

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**DISTRICT 6 OFFICE**

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JAN 08 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

January 7, 2020

06-TUL-198-5.76

MND

SHIRK ROAD WIDENING PROJECT

SCH # 2019129049

SENT VIA EMAIL

Mr. Paul Scheibel, Principal Planner
Community Development – Planning Division
City of Visalia
315 E. Acequia Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291

Dear Mr. Scheibel:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to widen Shirk Road from two lanes to four lanes with the addition of an extended culvert. The project site is located approximately 750 feet north of SR 198/Shirk Road interchange.

Caltrans provides the *following comments* consistent with the State's smart mobility goals that support a vibrant economy and sustainable communities:

1. Caltrans anticipates based on the project description that construction and widening of Shirk Road will have a minimal impact to State Highway System (SR 198)
2. Caltrans concurs with the installation of pedestrian/bike facilities, as stated on page 71 of the document, which can encourage alternative modes of transportation.
3. As a point of information, Caltrans' SR 198 Corridor Study provides a conceptual plan to upgrade the existing tight diamond interchange at SR 198 and Shirk Road to a partial cloverleaf (L-9 configuration) interchange in the future.

If you have any other questions, please call Edgar Hernandez at (559) 488-4168.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Navarro".

MICHAEL NAVARRO, Chief
Transportation Planning - North