

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**  
**FOR THE**  
**KILBURN ROAD BRIDGE (38C-0168) OVER ORESTIMBA CREEK**  
**REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

**DATE:** August 26, 2020  
**TO:** Interested Agencies and Individuals  
**FROM:** Stanislaus County Department of Public Works

Stanislaus County (herein referred to as the "County") is the lead agency, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), for preparation of a Focused Environmental Impact Report (EIR) that addresses the potential impacts of the proposed Kilburn Road Bridge (Br. No. 38C0168) over Orestimba Creek Replacement Project (herein referred to as the Project). The EIR will evaluate potential significant environmental effects associated with implementation of the proposed Project. The County will use the EIR when considering approval of the proposed Project. Responsible Agencies, which are public agencies other than Stanislaus County that also have a role in approving or implementing the Project, will likewise need to consider the EIR prepared by Stanislaus County when issuing approvals for the implementation of the Project. This Notice of Preparation (NOP) was prepared to provide Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, and other Interested Parties with a description of the proposed Project and to identify potential environmental effects pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR]) and State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15082(A), 15103, and 15375.

The scoping comment period begins August 28, 2020 and ends September 27, 2020. Please direct all written comments to: Stanislaus County Department of Public Works, Attention: Mr. Earl Seaberg, 1716 Morgan Street, Modesto, CA 95358; or by e-mail to [seaberge@stancounty.com](mailto:seaberge@stancounty.com). Due to the outbreak of COVID-19 in California (and globally), California Governor Gavin Newsom has announced directives to avoid large public gatherings. In response to these directives, a scoping meeting is not planned at this time. This notice can also be found on the Stanislaus County Public Works website at <http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/projects.shtm>.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Kilburn Road Bridge over Orestimba Creek Replacement Project is located in unincorporated Stanislaus County, California, approximately 0.3 miles southeast from the intersection of Crows Landing and Kilburn Roads, near Crows Landing, Stanislaus County, California (Figures 1 and 2).

**BACKGROUND:** The existing bridge, constructed in 1906, is a steel Warren Pony Truss bridge with steel truss members that were encased in reinforced concrete in 1918. The existing bridge is single span, approximately 62 feet long by 19.7 feet wide, and carries one lane of traffic. Stop signs on either side of the bridge alternate the travel direction. The existing bridge is currently structurally deficient with a sufficiency rating of 23.4. The reinforced concrete that encases the steel truss members is cracked and spalled at numerous locations. In addition, the existing bridge width of 19.7 feet is severely substandard for two-way traffic. The Kilburn Road Bridge is classified as a historic bridge due to its age and unique construction that combines reinforced concrete and steel truss technologies.

The objective of the Project is to improve overall safety and accessibility by replacing the existing structurally deficient bridge; comply with County, Caltrans, and AASHTO design standards for design and construction of the approach roadway and replacement bridge; and accommodate regional and occasional interregional transportation needs including permit loads. The Project would replace the existing two-lane, single-span bridge with a new two-lane, three-span bridge on the same general alignment as the existing bridge. The existing bridge would be removed and then the new bridge constructed. The demolition of a historic structure cannot be mitigated to less than significant under CEQA; therefore, the County will prepare a CEQA EIR.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Stanislaus County, in cooperation with Caltrans, proposes to replace the existing Kilburn Road Bridge with a new three-span bridge that would be approximately 95 feet long and 34.8 feet wide, accommodating an 11-foot lane and 2-foot shoulder in each direction. Construction of the new bridge will involve building piers within the creek channel located approximately 28.5 feet from the abutments and approximately 38 feet apart. With the bridge replacement, Kilburn Road would horizontally be similar to existing while the vertical profile would be revised in order the bridge to clear the 50-year flood water elevation. Realignment of the roadway profile would require a reconfiguration of the private driveways on both sides of the bridge. This roadway alignment design would provide a safer roadway for the traveling public.

A retaining wall may be constructed on the south side of the eastern roadway approach to the bridge to protect the existing water pump system. A slope easement or retaining wall may be required on the north side of the western roadway approach to the bridge.

The proposed roadway alignment may require some existing overhead utility poles to be relocated. The proposed bridge would be constructed on the same general alignment as the existing bridge; therefore, Kilburn Road will be closed to traffic until construction is complete. A detour along Crows Landing Road, Morris Road, and JT Crow Road would be available to allow for the closure of Kilburn Road while the connection from new to existing roadway is made. Detour travel between the Crows Landing Road / Kilburn Road Intersection and the JT Crow Road / Kilburn Road Intersection would be approximately 1.7 miles for through travelers and just over 2 miles for the residences near the existing Kilburn Road Bridge.

Dewatering activities will be required for construction of the new bridge. Dams will be placed upstream and downstream of the bridge and culverts will allow the flow to continue through the work area.

The project has been funded by the Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP), and recently the Federal Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Program (MAP-21). Caltrans is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The County is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

**SCOPE OF THE EIR:** Following receipt of input during the comment period, the County will prepare a Draft EIR that will describe the Project and alternatives (including a no project alternative as required by CEQA) and will identify the potential environmental effects and mitigation measures that may be necessary to minimize or avoid such effects. The Draft EIR will be made available for public review and input for a 45-day review period. The County will consider all comments received and will prepare a Final EIR which identifies any necessary changes to the Draft and provides responses to all comments on the Draft. The County Board of

Supervisors will consider certification of the Final EIR prior to approval of actions required for undertaking the Project.

The EIR will contain full analysis of both the construction (short-term) and operational (long-term) impacts of the Project on the following environmental resource area: cultural resources. The following issues are likely to have no impacts or to be less than significant and will be briefly discussed in the EIR: aesthetics, air quality, agriculture and forestry, biological resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, traffic and transportation, and utilities.

Below is a brief summary of potential effects to be discussed in detail in the EIR:

**Cultural Resources** – The existing Kilburn Road Bridge was determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as part of a historic truss bridge inventory conducted by Caltrans in the 1980s; the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with Caltrans' determination regarding NRHP eligibility in 1985. The EIR will evaluate the removal of the existing historic bridge, which would result in significant and unavoidable impacts to cultural resources. The EIR will recommend mitigation fieldwork, and archival documentation to minimize impacts.

**Tribal Cultural Resources** – The EIR will also include the results of consultation with Native American representatives in an effort to preserve and mitigate potential impacts to tribal cultural resources.

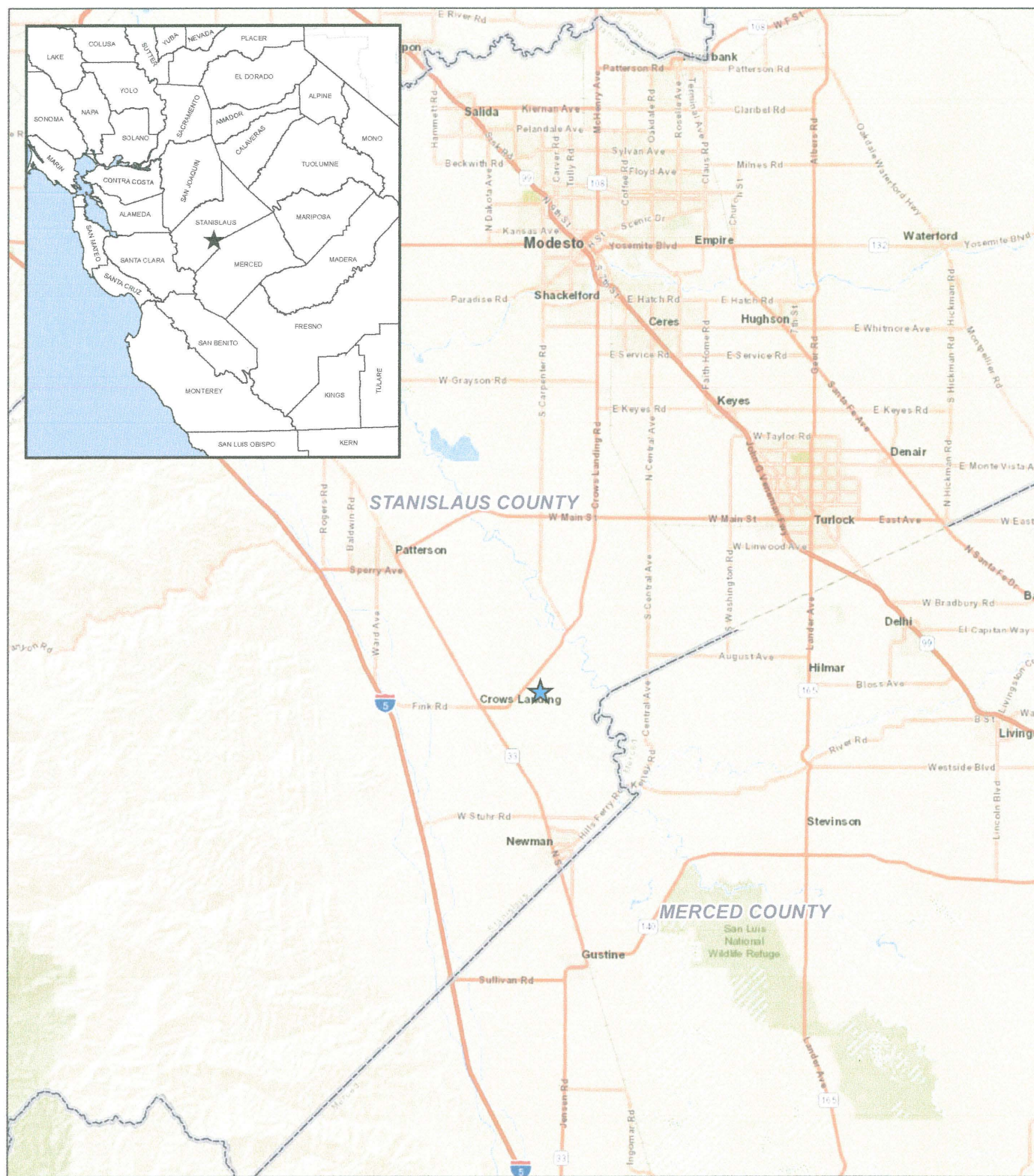
Lastly, the EIR will evaluate the CEQA required assessment conclusions including: Cumulative Impacts, Growth Inducing Impacts, Effects found not to be Significant, Unavoidable Significant Environmental Impacts, and Significant Irreversible Changes.

#### **ATTACHED FIGURES**

Figure 1: Project Location

Figure 2: Project Area

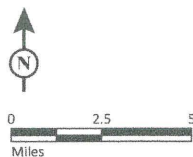
Figure 3: Project Design



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### Project Location



SOURCE: ESRI World Street Map (01/2020)

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FIGURE 1

Kilburn Road Bridge Over  
Orestimba Creek Replacement Project  
Stanislaus County, California; Caltrans District 10  
Federal Project No. BRLO-5938(157)  
Expenditure Authorization No. 10-956771L  
Study Vicinity





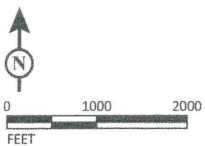
FIGURE 2



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Project Area - (8.56 ac)

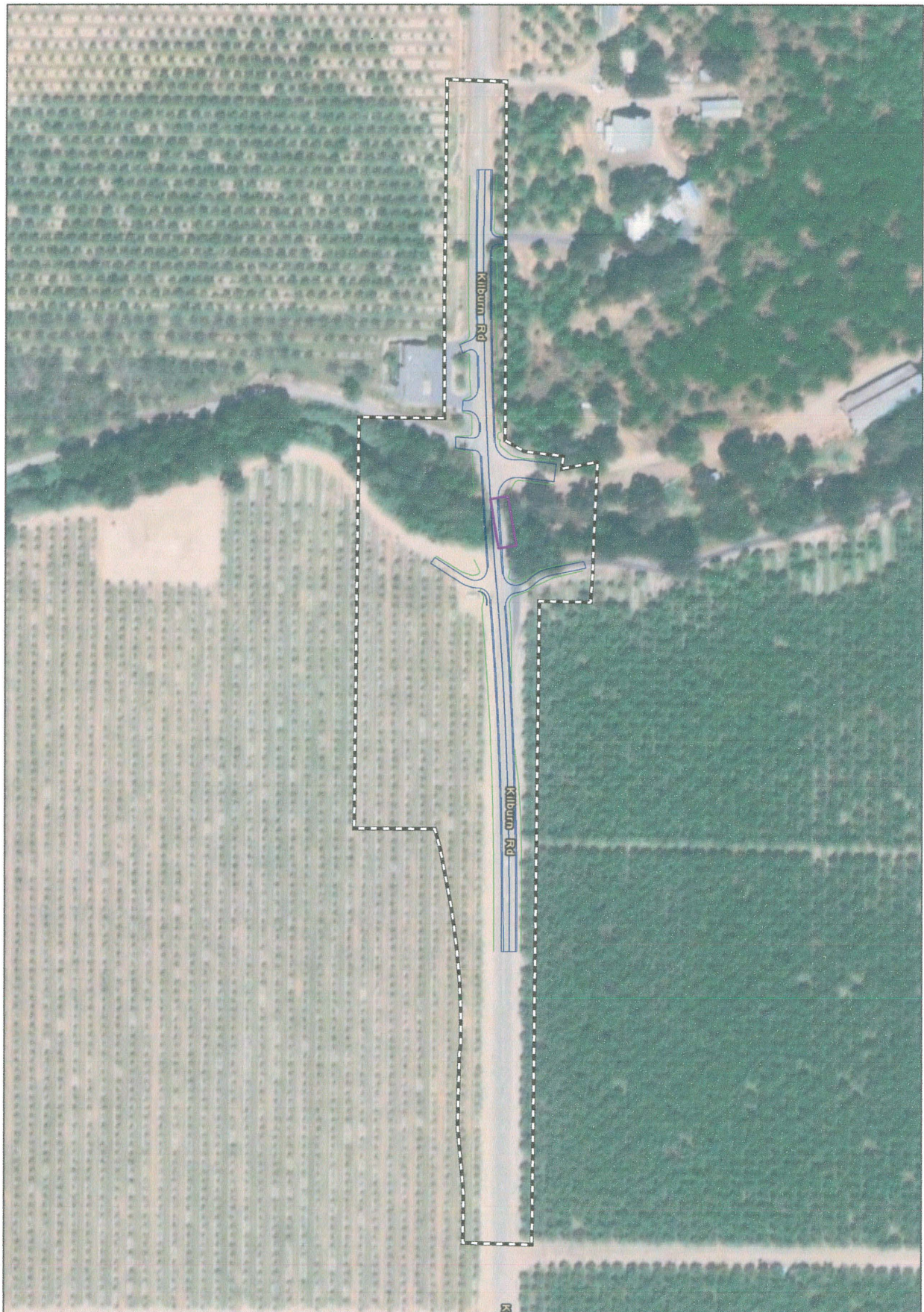


SOURCE: Stanislaus County Aerial Imagery (04/2017)

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Kilburn Road Bridge over Orestimba Creek (38C0168)  
Replacement Project in Stanislaus County  
Caltrans District 10; Federal Aid No. BRLO-5938(157)  
Project Vicinity on Aerial Base





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-  Project Area - (8.56 ac)
-  Project Design
-  Fill
-  Existing Bridge No. 38C0168

SOURCE: Aerial Imagery - Stanislaus County (04/2017); Design - David Evans and Associates, Inc. (05/2020)  
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 Orestimba Creek Replacement Project  
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Project Design