



## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

Ventura County Department of Public Works, as the designated Lead Agency, has reviewed the following project:

1. **Project:** Bridge Road Bridge Rehabilitation and Scour Mitigation Project
2. **Project Applicant:** Ventura County Department of Public Works
3. **Project Location:** The project is located on Bridge Road, within a rural portion of Ventura County, California. The project is adjacent to SR-150 and approximately two miles north of the city of Santa Paula.
4. **General Plan Designation:** Agriculture (AG)
5. **Zoning Designation:** Agricultural Exclusive, 40-acre minimum parcel size (AE-40)
6. **Responsible and/or Trustee Agencies:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Transportation, United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Native American Heritage Commission
7. **Project Description:** Ventura County Department of Public Works, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation, proposes to conduct minor rehabilitation of the existing single-span bridge at Bridge Road over Santa Paula Creek (Bridge #52C-0053) and conduct scour mitigation within the floodplain boundary to protect the bridge. The project area is located approximately 150 feet east of State Route 150 and approximately two miles north of the City of Santa Paula in the County of Ventura. The project is listed in the Southern California Association of Government's 2019 Federal Transportation Improvement Program.

In accordance with Section 15070 of the California Code of Regulations, the Ventura County Department of Public Works determined that this proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment; however, mitigation measures are available that would reduce the impacts to less than significant levels. As such, a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared and the applicant has agreed to implement the mitigation measures. The project would address several minor bridge defects that require correction identified in the 2018 Bridge Inspection Report.

### **List of Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts Identified:**

**Section 4a, Biological Resources, Special-Status Species:** The Initial Study finds that construction activities (grading, excavation, vegetation removal, and vehicle movement) could result in direct and indirect impacts on special-status species,

including the southern California black walnut, least Bell's vireo, California legless lizard, southern California legless lizard, coastal whiptail, San Bernardino ringneck snake, western pond turtle, Coast horned lizard, and two-striped garter snake. However, the project would result in a less than significant impact on special status species with the implementation of mitigation measures. Mitigation would include ratio requirements for revegetation and the implementation of a species-specific mitigation plan.

Section 4b, Biological Resources, Special-Status Natural Communities: The Initial Study finds that construction activities (grading, excavation, vegetation removal, and vehicle movement) could result in temporary impacts on special-status natural communities. Temporary impacts could include vegetation removal, diversion of water in the creek, and disturbing soils along the banks. In addition, construction materials, dust, and/or debris entering flowing waters could temporarily impact water quality within natural communities within or adjacent to the project area. However, the project would result in a less than significant impact on special-status natural communities with the implementation of mitigation measures. Mitigation would include ratio requirements for revegetation.

Section 4c, Biological Resources, Jurisdictional Features: The Initial Study finds that construction activities (grading, excavation, vegetation removal, and vehicle movement) could result in temporary impacts on jurisdictional features. Temporary impacts could include vegetation removal, diversion of water in the creek, and disturbing soils along the banks. In addition, construction materials, dust, and/or debris entering flowing waters could temporarily impact water quality. However, the project would result in a less than significant impact on jurisdictional features with the implementation of mitigation measures. Mitigation would include ratio requirements for revegetation.

Section 4d, Biological Resources, Migratory Species: The Initial Study finds that construction activities (grading, excavation, vegetation removal, and vehicle movement) could result in direct and indirect impacts on bats and migratory birds. Direct impacts on bats could include tree removal, which could result in mortality and/or roost abandonment. Indirect impacts could include increased noise, vibration, and human activity during construction activities, which could result in disturbance and/or roost abandonment. Nesting birds could be directly impacted by construction activities if they were to be nesting in structures or vegetation within the construction area. In addition, these species could be indirectly impacted by loss of habitat resulting from vegetation or structure removal. However, the project would result in a less than significant impact on migratory species with the implementation of mitigation measures. Mitigation would include ratio requirements for revegetation.

The public review period is from June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is available for public review on-line at <https://www.vcpublishworks.org/2022/06/09/notice-of-intent-mnd> or at the County of Ventura Government Center, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, California from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. The public is encouraged to submit

written comments to Christopher Solis, no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 to the address listed above. Alternatively, you may e-mail your comments to the case planner at [Christopher.solis@ventura.org](mailto:Christopher.solis@ventura.org).