STATE OF CALIFORNIA GAVIN NEWSOM, *Governor*

**MILITARY DEPARTMENT**

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

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March 15, 2023SCH #

# NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA) AND NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI)TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION (IS/MND)

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, this Notice serves to advise the public that the California Army National Guard (CA ARNG), as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has completed a Draft Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the proposed Project described below.

**Project Title:** Camp Roberts High Water Bridge Maintenance, Access Road Construction, and Bent Foundation Repair Project (Project)

**Proponent:** California Army National Guard

**Project Location:** The Project site is located at the Camp Roberts High Water Bridge (HWB) along the Nacimiento River, within the north central section of Camp Roberts, approximately four miles southeast of the town of Bradley, Monterey County, California.

Project Description**:** The Project consists of several distinct components including access road construction (temporary and permanent), fire break establishment and annual vegetation maintenance, HWB bent foundation repairs and maintenance, and wetland mitigation. The temporary access road would be constructed and used for equipment and vehicle access to the southwest bank area of the Nacimiento River during the Project and would be returned to natural conditions after completion of Project activities. The permanent access road would be constructed with an approximately six-inch layer of gravel and used for equipment and vehicle staging and access to the east bank of the Nacimiento River during the Project and would include a turn-around area. The permanent access road would remain in place to provide equipment and vehicle access for future firebreak vegetation removal and ongoing HWB maintenance activities. The permanent access road would result in loss of wetland habitat and therefore the creation of new wetland habitat has been included in the Project to offset wetland impacts.

Four distinct fire break areas would be established in the northwest, southwest, northwest, and southwest quadrants of the HWB to reduce the amount of vegetation fuels in the vicinity of the HWB. Initial fire break establishment would consist of vegetation clearing during the Project and would continue annually as needed.

Bent foundation repairs would coincide with construction of the temporary and permanent access roads and initial establishment of fire break areas. The purpose of the bent foundation repair is to maintain the HWB structural integrity. Currently, debris is lodged up against the HWB bent foundations, causing further erosion from under the bent footings. The HWB foundations are being undermined by the scour effect of turbulent waters being caused by debris buildup on the upstream side of the foundation bents. In some locations, there is a three-to-five-foot gap between the underside of the bridge foundations and the streambed. Removal of the debris and repair of the bent foundations would extend future use of the HWB for training activities and emergency response for Camp Roberts. HWB bent foundation repair activities would include Nacimiento River diversion, Project area dewatering, debris removal, concrete footing repair, and streambed material replacement and restoration. Once bridge bents are repaired, routine maintenance such as debris removal would occur, as needed.

Potential Significant Impacts on the Environment**:** The Draft IS-MND discusses the potential for significant impacts on the environment in 21 subject areas: Aesthetics, Agriculture and Forest Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildlife.

# ****DRAFT IS-MND PUBLIC REVIEW:****

**Review Period:** **March 15** through **April 18, 2023**.

**Comments Due:** Received or postmarked by **Tuesday, April 18, 2023.**

**Comments Email\*:** robert.a.fiore4.nfg@army.mil

Subject: **HWB Repair Project Draft ISMND Comments**

**Comment Mailing Address and Contact Information:**

California Army National Guard

9800 Goethe Road - Box 17

Sacramento, CA 95826-9101

**Attn: Robert Fiore**

Phone: (916) 854-1482

\* You are encouraged to submit comments via email and include any attachments in PDF or Microsoft Word format.

Draft MND Review Options: The full document can be viewed on the State Clearing House website at [CEQAnet (ca.gov)](https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/).

Copies may also be reviewed at the following locations:

* San Miguel Branch Library, 254 13th Street, San Miguel, CA 93451;

(805) 467-3224

* San Ardo Branch Library, 62350 College St., San Ardo, CA 93450;

(831) 386-6858

Note: Before including your address, telephone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment—including personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time (including in the Final ISMND and posted on the CA ARNG website). While you may ask the CA ARNG (prominently at the beginning of your submission) to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, the CA ARNG cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so. The CA ARNG will make available for inspection, in their entirety, all comments submitted by organizations or businesses or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses.