

EXHIBIT A



County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. **Project title:**
Jacalitos Creek Bridge Replacement Project, Initial Study No. 7530
2. **Lead agency name and address:**
County of Fresno Department of Public Works and Planning
2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor
Fresno, CA 93721
3. **Contact person and phone number:**
Thomas Kobayashi, Planner
(559)600-4224
4. **Project location:**
The project site is located on Lost Hills Road, just west of Jacalitos Creek Road. The project site is located approximately 2.05 miles southeast of the nearest city limits of the City of Coalinga.
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:**
Alexis Rutherford
County of Fresno Department of Public Works and Planning, Design Division
2220 Tulare Street, 7th Floor
Fresno, CA 93721
6. **General Plan designation:**
Agriculture per the County adopted Coalinga Regional Plan
7. **Zoning:**
AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District.
8. **Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including, but not limited to, later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)**
Replace the existing Jacalitos Creek Bridge, make associated improvements that would address scour problems at the bridge, and repair and/or stabilize the creek banks upstream and downstream of the bridge. Specifically the project would: replace the existing two-lane bridge with a new two-lane bridge built to current standards; taper widen the roadway approaches to current standards up to approximately 400 feet on either side of the bridge; shift the intersection of Lost Hills Avenue and Jacalitos Creek Road slightly to the east to accommodate new approach rail, work on Jacalitos road would extend approximately 425 feet from the intersection; install rock slope protection, approximately 5 feet to 6 feet, up and downstream from the existing bridge to counteract high velocity flows; install a series of stream barbs along the southeasterly abutment and upstream and downstream of the bridge to redirect the channel thalweg closer to the center of the bridge as an erosion control measure in the channel; construct a temporary onsite low water crossing detour approximately 100 feet north of the existing bridge for use during construction activities; and relocate utilities if necessary.
9. **Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:**
The project is located in a rural setting with vacant fields on either side of Lost Hills Road. Other than the existing road and bridge, no other structures are located within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area.

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10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)

Caltrans
The United States Army Corps of Engineers
California Regional Water Quality Control Board

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

Participating California Native American tribes have been notified of the project proposal and given the opportunity to enter consultation with the County. California Native American tribes that were contacted either did not respond or declined the opportunity to enter consultation.

NOTE: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

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ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

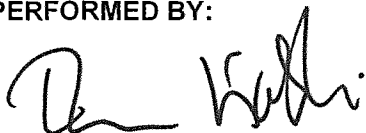
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

DETERMINATION OF REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment. **A NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.**
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the Mitigation Measures described on the attached sheet have been added to the project. **A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.**
- I find the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required
- I find that as a result of the proposed project, no new effects could occur, or new Mitigation Measures would be required that have not been addressed within the scope of a previous Environmental Impact Report.

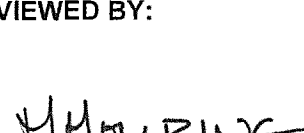
PERFORMED BY:



Thomas Kobayashi, Planner

Date: 3/19/20

REVIEWED BY:



Marianne Mollring, Senior Planner

Date: 3-19-20

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INITIAL STUDY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM (Initial Study Application No. 7530)

The following checklist is used to determine if the proposed project could potentially have a significant effect on the environment. Explanations and information regarding each question follow the checklist.

1 = No Impact

2 = Less Than Significant Impact

3 = Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

4 = Potentially Significant Impact

I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

- 1 a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
- 1 b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
- 1 c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?
- 1 d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

- 1 a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- 1 b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?
- 1 c) Conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production?
- 1 d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?
- 1 e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- 2 a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan?
- 2 b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?
- 2 c) Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under a Federal or State ambient air quality standard?
- 1 d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- 1 e) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- 3 a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- 2 b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- 3 c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally-protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?
- 3 d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?
- 1 e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
- 1 f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan?

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- 3 a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?
- 3 b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?
- 3 c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

- 3 a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

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- 1 b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

- 1 g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

- 1 a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:
- 1 i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?
- 2 ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?
- 2 iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
- 2 iv) Landslides?
- 2 b) Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil?
- 2 c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?
- 1 d) Be located on expansive soil as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?
- 1 e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?
- 1 f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

- 2 a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?
- 2 b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- 3 a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- 3 b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?
- 1 c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?
- 1 d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?
- 1 e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?
- 2 f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

- 3 a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?
- 3 b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?
- 3 c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?
- 3 i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;
- 3 ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;
- 3 iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or
- 3 iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?
- 1 d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?
- 2 e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

- 1 a) Physically divide an established community?
- 1 b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- 2 a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?
- 2 b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, Specific Plan or other land use plan?

XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

- 2 a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?
- 2 b) Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?
- 1 c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

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Would the project:

- 1 a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?
- 1 b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

- 1 a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically-altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
 - 1 i) Fire protection?
 - 1 ii) Police protection?
 - 1 iii) Schools?
 - 1 iv) Parks?
 - 1 v) Other public facilities?

XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:

- 1 a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
- 1 b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

- 2 a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?
- 2 b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?
- 2 c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?
- 2 d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- 2 a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
 - 2 i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or
 - 2 ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant

pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

- 1 a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- 1 b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?
- 1 c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?
- 2 d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?
- 2 e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

- 2 a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
- 1 b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?
- 1 c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?
- 1 d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

- 3 a) Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- 1 b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)
- 1 c) Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

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Documents Referenced:

This Initial Study is referenced by the documents listed below. These documents are available for public review at the County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, Development Services and Capital Projects Division, 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Fresno, California (corner of M & Tulare Streets).

Fresno County General Plan, Policy Document and Final EIR
Fresno County Zoning Ordinance
Important Farmland 2014 Map, State Department of Conservation
Live Oak Associates Inc., Jurisdictional Waters Investigation, Biological Assessment, and Natural Environment Study
Haro Environmental, Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment
WRECO, Location Hydraulic Study
SWCA Environmental Consultants, Water Quality Memorandum
State Department of Conservation, Earthquake Zone Application
Cal Fire, State Responsibility Area Viewer

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County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

APPLICANT: Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning, Design Division

APPLICATION NOS.: Initial Study Application No. 7530

DESCRIPTION: Replace the existing Jacalitos Creek Bridge, make associated improvements that would address scour problems at the bridge, and repair and/or stabilize the creek banks upstream and downstream of the bridge. Specifically the project would: replace the existing two-lane bridge with a new two-lane bridge built to current standards; taper widen the roadway approaches to current standards up to approximately 400 feet on either side of the bridge; shift the intersection of Lost Hills Avenue and Jacalitos Creek Road slightly to the east to accommodate new approach railed, work on Jacalitos Road would extend approximately 425 feet from the intersection; install rock slope protection, approximately 5 feet to 6 feet, up and downstream from the existing bridge to counteract high velocity flows; install a series of stream barbs along the southeasterly abutment and upstream and downstream of the bridge to redirect the channel thalweg closer to the center of the bridge as an erosion control measure in the channel; construct a temporary onsite low water crossing detour approximately 100 feet north of the existing bridge for use during construction activities; and relocate utilities if necessary.

LOCATION: The Jacalitos Creek Bridge is located on Lost Hills Avenue, just west of Jacalitos Creek Road. The project site is located approximately 2.05 miles southeast of the nearest city limits of the City of Coalinga. (SUP. DIST.: 4)

I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

A. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; or

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- B. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway; or
- C. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will be conducted at grade or below grade and will not affect a scenic vista. The project will not damage any scenic resource including trees, rock outcroppings, and/or historic buildings and is not identified as a scenic road or highway. The project will not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings nor will the quality of public views of the site and its surroundings degrade.

- D. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

- A. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use; or
- B. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to the 2014 Fresno County Important Farmland Map, the project site is located in land designated as Grazing. The project will not convert prime or unique

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farmlands or farmland of state-wide importance. The project site is an existing road, bridge, and creek and is not under Williamson Act Contract.

- C. Conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production; or
- D. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located in forest land or timberland and the project will not result in loss of forest land nor will it conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production.

- E. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not result in the conversion of farmland or forest land into non-agricultural uses. The project site is an existing road, bridge, and creek.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- A. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan; or
- B. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard; or
- C. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under a Federal or State ambient air quality standard?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Air District) reviewed this project and did not identify any concerns with potential air quality standards violations or nonconformity with existing Air Quality Plans. Based on information provided to the Air District, Project specific annual emissions of criteria pollutants are not expected to exceed any of the Air District significance thresholds. The Air District also concluded that the proposed project would result in the reconstruction of any development project that is damaged or destroyed, or is retrofitted solely for seismic safety, and is rebuilt to

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essentially the same use and intensity, therefore the proposed project is not subject to an Indirect Source Review (District Rule 9510).

- D. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or
- E. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The demolition and construction of the bridge are not anticipated to release substantial pollutant concentrations or create objectionable odors. Further, the nearest sensitive receptor is a single-family residence approximately 800 feet south of the project site.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

A Biological Assessment and Natural Environment Study was prepared by Live Oaks Associates, Inc. for the Jacalitos Creek Bridge Replacement project. Both documents were routed to the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The proposed project will occur within an area of approximately 8.0 acres, hereafter referred to as the Biological Study Area or BSA. The project will result in approximately 1.9 acres of permanent impacts, much of which constitutes previously developed land that experiences regular disturbance from vehicle traffic and road shoulder maintenance.

The BSA provides potential habitat for seven (7) regionally-occurring special-status plant species. These comprise of the state and federally endangered California jewelflower (*caulanthus Californicus*), the federally endangered San Joaquin woollythread (*Monolopia Congdonii*), and the following five (5) CNPS-listed 1B species: Lemmon's Jewelflower (*caulanthus Coulteri* Var. *Lemmonii*), Hall's Tarplant (*Deinandra Halliana*), recurved larkspur (*Delphinium recurvatum*), pale-yellow layia (*Layia heterotricha*), and showy madia (*madia radiata*).

Protocol level surveys were conducted during the appropriate blooming periods for these species during the spring of 2016. A California jewelflower reference population was visited on February 23, 2016 in Kern County and was verified to be in bloom. On February 24, 2016, San Joaquin woollythread populations along Panoche Road in Fresno County were visited and confirmed to be in bloom. The site survey conducted

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on February 25, 2016 identified and recorded all plant species occurring on the project site. Follow-up botanical surveys were conducted on March 18 and April 20 to further assure the blooming periods of all potentially occurring rare plant species would be captured. None of these special status plant species were observed. The project is not expected to produce direct or indirect effect on special status plants.

The BSA provides potential habitat for four (4) special status animal species potentially occurring on the project site. The California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*), loggerhead shrike (*Ianuis ludovicianus*), American badger (*Taxidea taxus*), and the San Joaquin kit fox (*vulpes macrotis mutica*). Additionally, the BSA provides habitat for three (3) of eight (8) federally listed animal species occurring in the project vicinity. These species include the blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*), giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*), and the San Joaquin kit fox (*vulpes macrotis mutica*). Surveys of the BSA found no evidence of utilization, but the San Joaquin kit fox could potentially occur in the project area. A combination of preconstruction surveys, relocation, avoidance of active nests and potentially occupied burrows, construction minimization measures and environmental training of construction personnel are proposed to avoid and/or reduce impacts to these four (4) species.

Multiple surveys of the BSA were conducted during June, July, August, and September in 2015. Additionally, authorized small mammal trapping surveys for giant kangaroo rats occurred in May 2017. Surveys were conducted with transects spaced approximately 15 meters apart. Of the number of Federal and State species of special concern, the NES identified the San Joaquin kit fox, California Glossy Snake, the Loggerhead Shrike, and the American Badger as potentially being present in the project site, based on surveys and additional resources. The project site is identified as having habitat present for the San Joaquin kit fox, but were not observed during field surveys. The California Glossy Snake is labeled as present as a 2000 and 2004 collection of the species has been documented as occurring at the location of the West Lost Hills Road crossing of Jacalitos Creek. The Loggerhead Shrike was observed in the BSA during field surveys. The NES also states that the BSA contains marginal nesting habitat for this species. The American Badger was not observed during surveys of the site, but is identified as having habitat present in the BSA. Burrows of suitable size were not seen during surveys to indicate the presence of American Badger in the BSA. A documented occurrence of the species approximately 4 miles downstream of the BSA could indicate that the species outside the BSA could occur in the BSA prior to construction.

USFWS concurred with the determination that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the San Joaquin kit fox, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, and giant kangaroo rat. USFWS also stated that as part of the project, Caltrans staff and its contractors will implement Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMM) and Best Management Practices prior to and during construction activities to minimize and avoid effects to sensitive species. The requirements will be included as mitigation measures.

CDFW has reviewed the project and supporting documents and have offered comments and recommendations to assist Fresno County in adequately identifying and/or mitigating the Project's significant, or potentially significant, direct and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources.

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The Biological Assessment and Natural Environment Study has also recommended additional measures to be included as mitigation measures related to construction activities which can be seen below.

Implementation of recommended Mitigation Measures from the USFWS, CDFW, and the Biological Assessment and Natural Environment Study by Live Oak Associates will reduce impacts to Federal and State species of special concern to a less than significant impact.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

1. *The entire project limits shall be resurveyed for special-status plants by a qualified botanist following the "Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities" and that reference populations be visited to ensure proper timing (CDFW 2018b).*
2. *The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to special-status species during construction of the project.*
 - a. *To avoid impact to any special status species that may occur within the entire project limits, all work shall occur during daylight hours and project-related vehicles shall observe a 20 mph speed limit within the entire project limits during construction, except on country roads and State and Federal highways.*
 - b. *All excavated steep-walled holes or trenches more than 6 inches deep will be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Areas that are covered will be inspected daily, for as long as they are covered, to ensure that no special-status species have become trapped despite the presence of covers. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly searched for trapped animals.*
 - c. *All small diameter construction pipes or similar structures with a diameter of 4 inches or less that are stored within the entire project limits shall be thoroughly inspected for special-status species before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way.*
 - d. *In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures should be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape.*
 - e. *All areas subject to temporary ground disturbances, including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc. should be re-contoured if necessary, and re-vegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions.*

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- f. To prevent injury or mortality of special-status species by cats or dogs, no pets shall be permitted within the entire project limits during construction.*
 - g. Use of rodenticide and herbicides in the entire project limits will be restricted. If it is later determined that the use of rodenticides and herbicides is needed, consultation with the USFWS must be reinitiated.*
 - h. All food related trash items shall be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once a week from the project limits.*
 - i. No firearms shall be allowed on the project limits.*
 - j. Retain a qualified biologist to conduct an employee education program. The program should consist of a brief presentation prepared by persons knowledgeable in blunt-nosed leopard lizard (BNLL), giant kangaroo rat and San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF) biology and legislative protection to explain endangered species concerns to contractors, their employees, and agency personnel involved in the project. The program should include the following: a description of these species and their habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of these species in the entire project limits; an explanation of the status of these species and their protection under the Endangered Species Act; and a list of measures being taken to reduce impacts to these species during project construction and implementation. A fact sheet conveying this information should be prepared for distribution to program attendees and anyone else who may enter the project limits.*
- 3. Conduct a preconstruction survey for SJKF, BNLL, and giant kangaroo rat. If any new dens or signs of a federally-listed species are discovered or potential dens show signs of use, avoidance of the dens will follow U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox prior to ground disturbance. If a natal/pupping den is discovered within the project limits or within 200 feet of the project limits boundary, the USFWS shall be notified and, under no circumstances, should the den be disturbed or destroyed without an Incidental Take Statement*
- 4. The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to Blunt-Nosed Leopard Lizard (BNLL).*
- a. A complete set of blunt-nose leopard lizard (BNLL) protocol surveys following California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) guidelines will be conducted within 1 year of the start of the project. BNLL detection during protocol level surveys warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to implement ground-disturbing activities to avoid take.*
 - b. To ensure BNLLs do not occupy open burrows during the time between the end of the protocol surveys and the start of project construction, the protocol surveys will be timed such that the last survey will coincide with the beginning of construction. This will be accomplished by conducting*

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the juvenile surveys during August/September and the adult surveys from April 15 to July 15. The day following the last survey-day burrows will be collapsed/filled under the direction of a Level II BNLL biologist. Once those burrows are collapsed/filled, construction activities will immediately commence. Only those burrows that will be directly impacted by the project will be collapsed and no burrows will be collapsed if any BNLL is observed during the protocol surveys or at any other time prior to the start of the project.

5. *The following Mitigation Measure shall be implemented to address impacts to San Joaquin Kit Fox (SJKF).*
 - a. *SJKF detection warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to avoid take, or if avoidance is not feasible, to acquire an ITP prior to ground-disturbing activities, pursuant to Fish and Game code Section 2081 (b).*

6. *The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to San Joaquin Antelope Squirrel.*
 - a. *SJAS detection warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to avoid take, or if avoidance is not feasible, to acquire an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) prior to ground-disturbing activities, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081 (b).*

 - b. *If suitable habitat is present and surveys or trapping are not feasible, maintenance of a 50-foot minimum no-disturbance buffer around all small mammal burrows of suitable size for SJAS shall be implemented.*

7. *The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to California Glossy Snake.*
 - a. *California glossy snake detection during preconstruction surveys warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to implement ground-disturbing activities and avoid take. However, CDFW recommends that if any California glossy snake are discovered at a site immediately prior to or during Project activities they be allowed to move out of the area on their own volition. If this is not feasible, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist who holds a Scientific Collecting Permit for the species, capture and relocate the snake(s) out of harm's way to the nearest suitable habitat immediately adjacent to the project site. Avoidance of refuge habitat (i.e. burrows) whenever possible is encouraged via delineation and observing a 50-foot no-disturbance buffer around burrows.*

8. *The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to American badger.*

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- a. *Avoidance whenever possible is encouraged via delineation and observation of a 50-foot no-disturbance buffer around dens until it is determined through non-invasive means that individuals occupying the den have dispersed.*
9. *The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to burrowing owl.*
- a. *Reassess the presence/absence of burrowing owl (BUOW) by having a qualified biologist conduct surveys following the California Burrowing Owl Consortium's "Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines" (CBOC 1993) and CDFW's Staff Report on "Burrowing Owl Mitigation" (CDFG 2012).*
 - b. *Should a BUOW be detected, CDFW recommends no-disturbance buffers, as outlined in the "Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation" (CDFG 2012), be implemented prior to and during any ground-disturbing activities.*
 - c. *If necessary, burrow exclusion shall be conducted by qualified biologists and only during the non-breeding season, before breeding behavior is exhibited and after the burrow is confirmed empty through non-invasive methods, such as surveillance.*
- B. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Based on produced studies and surveys, the bottom and lower sides of the channel below the ordinary high water mark were sparsely vegetated with mostly native upland forbs and shrubs. The bridge is existing and the replacement bridge will not expand or change from the existing location. Improvements will be made to the creek to direct the thalweg towards the center of the bridge to control erosion and also install rock slope protection to counteract high velocity flows. Based on studies and surveys conducted for this project, and the existing nature of the project site along with the project scope, it will not significantly impact any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or identified by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- C. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally-protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means; or
- D. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

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FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

The National Wetland Inventory has identified Jacalitos Creek as a Riverine system, intermittent subsystem, streambed class, and temporary flooded water regime. Minor alterations will be made to the creek to bring the creek's thalweg towards the center of the bridge and install rock slope protection to counteract high velocity flows. The creek flow will remain unchanged. Alterations to the creek will not have a substantial adverse effect on this wetland.

Project site surveys did not identify any trees for removal. Surveys did note that a small population of Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) were observed under the existing onsite bridge during spring and summer surveys. Preconstruction surveys and appropriate exclusion measures are proposed to avoid construction related bat mortality. Mitigation measures will be incorporated to avoid any bat mortalities with regards to this project. The project will not interfere substantially with the movement of any native residence or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites.

The BSA provides potential nesting habitat for a number of migratory birds that are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Preconstruction surveys prior to any work occurring during the nesting season and avoidance of active nests are proposed to minimize project effects on nesting birds.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

1. *The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to nesting birds.*
 - a. *If construction activities will occur between February 1 and August 31, a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct pre-activity surveys for active nests of a special-status bird no more than 10 days prior to the start of ground disturbance to maximize probability that nests that could potentially be impacted are detected. If detected, a qualified biologist shall continuously monitor nests to detect behavioral changes resulting from the project. CDFW shall be consulted for additional avoidance and minimization measures.*
 - b. *If continuous monitoring of identified nests by a qualified wildlife biologist is not feasible, a minimum no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet around active nests of non-listed bird species and a 500-foot no-disturbance buffer around active nests of non-listed raptors. These buffers are advised to remain in place until the nesting season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival. CDFW shall be consulted if a Variance from the aforementioned no-disturbance buffer is sought.*

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2. *The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to Loggerhead Shrikes.*

a. *In order to avoid impacts to loggerhead shrikes, initial ground disturbance activities such as grading, scraping, material stockpiling, etc. will be initiated between September 1 and January 31. This will ensure that Project activities potentially impacting nesting shrikes will not coincide with their nesting season (February 1 to August 31). If ground disturbance must be initiated between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey for active shrike nests within 15 days of the onset of these activities. Should any active shrike nests be discovered in or near proposed construction zones, the biologist will identify a suitable construction free buffer around the nest. This buffer will be identified on the ground with flagging or fencing, and will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged.*

3. *The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to roosting bats.*

a. *Bats shall not be disturbed without specific notice to and consultation with CDFW. If a bat roost is detected, CDFW advises a minimum 50-foot no-disturbance buffer during activity, or postponing activity until repeat surveying documents that bats no longer use the roost. If avoidance or postponement is not feasible, a request for a reduced buffer or a Bat Eviction Plan shall be submitted to CDFW for written approval prior to implementation.*

- E. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or
- F. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT

The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. No Critical Habitat for any special status species was identified. The project will not conflict with provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or

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- B. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5; or
- C. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

An Archaeological and Historical Survey Report was prepared by Applied EarthWorks, Inc. for this project. CA-FRE-3761 had been identified as occurring in the project site. The Office of Historic Preservation, State Historic Preservation Officer was contacted in an attempt to concur a determination that the project will not affect historical resources identified in the area. The report determined that CA-FRE-3761 is ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with the determination that CA-FRE-3761 is ineligible for listing in the NRHP. The Archaeological Survey Report includes a records search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System; a cursory review of materials from historical archives; Native American consultation; and pedestrian surveys of an approximately 29.4-acre study area surrounding the existing bridge. Native American tribes under Assembly Bill 52 were also notified of the project proposal. No Native American tribes has requested consultation within the thirty (30) day period. Surveys conducted within the project area identified three cultural resources. CA-FRE-3761 (sparse lithic scatter) was identified with three artifacts identified. An isolated artifact (P-10-006514) is also in the project area found along the northwestern bank of Jacalitos Creek. P-10-006514 was located 70 meters southwest of the sparse lithic scatter (CA-FRE-3761) and it is possible that the isolated artifact is associated with CA-FRE-3761. One built environment cultural resources, Jacalitos Creek Bridge (42C0078) occurs within the project area and is listed in the Caltrans Historic Bridge Inventory as Category 5 and is not eligible for the NRHP. Although artifacts were discovered in the project area, the volume, spacing, proximity to the creek, and evidence of human disturbance in the area, there will be a less than significant impact. As a mitigation measure and standard practice of Caltrans, if previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, it is Caltrans' policy that work be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. Additional archaeological survey will be needed if project limits are extended beyond the present survey limits.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

1. *In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, all work shall be halted in the area of the find. An archeologist shall be called to evaluate the findings and make any necessary mitigation recommendations. If human remains are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, no further disturbance is to occur until the Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition. All normal evidence procedures should be followed by photos, reports, video, etc. If such remains are determined to be Native American, the Sherriff-Coroner must notify the Native American*

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Commission within 24 hours. Additional archaeological surveys will be needed if project limits are extended beyond the present survey limits.

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

- A. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

A Mitigation Measure will be incorporated to reduce the potential for wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction and operation. Idling of onsite equipment and vehicles will be avoided to the most possible extent. With the Mitigation Measure incorporated during the construction of the project, staff believes that the energy impact will be less than significant.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

1. *Idling of onsite equipment and vehicles will be avoided to the most possible extent.*

- B. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not conflict or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

- A. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

1. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is located in southwest Fresno County approximately 2.05 miles southeast of the city limits of the City of Coalinga. According to the California Hazards Zone Application (EQ Zapp) administered by the California Department of Conservation,

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the project site is not located near a rupture of a known earthquake or earthquake hazard zone.

2. Strong seismic ground shaking?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project site is located in an area that has peak horizontal ground acceleration of 40-60 percent per Figure 9-5 in the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR), with a 10 percent chance of exceeding that percentage in 50 years. The new bridge will be built to current building code standards and no agencies expressed concerns specific to seismic hazards.

3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

According to Figure 9-5 of the FCGPBR, the project site is located in an area that has peak horizontal ground acceleration of 40-60 percent. Although the project site is located in the identified area, no known earthquake hazard zone is near the project area and no agency expressed concern with seismic-related ground failure.

4. Landslides?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

According to the Figure 9-6 of the FCGPBR, the project site is in or near an area identified as a Moderate Landslide Area. The project area is mostly flat with some foothills near the site. No steep slopes are located near the project site. No reviewing agencies expressed concerns regarding landslides.

B. Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

According to Figure 7-4 of the FCGPBR, the project site is located in or near an Erosion Hazard area. Although the project site is located in or near an erosion hazard area, the project itself will minimize erosion hazards by application of stream barbs and rock slopes. The Development Services and Capital Projects Department, Development Engineering Unit did not express any concerns with regards to erosion or loss of topsoil.

C. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

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According to Figure 9-6 of the FCGPBR, the project site is located in or near an area designated as a Moderate Landslide Hazard. Although the project site is located in or near this identified area, site photos show that the project site is relatively flat with foothills nearby. Additionally, Figure 7-2 of the FCGPBR shows that the project site is not shown as having an over 30 percent slope.

- D. Be located on expansive soil as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to Figure 7-1 of the FCGPBR, the project site is not located in an area identified as having expansive soils.

- E. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project does not propose to install a septic tank or alternative disposal system.

- F. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resources or unique geologic feature as no unique paleontological resources or unique geologic feature was observed during initial site surveys.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

- A. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or
- B. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

A Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis dated December 17, 2019 has been completed by LSA for the project proposal. LSA states that they utilized the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0 (RoadMod) to estimate the project's GHG emissions. The analysis examines greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions produced from construction and operation

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of the proposed project. GHG emissions produced from operation of construction equipment and from worker and materials supply vendor vehicles, which typically use fossil-based fuels to operate. The analysis states that based on the RoadMod analysis, construction of the proposed project would generate a total of approximately 623.98 metric tons of CO₂e (Carbon Dioxide Emissions). An analysis of operational GHG emissions concluded that based on the project of an existing two-lane bridge being replaced with a new two-lane bridge, after construction, roadway operations would be expected to return to pre-construction levels. Therefore, the project would not result in operational GHG emissions. The analysis concludes that the project would not result in substantial GHG emissions during construction or operation of the project. Additionally, the project would not conflict with the goals and objectives of the SJVAPCD's Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) or any other State or regional plan, policy, or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions.

As stated in the analysis, GHG emissions will remain unchanged from project operation. GHG emissions produced from construction of the project is estimated to be 623.98 metric tons of CO₂e. Under SJVAPCD guidelines for GHG emissions, a quantitative analysis of GHG emissions from the operation of the proposed use would be subject to a 29% reduction compared to Business as Usual (BAU) levels from the 2004-2009 baseline period. Additionally, there are no adopted thresholds or standards for GHG emissions resulting from construction of the project to determine if the construction emissions would result in significant impacts. The Greenhouse Gas Emissions Analysis was routed to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) for review and comment on the project's consistency with regional standards. No concerns were expressed by the SJVAPCD to indicate that the construction and operation of the project would result in significant impacts. Therefore, as operation of the project will not result in a change in GHG emissions, and considering the temporary emissions brought on by the construction of the project and that no concerns were expressed by the SJVAPCD on construction emissions, the project's GHG emissions will have a less than significant impact and does not conflict with regional or state emission standards.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

- A. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; or
- B. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

A Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment report was conducted by Haro Environmental Inc. for the proposed project. A field visit of the project area was conducted by a Haro Environmental representative on July 2, 2015. During the field

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visit, Haro Environmental did not observe hazardous materials or petroleum products under conditions indicative of a release to the environment, or under conditions that pose a material threat of a future release to the environment. No hazardous materials or petroleum products were observed at off-site, nearby properties under current conditions that would pose a significant environmental concern to the project area. Based on data gathered and reviewed, Haro Environmental did not identify recognized environmental conditions that have impacted or pose a significant environmental threat to the project area with the exception that the concrete used to construct Jacalitos Bridge may contain asbestos and that the paint used on the railing may contain lead. Due to those concerns based on the findings of the Initial Site Assessment, Haro Environmental provided the following recommendations: 1) An asbestos survey should be performed to determine whether or not the concrete will require special handling and disposal; 2) a lead-based paint survey should be performed to determine whether or not the railing paint contains elevated concentrations of lead which would require special handling and disposal; and 3) testing and removal requirements for yellow traffic striping and pavement marking materials should be performed in accordance with Caltrans Construction Policy Bulletin 99-2 (Caltrans Construction Manual Chapter 7-107E; Caltrans, 2014a). These recommendations will be included as mitigation measures. Haro Environmental also provided a general recommendation stating that for all projects proposing excavation, grading, or pile driving, the potential exists for unknown hazardous materials contamination to be encountered during construction of the proposed project. Therefore, for any previously unknown hazardous waste material encountered as part of construction of the proposed project, the procedures outlined in Appendix E (Caltrans Unknown Hazards Procedure) shall be followed (Caltrans 2002). This recommendation will be included as a project note.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) expressed concerns with the project proposal and provided comments relating to the identification of past and future activities on or near the project site that could result in the release of hazardous wastes/substances on the project site, the testing of lead from soil taken from the project site, the identification of sites within the project area or sites located within the vicinity of the project site that have been used for mining activities, the presence of hazardous materials if a structure or building is demolished, the importation of fill, and identification of sites part of the project area that have been used for agricultural, weed abatement or other related activities.

The Initial Site Assessment prepared for this project by Haro Environmental addressed potential past uses of the site and surrounding area by studying aerial images and other historical documents to identify potentially hazardous uses that could have affected the project site. Historical aerial images of the project site suggest that the project area and area in the immediate vicinity of the project site remains largely unchanged, other than the construction of the bridge and the presence of a rural residential site located south of the project site. Aerial images of the site depict most of the area undeveloped and vacant with no agricultural use. Oil and gas records provided by DOGGR were reviewed and indicated that there are three oil or gas wells located within a one-mile radius of the project area. The nearest well has been identified and records indicate that the well was

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drilled, plugged, and abandoned in 1996. The remaining wells also indicate that they are plugged and abandoned. Based on the historical research done, there are no indications that the site would be adversely impacted by past uses on adjacent properties. There are no indications of future uses on adjacent sites that would adversely impact the project site. If a future intensive use were to be established on an adjacent site, that use would be subject to environmental review and appropriate mitigation measures.

The project site was tested for lead and asbestos with the results included in a report prepared on April 2, 2018. The report conducted by the County of Fresno, Construction Division, Materials Testing Laboratory tested four samples from different locations at the site for asbestos. The tests resulted in no asbestos detected. Four soil samples and one sample from the paint on the bridge were tested for lead content. The tests resulted in no detected lead content at any of the locations.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

1. *An asbestos survey should be performed to determine whether or not the concrete will require special handling and disposal.*
 2. *A lead-based paint survey should be performed to determine whether or not the railing paint contains elevated concentrations of lead which would require special handling and disposal.*
 3. *Testing and removal requirements for yellow traffic striping and pavement marked materials should be performed in accordance with Caltrans Construction Policy Bulletin 99-2 (Caltrans Construction Manual Chapter 7-107E; Caltrans, 2014a).*
- C. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located within one quarter-mile of a school.

- D. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment performed by Haro Environmental, Inc. stated that a regulatory agency database search performed by Environmental Database Resources (EDR) indicated that the project area was not listed in any databases searched, and no nearby properties were listed. A review of historic aerial photographs, topographic maps, and city directory listings indicated the project area was modified with the construction of Lost Hills Road as of 1912 and the construction of the Jacalitos

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Creek Bridge by 1950. Vacant, undeveloped land has surrounded the project area since at least 1912. Based on the assessment, the project site is not located on a hazardous materials site and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

- E. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located in the vicinity of a private airstrip, public airport, or public use airport.

- F. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

During the construction of the replacement bridge and stream improvements, a temporary onsite low water crossing detour approximately one hundred (100) feet north of the project area will be in place to serve public and emergency response vehicles. The impact will be less than significant as vehicles will still be able to utilize the detour in the general vicinity of Jacalitos Creek Road and Lost Hills Avenue instead of rerouting traffic away from the project site and increasing traffic on other roadways.

- G. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project area is located in a mostly vacant area with the nearest residence being approximately 800 feet south of the project area. The replacement of the bridge and erosion measures being applied to the stream will not bring additional risk from wildfires to people or structures.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

- A. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality; or
- B. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

EXHIBIT A

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) has reviewed the project proposal and the Jacalitos Creek Bridge Potential Waters of the U.S. prepared by Live Oak Associates Inc. (LOA). The ACOE concurred with the document prepared by LOA that approximately 2.06 acres of the other water bodies present within the survey area are potential waters of the United States regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Due to the potential water bodies being under the jurisdiction of the United States, work should not start unless a permit authorizing the activity is obtained from the Department of the Army.

SWCA Environmental Consultants prepared a Water Quality Memorandum (WQM) for the proposed project. The purpose of the memorandum was to describe the existing water resources, determine if the potential impacts of the project on the water sources would be significant based on preliminary project information, and identify feasible mitigation measures to address any potentially significant impacts. The WQM states that potential effects of the proposed project related to water quality are limited to construction-related impacts such as erosion, sedimentation, and the potential release of hazardous construction-related materials.

Grading activities could result in sedimentation of Jacalitos Creek if water is present; however it is unlikely that water will be present considering that construction activities are expected to occur during the dry season (July 1 through October 15).

The proposed project could introduce potential sources of pollution in the form of improper use of fuels, oils, and other construction-related hazardous waste materials, which could pose a threat to surface or groundwater quality. The County would adhere to erosion control standards and hazardous materials spill pollution and prevention standards to ensure the proposed project does not impact the water quality of the Jacalitos Creek or groundwater resources.

Increased concentrations of pollutant discharge from the road surface during storm events could impact local water bodies if they are transmitted to Jacalitos Creek when water is present. Additionally, uncontrolled water flow from the surface of the roadway could cause erosion that could alter stream geomorphology and cause gullies. The WQM determined that based on the project design, permitting, site-specific conditions of this project and implementation of proposed mitigation, the potential long-term impacts to water quality are not considered adverse.

The proposed project will be required to comply with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit to discharge stormwater associated with construction activities. Additionally, the project would be required to prepare a stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) that address the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff generated on-site during the construction and operation of the project and incorporates temporary best management practices (BMP) into the project. Implementation of temporary BMPs would minimize impacts to water quality that could occur as a result of construction of the proposed project.

EXHIBIT A

The WQM states that construction activities associated with the proposed project such as trenching and excavation could disturb the groundwater table, rendering groundwater exposed to potential contamination. Implementation of temporary BMPs would minimize potential impacts of the project from contributing to the impairment of groundwater.

The WQM identified that the proposed project would be required to comply with Title III and Title IV of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and NPDES along with compliance with the NPDES General Construction Permits. During Construction, water pollution control measures shall conform to the requirements in the SWPPP, the Water Pollution Control Program Preparation Manual, and the Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual. BMPs fall into four categories as identified by the Caltrans Statewide Stormwater Management Plan: Design Pollution Prevention, Treatment, Construction Site, and Maintenance. Prior to grading, an appropriate drainage control plan that includes control measures for handling construction and operation onsite and offsite runoff and drainage in a manner acceptable to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Caltrans, and the County. In addition to the standard BMPs required for compliance with state and local standards the following measure shall be incorporated to further minimize the potential impacts to water quality associated with the project: 1) Prior to construction, the County shall comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, in coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, in coordination with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Fish and Game Code, Section 1602, in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for Project-related impacts that will occur in areas under the jurisdiction of these regulatory agencies. 2) Prior to commencement of construction activities, the contractor shall prepare a hazardous material spill prevention control and countermeasure plan that will minimize the potential for and the effects of the release of toxic materials during construction of the proposed project. The plan shall include storage and containment procedures to prevent and respond to spills and shall identify the appropriate parties responsible for monitoring the spill response. During construction of the proposed project, any spills that occur shall be remedied immediately according to the guidance provided in the spill prevention control and countermeasure plan. The County and Caltrans shall review and approve the spill prevention control and countermeasure plan prior to allowing construction to begin.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

- 1. Prior to construction, the County shall comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act in coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, in coordination with the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Fish and Game Code, Section 1602, in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for Project-related impacts that will occur in areas under the jurisdiction of the regulatory agencies.*
- 2. Prior to commencement of construction activities, the contractor shall prepare a hazardous material spill prevention control and countermeasure plan that will minimize the potential for and the effects of the release of toxic materials during*

EXHIBIT A

construction of the proposed project. The plan shall include storage and containment procedures to prevent and respond to spills and shall identify the appropriate parties responsible for monitoring the spill response. During construction of the proposed project, any spills that occur shall be remedied immediately according to the guidance provided in the spill prevention control and countermeasure plan. The County and Caltrans shall review and approve the spill prevention control and countermeasure plan prior to allowing construction to begin.

- C. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?
1. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;
 2. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?
 3. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or
 4. Impede or redirect flood flows?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

Impacts to the course of the creek including erosion, drainage patterns and run-off were discussed above in Section A and B of IX. Hydrology and Water Quality. Additionally, the project is proposing to install stream barbs and rock slopes to control erosion throughout the project site. The stream barbs will direct water flow towards to center of the creek to control erosion. The Water Quality Memorandum also recommended a mitigation measure that once construction activities are complete, disturbed areas shall be re-vegetated with similar plant vegetation, pre-approved by the County, to stabilize soils and establish a natural system for erosion control. In addition, a 5-foot vegetate buffer consisting of native upland plant species should be planted to treat roadway runoff before it enters the channel below. Sediment control, potentially consisting of fiber rolls, may also be implemented.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

1. *Once construction activities are complete, disturbed areas shall be re-vegetated with similar plant vegetation, pre-approved by the County, to stabilize soils and establish a natural system for erosion control. In addition, a 5-foot vegetative buffer consisting of native upland plant species should be planted to treat roadway runoff before it enters the channel below. Sediment control, potentially consisting of fiber rolls, may also be implemented.*
- D. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

EXHIBIT A

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to Figure 9-8 of the FCGPBR, the project is not located in a Dam Failure Flood Inundation Area. The project site is not located near a large body of water that would be associated with a seiche or tsunami. According to Figure 9-6, the project site may be located on or near a moderate landslide hazard area. Although it is located on or near this identified area, the project site is located in a mostly flat area with foothills near the project site. No steep slopes are identified near the project site.

- E. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

See Section A and B of X. Hydrology and Water Quality. The project will be subject to local, state, and federal policies and standards that will apply to the project. The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

- A. Physically divide an established community?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not physically divide an established community.

- B. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The Development Services and Capital Projects Division, Policy Planning Unit reviewed the subject application and determined that the project does not affect the General Plan or Williamson Act Program. All other reviewing agencies did not express any concerns with regards to conflicts with a Land Use Plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

- A. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state; or

EXHIBIT A

- B. Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, Specific Plan or other land use plan?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

According to Figure 7-7 of the FCGPBR, the project site is located in an identified Mineral Resource Location. The project site is located in an identified Oil Field and is near an identified Sand and Gravel area. Although the project is located on and near these identified resources, the project site will mostly be confined to an already improved and disturbed site. The project will be confined to the existing site and most of the additional land being utilized outside of the existing bridge and road will be temporary and purposed for detouring road traffic. Therefore, the project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

- A. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies; or
- B. Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Temporary increases in noise levels will be expected during the construction phase of the project, with the construction work occurring during daylight hours. The closest residence is approximately 800 feet south of the project site. It is determined that due to the temporary aspect of construction work and the proximity of the project site to the nearest residence, the project will have a less than significant impact.

- C. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is not located in the vicinity of a public airport or private airstrip.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

EXHIBIT A

- A. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure); or
- B. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not induce a substantial population growth directly or indirectly as the scope of the project is replacing an existing bridge and applying improvements to the stream, with no expansion of the existing facilities proposed. The project will not displace housing or people.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

- A. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically-altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services?

- 1. Fire protection;

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The Fresno County Fire Protection District (FCFPD) has reviewed the subject application and did not express any concerns.

- 2. Police protection;

- 3. Schools;

- 4. Parks; or

- 5. Other public facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

Reviewing agencies did not express any concerns with regards to public services.

XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:

EXHIBIT A

- A. Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated; or
- B. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The project will not induce the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

- A. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; or
- B. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b); or
- C. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project is not anticipated to modify the amount of traffic in the vicinity of the site. There are minor changes to the existing roadway and intersection to improve the safety standards of the site. Therefore, it is anticipated that this project would have a minor beneficial impact, if any, on the performance of the circulation system, level of service standards, and traffic hazards.

- D. Result in inadequate emergency access?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

A temporary low water crossing detour will be constructed one hundred (100) feet north of the project site for use during the construction activities for public and emergency vehicles. The detour will have a less than significant impact as the use will be temporary while the bridge replacement is underway.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

EXHIBIT A

- A. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:
1. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or
 2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

See discussion in Section A, B, and C, of V. Cultural Resources. As per Assembly Bill 52, the participating California Native American tribes were contacted and given the opportunity to enter consultation with the County with regards to the project proposal. No Native American Tribe expressed any concerns with regards to the proposal. The Archeological and Historical Survey Report prepared by Applied EarthWorks Inc. identified that the project site is ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historical Places.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

- A. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects; or
- B. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years; or
- C. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The bridge replacement project will require water supplies and wastewater treatment services only during construction and demolition. Outside of these activities, the bridge will be an unmanned part of the circulation system. Therefore, the project will not require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater

EXHIBIT A

treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities which might cause a significant environmental effect.

- D. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals; or
- E. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT:

There is sufficient landfill capacity in Fresno County to accommodate construction and demolition debris from this project. The Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment performed by Haro Environmental included recommendations into the project to address the disposal of any hazardous materials including lead based paint and construction materials containing asbestos. See discussion VIII Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Section A and B. The project will comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste and if identified, any hazardous solid waste.

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

- A. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project site is located near a state responsibility area and is classified as a moderate fire hazard zone. During the construction of the project, a temporary detour approximately one hundred (100) feet north of the project site will be made available to the public and emergency vehicles. The detour will not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan or telecommunication facilities. The detour is temporary and will have a less than significant impact.

- B. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire; or
- C. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

EXHIBIT A

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The Fresno County Fire Protection District has reviewed the project proposal and did not express any concerns with regards to slope, prevailing winds or other factors that would exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildlife. Also, no concerns were received in regard to the requirement for the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. After construction of the project is completed, it will be an unmanned roadway, thus there are no concerns to project occupants resulting from a wildfire.

- D. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project site is located on flat land with foothills being located adjacent to the site. According to the FCGPBR, the project site is not located near any identified slope of thirty (30) percent or more. Therefore, the project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability or drainage changes.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

- A. Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

This project has the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, reduce the habitat of fish and/or wildlife species, and to threaten a local plant community and potentially affect cultural resources in the project site. Adherence to mitigation measures which will reduce potential impacts on biological resources, cultural resources, energy, hazards and hazardous materials and hydrology and water quality, to less than significant impacts.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

1. See Section IV. Biological Resources A. and D.

EXHIBIT A

2. *See Section V. Cultural Resources A. through C.*
3. *See Section VI. Energy A.*
4. *Section VIII. Hazards and Hazardous Materials A. and B.*
5. *Section IX. Hydrology and Water Quality A. through C.*

- B. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?
("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects); or
- C. Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The bridge replacement project will not have any cumulatively considerable impacts or adverse impacts on human beings because the proposed project is substantially similar to the existing use. Minor benefits including the bridge built to current design standards, increasing safety measures to the roadway and erosion control measures to the creek will improve safety in and around the project site.

CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

Based upon the Initial Study No. 7530 prepared for the Jacalitos Creek Bridge Replacement Project, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Land Use Planning, Population and Housing, Public Services and Recreation.

Potential impacts related to Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Mineral Resources, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire have been determined to be less than significant. Potential impacts relating to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Hydrology and Water Quality have determined to be less than significant with compliance with the listed Mitigation Measures.

A Mitigated Negative Declaration is recommended and is subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, street level, located on the southwest corner of Tulare and "M" Street, Fresno, California.

TK

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2020039064

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Initial Study No. 7530 - Jacalitos Creek Bridge Replacement Project

Lead Agency: County of Fresno Contact Person: Thomas Kobayashi
Mailing Address: 2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor Phone: (559) 600-4224
City: Fresno, CA Zip: 93721 County: Fresno

Project Location: County: Fresno City/Nearest Community: Coaling
Cross Streets: Lost Hills Road and Jacalitos Creek Road Zip Code: 93210
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): Section: 14 Twp.: 21S Range: 15E Base:
Assessor's Parcel No.: Right-of-way near 083-050-08S
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: Waterways: Jacalitos Creek
Airports: Railways: Schools:

Document Type:

CEQA: [] NOP [] Draft EIR NEPA: [] NOI Other: [] Joint Document
[] Early Cons [] Supplement/Subsequent EIR [] EA [] Final Document
[] Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) [] Draft EIS [] Other:
[X] Mit Neg Dec Other: MAR 23 2020

Local Action Type:

[] General Plan Update [] Specific Plan [] Rezone [] Annexation
[] General Plan Amendment [] Master Plan [] Prezone [] Redevelopment
[] General Plan Element [] Planned Unit Development [] Use Permit [] Coastal Permit
[] Community Plan [] Site Plan [] Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) [X] Other: Bridge Replacement

Development Type:

[] Residential: Units Acres [] Transportation: Type Bridge Replacement
[] Office: Sq.ft. Acres Employees [] Mining: Mineral
[] Commercial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees [] Power: Type MW
[] Industrial: Sq.ft. Acres Employees [] Waste Treatment: Type MGD
[] Educational: [] Hazardous Waste: Type
[] Recreational: [] Other: Creek Stabilization
[] Water Facilities: Type MGD

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

[X] Aesthetic/Visual [] Fiscal [X] Recreation/Parks [] Vegetation
[X] Agricultural Land [X] Flood Plain/Flooding [X] Schools/Universities [X] Water Quality
[X] Air Quality [X] Forest Land/Fire Hazard [X] Septic Systems [X] Water Supply/Groundwater
[X] Archeological/Historical [X] Geologic/Seismic [X] Sewer Capacity [X] Wetland/Riparian
[X] Biological Resources [X] Minerals [X] Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading [X] Growth Inducement
[] Coastal Zone [X] Noise [X] Solid Waste [X] Land Use
[X] Drainage/Absorption [X] Population/Housing Balance [X] Toxic/Hazardous [X] Cumulative Effects
[] Economic/Jobs [X] Public Services/Facilities [X] Traffic/Circulation [] Other:

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Transportation/AE-20/Agriculture

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

Replace the existing Jacalitos Creek Bridge, make associated improvements that would address scour problems at the bridge, and repair and/or stabilize the creek banks upstream and downstream of the bridge.

EXHIBIT A

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X". If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- Reviewing Agencies Checklist with checkboxes and agency names such as Air Resources Board, Office of Historic Preservation, etc.

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date March 23, 2020 Ending Date April 23, 2020

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: County of Fresno Applicant:
Address: 2220 Tulare Street, 6th Floor Address:
City/State/Zip: Fresno, CA 93721 City/State/Zip:
Contact: Thomas Kobayashi Phone:
Phone: (559) 600-4224

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 3/19/20

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: IS 7530 - Jacalitos Creek Bridge Replacement Project

Lead Agency: County of Fresno

Contact Name: Thomas Kobayashi

Email: TKobayashi@FresnoCountyCA.gov

Phone Number: (559) 600-4224

Project Location: Coalinga
City

Fresno
County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The project proposes to replace the existing Jacalitos Creek Bridge, make associated improvements that would address scour problems at the bridge, and repair and/or stabilize the creek banks upstream and downstream of the bridge. Specifically, the project would: replace the existing two-lane bridge with a new two-lane bridge built to current standards; taper widen the roadway approaches 400 feet on either side of the bridge; shift the intersection of Lost Hills Avenue and Jacalitos Creek road slightly to the east to accommodate new approach rails, work on Jacalitos Road would extend approximately 425 feet from the intersection; install rock slope protection, approximately 5 feet to 6 feet, up and downstream from the existing bridge to counteract high velocity flows; install a series of stream bards along the southeasterly abutment and upstream and downstream of the bridge to redirect the channel thalweg closer to the center of the bridge as an erosion control measure in the channel; construct a temporary onsite low water crossing detour approximately 100 feet north of the existing bridge for use during construction activities; and relocate utilities if necessary. The project site is located on Lost Hills Avenue, just west of Jacalitos Creek Road.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Impacts to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Hydrology and Water Quality were identified. Proposed mitigation measures for Biological Resources include pre-construction surveys, avoidance of any identified special status species that may inhabit the project site, and additional measures to avoid adversely impacting special status species that may occur in the project limits. Impacts to Cultural Resources will address cultural resources in the event that they are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities. Mitigation associated with Hazards and Hazardous Materials will address any hazardous construction materials in the event they are identified on the project site. Impacts to Hydrology and Water Quality are mitigated through compliance with State and Federal standards, the provision of plans to avoid or handle hazardous material spills and re-vegetating disturbed areas around the project area due to construction activities.

EXHIBIT A

continued

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

The largest areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency have been addressed with the provisions of Mitigation Measures to reduce the project's impacts to a less than significant impact. As stated Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Hydrology and Water Quality are the biggest areas of concerns, with those concerns being addressed through mitigation.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, United State Fish and Wildlife Services, United States Army Corps of Engineers, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

EXHIBIT B

File original and one copy with: Fresno County Clerk 2221 Kern Street Fresno, California 93721		Space Below For County Clerk Only. CLK-2046.00 E04-73 R00-00	
Agency File No: IS 7530	LOCAL AGENCY PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION		County Clerk File No: E-
Responsible Agency (Name): Fresno County	Address (Street and P.O. Box): 2220 Tulare St. Sixth Floor	City: Fresno	Zip Code: 93721
Agency Contact Person (Name and Title): Thomas Kobayashi Planner		Area Code: 559	Telephone Number: 600-4224
		Extension: N/A	
Project Applicant/Sponsor (Name): Alexis Rutherford County of Fresno Department of Public Works, Design Division		Project Title: Initial Study No. 7530, Jacalitos Creek Bridge Replacement Project	
Project Description: Replace the existing Jacalitos Creek Bridge, make associated improvements that would address scour problems at the bridge, and repair and/or stabilize the creek banks upstream and downstream of the bridge.			
Justification for Negative Declaration: Based upon the Initial Study Application No. 7530 prepared for the Jacalitos Creek Bridge Replacement Project, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would have no impacts to Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use Planning, Mineral Resources, Populations and Housing, Public Services, and Recreation. Potential impacts related to Air Quality, Geology and Soils, Noise, Transportation/Traffic and Utilities and Service Systems have been determined to be less than significant. Potential impacts relating to Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Mandatory Findings of Significance have determined to be less than significant with compliance with the listed Mitigation Measures. A Mitigated Negative Declaration/ is recommended and is subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Street Level, located on the southeast corner of Tulare and "M" Street, Fresno, California.			
FINDING: The proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment.			
Newspaper and Date of Publication: Fresno Business Journal – March 23, 2020		Review Date Deadline: Board of Supervisors – May 26, 2020	
Date:	Type or Print Signature: Marianne Mollring Senior Planner	Submitted by (Signature): Thomas Kobayashi Planner	

State 15083, 15085

County Clerk File No.: _____

LOCAL AGENCY MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EXHIBIT C

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program Initial Study Application No. 7530 (Including Conditions of Approval and Project Notes)

Mitigation Measures					
Mitigation Measure No.*	Impact	Mitigation Measure Language	Implementation Responsibility	Monitoring Responsibility	Time Span
1..	Biological Resources	The entire project limits shall be resurveyed for special-status plants by a qualified botanist following the "Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities" and that reference populations be visited to ensure proper timing (CDFW 2018b).	Applicant	Fresno County Design Division PW&P	Prior to construction
2.	Biological Resources	<p>The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to special-status species during construction of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To avoid impact to any special status species that may occur within the entire project limits, all work shall occur during daylight hours and project-related vehicles shall observe a 20 mph speed limit within the entire project limits during construction, except on county roads and State and Federal highways. b. All excavated steep-walled holes or trenches more than 6 inches deep will be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Areas that are covered will be inspected daily, for as long as they are covered, to ensure that no special-status species have become trapped despite the presence of covers. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly searched for trapped animals. c. All small diameter construction pipes or similar structures with diameter of 4 inches or less that are stored within the entire project limits shall be thoroughly inspected for special-status species before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. 	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Divisions PW&P	Ongoing/Prior to construction

EXHIBIT C

		<p>d. In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures should be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape.</p> <p>e. All areas subject to temporary ground disturbances, including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc. should be re-contoured if necessary, and re-vegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions.</p> <p>f. To prevent injury or mortality of special-status species by cats or dogs, no pets shall be permitted within the entire project limits during construction.</p> <p>g. Use of rodenticide and herbicides in the entire project limits will be restricted. If it is later determined that the use of rodenticide and herbicide is needed, consultations with the United States Fish and Wildlife Services must be reinitiated.</p> <p>h. All food related trash items shall be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once a week from the project limits.</p> <p>i. No firearms shall be allowed on the project limits.</p> <p>j. Retain a qualified biologist to conduct an employee education program. The program should consist of a brief presentation prepared by persons knowledgeable in blunt-nosed leopard lizard (BNLL), giant kangaroo rat and San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF) biology and legislative protection to explain endangered species concerns to contractors, their employees, and agency personnel involved in the project. The program should include the following: a description of these species and their habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of these species in the entire project limits; an explanation of the status of these species and their protection under the Endangered Species Act; and a list of measures being taken to reduce impacts to these species during project construction and implementation. A fact sheet conveying this information should be prepared for distribution to program attendees and anyone else who may enter the project limits.</p>			
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EXHIBIT C

3.	Biological Resources	<p>Conduct a preconstruction survey for SJKF, BNLL, and giant kangaroo rat. If any new dens or signs of a federally-listed species are discovered or potential dens show signs of use, avoidance of the dens will follow U.S Fish and Wildlife Services Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox prior to ground disturbance. If a natal/pupping den is discovered within the project limits or within 200 feet of the project limits boundary, the USFWS shall be notified and, under no circumstances, should the den be disturbed or destroyed without an Incidental Take Statement.</p>	Applicant	Fresno County Design Division PW&P	Prior to construction
4.	Biological Resources	<p>The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to Blunt-Nose Leopard Lizard (BNLL).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A complete set of blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard protocol surveys following California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) guidelines will be conducted within 1 year of the start of the project. BNLL detection during protocol level surveys warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to implement ground-disturbing activities to avoid take. b. To ensure BNLLs do not occupy open burrows during the time between the end of the protocol surveys and the start of project construction, the protocol surveys will be timed such that the last survey will coincide with the beginning of construction. This will be accomplished by conducting the juvenile surveys during August/September and the adult surveys from April 15 to July 15. The day following the last survey-day burrows will be collapsed/filled under the direction of a Level II BNLL biologist. Once those burrows are collapsed/filled, construction activities will immediately commence. Only those burrows that will be directly impacted by the project will be collapsed and no burrows will be collapsed if any BNLL is observed during the protocol surveys or at any other time prior to the start of the project. 	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Divisions PW&P	One year prior to construction/P prior to construction
5.	Biological Resources	<p>The following Mitigation Measure shall be implemented to address impacts to San Joaquin Kit Fox (SJKF).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. SJKF detection warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to avoid take, or if avoidance is not feasible, to acquire an ITP prior to ground-disturbing activities, pursuant to Fish and Game code Section 2081 (b). 	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Divisions PW&P	Prior to construction/Ongoing

EXHIBIT C

6.	Biological Resources	<p>The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to San Joaquin antelope squirrel (SJAS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. SJAS detection warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to avoid take, or if avoidance is not feasible, to acquire an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) prior to ground-disturbing activities, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081 (b). b. If suitable habitat is present and surveys or trapping are not feasible, maintenance of a 50-foot minimum no-disturbance buffer around all small mammal burrows of suitable size for SJAS shall be implemented. 	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Divisions PW&P	April 1 through September 20/Ongoing
7.	Biological Resources	<p>The following Mitigation Measure shall be implemented to address impacts to California Glossy Snake.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. California glossy snake detection during preconstruction surveys warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to implement ground-disturbing activities and avoid take. However, CDFW recommends that if any California glossy snake are discovered at a site immediately prior to or during Project activities they be allowed to move out of the area on their own volition. If this is not feasible, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist who holds a Scientific Collecting Permit for the species, capture and relocate the snake(s) out of harm's way to the nearest suitable habitat immediately adjacent to the project site. Avoidance of refuge habitat (i.e. burrows) whenever possible is encouraged via delineation and observing a 50-foot no-disturbance buffer around burrows. 	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Divisions, PW&P	Prior to construction
8.	Biological Resources	<p>The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to American badger.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Avoidance whenever possible is encouraged via delineation and observation of a 50-foot no-disturbance buffer around American Badger dens until it is determined through non-invasive means that individuals occupying the den have dispersed. 	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Divisions PW&P	Prior to construction/ Ongoing
9.	Biological Resources	<p>The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to burrowing owl.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reassess the presence/absence of burrowing owl (BUOW) by having a qualified biologist conduct 	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Divisions PW&P	Prior to construction/ Ongoing

EXHIBIT C

		<p>surveys following the California Burrowing Owl Consortium's "Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines" (CBOC 1993) and CDFW's Staff Report on "Burrowing Owl Mitigation" (CDFG 2012).</p> <p>b. Should a BUOW be detected, CDFW recommends no-disturbance buffers, as outlined in the "Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation" (CDFG 2012), be implemented prior to and during any ground-disturbing activities.</p> <p>c. If necessary, burrow exclusion shall be conducted by qualified biologists and only during non-breeding season, before breeding behavior is exhibited and after the burrow is confirmed empty through non-invasive methods, such as surveillance.</p>			
10.	Biological Resources	<p>The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to nesting birds.</p> <p>a. If construction activities will occur between February 1 and August 31, a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct pre-activity surveys for active nests of a special-status bird no more than 10 days prior to the start of ground disturbance to maximize probability that nests that could potentially be impacted are detected. If detected, a qualified biologist shall continuously monitor nests to detect behavioral changes resulting from the project. CDFW shall be consulted for additional avoidance and minimization measures.</p> <p>b. If continuous monitoring of identified nests by a qualified wildlife biologist is not feasible, a minimum no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet around active nests of non-listed bird species and a 500-foot no disturbance buffer around active nests of non-listed raptors. These buffers are advised to remain in place until the nesting season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival. CDFW shall be consulted if a Variance from the aforementioned no-disturbance buffer is sought.</p>	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Divisions PW&P	No more than 10 days prior to construction if construction occurs between February 1 and August 31/Ongoing
11.	Biological Resources	<p>The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to Loggerhead Shrikes</p>	Applicant	Fresno County Design and	Ongoing

EXHIBIT C

		<p>a. In order to avoid impacts to loggerhead shrikes, initial ground disturbance activities such as grading, scraping, material stockpiling, etc. will be initiated between September 1 and January 31. This will ensure that project activities potentially impacting nesting shrikes will not coincide with their nesting season (February 1 to August 31). If ground disturbance must be initiated between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey for active shrike nests be discovered in or near proposed construction zones, the biologist will identify a suitable construction free buffer around the nest. This buffer will identify a suitable construction free buffer around the nest. This buffer will be identified on the ground with flagging or fencing, and will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged.</p>		Construction Divisions PW&P	
12.	Biological Resources	<p>The following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented to address impacts to roosting bats.</p> <p>a. Bats shall not be disturbed without specific notice to and consultation with CDFW. If a bat roost is detected, CDFW advises a minimum 50-foot no-disturbance buffer during activity, or postponing activity until repeat surveying documents that bats no longer use the roost. If avoidance or postponement is not feasible, a request for a reduced buffer or a Bat Eviction Plan shall be submitted to CDFW for written approval prior to implementation.</p>	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Divisions PW&P	Ongoing
13.	Cultural Resources	<p>In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, all work shall be halted in the area of the find. An Archeologist shall be called to evaluate the findings and make any necessary mitigation recommendations. If human remains are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, no further disturbance is to occur until the Fresno County Sheriff-Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition. All normal evidence procedures should be followed by photos, reports, video, etc. If such remains are determined to be Native American, the Sherriff-Coroner must notify the Native American Commission within 24 hours. Additional archaeological surveys will be needed if project limits are extended beyond the present survey limits.</p>	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Division, PW&P	Ongoing

EXHIBIT C

14.	Energy	Idling of onsite equipment and vehicles will be avoided to the most possible extent.	Applicant	Fresno County Construction Division, PW&P	Ongoing
15.	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	An asbestos survey should be performed to determine whether or not the concrete will require special handling and disposal.	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Division, PW&P	Prior to construction
16.	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	A lead-based paint survey should be performed to determine whether or not the railing paint contains elevated concentrations of lead which would require special handling and disposal.	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Division, PW&P	Prior to construction
17.	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Testing and removal requirements for yellow traffic striping and pavement marked materials should be performed in accordance with Caltrans Construction Policy Bulletin 99-2 (Caltrans Construction Manual Chapter 7-107E; Caltrans, 2014a).	Applicant	Fresno County Construction Division, PW&P	Ongoing
18.	Hydrology and Water Quality	Prior to construction, the County shall comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act in coordination with the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act in coordination with the Regional Water Quality Control Board and Fish, and Game Code Section 1602 in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for Project-related impacts that will occur in areas under the jurisdiction of the regulatory agencies.	Applicant	Fresno County Design Division, PW&P	Prior to construction
19.	Hydrology and Water Quality	Prior to commencement of construction activities, the contractor shall prepare a hazardous materials spill prevention control and countermeasure plan that will minimize the potential for and the effects of the release of toxic materials during construction of the proposed project. The plan shall include storage and containment procedures to prevent and respond to spills, and shall identify the appropriate parties responsible for monitoring the spill response. During construction of the proposed project, any spills that occur shall be remedied immediately according to the guidance provided in the spill prevention control and countermeasure plan. The County and Caltrans shall review and approve the spill prevention control and countermeasure plan prior to allowing construction to begin.	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Division, PW&P	Prior to construction / Ongoing
20.	Hydrology and Water Quality	Once construction activities are complete, disturbed area shall be re-vegetated with similar plant vegetation, pre-approved by the County, stabilize soils and establish a natural system for erosion control. In addition, a 5-foot vegetative buffer consisting of native upland plant species should be planted to treat roadway runoff before it enters the channel below. Sediment control, potentially consisting of fiber rolls, may also be implemented.	Applicant	Fresno County Design and Construction Division, PW&P	Ongoing and after construction

EXHIBIT C

*MITIGATION MEASURE – Measure specifically applied to the project to mitigate potential adverse environmental effects identified in the environmental document.
Conditions of Approval reference recommended Conditions for the project.

Notes	
The following Notes reference mandatory requirements of Fresno County or other Agencies and are provided as information to the project Applicant.	
1. Air Quality	The proposed Project may be subject to District Rules and Regulations, including: Regulation VII (Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions), Rule 4102 (Nuisance), Rule 4601 (Architectural Coatings), and Rule 4641 (Cutback, Slow Cure, and Emulsified Asphalt Paving and Maintenance Operations). In the event an existing building will be renovated, partially demolished or removed, the Project may be subject to District Rule 4002 (National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants).

TK

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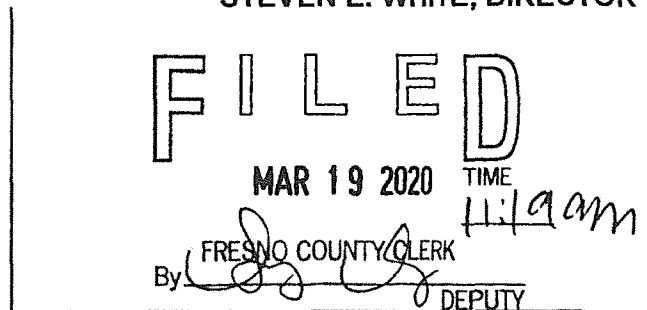


E202010000113

County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION



For County Clerk's Stamp

Notice is hereby given that the County of Fresno has prepared Initial Study Application (IS) No. 7530 pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act for the following proposed project:

INITIAL STUDY APPLICATION NO. 7530 filed by **FRESNO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING, DESIGN DIVISION**, proposing to replace the existing Jacalitos Creek Bridge, make associated improvements that would address scour problems at the bridge and repair and/or stabilize the creek banks upstream and downstream of the bridge. The project site is located on Lost Hills Avenue, just west of Jacalitos Creek Road and is approximately 2.05 miles southeast of the nearest city limits of the City of Coalinga. (SUP. DIST. 4) (Right-of-Way near APN 083-050-08S). Adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for Initial Study Application No. 7530.

(hereafter, the "Proposed Project")

The County of Fresno has determined that it is appropriate to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project. The purpose of this Notice is to (1) provide notice of the availability of IS Application No. 7530 and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, and request written comments thereon; and (2) provide notice of the public hearing regarding the Proposed Project.

Public Comment Period

The County of Fresno will receive written comments on the Proposed Project and Mitigated Negative Declaration from March 23, 2020 to April 23, 2020.

Email written comments to TKobayashi@FresnoCountyCA.gov, or mail comments to:

Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services and Capital Projects Division
Attn: Thomas Kobayashi
2220 Tulare Street, Suite A
Fresno, CA 93721

IS Application No. 7530 and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration may be viewed at the above address Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (except holidays), or at www.co.fresno.ca.us/initialstudy. An electronic copy of the

EXHIBIT D

E202010000113

draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project may be obtained from Thomas Kobayashi at the addresses above.

Public Hearing

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to consider approving the Proposed Project and the Mitigated Negative Declaration on May 26, 2020, at 8:45 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in Room 301, Hall of Records, 2281 Tulare Street, Fresno, California 93721. Interested persons are invited to appear at the hearing and comment on the Proposed Project and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration.

For questions please call Thomas Kobayashi (559) 600-4224.

Published: March 23, 2020

EXHIBIT E

Kobayashi, Thomas

From: Jimenez, Roy
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Kobayashi, Thomas
Cc: Allen, Glenn
Subject: FW: IS 7530, Initial Study Request for Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Thomas,

The Water/Natural Resources Division has reviewed the attached project and has no comments to offer at this time.

Thank you.



Roy Jimenez, Jr. | Planner

Department of Public Works and Planning | Water and Natural Resources Division

2220 Tulare St. 6th Floor Fresno, CA 93721

Main Office: (559) 600-4292 Direct: (559) 600-4251

[Your input matters! Customer Service Survey](#)

From: Allen, Glenn <glallen@fresnocountyca.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 9:57 AM
To: Jimenez, Roy <RJJimenez@fresnocountyca.gov>
Subject: FW: IS 7530, Initial Study Request for Comments

For your review and comment...

Thank you,



Glenn O. Allen, M.S. | Division Manager

Department of Public Works and Planning

Water and Natural Resources | Community Development

2220 Tulare St. 6th Floor Fresno, CA 93721

Main Office: (559) 600-4292 Direct: (559) 600-9672

[Your input matters! Customer Service Survey](#)

From: Kobayashi, Thomas <tkobayashi@fresnocountyca.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 8:59 AM
To: White, Steven <stwhite@fresnocountyca.gov>; Jimenez, Bernard <BJimenez@fresnocountyca.gov>; Thompson, John R. <jthompson@fresnocountyca.gov>; Kettler, William <WKettler@fresnocountyca.gov>; Motta, Chris <CMotta@fresnocountyca.gov>; Mollring, Marianne <mmollring@fresnocountyca.gov>; Khorsand, Mohammad <mkhorsand@fresnocountyca.gov>; Chambers, Derek <dchambers@fresnocountyca.gov>; Mtunga, Tawanda <tmtunga@fresnocountyca.gov>; Luna, Hector <HLuna@fresnocountyca.gov>; Mather, Daniel N.

EXHIBIT E

<dmather@fresnocountyca.gov>; Kennedy, Laurie <lkennedy@fresnocountyca.gov>; Lopez, Nadia <nlopez@fresnocountyca.gov>; Lopez, Nadia <nlopez@fresnocountyca.gov>; Alimi, Mohammad <malimi@fresnocountyca.gov>; Siemer, Dale <DSiemer@fresnocountyca.gov>; Allen, Glenn <glallen@fresnocountyca.gov>; Tsuda, Kevin <ktsuda@fresnocountyca.gov>; Sidhu, Sukhdeep <ssidhu@fresnocountyca.gov>; Rhodes, Steven <srhodes@fresnocountyca.gov>; Zanoni, John <john.zanoni@fresnosheriff.org>; Reynolds, John <john.reynolds@fresnosheriff.org>; Hernandez, Louis <louis.hernandez@fresnosheriff.org>; Curtice, Kathy <kathy.curtice@fresnosheriff.org>; Hushaw, Ryan <ryan.hushaw@fresnosheriff.org>; patricia_cole@fws.gov; appleton.zac@epa.gov; richmond.dawn@epa.gov; Harvey, Dale@Waterboards <Dale.Harvey@waterboards.ca.gov>; dave.padilla@dot.ca.gov; Robison, Renee@Wildlife <Renee.Robison@Wildlife.ca.gov>; dave.kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov; kenneth.foster@slc.ca.gov; kevin.faulkenberry@water.ca.gov; CEQA@Valleyair.org; chris.christopherson@fire.ca.gov
Subject: IS 7530, Initial Study Request for Comments

Good Morning,

The Department of Public Works and Planning, Development Services and Capital Projects Division is reviewing the subject application proposing to replace the existing Jacalitos Creek Bridge on Lost Hills Avenue, just west of Jacalitos Creek Road, and make associated improvements that would address scour problems at the bridge and repair and/or stabilize the creek banks upstream and downstream of the bridge. An Initial Study is being prepared to identify and mitigate possible impacts from this project.

We are reviewing for environmental impacts from this project as mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act. The environmental documents can be accessed at <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/initialstudies>. We are requesting that you review and provide comment on the environmental analysis.

Please return comments to me by April 23, 2020. If your Agency or Department has not comments, please provide a "No Comment" to me as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to ask. Thank you and have a great day.

Sincerely,



Thomas Kobayashi | Planner
Department of Public Works and Planning |
Development Services and Capital Projects Division
2220 Tulare St. 6th Floor Fresno, CA 93721
Main Office: (559) 600-4230 Direct: (559) 600-4224
[Your input matters! Customer Service Survey](#)

EXHIBIT E

Kobayashi, Thomas

From: Connor, Kelly@SLC <Kelly.Connor@slc.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 24, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Kobayashi, Thomas
Cc: Foster, Kenneth@SLC
Subject: RE: IS 7530, Initial Study Request for Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

Good morning Mr. Kobayashi,
The California State Lands Commission has no comment for the project.
Thank you,



Mr. Kelly Connor, Public Land Management Specialist
CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
Land Management Division | Southern California Region
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South | Sacramento | CA 95825
Phone: 916.574.0343 | Email: kelly.connor@slc.ca.gov



From: Kobayashi, Thomas <tkobayashi@fresnocountyca.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 8:59 AM
To: White, Steven <stwhite@fresnocountyca.gov>; Jimenez, Bernard <Bljimenez@fresnocountyca.gov>; Thompson, John R. <jthompson@fresnocountyca.gov>; Kettler, William <WKettler@fresnocountyca.gov>; Motta, Chris <CMotta@fresnocountyca.gov>; Mollring, Marianne <mmollring@fresnocountyca.gov>; Khorsand, Mohammad <mkhorsand@fresnocountyca.gov>; Chambers, Derek <dchambers@fresnocountyca.gov>; Mtunga, Tawanda <tmtunga@fresnocountyca.gov>; Luna, Hector <HLuna@fresnocountyca.gov>; Mather, Daniel N. <dmather@fresnocountyca.gov>; Kennedy, Laurie <lkennedy@fresnocountyca.gov>; Lopez, Nadia <nllopez@fresnocountyca.gov>; Lopez, Nadia <nllopez@fresnocountyca.gov>; Alimi, Mohammad <malimi@fresnocountyca.gov>; Siemer, Dale <DSiemer@fresnocountyca.gov>; Allen, Glenn <glallen@fresnocountyca.gov>; Tsuda, Kevin <ktsuda@fresnocountyca.gov>; Sidhu, Sukhdeep <ssidhu@fresnocountyca.gov>; Rhodes, Steven <srhodes@fresnocountyca.gov>; Zaroni, John <john.zaroni@fresnosheriff.org>; Reynolds, John <john.reynolds@fresnosheriff.org>; Hernandez, Louis <louis.hernandez@fresnosheriff.org>; Curtice, Kathy <kathy.curtice@fresnosheriff.org>; Hushaw, Ryan <ryan.hushaw@fresnosheriff.org>; patricia_cole@fws.gov; appleton.zac@epa.gov; richmond.dawn@epa.gov; Harvey, Dale@Waterboards <Dale.Harvey@waterboards.ca.gov>; Padilla, Dave@DOT <dave.padilla@dot.ca.gov>; Robison, Renee@Wildlife <Renee.Robison@Wildlife.ca.gov>; Kereazis, Dave@DTSC <Dave.Kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov>; Foster, Kenneth@SLC <Kenneth.Foster@slc.ca.gov>; Faulkenberry, Kevin@DWR <Kevin.Faulkenberry@water.ca.gov>; CEQA@Valleyair.org; Christopherson, Chris@CALFIRE <Chris.Christopherson@fire.ca.gov>
Subject: IS 7530, Initial Study Request for Comments

Good Morning,

The Department of Public Works and Planning, Development Services and Capital Projects Division is reviewing the subject application proposing to replace the existing Jacalitos Creek Bridge on Lost Hills Avenue, just west of Jacalitos Creek Road, and make associated improvements that would address scour problems at the bridge and repair and/or

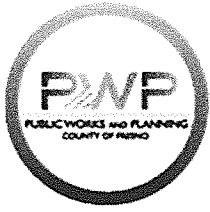
EXHIBIT E

stabilize the creek banks upstream and downstream of the bridge. An Initial Study is being prepared to identify and mitigate possible impacts from this project.

We are reviewing for environmental impacts from this project as mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act. The environmental documents can be accessed at <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/initialstudies>. We are requesting that you review and provide comment on the environmental analysis.

Please return comments to me by April 23, 2020. If your Agency or Department has not comments, please provide a "No Comment" to me as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to ask. Thank you and have a great day.

Sincerely,



Thomas Kobayashi | Planner
Department of Public Works and Planning |
Development Services and Capital Projects Division
2220 Tulare St. 6th Floor Fresno, CA 93721
Main Office: (559) 600-4230 Direct: (559) 600-4224
[Your input matters! Customer Service Survey](#)

EXHIBIT E

Kobayashi, Thomas

From: Nakagawa, Wendy
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2020 4:49 PM
To: Kobayashi, Thomas
Cc: Lopez, Nadia
Subject: FW: IS 7530, Initial Study Request for Comments

Importance: High

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

No comment.



Wendy Nakagawa, P.E. | Senior Engineer
Department of Public Works and Planning | Road Maintenance and Operations Division
2220 Tulare St. 6th Floor Fresno, CA 93721
Main Office: (559) 600-4240 Direct: (559) 600-4265
[Your input matters! Customer Service Survey](#)

From: Kobayashi, Thomas <tkobayashi@fresnocountyca.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2020 8:59 AM
To: White, Steven <stwhite@fresnocountyca.gov>; Jimenez, Bernard <BJimenez@fresnocountyca.gov>; Thompson, John R. <jothompson@fresnocountyca.gov>; Kettler, William <WKettler@fresnocountyca.gov>; Motta, Chris <CMotta@fresnocountyca.gov>; Mollring, Marianne <mmollring@fresnocountyca.gov>; Khorsand, Mohammad <mkhorsand@fresnocountyca.gov>; Chambers, Derek <dchambers@fresnocountyca.gov>; Mtunga, Tawanda <tmtunga@fresnocountyca.gov>; Luna, Hector <HLuna@fresnocountyca.gov>; Mather, Daniel N. <dmather@fresnocountyca.gov>; Kennedy, Laurie <lkennedy@fresnocountyca.gov>; Lopez, Nadia <nlopez@fresnocountyca.gov>; Lopez, Nadia <nlopez@fresnocountyca.gov>; Alimi, Mohammad <malimi@fresnocountyca.gov>; Siemer, Dale <DSiemer@fresnocountyca.gov>; Allen, Glenn <glallen@fresnocountyca.gov>; Tsuda, Kevin <ktsuda@fresnocountyca.gov>; Sidhu, Sukhdeep <ssidhu@fresnocountyca.gov>; Rhodes, Steven <srhodes@fresnocountyca.gov>; Zaroni, John <john.zaroni@fresnosheriff.org>; Reynolds, John <john.reynolds@fresnosheriff.org>; Hernandez, Louis <louis.hernandez@fresnosheriff.org>; Curtice, Kathy <kathy.curtice@fresnosheriff.org>; Hushaw, Ryan <ryan.hushaw@fresnosheriff.org>; patricia_cole@fws.gov; appleton.zac@epa.gov; richmond.dawn@epa.gov; Harvey, Dale@Waterboards <Dale.Harvey@waterboards.ca.gov>; dave.padilla@dot.ca.gov; Robison, Renee@Wildlife <Renee.Robison@Wildlife.ca.gov>; dave.kereazis@dtsc.ca.gov; kenneth.foster@slc.ca.gov; kevin.faulkenberry@water.ca.gov; CEQA@Valleyair.org; chris.christopherson@fire.ca.gov
Subject: IS 7530, Initial Study Request for Comments

Good Morning,

The Department of Public Works and Planning, Development Services and Capital Projects Division is reviewing the subject application proposing to replace the existing Jacalitos Creek Bridge on Lost Hills Avenue, just west of Jacalitos Creek Road, and make associated improvements that would address scour problems at the bridge and repair and/or stabilize the creek banks upstream and downstream of the bridge. An Initial Study is being prepared to identify and mitigate possible impacts from this project.

EXHIBIT E

We are reviewing for environmental impacts from this project as mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act. The environmental documents can be accessed at <https://www.co.fresno.ca.us/initialstudies>. We are requesting that you review and provide comment on the environmental analysis.

Please return comments to me by April 23, 2020. If your Agency or Department has not comments, please provide a "No Comment" to me as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to ask. Thank you and have a great day.

Sincerely,



Thomas Kobayashi | Planner
Department of Public Works and Planning |
Development Services and Capital Projects Division
2220 Tulare St. 6th Floor Fresno, CA 93721
Main Office: (559) 600-4230 Direct: (559) 600-4224
Your input matters! Customer Service Survey

EXHIBIT E

Kobayashi, Thomas

From: Sidhu, Sukhdeep
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2020 2:44 PM
To: Kobayashi, Thomas
Cc: Rhodes, Steven; Tsuda, Kevin
Subject: IS 7530, Jacalitos Creek Bridge Replacement, MND

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Thomas,

The Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division has completed the review of the Notice of intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Initial Study 7530 filed by County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, Design Division, proposing to replace the existing Jacalitos Creek Bridge. The application packet adequately covers Environmental Health Division concerns with demolition and replacement of the existing bridge and Environmental Health Division has no additional comments to offer.

Sincerely

Sukhdeep(Deep) Sidhu, R.E.H.S
Environmental Health Specialist

Phone(559)600-3271

Fax (559)455-4646

E-mail ssidhu@fresnocountyca.gov

<http://www.fresnocountycupa.com/>

<http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/divisionpage.aspx?id=908>

