

## Chapter 3 – Comments and Coordination

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and public participation for this project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including project development team meetings, interagency coordination meetings. This chapter summarizes the results of the Department's efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

### 3.1 Public Involvement

#### 3.1.1 Mailing List

A database of potentially interested or affected parties was developed and used for noticing the availability of the environmental document and the opportunity to request a public hearing. This database includes affected property owners and occupants along the corridor, regional and local agencies, local elected officials, community and special interest organizations, and the media. It is updated periodically to reflect changes in elected officials and so forth; also, contact information for stakeholders and others who write in about the project is added to the list. The current project mailing list includes 99 entries.

#### 3.1.2 Opportunity for a Public Hearing/ Public Meeting

An opportunity for a public hearing will be extended during the public circulation period for the IS/EA. A Notice of Availability of the IS/EA will be circulated to the project mailing list noted in **Section 3.1.1** and to the various parties listed in the Distribution List (see **Chapter 5**). A public notice will also be placed in the local newspaper of general circulation. If a public hearing is held in response to a request, notice will be provided to the entire project mailing list, including the Distribution List, and an advertisement will be posted in the local newspaper of general circulation. If a public hearing is held, the location and date of the meeting will be printed in the front pages of this document with the address to which written comments may be sent, and the circulation period will be extended to allow adequate time for meeting attendees to submit comments. The project will not be approved until all of the public and agency comments received during the circulation period have been reviewed and addressed.

### 3.2 Agency Coordination

Consultations with regulatory agencies have been conducted regarding project features, potential impact issues, technical methodologies, and documentation. The Distribution List (**Chapter 5**) identifies the federal, state, and local agencies that will receive notification of the availability of this environmental document for review. Agencies contacted or consulted during the preparation of this environmental document are summarized in **Table 3-1**.

**Table 3-1 Summary of Agency Coordination**

Agency	Type of Consultation	Date of Consultation	Summary
<b>Cultural Resources</b>			
Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)	Letter Database Report	December 17, 2007 December 28, 2007	<p>Far Western contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on December 17, 2007 and requested that they conduct a search of their Sacred Lands file to determine if there were known cultural sites within or near the APE for the current project. The NAHC report on December 28, 2007 stated that no Native American cultural resources were reported from the Sacred Lands file records search (Attachment A [ASR]:Appendix E). A list of interested Native American groups and individuals was also requested and provided.</p> <p>Far Western contacted all 11 individuals listed as interested Native American groups and individuals by the NAHC; they were sent letters requesting input on February 14, 2008, and then received follow-up phone calls on March 4, 2008 (Attachment A [ASR]:Appendix E). Ms. Anne Marie Sayers requested archaeological and Native American monitors be present during project construction. Mr. Andrew Galvin requested that should archaeological material be encountered, all relevant law regulations be followed. No additional input was received.</p>
Caltrans, District 4	E-mail Telephone	December 2007- April 2008	<p>JRP Historical Consulting reported that no historical architectural resources were identified in the study area.</p> <p>Communication regarding cultural resources was led by Far Western.</p>
<b>Paleontology</b>			
University of California, Museum of Paleontology	Coordination of museum archival records search	February 27, 2008	Obtained copies and notes from museum locality maps of the project area.

Agency	Type of Consultation	Date of Consultation	Summary
<b>Biology</b>			
US Fish & Wildlife Services	Biological Resource Document	November, 2007 Currently Under Review	Submitted the following reports:  Habitat Assessment for vernal pool fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> ). Route I-580 Westbound HOV Lane Widening Between San Ramon Road/Foothill Road and Greenville Road, Alameda County, California (EA 131571).  Habitat Assessment for California tiger salamander ( <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> ). Route I-580 Westbound HOV Lane Widening Between San Ramon Road/Foothill Road and Greenville Road, Alameda County, California (EA 131571).  Habitat Assessment for California red-legged frog ( <i>Rana draytonii</i> ). Route I-580 Westbound HOV Lane Widening Between San Ramon Road/Foothill Road and Greenville Road, Alameda County, California (EA 131571).  Habitat Assessment for San Joaquin kit fox ( <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> ). Route I-580 Westbound HOV Lane Widening Between San Ramon Road/Foothill Road and Greenville Road, Alameda County, California (EA 131571).
		July 3, 2008 Currently Under Review	Submitted Draft Biological Assessment. Route I-580 Westbound HOV Lane Widening Between San Ramon Road/Foothill Road and Greenville Road, Alameda County, California (EA 131571).
US Army Corps of Engineers	Biological Resource Document	February, 2008 Currently Under Review	Submitted Preliminary Determination of Waters of the U.S. Route I-580 Westbound HOV Lane Between San Ramon Road/Foothill Road and Greenville Road, Alameda County, California (EA 131571).
National Marine Fisheries Service	Letter Request	Submitted July, 2008	Request for Concurrence: No-Effects Letter on California central coast steelhead.

### 3.3 Agency Consultation

Initial agency consultation included informal conversations with USFWS staff and a project meeting and field review conducted October 17, 2007. A second meeting with USFWS staff occurred March 6, 2008. A third meeting with USFWS staff occurred March 27, 2008 in the field to visually survey the Biological Study Area. A Biological Assessment Report was submitted to the USFWS in July 2008, thereby initiating formal consultation with the Service. The Service provided a response to the

Biological Assessment on February 18, 2009, requesting more information. A response to the Services Request was provided the second week of March 2009. As of March 12, 2009 a formal biological opinion has not been released by the Service. A list of attendees and topics of discussion is included in **Table 3-2**.

**Table 3-2 Agency Meetings to Date**

Attendees	Agency	Date	Notes/Meeting Topics
Ray Akkawi	ACCMA	10/17/2007 (Pleasanton office of BKF Engineers)	Project presented to USFWS. Field meeting to review existing conditions in the project limits. Discussion of which species to address in the BA document, construction methods, project timeline, concurrence with study approach and methods.
Hank Haugse	ACCMA		
Roy Schnabel	Biggs Cardosa Associates		
Natalina Bernardi	BKF Engineers		
Melanie Brent	Caltrans Environmental		
Joshua Channell	CirclePoint		
Craig Seldenrich	ECORP Consulting, Inc.		
Bill Gray	Gray – Bowen		
Shannon Fiala	NRM Environmental		
Patricia Berryhill	NRM Environmental		
Sue Townsend	NRM Environmental		
Sean Mayer	TY Lin		
Steve Pagliugli	USFWS		
John Cleckler	USFWS		
Maral Kasparian	USFWS		
Ray Akkawi	ACCMA	March 6, 2008 (at Sacramento offices of USFWS)	Refined project presented to USFWS. Presented findings and project effects to special-status species suitable habitat. Discussion of Permanent vs. Temporary Impacts on construction schedule and permitting, mitigation of suitable habitat, and timeline for the Biological Opinion.
Hank Haugse	ACCMA		
Roy Schnabel	Biggs Cardosa Associates		
Natalina Bernardi	BKF Engineers		
Margarit Gabil	Caltrans		
Robert Atanasio	Caltrans		
Joshua Channell	CirclePoint		
Patricia Berryhill	NRM Environmental		

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Notes/Meeting Topics</b>
Lauren Abom	NRM Environmental		
Misha Seguin	NRM Environmental		
Maral Kasparian	USFWS		
Jerry Roe	USFWS		
Chris Nagano	USFWS		
Ray Akkawi	ACCMA	March 27, 2008 [in the field along the project Biological Study Area (BSA)]	Visited all creek crossings and Seasonal Wetland 1 in the BSA. Discussion of construction activities in the creeks and total effect footprint to vernal pool fairy shrimp (VPFS) habitat at Seasonal Wetland 1. USFWS advised to include all project effects, but to subtract the previously mitigated habitat (from overlapping projects) from the final required mitigation.
Hank Haugse	ACCMA		
Roy Schnabel	Biggs Cardosa Associates		
Natalina Bernardi	BKF Engineers		
Margaret Gabil	Caltrans		
Robert Atanasio	Caltrans		
Misha Seguin	NRM Environmental		
Jerry Roe	USFWS		
John Cleckler	USFWS		

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