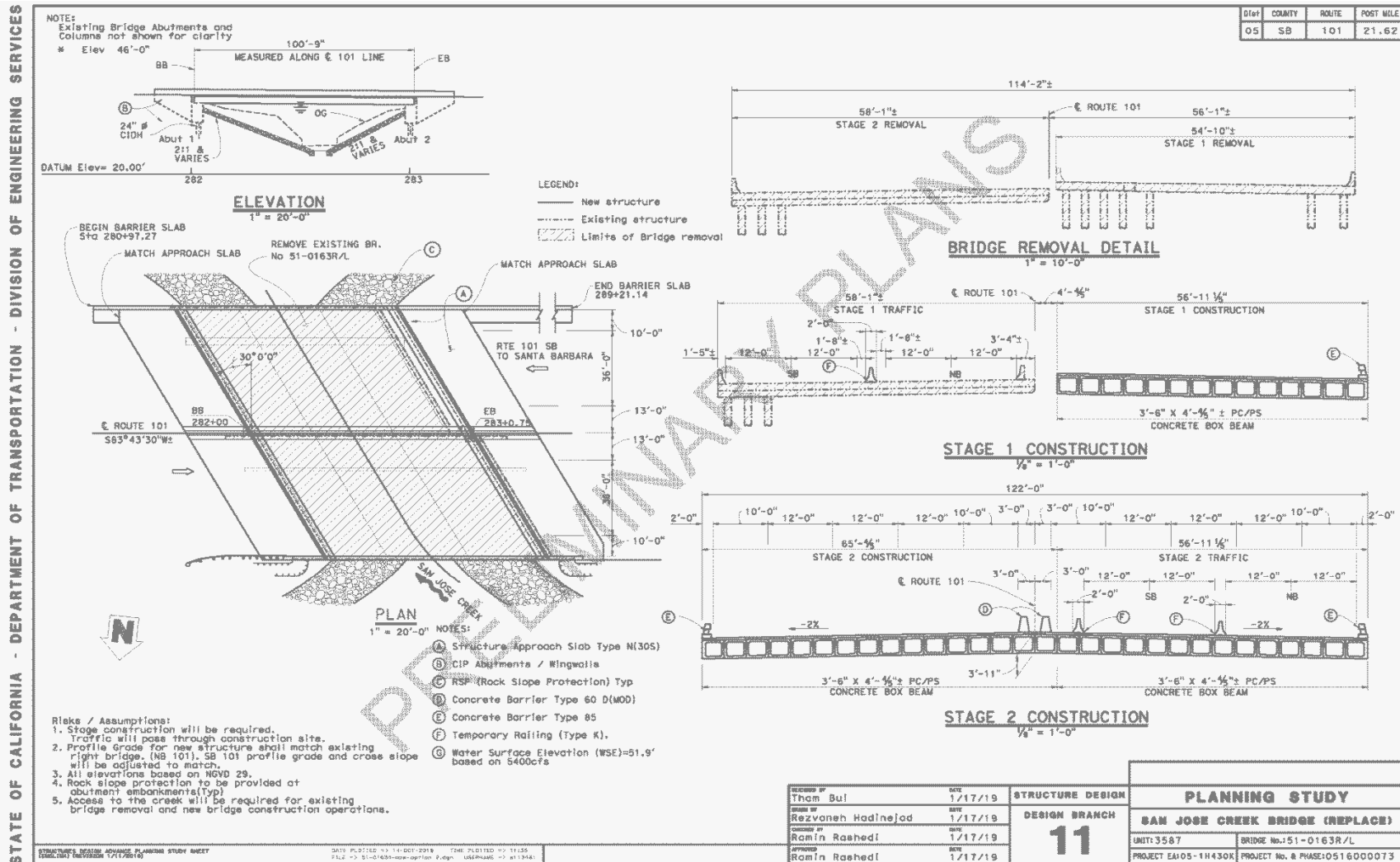
This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards.

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 9/17/2018 at 12:01:54 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.

*This page intentionally left blank*

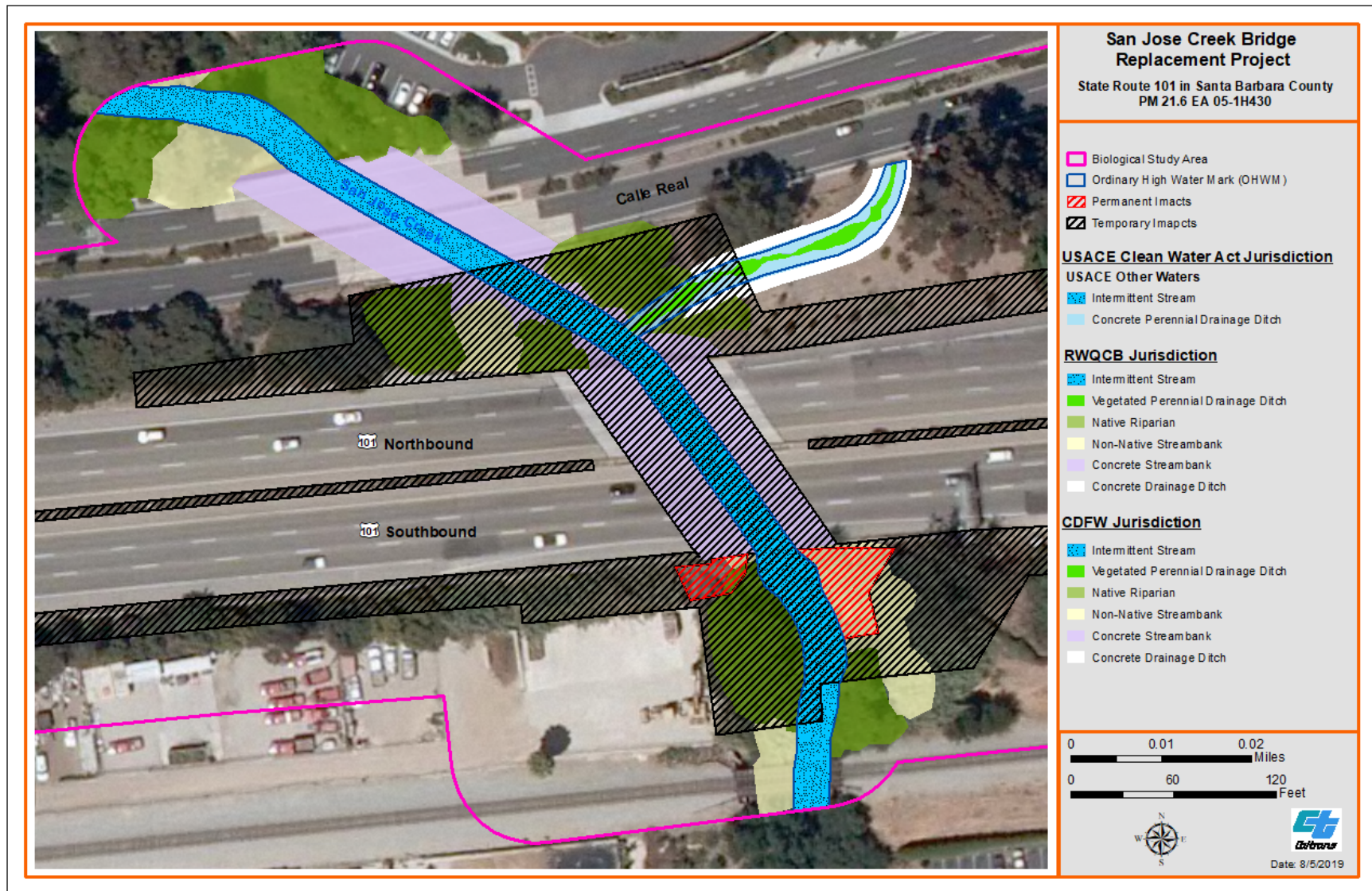
# Appendix C Preliminary Project Cross Section



*This page intentionally left blank*



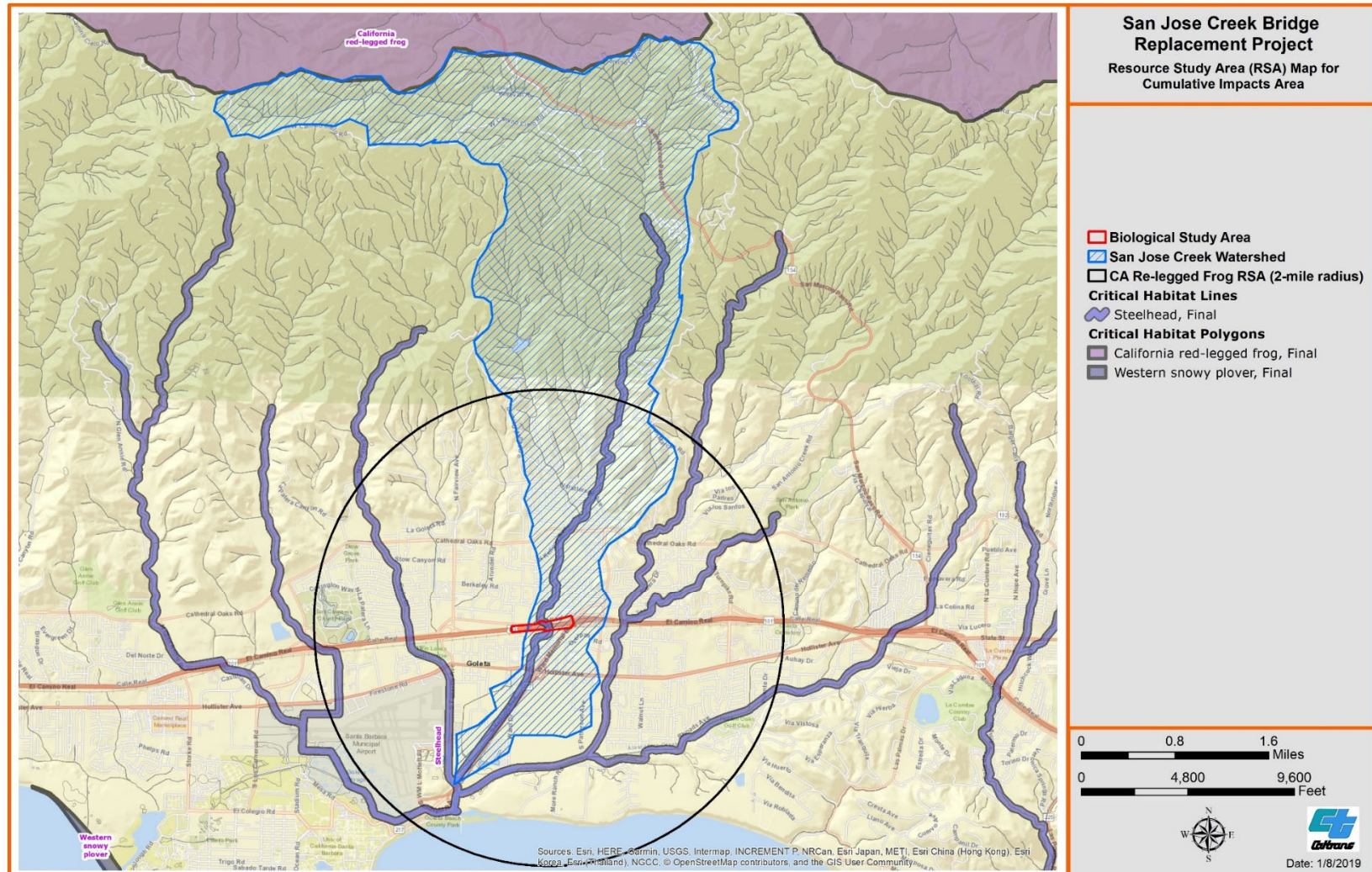
## Appendix D Jurisdictional Waters Area Map



*This page intentionally left blank*



## Appendix E Resource Study Area Map



*This page intentionally left blank*



# Appendix F Title VI Policy Statement

---

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY

Gavin Newsom, Governor

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
P.O. BOX 942873, MS-49  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001  
PHONE (916) 654-6130  
FAX (916) 653-5776  
TTY 711  
[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.

November 2019

### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The California Department of Transportation, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ensures *"No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."*

Related federal statutes, remedies, and state law further those protections to include sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, and age.

For information or guidance on how to file a complaint, or obtain more information regarding Title VI, please contact the Title VI Branch Manager at (916) 324-8379 or visit the following web page:  
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/business-and-economic-opportunity/title-vi>.

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille or in a language other than English, please contact the California Department of Transportation, Office of Business and Economic Opportunity, at 1823 14<sup>th</sup> Street, MS-79, Sacramento, CA 95811; (916) 324-8379 (TTY 711); or at [Title.VI@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Title.VI@dot.ca.gov).

A blue ink signature of Toks Omishakin, consisting of a stylized 'T' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line.

Toks Omishakin  
Director

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability"*

*This page intentionally left blank*

## **Appendix G** Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Summary

---

To be sure that all of the environmental measures identified in this document are executed at the appropriate times, the following mitigation program (as articulated on the proposed Environmental Commitments Record that follows) would be implemented. During project design, avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures would be incorporated into the project's final plans, specifications, and cost estimates, as appropriate. All permits would be obtained prior to implementation of the project. During construction, environmental and construction/engineering staff members would ensure that the commitments contained in the Environmental Commitments Record are fulfilled. Following construction and appropriate phases of project delivery, long-term mitigation maintenance and monitoring would take place, as applicable.

### ***Consistency with State, Regional and Local Plans and Programs (Section 2.1.1)***

The following measures will be implemented to minimize potential impacts as a result of the project:

#### General Plan

No measures will be required for the transportation element because the project will not conflict with the transportation element. The project will include Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions and Caltrans' Standard Specifications. Both standards will execute traffic control strategies and actions to control traffic within the project area during the construction period.

No measures will be required for the noise element because the project will not conflict with the noise element. The project will include Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions and Caltrans' Standard Specifications. Both standards will execute noise control strategies and actions within the project area during the construction period.

#### Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan

To avoid conflicts in the project's schedule, process and construction, Caltrans and the City of Goleta are actively collaborating on projects that are being proposed in the local area.

It is anticipated that continued collaboration between the City of Goleta and Caltrans will be required to avoid and minimize potential schedule, design and construction conflicts between the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project and the proposed San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project.

There is the potential to further avoid and minimize construction conflict between the two projects. There is the opportunity for the new bridge construction process to also include the construction of the multipurpose path that is located within the new bridge footprint. This would allow for both projects to be construction at the same

time because they are occurring at the same location. For this opportunity to occur, the City of Goleta will need approvals for the following documents for their proposed San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path:

- Final Project Report
- Final Design Plans

In addition, the City of Goleta and Caltrans will need to approve the following agreements in order to share the responsibilities related to construction cost and maintenance cost of the multipurpose path that would be located within Caltrans' right-of-way:

- Funding Agreement
- Maintenance Agreement

If final documents and agreements are approved, the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project would be able to incorporate the portion of the multipurpose path that is underneath the bridge as a component of the bridge replacement construction plan. Construction of the new bridge and the multipurpose path underneath the bridge could be built by a single construction crew.

### **Cultural Resources (Section 2.1.2)**

No cultural resource-related measures are required for the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project.

The project will include the following Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions that deal with the chance discovery of previously unknown cultural materials or human remains during project construction:

- If cultural materials are discovered during construction, all earth-moving activity within and around the immediate discovery area will be diverted until a qualified archaeologist can assess the nature and significance of the find.
- If human remains are discovered during construction, California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities will stop in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the county coroner will be contacted. If the remains are thought by the coroner to be Native American the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, will then notify the Most Likely Descendent. At this time, the individual who discovers the remains will contact the District 5 Environmental Branch, so they can work with the Most Likely Descendent on the respectful treatment and arrangement of the remains. Additional provisions of Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 must be followed as applicable.

### **Hydrology and Floodplain (Section 2.2.1)**

The project is not anticipated to adversely affect existing hydrology or floodplains. Therefore, no avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures are anticipated for the project.

### **Water Quality and Stormwater Runoff (Section 2.2.2)**

To minimize impacts to water quality and stormwater runoff, the following measures will be implemented:

1. The project will implement the following Best Management Practices:
  - a) Job site management
  - b) Preparation of a Water Pollution Control Program to determine the feasibility of incorporating permanent treatment or structural Best Management Practices into the final project design
  - c) Temporary Best Management Practices will include, but will not be limited to, the following:
    - i. Hydraulic mulch
    - ii. Check dams
    - iii. Drainage inlet protection
    - iv. Fiber rolls
    - v. Stabilized construction entrance
    - vi. Designated concrete washout
    - vii. Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing
2. The project will implement appropriate Caltrans' Standard Specification and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions pertaining to water quality and water pollution control.

### **Geology, Soils, Seismicity and Topography (Section 2.2.3)**

The following measures will be implemented for the project to avoid and or minimize potential impacts:

1. The project will minimize the amount of soil disturbance necessary to complete the project.
2. Additional subsurface investigation will be conducted before to project construction to identify subsurface conditions and to help determine appropriate final design elements required to protect the new bridge structure from potential geologic hazards.

### **Natural Communities (Section 2.3.1)**

The following measures will be implemented to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts as a result of project-related activities:

1. Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing, or flagging, will be installed around the anticipated maximum boundary of the project's working limits required for project completion in order to prevent unnecessary disturbances to habitats and vegetation within the project area.

2. Special provisions for the installation of Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing or flagging will be included in the construction contract and identified in the project plans. Prior to the start of construction activities, Environmentally Sensitive Areas will be delineated in the field and approved by qualified Caltrans' environmental division staff.
3. Impacts to native species will require the project to conduct restoration plantings onsite. Restoration plantings will consist of native species appropriate for the project area.

### **Wetlands and Other Waters (Section 2.3.2)**

The following measures will be implemented to avoid and minimize potential impacts on jurisdictional and wetland areas resulting from the project:

1. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing, or flagging will be installed around jurisdictional waters as well as the dripline of any trees that are to be protected within the project limits. Caltrans-defined Environmentally Sensitive Areas will be noted on design plans and delineated in the field prior to the start of construction activities.
2. During construction, all project-related hazardous materials spills within the project site will be cleaned up immediately. Readily accessible spill prevention and cleanup materials will be kept on-site by the contractor at all times during construction.
3. During construction, erosion control measures will be implemented. Appropriate temporary Best Management Practices will be installed as needed between the project site and jurisdictional "other waters" and riparian habitat. At a minimum, erosion controls will be maintained by the contractor daily throughout the construction period.
4. During construction, cleaning and refueling of equipment and vehicles will occur only within a designated staging area. This area will either be a minimum of 100 feet from aquatic areas or, if the area is less than 100 feet from aquatic areas, surrounded by barriers or secondary containment items (e.g., fiber rolls or equivalent). The staging areas will conform to the Best Management Practice applicable to attaining zero discharge of stormwater runoff. At a minimum, all equipment and vehicles will be checked and maintained by the contractor daily to ensure proper operation and avoid potential leaks or spills.
5. Habitat restoration and native re-plantings will be required for the project. It is anticipated that compensatory mitigation can occur entirely within the project site, consisting of native plants appropriate to the project area. Plant restoration is proposed at a 1 to 1 ratio for acreage of temporary and permanent impacts. It is anticipated that a 3 to 1 replacement ratio will be required for impacts to riparian trees. A plant establishment period will be required as part of the replanting process.

### **Plant Species (Section 2.3.3)**

The project is not anticipated to impact plant species. No avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures are proposed for plant species.

### **Animal Species (Section 2.3.4)**

The following measures will be implemented to reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant impacts under CEQA for special-status animal species.

#### *Coast Range Newt, Western Pond Turtle, and Two-Striped Garter Snake*

1. Prior to initiation of stream dewatering, Caltrans will conduct a worker environmental training program, including a description of the Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, and two-striped garter snake; their legal/protected status; their proximity to the project site; and avoidance/minimization measures to be implemented during the project.
2. Prior to construction, a biologist, determined qualified by Caltrans, will survey the biological study area and capture and relocate Coast Range newts, two-striped garter snakes, and western pond turtles, if present, to suitable habitat upstream within the biological study area. Observations of species of special concern or other special-status species will be documented on California Natural Diversity Database forms and submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife upon project completion. If these species or other aquatic species of special concern are observed during construction, they will likewise be relocated by a qualified biologist to suitable habitat outside the impact area.

#### *Northern California Legless Lizard and Coast Horned Lizard*

3. All excavation and vegetation removal within suitable habitat will be monitored by a qualified biologist. The qualified biologist will be on-site and monitoring during all new excavations and vegetation removal within suitable habitat.
4. Northern California legless lizards, coast horned lizards, or any species discovered during monitoring, excluding state or federal listed species, will be captured and relocated by the qualified biologist to suitable habitat outside the biological study area. Observations of species of special concern or other special-status species will be documented on California Natural Diversity Database forms and submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife upon project completion.

#### *Cooper's Hawk and Other Nesting Bird Species*

5. If feasible, tree removal and trimming will be scheduled to occur from October 1 to January 31, outside of the typical nesting bird season, to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds. If it is not feasible to conduct this work outside of the nesting bird season, a nesting bird survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to the start of construction. If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist will determine an appropriate buffer, or a monitoring strategy based on the habits and needs of the species. The buffer

area will be avoided, or the monitoring strategy implemented until a qualified biologist has determined that the nest is no longer active.

6. It is recommended that bird nests be excluded from the existing bridge. Nesting bird exclusion methods may include, installation of thick plastic sheeting, one-way exclusion devices over drain holes, removing/knocking down nests before they contain eggs or nestlings, or other methods approved by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The required time for installation of bird exclusion devices is outside of the nesting season (i.e., implement exclusion methods from October 1 to January 31).
7. During construction, active bird nests will not be disturbed and eggs or young of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code will not be killed, destroyed, injured, or harassed at any time. If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist will determine an appropriate buffer using Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing or a monitoring strategy based on the habits and needs of the species. The buffer area will be avoided, or the monitoring strategy implemented until a qualified biologist has determined that the nest is no longer active.

*Pallid Bat, Western Red Bat, Yuma Myotis, and Other Bat Species*

8. A qualified biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey of the Route 101 and Calle Real bridges for bat activity at least 14 days prior to construction. If any roosting bats or evidence of roosting is observed, exclusion devices will be installed over the roosting habitat when bats are not present.
9. At least 14 days prior to construction, the human-made bat box under the bridge on Calle Real will be covered with an exclusion device when bats are not present. The exclusion device will be removed at the completion of construction.
10. If tree removal is required during the bat maternity roosting season (February 15 to September 1), a bat roost survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist within 7 days prior to removal. If an active bat roost is found, Caltrans will coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine an appropriate buffer, based on the habits and needs of the species. Readily visible exclusion zones will be established in areas where roosts must be avoided, using Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing. Work in the buffer area will be avoided until a qualified biologist has determined that roosting activity has ceased. Active bat maternity roosts will not be disturbed or destroyed at any time.
11. Compensatory Mitigation: The existing Route 101 bridges showed no signs that they supported roosting bats. Only a single nest for a cliff swallow was found; the nest could have been used by bats for roosting (although it was broken). No bat roosting habitat is anticipated to be permanently lost as a result of the project. Impacts on vegetation will be offset by replacement plantings within the project limits, which will also replace potential roosting habitat. No additional compensatory mitigation is proposed for bats.



### *San Diego Desert Woodrat*

12. No more than 14 days prior to construction activities, a pre-construction survey will be conducted within the biological study area by a qualified biologist to determine the presence or absence of woodrat middens.
13. If woodrat middens are located during this survey, the qualified biologist will establish an Environmentally Sensitive Area with a 25-foot buffer around each midden. No project activities requiring grading, mechanized equipment or vehicles, or large crews will be allowed within the 25-foot protective buffer.
14. If project activities cannot avoid affecting the middens, then a qualified biologist will dismantle the middens by hand prior to grading or vegetation removal activities. The midden dismantling will be conducted such that the midden material is removed slowly while personnel look for young woodrats. The material will be placed in a pile at the closest undisturbed adjacent habitat but more than 50 feet from construction activities.
15. If young are encountered during midden dismantling, the dismantling activity will be stopped, and the material replaced back on the nest. The nest will be left alone, then rechecked in 2 to 3 weeks to see if the young are out of the nest or capable of being out on their own (as determined by a qualified biologist); once the young can fend for themselves, the nest dismantling can continue.

### **Threatened and Endangered Species (Section 2.3.5)**

The following measures will be implemented to reduce potentially significant impacts under CEQA to threatened and endangered species to less than significant.

#### *Southern California Steelhead and Critical Habitat*

The avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures listed throughout Section 2.2 will reduce impacts on steelhead critical habitat.

The measures listed below will reduce impacts on the Southern California steelhead:

1. Prior to initiation of stream dewatering, a qualified biologist will conduct a worker environmental training program, including a description of steelhead, its legal/protected status, proximity to the project site, avoidance/minimization measures to be implemented during the project, and the implications of violating the Federal Endangered Species Act and permit conditions.
2. During construction, instream work, will be limited to the low-flow period, from June 1 and October 31, in any given year when surface water is likely to be at the seasonal minimum to avoid adult steelhead spawning migration and peak smolt migration. Deviations from this work window will be made only with permission from Caltrans and the relevant regulatory agencies.
3. A qualified biologist will be retained with experience in Southern California steelhead biology and ecology; aquatic habitats; biological monitoring, including dewatering; and capturing, handling, and relocating fish species.

- The biological monitor(s) will continuously monitor the placement and removal of any creek diversion and dewatering system to capture steelhead and other native fish species and relocate them to suitable habitat as appropriate. The monitor(s) will capture steelhead in the biological study area just prior to dewatering and any remaining stranded steelhead immediately after dewatering. Steelhead will be relocated to suitable habitat upstream of the work area, using methods approved by the appropriate regulatory agencies. This may include, but not necessarily be limited to, seine-netting, dip-netting, providing aerated water in buckets for transport, and ensuring adequate water temperatures during transport. The biologist will note the number of steelheads observed in the affected area, the number of steelheads captured and relocated, and the date and time of the collection and relocation.
4. During instream work, if pumps are incorporated to assist in temporarily dewatering the site, intakes will be completely screened with no larger than  $\frac{3}{32}$ -inch (2.38-millimeter) wire mesh to prevent steelhead and other sensitive aquatic species from entering the pump system. Pumped water will be directed through a silt filtration bag and/or into a settling basin, allowing the suspended sediment to settle out prior to re-entering the stream(s) outside of the isolated area.
  5. When the biological monitors are on-site, they will monitor erosion and sediment controls to identify and correct any conditions that could adversely affect steelhead or steelhead habitat. The biological monitors will be granted the authority to halt work activity as necessary and recommend measures to avoid/minimize adverse effects on steelhead and steelhead habitat.
  6. Vibration and oscillation of piles will be used to the greatest extent feasible to install piles and reduce the need for hammer driving.

#### *California Red-Legged Frog*

7. Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologists will participate in activities associated with the capture, handling, and monitoring of California red-legged frogs.
8. Ground disturbance will not begin until written approval is received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that the biologist is qualified to conduct the work.
9. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will survey the project area no more than 48 hours before the onset of work activities. If any life stage of the California red-legged frog is found and the individuals are likely to be killed or injured by work activities, the approved biologist will be allowed sufficient time to move them from the site before work begins. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will relocate the California red-legged frogs the shortest distance possible to a location that contains suitable habitat where they will not be affected by the activities associated with the project. The relocation site will be in the same drainage to the extent practicable.

Caltrans will coordinate with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the relocation site prior to the capture of any California red-legged frogs.

10. Before any activities begin on a project, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training will include a description of the California red-legged frog and its habitat, the specific measures that are being implemented to conserve the California red-legged frog for the current project, and the boundaries within which the project may be accomplished. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session, with a qualified person on hand to answer any questions.
11. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will be present at the work site until all California red-legged frogs have been removed, workers have been instructed, and disturbance of habitat has been completed. After this time, Caltrans will designate a person to monitor on-site compliance with all minimization measures. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will ensure this monitor receives the training outlined above regarding the identification of California red-legged frogs. If the monitor or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist recommends that work be stopped because California red-legged frogs could be affected in a manner not anticipated by Caltrans and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during review of the proposed action, that person will notify the resident engineer immediately. The resident engineer will resolve the situation by requiring that all actions that are causing the effects be halted. When work is stopped, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be notified as soon as possible.
12. During project activities, all trash that may attract predators or scavengers will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and debris will be removed from work areas.
13. All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles will occur at least 60 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies and not in a location from where a spill would drain directly toward aquatic habitat, unless otherwise preapproved by the necessary agencies. The monitor will ensure that habitat contamination does not occur during operations. Prior to the onset of work, Caltrans will ensure that a plan is in place for a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.
14. Habitat contours will be returned to a natural configuration at the end of the project activities. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Caltrans determine that it is not feasible, or modification of original contours would benefit the California red-legged frog.
15. The number of access routes, size of staging areas, and the total area of activity will be limited to the minimum necessary to complete the project. Environmentally Sensitive Areas will be established to confine access routes and construction areas to the minimum area necessary to complete

- construction and minimize the impact on California red-legged frog habitat; this goal includes locating access routes and construction areas outside of wetlands and riparian areas to the maximum extent practicable.
16. Caltrans will attempt to schedule work at times of the year when impacts to the California red-legged frog would be minimal. For example, work that would create large pools that support breeding would be avoided, to the maximum degree practicable, during the breeding season (November through May). Isolated pools, which are important to maintaining California red-legged frog populations through the driest portions of the year, would be avoided, to the maximum degree practicable, during late summer and early fall. Habitat assessments, surveys, and technical assistance between Caltrans and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during project planning will be used to assist in scheduling work activities and avoiding sensitive habitats during key times of year.
  17. To control sedimentation during and after project completion, Caltrans will implement the Best Management Practices outlined in any authorizations or permits issued under the authorities of the Clean Water Act. If Best Management Practices are ineffective, Caltrans will attempt to remedy the situation immediately, in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
  18. If a work site is to be temporarily dewatered by pumping, intakes will be completely screened with wire mesh not larger than 0.2 inch to prevent California red-legged frogs from entering the pump system. Water will be released or pumped downstream at an appropriate rate to maintain downstream flows during construction. Upon completion of construction activities, any diversions or barriers to flow will be removed in a manner that allows the flow to resume with the least disturbance to the substrate. Alteration of the streambed will be minimized to the maximum extent possible; any imported material will be removed from the streambed upon completion of the project.
  19. Unless approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, water will not be impounded in a manner that attracts California red-legged frogs.
  20. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will permanently remove any exotic species, such as bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*), signal and red swamp crayfish (*Pacifasticus leniusculus*; *Procambarus clarkii*), and centrarchid fishes from the project area, to the maximum extent possible. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist will be responsible for ensuring that his or her activities comply with the California Fish and Game Code.
  21. If Caltrans demonstrates that disturbed areas have been restored to conditions that allow them to function as habitat for California red-legged frog, these areas will not be included in the amount of total habitat permanently disturbed.

22. To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between work sites by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Task Force will be followed at all times.
23. Project sites will be revegetated with an assemblage of native riparian, wetland, and upland vegetation suitable for the area. Locally collected plant materials will be used to the extent practicable. Invasive exotic plants will be controlled to the maximum extent practicable. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Caltrans determine that it is not feasible or practical.
24. Caltrans will not use herbicides as the primary method for controlling invasive exotic plants. However, if it is determined that the use of herbicides is the only feasible method for controlling invasive plants at a specific project site, the following additional protective measures for the California red-legged frog will be implemented:
  - a) Caltrans will not use herbicides during the breeding season for the California red-legged frog.
  - b) Caltrans will conduct surveys for the California red-legged frog immediately prior to the start of herbicide use. If found, California red-legged frogs will be relocated to suitable habitat far enough from the project area that no direct contact with herbicide would occur.
  - c) Giant reed and other invasive plants will be cut and hauled out by hand and painted with glyphosate-based products, such as Aquamaster® or Rodeo®.
  - d) Licensed and experienced Caltrans personnel or a licensed and experienced contractor will use a hand-held sprayer for foliar application of Aquamaster® or Rodeo® where large monoculture stands occur at an individual project site.
  - e) All precautions will be taken to ensure that no herbicide is applied to native vegetation.
  - f) Herbicides will not be applied on or near open water surfaces (no closer than 60 feet from open water).
  - g) Foliar applications of herbicide will not occur when wind speeds are more than 3 miles per hour.
  - h) No herbicides will be applied within 24 hours of forecast rain.
  - i) Applications of herbicides will be done by qualified Caltrans personnel or contractors to ensure that overspray is minimized, and all applications are in accordance with label recommendations; all required and reasonable safety measures will be implemented. A safe dye will be added to the mixture to visually denote treated sites. Application of herbicides will be consistent with the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs, Endangered Species Protection Program, county bulletins.

- j) All herbicides, fuels, lubricants, and equipment will be stored, poured, or refilled at least 60 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies in a location where a spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat, unless otherwise preapproved by the necessary agencies. Prior to the onset of work, Caltrans will ensure that a plan is in place for a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and taking the appropriate measures should a spill occur.

#### *Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Least Bell's Vireo*

- 25. If feasible and regulatory approvals allow, tree removal and trimming will be scheduled to occur from October 1 and January 31, outside of the typical nesting bird season, to avoid potential impacts on nesting birds. If it is not feasible to conduct this work outside the nesting bird season, nesting bird surveys should be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to the start of construction. If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist will determine an appropriate buffer or a monitoring strategy, based on the habits and needs of the species. The buffer area will be avoided, or the monitoring strategy will be implemented until a qualified biologist has determined that the nest is no longer active.
- 26. If the least Bell's vireo and/or southwestern willow flycatcher is observed within 100 feet of the biological study area during construction, a qualified biologist will implement an exclusion zone. Work will be avoided within the exclusion zone until the least Bell's vireo and/or southwestern willow flycatcher is located more than 100 feet from project-related disturbance. If an active least Bell's vireo and/or southwestern willow flycatcher nest is observed within 100 feet of the biological study area, all project activities will immediately cease, and Caltrans will contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife within 48 hours. If required, Caltrans will then initiate formal Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as well as California Endangered Species Act coordination for least Bell's vireo and/or southwestern willow flycatcher, and implement additional measures as necessary.

#### **Invasive Species (Section 2.3.6)**

The following measures will be implemented to avoid and/or minimize potential invasive species impacts caused by project construction activities.

- 1. During construction, Caltrans will ensure that the spread or introduction of invasive exotic plant species will be avoided to the maximum extent possible.
- 2. Only clean fill will be imported. When practicable, invasive exotic plants in the project site will be removed and properly disposed of. All vegetation removed

- from the construction site will be taken to a landfill to prevent the spread of invasive species. If soil from weedy areas must be removed off-site, the top 6 inches containing the seed layer in areas with weedy species will be disposed of at a landfill as well. Landscape plantings and the erosion-control seed mix will not include any species from the California Invasive Plant Council Invasive Plant Inventory (California Invasive Plant Council 2017).
3. Construction equipment will be free of excessive dirt that may contain weed seed before entering the construction site. If necessary, wash stations, either on-site or off-site, will be established for construction equipment under the guidance of Caltrans to avoid or minimize the spread of invasive plants and/or seed within the construction area.
  4. All giant reed within the project limits will be removed mechanically, removing as much root and rhizome material as possible.
  5. The appropriate herbicide selected, and its application will follow these guidelines:
    - a. Chemical treatments for giant reed will be a glyphosate-based herbicide approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for use near wetlands, such as Aquamaster® or Rodeo®.
    - b. All precautions will be taken to ensure that no herbicide is applied to native vegetation.
    - c. Herbicides will not be applied on or near open water (no closer than 60 feet from open water).
    - d. Foliar applications of herbicide will not occur when wind speeds exceed 3 miles per hour.
    - e. No herbicides will be applied within 24 hours of forecast rain.
    - f. Application of all herbicides will be done by qualified Caltrans personnel or contractors to ensure that overspray is minimized, all applications are made in accordance with label recommendations, and all required and reasonable safety measures are implemented. A safe dye will be added to the mixture to visually denote treated sites. Application of herbicides will be consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs, Endangered Species Protection Program, county bulletins.
    - g. All herbicides, fuels, lubricants, and equipment will be stored, poured, or refilled at least 60 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies in a location where a spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat. Prior to the onset of work, Caltrans will ensure that a plan is in place for a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and taking the appropriate measures should a spill occur.
  6. A follow-up control strategy involving foliar spraying of an appropriate herbicide over the leaves of any re-sprouting giant reed will occur no sooner

- than 21 days in the excavated areas and no later than 42 days in excavated areas. Additional follow-up spraying of any regrowth will be conducted in the next growing season. Licensed and experienced Caltrans personnel or a licensed and experienced contractor will use a hand-held sprayer for follow-up foliar applications of herbicide.
7. On-site mitigation replacement plantings will include native plant species. The erosion-control seed mix will include California native plants that are suitable for the vicinity.

### **Construction Impacts (Section 2.4)**

The project will incorporate the measures listed below to address potential temporary impacts associated with construction activities.

- **Parks and Recreation Facilities**

It is anticipated that temporary impacts on parks and recreational facilities would result from construction activities that generate noise and dust. Measures to address construction-generated noise and dust are discussed in the Noise and Air Quality portions of this section.

- **Emergency Services**

Temporary construction impacts on emergency services are anticipated to be minor as emergency services will still be allowed to access the project area during construction. The project will coordinate and notify regional emergency service providers of construction related activities to provide advance notice and to allow for planning. Emergency service providers will be notified of any project activities that may have the potential to restrict or prevent emergency service access within the project area. The project will include Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions that pertain to actions and strategies that will help to maintain a safe environment for construction workers and the traveling public.

- **Traffic and Transportation**

Temporary construction impacts on traffic and transportation is anticipated to be minor as traffic access will be maintained within the project area. The project will include Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions that pertain to traffic management and traffic control. Caltrans' traffic management and traffic control will include typical actions and strategies implemented during project construction to maintain traffic access within the project area while keeping the traveling public separated from construction activities. These strategies will include but is not limited to: reduction of travel lanes to allow for construction to occur and traffic to continue simultaneously, reduction of the speed limit to reduce the potential for traffic incidents, and installation of construction warning signs to inform the public.

To minimize impact to traffic as a result of short-term temporary ramp closures, the following will be implemented: ramp closures will not exceed 12 continuous hours, ramp closures will not occur for more than two consecutive days, ramp



closures will occur outside of normal peak traffic hours and ramp closures will occur at night when feasible and appropriate.

- Air Quality

Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions pertaining to dust control and dust palliative application are required for all project construction to effectively reduce and control impacts related to temporary construction emissions. The provisions for Caltrans' Standard Specifications Section 10-5, Dust Control, and Section 14-9, Air Pollution Control, require the contractor to comply with all California Air Resources Board and Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District rules, ordinances, and regulations. In addition, the project-level Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will provide water pollution control measures that will cross-correlate with standard dust emission minimization measures, such as covering soil stockpiles, watering haul roads, watering excavation and grading areas, and so on. Furthermore, the project will include Caltrans' Standard Specifications and Caltrans' Standard Special Provisions pertaining to the collection and containment of debris and trash in order to effectively capture all waste materials, thereby preventing any materials from entering the creek or migrating off-site during windy conditions. All stockpiled construction debris should, at a minimum, be covered daily or be off-hauled as soon as possible.

- Noise

In addition to Caltrans' Standard Specification Section 14-8, Noise and Vibration, the following control measures will be implemented to minimize noise and vibration during periods of construction:

- a) Use equipment with manufacturer's recommended noise abatement measures, such as mufflers, engine enclosures and engine vibration isolators intact and operational. All construction equipment should be inspected at periodic intervals during construction to ensure proper maintenance and presence of noise control devices.
- b) Notify surrounding residences in advance of the construction schedule when unavoidable construction noise and upcoming construction activities are anticipated to produce an adverse noise environment above the local ambient noise. This notice will be given 2 weeks in advance. Notices should be published in local news media with the dates and duration of proposed construction activity. The District 5 Public Information Office posts notices of proposed construction and potential community impacts after receiving notice from the resident engineer.
- c) Include the following general measures in the resident engineer folder and implement as appropriate to further minimize temporary construction noise impacts:
  - I. Whenever possible, limit all phases of construction to acceptable hours, Monday through Friday.
  - II. Shield especially loud pieces of stationary construction equipment.

- III. Locate portable generators, air compressors, etc., away from sensitive noise receptors.
- IV. Limit the grouping of major pieces of equipment that operate in one area to the greatest extent feasible.
- V. Place heavily trafficked construction areas, such as the maintenance yard, as well as equipment, tools, and construction-oriented operations, in locations that would be least disruptive to surrounding sensitive noise receptors.
- VI. Consult the district's noise staff if complaints are received during the construction process.

## **Appendix H** Required Consultation and Concurrence Documentation

---

This appendix contains the required consultations and concurrence documentation obtained for the project. Documentations have been retyped for readability. Documentation were retyped with acronyms, abbreviations and any original grammatical or typographical errors. Contents of documentation relevant to the project are presented.

### ***Federal Highway Administration***

Air Quality Conformity Determination, May 29, 2019

#### **Transportation Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist (Rev. October 2012)**

Project Name: San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement

Dist-Co-Rte-PM: 05-SB-101-21.62

EA: 05-1H430

Federal-Aid No: 0516000073

Document Type: Environmental Assessment

**Step 1.** *Is the project located in a nonattainment or maintenance area for ozone, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide (CO), PM<sub>2.5</sub>, or PM<sub>10</sub> per EPA's Green Book listing of non-attainment areas?*

*If no, go to Step 16. Transportation conformity does not apply to the project.*

*If yes, go to Step 2.*

Project Determination: No

**Step 16.** STOP as all air quality conformity requirements have been met.

Signed: Rajvi Koradia

Title: Caltrans Transportation Engineer

Date 05/29/19

## **United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

Letter of Concurrence, May 11, 2020

Formal Consultation on the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project, Santa Barbara County, California, Utilizing the Programmatic Biological Opinion for Projects Funded or Approved Under the Federal Highway Administration Federal Aid Program (8-8-10-F-58) (Project Number 0516000073/EA 05-1H430)

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

We are responding to your letter, dated April 24, 2020, and received in our office via email on April 24, 2020, regarding the San Jose River Bridge Replacement Project (project), Santa Barbara County, California. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has determined that the proposed project is likely to adversely affect the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) and meets the criteria for inclusion under the Programmatic Biological Opinion for Projects Funded or Approved under the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Aid Program (PBO; 8-8-10-F-58; Service 2011). You also determined that the proposed project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect federally endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). The proposed project would not occur within designated critical habitat for any of the species. Our response is provided in accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and it based on the biological assessment (Caltrans 2019) that accompanied your request, and other information in our files.

### Project Description

The northbound State Route 101 onramp from North Patterson in Santa Barbara County has a nonstandard merge taper length. In order to meet the Highway Design Manual Standards, the merge taper length must be increased from 300 feet to 600 feet. This would result in the northbound State Route 101 pavement being widened to the outside, and the northbound State Route 101 bridge deck further widened approximately 7 feet. This widening would occur on the northern, upstream side of the project area. Caltrans proposes to utilize bridge elements that are constructed in advance and off-site to facilitate quicker bridge construction. The proposed project would implement cast in drilled hole piles when constructing bridge abutments and no new permanent structures would be placed within the creek channel. Construction activities are anticipated to require approximately 187 to 220 working days in 2023 and 2024, with work in the creek to occur only in dry season (June 1 and October 31) when the creek is low or not flowing.

Temporary impacts to California red-legged frog habitat would total 0.742 acre, and permanent impacts would amount to 0.059 acre.

#### California Red-Legged Frog

California red-legged frogs were not observed during reconnaissance surveys at the project area; however, species specific surveys were not conducted. The project area is located with a rural-residential area, with suitable aquatic and upland habitat for the species being confined to the river channel and banks. Specific pre-construction surveys for California red-legged frog will be conducted prior to the start of the project.

The closest recorded observation of the California red-legged frog is approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the project area. However, the species has the potential to occur at the project site as suitable upland and aquatic non-breeding habitat is present.

#### Programmatic Biological Opinion for California Red-Legged Frog

Under the administration of the PBO (Service 2011), Caltrans is required to notify us of project activities that may adversely affect the California red-legged frog and its designated critical habitat. Caltrans has assumed the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) responsibilities under the Act for the proposed action in accordance with Section 1313, Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program, of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) of 2012, as described in the National Environmental Policy Act assignment Memorandum of Understanding between FHWA and Caltrans (effective October 1, 2012) and codified in 23 U.S.C. 327.

#### Conclusion

Caltrans has determined that the proposed project may affect, and is likely to adversely affect, the California red-legged frog and requests these effects be addressed using the PBO. Caltrans has determined that the project meets the four criteria outlined in the PBO for projects likely to result in adverse effects to the California red-legged frog, but would not affect the long-term viability of the population in the action area. Project effects of this nature were analyzed in the PBO under the Effects of the Action section (Service 2011, pp. 29-34). Caltrans proposes to implement the measures outlined in the PBO for avoiding and minimizing effects to the California red-legged frog. We also concur that the project is consistent with and appropriate for inclusion under the PBO.

#### Least Bell's Vireo and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

No protocol surveys were conducted for southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo. There are no known records for either southwestern willow flycatcher or least Bell's vireo along San Jose Creek. The nearest records for

southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo are over 24 miles away along the Santa Ynez River in Santa Barbara County. While San Jose Creek contains riparian tree habitat, areas within the project area were assessed by Caltrans to be marginal habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo because they lack dense riparian vegetative cover low to the ground, and the riparian corridor lacks a stratified canopy. Southwestern willow flycatcher and least Bell's vireo were determined by Caltrans to have a very low potential for occurrence.

If least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher, are observed within 100 feet of construction activities, a qualified biologist will implement an exclusion zone and work shall be avoided within the exclusion zone until they are located greater than 100 feet from project-related disturbance. If an active least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher nest is observed within 100 feet of the project area, all project activities will immediately cease and Caltrans will contact the Service and other relevant agencies within 48 hours. If necessary, Caltrans will then initiate formal consultation with the Service for the effected species.

We concur with your determination that the proposed project may effect, but is not likely to adversely affect least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher. Our concurrences are based on the distribution of the species, the suitability of habitat in the project area, and the aforementioned avoidance measures.

If the proposed action changes in any manner that may affect a listed species, you must contact us immediately to determine whether additional consultation is required. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Strotman of my staff at (805) 677-3343, or by electronic mail at [jennifer\\_strotman@fws.gov](mailto:jennifer_strotman@fws.gov).

Sincerely,  
Christopher Diel  
Assistant Field Supervisor

***United States Fish and Wildlife Service***

Updated Species List, August 17, 2020

Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2019-SLI-0707

Event Code: 08EVEN00-2020-E-01217

Project Name: San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement 05-1H430

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

### **Official Species List**

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

This species list is provided by:

Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, CA 93003-7726  
(805) 644-1766

### **Project Summary**

Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2019-SLI-0707

Event Code: 08EVEN00-2020-E-01217

Project Name: San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement 05-1H430

Project Type: TRANSPORTATION

Project Description: Due to reactive aggregate in the concrete, the two SR-101 bridges over San Jose Creek need to be replaced. Additional work on the median barrier and a retaining wall will be required. Work will require access to the creek.

Project Location: Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/34.441070525600395N119.81544961283764W>

Counties: Santa Barbara, California

### **Endangered Species Act Species**

There is a total of 13 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

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

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

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

## Birds

### California Least Tern *Sterna antillarum browni*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104>

Status: Endangered

### Least Bell's Vireo *Vireo bellii pusillus*

There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945>

Status: Endangered

### Light-footed Clapper Rail *Rallus longirostris levipes*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6035>

Status: Endangered

### Marbled Murrelet *Brachyramphus marmoratus*

Population: U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA)

There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4467>

Status: Threatened

### Southwestern Willow Flycatcher *Empidonax traillii extimus*

There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749>

Status: Endangered

### Western Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus nivosus*

Population: Pacific Coast population DPS-U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA), Mexico (within 50 miles of Pacific coast)

There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8035>

Status: Threatened

## Amphibians

### California Red-legged Frog *Rana draytonii*

There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.



Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/289> 1  
Status: Threatened

## Fishes

Tidewater Goby *Eucyclogobius newberryi*

There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/57>  
Status: Endangered

## Crustaceans

Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*

There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498>  
Status: Threatened

## Flowering Plants

Contra Costa Goldfields *Lasthenia conjugens*

There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7058>  
Status: Endangered

Gambel's Watercress *Rorippa gambellii*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4201>  
Status: Endangered

Marsh Sandwort *Arenaria paludicola*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2229>  
Status: Endangered

Salt Marsh Bird's-beak *Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *maritimus*

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.

Species profile: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6447>  
Status: Endangered

## Critical habitats

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

**National Marine Fishery Service**

Consultation Letter, July 31, 2020

NMFS No: WCRO-2020-00991

Endangered Species Act Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion for the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project at SR-101 in Santa Barbara County (EA 05-1H430).

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

On April 23, 2020, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) received the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) request for formal consultation under Section 7 of the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). This request concerns the SR-101 Bridge Replacement over San Jose Creek. The proposed action is within range of the endangered southern California (SC) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and designated critical habitat for the species. This consultation was conducted in accordance with the 2019 revised regulations that implement section 7 of the ESA (50 CFR 402, 84 FR 45016).

The biological opinion concludes that the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the endangered SC DPS of steelhead or destroy or adversely modify its designated critical habitat. NMFS believes the proposed action is likely to result in incidental take of steelhead, therefore, the attached incidental take statement includes the amount and extent of anticipated incidental take with reasonable and prudent measures and non-discretionary terms and conditions to minimize and monitor incidental take of endangered steelhead.

Please contact Jess Adams at [jessica.adams@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.adams@noaa.gov) if you have a question concerning this consultation, or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,  
Alecia Van Atta  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
California Coastal Office

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7(a)(2) Biological Opinion

San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement at SR-101

NMFS Consultation Number: WCRO-2020-00991

Action Agency: California Department of Transportation

Affected Species and NMFS' Determination:

ESA-Listed Species: Southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Status: Endangered

Is Action Likely to Adversely Affect Species? - Yes

Is Action Likely to Jeopardize the Species? - No

Is Action Likely to Adversely Affect Critical Habitat? - Yes

Is Action Likely to Destroy or Adversely Modify Critical Habitat? - No

Consultation Conducted By: National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region

Issued By: Alecia Van Atta, Assistant Regional Administrator, California Coastal Office

Date: July 31, 2020

***National Marine Fishery Service***

Updated Species List, August 17, 2020

Caltrans San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project, 05-1H430

Quad Name: **Goleta**

Quad Number: **34119-D7**

**ESA Anadromous Fish**

SONCC Coho ESU (T) – N/A

CCC Coho ESU (E) – N/A

CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) – N/A

CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) – N/A

SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) – N/A

NC Steelhead DPS (T) – N/A

CCC Steelhead DPS (T) – N/A

SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) – N/A

SC Steelhead DPS (E) – **PRESENT**

CCV Steelhead DPS (T) – N/A

Eulachon (T) – N/A

sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) - **PRESENT**

**ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat**

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat – N/A

CCC Coho Critical Habitat – N/A

CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat – N/A

CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat – N/A

SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat – N/A

NC Steelhead Critical Habitat – N/A

CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat – N/A

SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat – N/A

SC Steelhead Critical Habitat - **PRESENT**

CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat – N/A

Eulachon Critical Habitat – N/A

sDPS Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat – N/A

**ESA Marine Invertebrates**

Range Black Abalone (E) - **PRESENT**

Range White Abalone (E) - **PRESENT**

**ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat**

Black Abalone Critical Habitat – N/A

**ESA Sea Turtles**

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) - **PRESENT**

Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) - **PRESENT**

Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) - **PRESENT**

North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) - **PRESENT**

**ESA Whales**

Blue Whale (E) - **PRESENT**

Fin Whale (E) - **PRESENT**

Humpback Whale (E) - **PRESENT**

Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) - **PRESENT**

North Pacific Right Whale (E) - **PRESENT**

Sei Whale (E) - **PRESENT**

Sperm Whale (E) - **PRESENT**

**ESA Pinnipeds**

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) - **PRESENT**

Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat – N/A

**Essential Fish Habitat**

Coho EFH – N/A

Chinook Salmon EFH – N/A

Groundfish EFH - **PRESENT**

Coastal Pelagics EFH - **PRESENT**

Highly Migratory Species EFH - **PRESENT**

**MMPA Species (See list at left)**

**ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds**

**See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office**

**562-980-4000**

MMPA Cetaceans - **PRESENT**

MMPA Pinnipeds – **PRESENT**

*This page intentionally left blank*

# **Appendix I**

## **Comment Letters and Responses**

---

This appendix contains the comments received during the public circulation and comment period from April 13, 2020 to May 27, 2020. Comments were retyped verbatim, with acronyms, abbreviations and any original grammatical or typographical errors. A Caltrans response follows each comment.

The Notice of Completion was submitted to California State Clearinghouse on April 13, 2020. California State Clearing house has confirmed that the public review period started on April 13, 2020 and ended on May 27, 2020.

### ***Comments from the California Highway Patrol***

*April 20, 2020*

*Submitted by Cindy Pontes via email to the California State Clearinghouse*

Good Afternoon,

The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Project fall within the Santa Barbara California Highway Patrol Area's jurisdiction. We have reviewed the environmental impact documentation and conferred with the lead agency. We have determined there to be no impact to the Santa Barbara Area's local operation and/or public safety by SCH# 2019129047.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Cindy Pontes  
Captain  
Santa Barbara Area

### ***Caltrans' response to California Highway Patrol***

Thank you for your comment.

Caltrans will continue to coordinate with California Highway Patrol on this project and will inform California Highway Patrol when the project begins construction.

**Comment from the Regional Water Quality Control Board**

May 6, 2020

Submitted by Phillip Hammer via email

Dear Mr. Fowler:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment for the U.S. Route 101 San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project. The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board) is a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), charged with protecting water quality and beneficial uses of water of the State. We offer the following comments on the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for your review.

1. The announcement of the public comment period received from the City of Goleta on April 10, 2020, states that the project “would also include a standard bicycle pedestrian path on the northbound side of State Route 217.” However, the project description in the MND does not appear to include this aspect of the project and no analysis is provided. The MND should clarify whether the bicycle pedestrian path is part of the project and provide environmental assessment of the path if necessary.
2. Section 3.2.10 - Hydrology and Water Quality, part a), states that impacts to water quality will be less than significant through the implementation of permanent and temporary stormwater best management practices (BMPs) and Caltrans’ Standard Specifications. While permanent post-construction stormwater BMPs are mentioned, the evaluation appears to only consider impacts during the construction phase of the project. Roads, highways, and bridge can be a significant source of pollutants to state waters following construction. The MND should evaluate post-construction stormwater impacts and describe measures that will be implemented to reduce these impacts to less than significant levels such as through implementation of post-construction stormwater BMPs.
3. Section 3.2.10 - Hydrology and Water Quality, part c) ii, states there would be no impact through increased rate or amount of stormwater runoff because the project would involve removing existing paved surfaces and decreasing the amount of stormwater runoff. The MND should provide more detailed information justifying this determination. The only impermeable surface reduced by the project appears to be the concrete creek



banks under the bridge that will be replaced with rock slope protection. However, given that most of this area is likely under the impermeable bridge deck, it is not clear how this would factor into a reduction of stormwater runoff. The MND should clarify and/or reassess project impacts on stormwater runoff and proposed mitigation if necessary.

4. In light of the comments above, the MND should described the post-construction stormwater BMPs and any other approaches Caltrans will be using to treat and otherwise control stormwater runoff from the highway entering San Jose Creek.

If you have any questions please contact Mark Cassady at (805) 549-3689 or [Mark.Cassady@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Mark.Cassady@waterboards.ca.gov) or Phil Hammer at (805) 549-3882 or [Phillip.Hammer@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Phillip.Hammer@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Phil Hammer

for  
Matthew T. Keeling  
Executive Officer

*Caltrans' response to the Regional Water Quality Control Board*

Thank you for your comments.

1. There are currently three separate projects along San Jose Creek, and each has or will have its own environmental analysis and its own environmental document. Caltrans has a bridge project at U.S. Route 101 which is the subject of this document, and a separate bridge project located on Route 217 that has its own environmental document. The City of Goleta is currently conducting the environmental analysis and writing of the environmental document for their San Jose Creek Bike Path Project. The San Jose Creek Bike Path project crosses both Caltrans bridge facilities.
2. Standard project design for Caltrans facilities includes measures such as Best Management Practices to address temporary and permanent stormwater run-off. Temporary measures for this project will include examples presented in section 2.2.2 - Water Quality and Stormwater Runoff. The project is not required to implement permanent Best Management Practices for stormwater runoff because the project will not create more than 1.0 acre of new impermeable area in the project area. Instead

the project will result in the reduction of total impermeable area within the project area. However, the project's design will consider incorporating permanent measures such as full trash capture systems due to the high levels of trash generation that occurs in the project area.

3. The new bridge structure dimension and design will be similar to the existing bridge structure. The existing bridge deck is approximately 100 feet long and 114 feet wide, with a surface area of about 11,400 square feet. The new bridge deck will be approximately 100 feet long and 129 feet wide, giving it a surface area of about 12,900 square feet. The new bridge deck would add about 1,500 square feet of impermeable surface, about 12 percent larger than the existing bridge. However, the project will also remove more than 7,000 square feet of existing impermeable concrete creek bank from the project area and replace them with permeable rock slope protection for an overall reduction of 5,500 square feet of impermeable surface. More than 6,000 square feet of the new rock slope protection will be placed outside the shadow of the new bridge deck. Overall, the project will result in the reduction of impermeable surfaces within the project area and is expected to help reduce stormwater runoff and increase ground infiltration in the project area.
4. The project will include temporary Best Management Practices that are presented in section 2.2.2 - Water Quality and Stormwater Runoff. Permanent Best Management Practices are not required for the project, but the project will consider incorporating full trash capture systems since the project is located in a significantly high trash generating area.

***Comment from the County of Santa Barbara***

*May 27, 2020*

*Submitted by Nancy Anderson for Lisa Plowman, via email*

Dear Matthew Fowler,

The County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department has reviewed the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the San Jose Creek US 101 Bridge Replacement Project and appreciates the opportunity to provide the comments listed below.

The Affected Environment Section of the MND provides a detailed description of the City of Goleta's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, specifically the proposed San Jose Multipurpose Path (Multipurpose

Path). Segment 2 of the middle extent of the Multipurpose Path will traverse the Caltrans right of way, and as a result, has required ongoing coordination between the City of Goleta and Caltrans on these projects. In addition, the City's Multipurpose Path is an important link in the network of existing and planned trails that run, in part, through the unincorporated County.

Consequently, the final dimensions and design of the San Jose Creek U.S. Route 101 Bridge should accommodate potential Multipurpose Path design and configuration options, and ensure contouring is suitable for the Multipurpose Path underneath the bridge. Caltrans should also continue to coordinate with the City of Goleta in order to ensure both projects are compatible with one another. The accommodations of the Proposed Project's design for the Multipurpose Path and coordination between these agencies on both projects will not only benefit the City Multipurpose Path, but also the entire multimodal trail network throughout the County's south coast.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Proposed MND. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me at (805) 568-2086 or Mr. Dan Klemann at (805) 568-2072.

Regards

Lisa Plowman, Director  
Planning & Development Department

CC: Dan Klemann, Deputy Director, Long Range Planning Division  
Whitney Wilkinson, Senior Planner, Planning and Development  
Department  
Peter Imhof, Planning and Environmental Review Director, 130  
Cremona Drive, Suite B Goleta CA  
93117, pimhof@cityofgoleta.org  
File

#### *Caltrans' response to the County of Santa Barbara*

Thank you for your comments.

Caltrans understands the importance of maintaining a partnership with the City of Goleta for the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project and for the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project. Caltrans will continue to make considerable effort to ensure our partnership with the City of Goleta will allow for the two projects to provide benefits to the intermodal connectivity of the region. Caltrans is interested in adding the section of the multipurpose path that is within the limits of the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project as a feature of the new bridge

structure with the goal of supporting the multipurpose path that is being planned by the City of Goleta. Adding the section of the multipurpose path into the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project will be considered once the City of Goleta completes environmental studies, obtains environmental clearance under CEQA and NEPA, and approves final design plans for their San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project.

***Comment from the City of Goleta***

*May 26, 2020*

*Submitted by Teresa Lopes via email*

Dear Mr. Fowler,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the two Initial Studies with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declarations for the San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement Projects on U.S. Route 101 and U.S. Route 217. The bridge projects both contain components that are located within the City of Goleta (City) and have the potential to create impacts that will affect the City. Based upon our review of the proposed MND/EA, the City offers the following comments:

**Coordination and Authorization:** If City roadways will be used for any component of the project (e.g., haul routes, access routes, etc.) or if any other operations of any sort will be conducted within the City's jurisdictional boundary (e.g., installation of BMPs, construction or detour signage, staging or storage of equipment, etc.), Caltrans must first coordinate with City Public Works staff and receive prior approvals from the City for such operations.

**Detoured Truck Traffic:** Page 16 of the Route 217 IS/MND states that a detour will be needed for truck traffic, but later on page 108, it states that there will not be a need for detours. If truck traffic will be detoured onto City streets, the detour route must be reviewed and approved by the City.

**Permits and Approvals Needed:** Section 1.7 of the Route 217 IS/MND should include both the City of Goleta and the County of Santa Barbara as agencies with review and permit authority over a component of the proposed project and Section 1.7 of the Route 101 IS/MND should include the City of Goleta.

**Discussion and Reference to the San Jose Creek Bike Path / San Jose Multipurpose Path Project:** There are some inconsistencies/errors in the State Route 217 IS/MND when describing the City of Goleta's San Jose Creek Bike Path Project.

- Page 29, under Regional discussion of consistency with State, Regional and Local Plans and Programs, states that SBCAG Regional Active Transportation Plan includes the San Jose Creek Bike Path as a proposed “Class II” bicycle facility. Figure 4 of the SBCAG Regional Active Transportation Plan, adopted in August 2015, shows the San Jose Creek Bike Path as a proposed Class I bicycle facility.
- Page 35, under Regional Local Active Transportation Plans in the discussion regarding the potential for avoiding and minimizing construction conflicts between the SR 217 Bridge Replacement Project and San Jose Creek Bike Path Project; the 2nd and 3rd paragraphs talk about construction of the bike path “underneath” the proposed new bridge. The proposed bike path is not located underneath the proposed new bridge but instead will pass beneath SR 217 in a separate box culvert/tunnel located immediately to the north of the proposed new bridge.
- Page 127, Table 2-9 “Cumulative Project List”; under the discussion of the San Jose Creek Bike Path – Middle and Southern Extents, the Middle Extent project is proposed as a Class I Bike Path not a “Class II” as is currently listed in the table.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the MND/EA for the U.S. 101 San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project and the IS/MND for the State Route 217 San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project, and for your time and consideration of the comments and concerns we have highlighted. Please feel free to contact me by email at [cebeling@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:cebeling@cityofgoleta.org) or by phone (805) 961-7569, or our Deputy Public Works Director James Campero at [jcampero@cityofgoleta.org](mailto:jcampero@cityofgoleta.org) or (805) 961-7561 if you have any questions, need additional information, or would like to discuss our comments.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Ebeling, P. E., T.E  
City of Goleta, Director of Public Works

CC: Michelle Greene, City Manager  
Peter T. Imhof, Planning & Environmental Review Director  
James Campero, Deputy Public Works Director  
Teresa Lopes, Senior Project Engineer  
Anne Wells, Advance Planning Manager  
J. Ritterbeck, Senior Planner

*Caltrans' response to the City of Goleta*

Thank you for your comments

Regarding your comments on the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration / Environmental Assessment for the U.S. Route 101 San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement, Caltrans will continue to coordinate with the City of Goleta during Caltrans' project design process to ensure that the project will result in minimal disturbance to existing infrastructure within the City of Goleta. Prior to the start of project construction, or any project related detours on local jurisdiction roadways, it is Caltrans' standard practice for the project to be coordinated with the appropriate local authority.

Regarding your comments on the Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration / Environmental Assessment for the State Route 217 San Jose Creek Bridge replacement Project, these comments are addressed separately in the Final Environmental Document for that project. None of the comments related to the San Jose Creek Bridge on State Route 217 will be addressed in this document to avoid confusion between projects.

***Comment from the Urban Creek Council***

*May 27, 2020*

*Submitted by Daniel McCarter, via email*

Dear Matthew Fowler,

Santa Barbara Urban Creeks Council (UCC) has served as an advocate for sound watershed planning on the south coast of Santa Barbara County over the past 30 years. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit that has worked for the interests of over 3000 members and families in protecting irreplaceable resources and in restoring functional integrity and wildlife diversity to natural systems where urbanization and other impacts have degraded the landscape. Our members value biologically productive waterways, safe and clean creeks and wetlands, and healthful coastal resources. San Jose Creek watershed is among the largest in the City of Goleta and on the south coast of Santa Barbara County and is also recognized as an important steelhead recovery creek, warranting your careful attention to concerns that are shared throughout the community.

**Watershed Planning**

As a partner in planning for regional needs, Cal-Trans has a responsibility to work with the City of Goleta, and other agencies to

address flooding safety and systematic needs of San Jose Creek, not as an isolated project, but as part of a larger watershed. Within San Jose Creek there are functional deficiencies and specific needs that will not be adequately addressed unless agencies, stakeholders, and property owners all work together to recognize and solve problems. Decisions made by Cal-Trans in this and other bridge projects within the San Jose Creek watershed need to dovetail carefully with goals and objectives of the city and other agencies. They should also reflect the needs and values of people who live, work and do business in the area.

There is also a responsibility to plan for increased flooding potentials that will come with climate change. The Hwy 101 bridge replacement spanning San Jose Creek must be designed to serve watershed needs for many decades into the future. Within that period of time, climate scientists predict that much greater storm intensity will bring increased flows from upstream, and that sea level rise will also increase coastal stream elevations. You have a responsibility to anticipate these changes, and to make design considerations that will allow the City of Goleta to adapt successfully to climate change.

#### Flood Plain Reconnection – Climate Change Resilience

As part of a strategy that would allow the City of Goleta to adapt to serious flooding threat due to climatic change, UCC offers a recommendation. Please extend the length of the bridge to accommodate a process for long-term safety and flood reduction for downstream properties and coastal wetlands. Increasing the reach of the bridge to allows greater access to the flood plain. This will accommodate more frequent higher flows that are predicted to result from climate change. Greater access to the flood plain will ensure that the City of Goleta, the Old Town Community, and an important economic sector on the south coast has a partner in facing climate-change related inundation that could seriously impact neighborhoods and businesses along San Jose Creek during the life-span of the new bridge.

#### Habitat

UCC asks that you restore the concrete drainage on the east side of the creek south of Calle Real to riparian habitat which could serve as a bioswale to improve water quality, benefit of wildlife, and contribute positively to the creek ecosystem. Similarly, the terraces and spaces created by extending the bridge should be revegetated by restoration of native riparian habitat. We ask that native riparian vegetation be robustly restored in the freeway right-of-way both north and south of the bridge. The design should also accommodate the San Jose Creek bikeway to be built under the bridge along the creek bank without

negatively impacting the creek. Extending the bridge length as suggested above to allow for long-term resilience to extreme storm events will allow for this. And lastly, lighting of a bike path under the bridge should be minimized. Wildlife habitat must be shielded from light to allow nocturnal activities. Creek corridors are critical movement corridors used by wildlife that allow for habitat connectivity and access to water.

We hope that these comments and suggestions are helpful to you and to the City of Goleta in planning for recovery of degraded resources, and in planning for the challenges of Climate change adaptation.

Sincerely,

Dan McCarter  
President

eh:

CC: City of Goleta  
Goleta TAC  
Coastal Conservancy  
Goleta Slough Management  
Santa Barbara County

*Caltrans' response to the Urban Creek Council*

Thank you for your comments.

This project was originally proposed to address the issues that have been identified with the existing bridge structure and is limited to addressing the project's purpose and need. Project activities are limited to the immediate area surrounding the existing bridge location. Project investigations have determined that the project site is well outside of the coastal zone and is not in an area that would be significantly affected by sea level rise. The project does include design elements that would improve existing conditions on San Jose Creek.

The project will remove the existing bridge piers that are located in the creek channel and reduce obstructions to creek flow. The project will remove the concrete paved banks and replace them with rock slope protection which will increase permeability in the creek channel. Removal of existing bridge piers is anticipated to contribute to improvements to the watershed by restoring the creek to a more natural condition. The removal of piers in the creek channel and the removal of the concrete paved banks will also increase the amount of open space that is under the bridge. The increased space under the



bridge is anticipated to better accommodate large creek flows in the event of a storm or flood.

Bioswales are typically mitigation measures required for projects that negatively affect water quality or storm water runoff. The project does not plan to include a bioswale because the project will not negatively affect water quality or storm water runoff. However, the project will consider the use of bioswales in the project area. The project will replant native plant species appropriate for the region on all areas disturbed by project activities.

Caltrans and the City of Goleta are continuing to coordinate and collaborate to develop final design materials for the bikeway that is located under the San Jose Creek Bridge on U.S. Route 101. It is Caltrans goal to include the bike path under the bridge in the project as long as the City of Goleta provides Caltrans with an approved environmental document and completed design materials for the bike path in time with Caltrans' project process. The project currently have no plans or requirements to install any illumination devices underneath the bridge. However, any illumination features on the new bridge structure that is associated with the bike path will be considered and analyzed for appropriateness.

***Comment from Dave De Heras***

*April 13, 2020*

*Submitted via email*

Hi Matt-

I saw caltrans is looking to replace the San Jose Creek bridge, I'm not a civil engineer but I'm just wondering on a bridge with such a short span, how urgent is it to replace the bridge now, or could it be done in 8-10 more years? There are so many other things I'd rather see caltrans spending their limited resources on, mostly highway repaving which is so far behind all across the state. \$22,000,000 is a lot of money to spend on something which brings no noticeable benefit to drivers. And 3 years of construction will be a huge negative to commuters. Obviously bridges need to be safe so if the engineers say it's dangerous now, then I'd be all for the replacement.

Thank you for listening.

Dave De Heras  
Goleta, CA  
805-259-7150  
Sent from my iPhone

*Caltrans' response to Dave De Heras*

Thank you for your comment.

The existing San Jose Creek Bridge consists of separate southbound and northbound bridge structures that were constructed at different times. The existing southbound San Jose Creek Bridge structure was constructed in 1946. The existing northbound San Jose Creek Bridge structure was constructed in 1961. Both of the existing San Jose Creek Bridge structures are more than 50 years old. In addition, the existing bridge structures have not gone through any seismic retrofits or remediations, making the existing bridges at risk in the event of a large earthquake. Past bridge inspections have found cracks developing on the underside of the bridge structures as early as 1976. The bridge has undergone necessary maintenance work and the existing structure is being monitored.

In 2013, Caltrans' engineers conducted a more in-depth inspection and assessment of the existing bridge structure. It was confirmed that alkali-silica reactions were present in the concrete of the bridge, which had formed over time. The presence of alkali-silica reactions is a concern for Caltrans' engineers because these reactions are negatively affecting the structural integrity of the bridge and shortens the lifespan of the bridge. Soon after the 2013 bridge inspections, Caltrans' engineers recommended that the best solution to address alkali-silica reactions in the concrete and to address the aging bridge structure was to replace the existing bridge. There is no method to repair or remove alkali-silica reactions in the concrete. Replacing the affected concrete is the only effective solution. It has been over 7 years since Caltrans' engineers have made their recommendations. Further delaying the bridge replacement would increase the potential risk for issues that could make the bridge unusable.

The existing bridge has undergone regular maintenance to keep it structurally sound and usable to the traveling public. As the existing bridge continues to age and deteriorate, it is expected that more frequent or larger maintenance efforts would be required to keep the bridge structurally sound and usable.

Caltrans is proposing to replace the existing San Jose Creek Bridge to address the multiple issues identified by Caltrans' engineers. Caltrans' engineers anticipate that replacing the existing San Jose Creek Bridge will provide the most benefit to the traveling public. The new bridge structure will ensure public usability while also providing improvements to public safety. The new bridge structure will also require less maintenance, reducing future cost and reducing future disturbance to the public. Caltrans' engineers are in concurrence that the San Jose

Creek replacement project provides the most long-term benefits to the traveling public for relatively low-cost and short-term disturbance.

***Comment from Paul Mocker***

*April 13, 2020*

*Submitted via email*

Mr. Fowler

Thank you for your hard work. I found the update provided to be informative, concise and clear Thank you for that.

That is the plan for routing traffic? What will be the impacts on nearby surface streets Calle Real and Hollister?

Regards

Paul Mocker

***Caltrans' response to Paul Mocker***

Thank you for your comments.

During project construction, traffic access on U.S. Route 101 will remain open. Two lanes will be maintained in both the northbound and southbound direction of U.S. Route 101 for the duration of the project. During project construction, one lane in both the northbound and southbound direction of U.S. Route 101 will be temporarily closed to traffic. The on-ramps and off-ramps on U.S. Route 101 within the project area will remain accessible to traffic during project construction.

The project will involve adjustments on the on-ramps and off-ramps within the project area. To allow for construction work to make the needed ramp adjustments, the project will require short-term ramp closures. These short-term ramp closures would occur at night, typically between 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM, and for no more than 12 hours at a time. On-ramps and off-ramps within the project area are anticipated to remain open during the daytime to avoid impacting daytime traffic. Due to the anticipated small scale, nighttime schedule and short duration of project required ramp work, temporary ramp closure is not anticipated to result in considerable amounts of traffic impacts on the surface streets.

The Calle Real and Hollister Avenue are not anticipated to be significantly affected by nighttime ramp closures because traffic

volumes on surface streets typically decline significantly during nighttime hours. Daytime traffic on Calle Real or Hollister Avenue are not anticipated to be affected by nighttime ramp closures.

Any project related road closures will require Caltrans' standard plans, actions and measures to avoid and minimize potential impacts to traffic. In addition, any local road closures will be planned and coordinated with involved local authorities to ensure appropriate notifications, signage, actions and measures are in place to address any potential local traffic issues.

***Comment from Dawn O'Brien***

*April 13, 2020*

*Submitted via email*

Dear Matt,

As a first-hand witness to the San Jose Creek Debacle south of Hollister, I would like to remind everyone involved how hideous the "new" San Jose Creek looks. Once a thriving waterway, the creek has been virtually destroyed. And, the salmon ladders buckled up and were/are a disaster.

We had a chance in Goleta to have something beautiful and unique for everyone to share for decades to come, if we had opted to create a creek walk, all the way to the Pacific Ocean! It would have included the proposed bike path, bridges over the creek, indigenous landscaping, etc. Something that Santa Barbara does not have. But instead, we destroyed all possibility of preservation, conservation, and natural beauty.

With the intention of 2 roundabouts on Hollister near the creek intersection (A very BAD idea) and a new bridge slated on Hollister, I just don't trust the powers-that-be with any more projects -

Thanks for listening,

Dawn O'Brien  
The Imperial  
320 So. Kellogg Ave  
Goleta

***Caltrans' response to Dawn O'Brien***

Thank you for your comments.

Caltrans is actively trying to improve our facilities to provide benefits to its users while supporting the natural environment. Caltrans' San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project would improve the existing bridge on U.S. Route 101 and improve the existing environmental conditions within the project area. All project activities would occur within existing Caltrans' right-of-way.

The project will remove the existing bridge piers and paved creek banks, resulting in a more open and natural channel appearance. The removal of existing concrete elements in the creek channel will improve the creek's overall condition. The project will also include removal of invasive non-native plants and restore the project area with native plants and landscaping. It is anticipated that the project will result in long-term improvements to the natural environment in the area, while providing a long-term solution to the issues identified on the existing bridge structure.

The project would also support the proposed San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path that is being planned by the City of Goleta. A portion of the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path would be located underneath the new San Jose Creek Bridge. The planned San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path would provide public access between the Pacific Ocean and Calle Real, running along San Jose Creek. Caltrans is particularly interested in the potential for construction of both the new bridge and the bike path within Caltrans' right-of-way at the same time to minimize construction related disturbance.

***Comment from Marian Fuentes***

*April 13, 2020*

*Submitted via email*

Hi Matt,

I love in our old family house on S. Kellogg and we used to play in San Jose Creek all of the time and sit inside the train track bridge when the train would go over - for thrills. What are you going to do about the old train track bridge? I know there will be a bicycle trail going in getting from the south side of the freeway to the north side over to Calle Real which will go under the train track and the freeway. The train track has got to be forever old. I realize you are Caltrans and not the railroad but isn't that going to be addressed? If you can let me know how that will be handled I would appreciate it.

Thank you, Marian

Marian Fuentes  
marianfuentest@yahoo.com  
805-452-2137

*Caltrans' response to Marian Fuentes*

Thank you for your comment.

The San Jose Creek Bridge Replacement project would not involve any work on the existing train bridge that is located south of the San Jose Creek Bridge on U.S. Route 101. Caltrans will be coordinating with the City of Goleta on their San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project, but only for segments that are within Caltrans' right-of-way.

The existing train bridge is owned and maintained by Union Pacific Railroad.

The City of Goleta will be coordinating with Union Pacific Railroad for the City of Goleta's planned San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project. Any work beneath or on the existing Union Pacific Railroad bridge required for the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project would be conducted by the City of Goleta.

***Comment from Jay Gechter***

*April 26, 2020*

*Submitted via email*

Dear Matt,

I am a 20+ year resident on Somerset Drive, north of Hwy 101 just off Kellogg.

My home actually borders San Jose creek.

I am writing you with my concern over noise that will surely occur on the Proposed bridge replacement project. Particularly if construction is to occur during evening hours, as is often the case on Caltrans projects to minimize traffic impact during the day.

The freeway already generates far too much road noise which can roar into my home on several evenings. As no sound barrier / wall exists between Patterson Ave and northbound to Fairview - Nothing will prevent "jack hammer" and overall construction noise from entering the

housing tracts north of Calle Real. (side note, is there any discussion on construction of a sound wall with this project? It would be MOST welcome).

My request is that Caltrans Please ensure / take steps that construction noise over the 2 year life of this project is mitigated, particularly at night so as not to disturb my family's sleep.

Your attention and support on this matter is greatly appreciated.

Kind Regards,

Jay Gechter  
Goleta, Ca.  
805-895-3978 (mobile)

*Caltrans' response to Jay Gechter*

Thank you for your comments.

During the estimated two 2-year duration of the project, most project construction activities will occur during the daytime, typically between the hours of 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Daytime construction activities will account for over 90% of the estimated construction duration. Minor night work is anticipated for this project because project construction can occur while US-101 remains open to traffic. Any project related nighttime work will require Caltrans' standard measures to minimize nighttime disturbances to local residences. It is also Caltrans standard practice to notify the surrounding residents of any scheduled nighttime work and if nighttime work has the potential to cause substantial disturbance.

The project will require temporary traffic management work on the roadway. Traffic management work primarily involves installation and removal of temporary concrete barriers, re-paving, re-striping, and temporary construction signage. Traffic management work will need to occur during nighttime hours, typically between the hours of 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM. However, these nighttime construction activities will be short term and intermittent, limited to no more than two consecutive days at a time. These construction activities may occasionally generate noise levels higher than the existing nighttime ambient noise levels in the project area but would not generate over 86 A-weighted decibels from a distance of 50 feet from the noise source.

The project did not consider the construction of a soundwall because the project will not change the existing traffic noise levels, will not change the exposure of local residences to additional sources of noise

and will not permanently increase the existing ambient noise level in the project area. Caltrans anticipates the ambient noise levels in the project area will be similar between the existing bridge conditions and the new bridge conditions. The ambient noise levels in the project area is relatively high and the temporary noise levels generated by project construction activities is not anticipated to substantially contribute to the existing ambient noise levels. However, the project will minimize potential noise and vibration disturbances to ensure that construction activities will not generate over 86 A-weighted decibels from a distance of 50 feet from the source during nighttime operations. In addition, local residences will be notified in advance if any project construction activities are anticipated to generate substantial short-term noise or vibration levels.

***Comment from Bill Parker***

*May 1, 2020*

*Submitted via email*

Mr. Fowler,

I would like to implore Caltrans and the City of Goleta to work together to make the bike under-crossing happen at the same time the bridge is being rebuilt. I read the report and I have lived in Goleta for almost 60 years. I hiked down the San Jose Creek as a kid and have grown up hearing about a bicycle access under the freeway for years. First with the Santa Barbara county ready to break ground only to be dashed by the new City of Goleta incorporation. Now it's on the list again only to be dashed by the City of Goleta incompetence. We need to make this project happen now. Caltrans is going to have to hold City of Goleta hand to see the pedestrian and bicycle access under the 101 happen. It needs to be done and done now. Please I know how hard the City of Goleta is to work for I work for a Civil Engineering company here in town. I implore you to make this happen. Another ten years is too much and that is what will happen without Caltrans in the lead. I would like to ride my bike under that bridge before I am too old to do it.

Thank you,

Bill Parker

Sent from my iPad



***Caltrans' response to Bill Parker***

Thank you for your comment.

Caltrans is currently working with the City of Goleta on the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project as the Federally delegated NEPA lead on the project. We understand the importance of a working partnership with the City of Goleta to ensure both projects are coordinated with each other. Caltrans is particularly interested in the potential for construction of both the new bridge and the bike path within Caltrans' right-of-way at the same time in order to simplify construction and minimize construction disturbance. Caltrans will continue to make considerable effort to ensure our partnership with the City of Goleta will allow for the two projects to provide benefits to members of the public and to the surrounding natural environment. The environmental studies for the San Jose Creek Multipurpose Path project are moving forward and the City of Goleta has been awarded a grant to fund the multipurpose path which will help ensure the completion of the project.

***Comment from Peter Jorgensen***

*May 26, 2020*

*Submitted via email*

Please include under-bridge bike paths per Goleta city bike master plan.

***Caltrans' response to Peter Jorgensen***

Thank you for your comment.

The City of Goleta's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan that was completed in 2018 does not include final design plans for the under-bridge bike path located at the San Jose Creek Bridge on U.S. Route 101. In order for Caltrans to incorporate the under-bridge path proposed by the City of Goleta's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, Caltrans will need the City of Goleta to provide final design plans for the under-bridge bike path that is located at the San Jose Creek Bridge on U.S. Route 101. Caltrans and the City of Goleta are continuing to coordinate and collaborate to develop final design plans for the under-bridge bike path located at the San Jose Creek Bridge on U.S. Route 101. It is Caltrans goal to include the bike path under the bridge in the project as long as the City of Goleta provides Caltrans with an approved environmental document and completed design materials for the bike path in time with Caltrans' project process.

*This page intentionally left blank*

# List of Technical Studies

---

The following technical studies were used in preparation of this Initial Study/Environmental Assessment:

Structures Preliminary Geotechnical Report: August 19, 2016

Hazardous Waste Technical Memo: February 14, 2018

Air Quality, Noise, and Greenhouse Gas Memo: June 5, 2018

Revised Air Quality, Noise, and Greenhouse Gas Memo: February 12, 2020

Water Quality Assessment: July 6, 2018

Paleontology Assessment: July 6, 2018

Cultural Resources Review: September 10, 2018

Location Hydraulic Study: November 6, 2018

Revised Location Hydraulic Study: February 4, 2020

Visual Impact Assessment: February 12, 2019

Natural Environment Study: March 4, 2019

Natural Environment Study, Addendum: October 23, 2019

To obtain a copy of one or more of these technical studies/reports/memos or the Initial Study document, please send your request to the following email address: [Info-d5@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Info-d5@dot.ca.gov)

Please indicate the project name and project identifying code (under the project name on the cover of this document) and specify the technical report or document you will like a copy of. Provide your name and email address or U.S. postal service mailing address (street address, city, state and zip code).

*This page intentionally left blank*