

CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 04/2021)

| Project Information | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Project Name: SON 11 | l6 Safety Im | provement and Drainage Upgrade | |
| DIST-CO-RTE: 04-SON | N-SR 116 | PM/PM: PM 28.50 | |
| EA : 04-0W970 Fe | deral-Aid Pı | roject Number: 0420000316 | |
| Project Description: | | | |
| | nt to southbo | te (SR) 116 at post mile (PM) 28.50 ound lane at 1741 Gravenstein High | |
| of the existing 4 foot x 3 2) removing or trimming existing concrete heady slope protection); 5) co- wingwall; 6) dredging 3 | B foot reinforg g existing dito vall; 4) remo nstructing a 00 feet of dit on of the new | at Gravenstein Highway include: 1) of ced concrete box (RCB) culvert east ch vegetation where necessary; 3) ro ving the existing drainage facility (sa 35 foot long, 4 foot x 3 foot RCB cul- ch sediment to the original flowline; v culvert; 8) installing driveway delin | of the driveway; emoving the acked concrete vert with a 7) backfilling |
| Continued on Page 3. | | | |
| Caltrans CEQA Deterr | <u>nination</u> | | |
| | | the CEQA Lead Agency repared an IS or EIR under CEQA | |
| □ Exempt by Statute.⊠ Categorically Exem | (PRC 21080 pt. Class 15 apply that wo | ould bar the use of a categorical exer | , , |
| exempt class, but it of activity may have a s | an be seen viignificant eff | e Exemption. This project does not with certainty that there is no possibil ect on the environment (14 CCR 150 Environmental Branch Chief | lity that the |
| Elizabeth Nagle | | An Nose | 2/15/22 |
| Print Name | | Signature | <u>Date</u> |
| Project Manager | | | |
| Peter Aguilera | | | |
| Print Name | | Signature | Date |



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Caltrans NEPA Determination

⋈ Not Applicable

Caltrans has determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). See <u>SER Chapter 30</u> for unusual circumstances. As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under NEPA and is included under the following:

| is categorically excluded from the and is included under the follow | • | n EA or EIS under NEPA |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| □ 23 USC 326: Caltrans has been the responsibility to make this of Memorandum of Understanding Caltrans. Caltrans has determin □ 23 CFR 771.117(c): act □ 23 CFR 771.117(d): act □ Activity listed in Appe | determination pursuant to 23 letermination pursuant to 23 letermination detection detection described that the project is a Categetivity (c)() | JSC 326 and the ted between FHWA and porical Exclusion under: |
| □ 23 USC 327: Based on an except Caltrans has determined that the The environmental review, consequence of the Environmental laws for Caltrans pursuant to 23 USC 32 December 23, 2016 and execution | xamination of this proposal and ne project is a Categorical Exc sultation, and any other action this project are being, or have 27 and the Memorandum of U | nd supporting information, clusion under 23 USC 327. ns required by applicable e been, carried out by |
| Senior Environmental Planne | r or Environmental Branch | Chief |
| N/A | | |
| Print Name | Signature | Date |
| Project Manager/ DLA Engine | eer | |
| N/A | | |
| Print Name | Signature | Date |
| _,, | | |

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 02/14/2022

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 02/04/2022

EA: 04-0W970 Page **2** of **3**

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0420000346



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation sheet:

This section of SR 116 is a two-lane highway (one lane in each direction). At PM 28.50, the existing roadside ditch on the north side of the highway has a slope of approximately 1H:1V (horizontal: vertical) and is up to 5 feet in depth, the existing guardrail is not sufficient to prevent vehicles from running off the road into the ditch. Current accident data at this location indicates that the guardrail has been hit repeatedly by traffic traveling westbound.

Field investigations and internal discussions determined that continued repair and installation of guardrail will not alleviate the ongoing collision issue. Traffic safety recommends extending the RCB culvert approximately 35 feet to the west and widening the paved roadway section in this area to give drivers more time to turn into the lane from the adjoining side-street. In addition, it is proposed to dredge 300 feet of the existing unlined ditch to its original flowline to remove sedimentation and facilitate proper drainage. These modifications will maintain the integrity of the roadway and enhance driver safety.

See attached Environmental Commitment Record (ECR) for environmental commitments.

EA: 04-0W970 Page 3 of 3

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0420000346



Environmental Commitments Record (ECR)

DIST-CO-RTE: 0420000316 **PM/PM:** SON/116/28.4 **EA/Project ID.:** 04-0W970

Project Description: This project is located at post mile 28.5 on the westside of the driveway at 1741 Gravenstein Highway South State Route 116 (SR 116) in Sonoma County near Sebastopol. This section of highway is a two-lane highway (one lane in each direction). Although the purpose of this project is to address the repeated hitting of an existing guardrail, Traffic Safety recommends not to repair or install any new guardrail. The existing ditch has a slope of approximately 1:1 with a depth of 5 feet, placement of a guardrail, itself a fixed object, would propagate the likelihood of vehicles colliding with the guardrail. In lieu of replacing the guardrail, Traffic Safety recommends extending the existing the 4' by 3' reinforced box culvert (RCB) by 35' within the existing longitudinal roadside ditch. This extension will move the outlet of the RCB further west from the shared driveway at 1691 and 1740 South Gravenstein Highway thereby providing an area for widening the driveway. The area over the new culvert section will be backfilled with embankment material, structure backfill, hot mix asphalt. Throughout the years, the unlined ditch has accumulated sedimentation. The ditch beyond the newly extended culvert will be dredged to its original flowline to facilitate proper drainage. These modifications will maintain the integrity of the ditch and enhance driver safety.

A summary of project components at Gravenstein Highway include: 1) cleaning 110' of the existing 4' x 3' RCB culvert east of the driveway; 2) removing or trimming existing ditch vegetation where necessary; 3) remove the existing concrete headwall; 4) remove the existing drainage facility (sacked concrete slope protection); 5) construct a 35' 4'x 3' RCB culvert with a wingwall; 6) dredging 300' of ditch sediment to original flowline; 7) backfilling and paving over a portion of the new section of culvert; 8) install driveway delineators, 9) apply erosion control measures.

Date (Last modification): 02/14/2020

Environmental Planner: Nicholas Piucci **Phone No.:** 1(510) 926-0604 **Construction Liaison:** Peter Aguilera **Phone No.:** (510) 286-5101 **Resident Engineer:** Susana Onate **Phone No.:** (510) 807-1721

| Permit | Agency | Application Submitted | Permit Received | Permit Expiration | Permit Requirement Completed by: | Permit Requirement Completed on: | Comments |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| ВО | Enter agency | N/A | Enter date | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Will Update the ECR when permit has been completed |
| 404 | Enter agency | N/A | Enter date | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Will Update the ECR when permit has been completed |
| Enter permit | Enter agency | Enter date | Enter date | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter comments |
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| Enter permit | Enter agency | Enter date | Enter date | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter comments |

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

PRE-CONSTRUCTION

| Category | Task and Brief Description | Source | Included in PS&E package | Responsible Branch/Staff | Action to Comply | Due Date | Task Completed by | Task Completed on | Remarks | Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA? |
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| Biology | Pre-construction Surveys for Nesting Birds: If clearing and grubbing occurs between February 1 and September 30, then the biological monitor will survey for nesting birds within the areas to be disturbed, before clearing activities begin. The survey area will include a perimeter buffer of 50 feet for non-game migratory birds and 300 feet for raptors. All nest avoidance requirements of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and F.G.C. will be observed. If an active nest is found, then an appropriate protection buffer will be established until young have fledged. CDFW will be contacted if a special-status species is discovered within the Project limits within no less than 72 hours. | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE | If clearing and grubbing occurs between February 1 and September 30, then the biological monitor will survey for nesting birds within the areas to be disturbed, before clearing activities begin. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |

Form revised November 2020

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| Biology | Pre-Construction Surveys for Special-Status Species: A Qualified Biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status plant and animal species. An agency-approved biological monitor will be present during construction activities, including vegetation clearing and grubbing, when special-status species have the highest likelihood of being harmed or harassed. If, at any point, any listed species is discovered within the Project footprint, a 50-foot-wide work restriction buffer will be applied until the animal moves out of the area, or the animal is relocated out of harm's way. For state-listed species, the CDFW will be contacted on how best to proceed. Alternately, other action may be taken as authorized in Project permits. | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE | Work with a qualified biologist conduct preconstruction surveys. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |
| Biology | Designated Construction Areas, Delineated ESAs, Work Areas, and Equipment and Materials Storage Sites: Caltrans will delineate construction areas and ESAs (defined as areas containing sensitive habitats adjacent to or within construction work areas for which physical disturbance is not allowed) on the final construction plans. An approved biological monitor will be onsite to direct the installation of high visibility, orange ESA fencing to prevent encroachment of construction personnel and equipment onto sensitive areas during construction activities, as needed. Staging, storage, and parking areas will be located away from any designated ESAs, as specified by the Qualified Biologist, to avoid construction impacts to natural communities. At the discretion of the Qualified Biologist, ESA fencing may be removed at times when construction is no longer active in the area. | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE | An approved biological monitor will be onsite to direct the installation of high visibility, orange ESA fencing to prevent encroachment of construction personnel and equipment onto sensitive areas during construction activities, as needed. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |
| Biology | Implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan may be needed depending on the extent of the disturbed soil areas. However, erosion control BMPs will be included in the plans and special provisions to comply with the requirements of the RWQCB general construction permit. The Caltrans BMP Guidance Handbook will provide guidance for design staff to include provisions in construction contracts for measures to protect sensitive areas and prevent and minimize stormwater and non-stormwater discharges. Protective measures will include, at a minimum: | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE | Implement all BMP's where they apply. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |

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| Biology | Disallowing any discharging of pollutants from vehicle and equipment cleaning into any storm drains or watercourses. Keeping vehicle and equipment fueling and maintenance operations at least 50 feet away from watercourses, except at established commercial gas stations or an established vehicle maintenance facility. All grindings and asphaltic-concrete waste will be stored within previously disturbed areas absent of habitat and at a minimum of 50 feet from any downstream riparian habitat, aquatic habitat, culvert, or drainage feature, or will be removed from the site at the end of each day. Dedicated fueling and refueling practices will be designated as part of the approved Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program. Dedicated fueling areas will be protected from storm water run-on and will be located at least 50 feet from downslope drainage facilities and water courses. If this is not possible, then fueling will be conducted as stated in the RWQCB general construction permit and in the Caltrans BMP Guidance Handbook. Maintaining spill containment kits onsite at all times during construction operations and/or staging or fueling of equipment. o Dust and erosion control measures will be implemented consistent with the RWQCB General Construction Permit, and with the Caltrans BMP Guidance Handbook. Protecting graded and designated staging areas consistent with the RWQCB General Construction Permit and the Caltrans BMP Guidance Handbook. | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE, | Have an approved | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a |
| | Preconstruction Surveys. Preconstruction surveys will be conducted by the approved Project biologist. Visual encounter surveys will be conducted immediately prior to within areas subject to ground disturbing activities. All suitable aquatic and upland habitat within the Project footprint including refugia habitat such as under shrubs, downed logs, small woody debris, burrows, etc., will be thoroughly inspected. If a CRLF is observed, the individual(s) will be evaluated and relocated in | | | Biologist | biologist conduct preconstruction surveys as well as before any ground disturbances occur. | | | | | response |

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| | accordance with the observation and handling protocol outlined below. All fossorial mammal burrows will be inspected for signs of frog usage to the maximum extent practicable. If it is determined that a burrow may be occupied by a CRLF, the burrow will be excavated by hand, if possible, and the individual(s) relocated in accordance with the observation and handling protocol promulgated by the USFWS. | | | | | | | | | |
| Biology | Biological Monitoring. An agency approved biologist will be present onsite during construction to monitor for CRLF. Through communication with the Resident Engineer or their designee, the USFWS approved biologist may stop work if deemed necessary for any reason to protect listed species and will advise the Resident Engineer or designee on how to proceed accordingly. The USFWS approved biologist will be present during all construction activities where take of a listed species could occur. | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE, Biologist | An agency approved biologist will be present onsite during construction to monitor for CRLF. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |
| Biology | Timing of Construction. To the extent practicable, initial ground-disturbing activities will be avoided between November 1 and March 31 because that is the time period when California red-legged frogs are most likely to be moving through upland areas. When ground-disturbing activities must take place between November 1 and March 31, the Corps through the applicant will ensure that daily monitoring by the UWFWS-approved biologist is completed for the CRLF. To the maximum extent practicable, no construction activities will occur during rain events or within 24-hours following a rain event. Prior to construction activities resuming, the approved biologist will inspect the action area and all equipment/materials for the presence of California red-legged frogs. The animals will be allowed to move away from the project site of their own volition or moved by the approved biologist. | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE | To the extent practicable, initial ground-disturbing activities will be avoided between November 1 and March 31 because that is the time period when California redlegged frogs are most likely to be moving through upland areas. When ground-disturbing activities must take place between November 1 and March 31, the Corps through the applicant will ensure that daily monitoring by the UWFWS-approved biologist is completed for the CRLF. To the maximum extent practicable, no construction activities will occur during rain events or within 24-hours following a rain event. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |

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| Water Quality | Water Pollution Control: Since the DSA is less than 1 acre, a WPCP will be required. Prior to commencement of construction activities, a WPCP must be prepared by the Contractor and approved by the Department, pursuant to Department 2018 Standard Specifications 13-3. Water Pollution Control consists of various temporary measures implemented during construction (Temporary Construction Site Best Management Practices, hereafter BMPs) to control sedimentation, erosion, or the discharge of other pollutants. To address temporary water quality impacts resulting from the construction activities in this project, plans specifications and estimate will be prepared and included in the contract documents for "Water Pollution Control". Temporary Construction Site BMPs may include: Soil Stabilization: Preservation of Existing Vegetation, Slope Protection, Slope Interrupter Devices, and Channelized Flow; Sediment Control: Temporary Fiber Rolls, Temporary Silt Fence and Storm Drain Inlet Protection; Tracking Controls: Stabilized Construction Entrance/Exit, and Street Sweeping; Wind Erosion Controls: Hydraulic Mulch and Temporary Covers; Non-storm Water Management: Water Conservation Practices, Dewatering Operations, Paving and Grinding Operations, Vehicle and Equipment Operations (Fueling, Cleaning and Maintenance), Concrete Waste Management, and Material and Equipment Use; Waste Management and Materials Pollution Control: Material Delivery and Storage, Material Use, Stockpile Management, Spill Prevention and Control, Solid and Concrete Waste Management, Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Soil Management, and Liquid Waste Management | Water Quality Close Out | Yes | Contractor/RE, Water Quality | Implement all BMP's where they apply. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |
| Visual Resources | During construction operations, unsightly material and equipment in staging areas shall be placed where they are less visible and/or covered where possible. | Visual Study | No | Contractor/RE | During construction operations, unsightly material and equipment in staging areas shall be placed where they are less visible and/or covered where possible. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |

CONSTRUCTION

EA/Project ID: 04-0W970 Federal-Aid Project Number: 0420000316

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| Biology | Vegetation Removal: Whenever possible, vegetation removal will be scheduled between September 30 and February 1 to avoid impacts to nesting birds during the nesting season. If vegetation removal should occur during the nesting season, then a qualified biologist or biological monitor will survey for nesting birds as stated in the final CDFW 1602 permit. | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE | Have a qualified biologist onsite if vegetation is removed outside the approved timeline. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |
| Biology | Construction Site Management Practices: The following site restrictions will be implemented to avoid or minimize potential effects on listed species and their habitats: • Project-related vehicle traffic will be restricted to established roads and construction areas. Project vehicles will observe a 15-mile-perhour speed limit while in the Project footprint, except on the current highway. • Construction access, staging, storage, and parking areas have been designated within the Project footprint and are outside of any designated ESAs. Additional work areas outside of the Project footprint will be environmentally cleared and permitted by the contractor. The following areas will be limited to the minimum necessary to construct the proposed Project: access routes, staging and storage areas, and contractor parking. Routes and boundaries of roadwork will be clearly marked prior to initiating construction or grading. • Certifying, to the maximum extent practicable, any borrow material to be non-toxic and weed free. • All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps will be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once daily from the Project footprint. • Prohibiting all pets from entering the Project area during construction. o Prohibiting firearms within the Project site, except for those carried by authorized security personnel or local, state, or federal law enforcement officials. | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE | Implement all BMP's where they apply. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |
| Biology | Noxious Weeds: Noxious weeds will be controlled in accordance with Caltrans Highway Design Manual Topic 110.5 "Control of Noxious Weeds—Exotic and Invasive Species" and Executive Order 13112 (Invasive Species) | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE | Follow in accordance with the Design Manual | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |

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| | and by methods approved by Caltrans' landscape architect or vegetation control specialist. | | | | | | | | | |
| Biology | Worker Environmental Awareness Training: Construction personnel will attend a mandatory environmental education program delivered by a qualified biological monitor prior to beginning construction. This program will provide information on special-status species and the employees' personal responsibility in avoiding impacts to species during construction. At a minimum, the training will include: a description of special-status species and migratory birds that may occur in the Project area; a discussion of the potential occurrence of these species within the Project footprint; an explanation of the status of these species and protection under federal and state laws and regulations; and the description of measures to be implemented to conserve listed species and their habitats as they relate to the work site. Information on protected species will be provided to construction personnel, along with compliance reminders and relevant contact information. Documentation of the training and sign-in sheets will be kept on file and available on request | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE | Construction personnel will attend a mandatory environmental education program delivered by a qualified biological monitor prior to beginning construction. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |
| Biology | Protocol for Species Observation and Handling. If CRLF are encountered in the Project area, work within 50 feet of the animal will cease immediately and the Resident Engineer and USFWS approved biologist will be notified. Based on the professional judgment of the approved biologist, if Project activities can be conducted without harming or injuring the animal(s), they may be left at the location of discovery and monitored by the approved biologist. All Project personnel will be notified of the finding and at no time shall work occur within 50 feet of the animal without a biological monitor present. If it is determined by the approved biologist that relocating the CRLF is necessary, the following steps will be followed: a. Prior to handling and relocation, the USFWS approved biologist will take precautions to prevent introduction of amphibian diseases in accordance with the Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Redlegged Frog (USFWS, 2005). Disinfecting equipment and clothing is especially important when biologists are coming to the Action Area to handle amphibians after working in other aquatic habitats. | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE | If CRLF are encountered in the Project area, work within 50 feet of the animal will cease immediately and the Resident | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |

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| | b. CRLF will be captured by hand, dipnet or other USFWS approved methodology, transported by hand, dipnet or temporary holding container, and released as soon as practicable the same day of capture. Handling of CRLF will be minimized to the maximum extent practicable. Holding/transporting containers and dipnets will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to transporting to the Action Area and will Chapter 4 Results: Biological Resources, Discussion of Impacts, and Mitigation Natural Environment Study Minimal Impacts SON 116 Minor B Culvert Extension 4-10 EA 04-0W970, 04-SON-116 PM 28.48 be rinsed with freshwater onsite immediately prior to usage, unless doing so will result in the injury or death of the animal(s) due to the time delay. CRLF will be relocated to the nearest suitable habitat outside of the area where actions will not result in harm or harassment, and released on the same side of SR 121 where they were discovered. The individual(s) will be released within suitable habitat in the Caltrans right-of-way or another property acceptable to the property owner, and the USFWS will be notified. If suitable habitat cannot be identified, the USFWS should be contacted to determine an acceptable alternative. Transporting CRLF to a location other than the location described herein will require written authorization of the USFWS. | | | | | | | | | |
| Biology | Equipment Storage . For onsite storage of pipes, conduits and other materials that could provide shelter for California red-legged frogs, an open-top trailer will be used to elevate the materials above ground. This is intended to reduce the potential for animals to climb into the conduits and other materials. | NESMI | Yes | Contractor/RE | This is intended to reduce the potential for animals to climb into the conduits and other materials. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |
| Air Quality | Implementation of Caltrans Standard Specifications, such as complying with air pollution-control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes that apply to work performed under the Contract and the use of construction best management practices, would result in reducing GHG emissions from construction activities, including but not limited to: 1. Regular vehicle and equipment maintenance 2. Limit idling of vehicles and equipment onsite 3. If practicable, recycle nonhazardous waste and excess material. If recycling is not practicable, dispose of material 4. Use solar-powered signal boards, if feasible | Air Quality Study | Yes | Contractor/RE | Comply with the standard specifications. | Enter date | Enter Name | Enter date | Enter remarks | Select a response |

Environmental Commitment Record for 04-0W970

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| Visual Resources Cultural Resources | Reduce impacts to existing trees and vegetation. In accordance with Caltrans Policy, highway planting and irrigation systems that are damaged or removed during construction of the project shall be replaced or repaired. No further archaeology or architectural history studies are required at this time. However, if project plans change, further studies may be necessary. If previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the | Visual Study Cultural Close out Memo | Yes | Contractor/RE Contractor/RE | Reduce vegetation removal. Stop work and consult cultural if any cultural resources are discovered during construction. | Enter date Enter date | Enter Name Enter Name | Enter date Enter date | Enter remarks Enter remarks | Select a response Select a response |
| | construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the discovery. | | | | | | | | | |