

Murphys Turnout and Chain Control Facility

Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration



State Route 4
Calaveras County
10-CAL-4-PM 32.2
EA 0K6300

Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation

April 2007



General Information About This Document

What's in this document?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study, which examines the potential environmental impacts of alternatives being considered for the proposed project located in Calaveras County, California. The document describes why the project is being proposed, alternatives for the project, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, potential impacts from each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

What should you do?

- Please read this Initial Study. Additional copies of this document as well as the technical studies are available for review at Caltrans District Office, 1976 East Charter Way (1976 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.), Stockton, CA 95205 and Calaveras County Library, Murphys Branch, 480 Park Lane, Murphys, CA 95247.
- We welcome your comments. If you have any concerns regarding the proposed project, please send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline. Submit comments via U.S. mail to Caltrans at the following address:

Mary Oliva, Chief
Northern San Joaquin Valley Environmental Management Branch
California Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 2048
Stockton, CA 95201

Submit comments via email to: Mary_Oliva@dot.ca.gov

- Submit comments by the deadline: _____.

What happens next?

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans may 1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, 2) do additional environmental studies, or 3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette, or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Caltrans, Attn: Christine Cox, San Joaquin Valley Environmental Management Branch, 1976 East Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Stockton, CA 95205; (559) 243-8151 Voice, or use the California Relay Service TTY number, (800) 735-2929.

Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to close the gap between two closely spaced turnouts located near Murphys in Calaveras County, California on State Route 4 at Post Mile 32.2. The existing pavement would be widened to provide one continuous turnout (1,132-foot long by 15-foot wide). New right-of-way would be required for this project.

Determination

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project. This does not mean that Caltrans' decision regarding the project is final. This Mitigated Negative Declaration is subject to modification based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project and, pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- The proposed project would have no effect on aesthetics; agricultural or rangeland resources; air quality; cultural resources; farmland or timber resources; geology and soils; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use planning; mineral resources; noise or vibration levels; paleontological features; population and housing; public services; recreation; threatened or endangered species; traffic levels; pedestrian or bicycle facilities; utility and service systems.

In addition, the proposed project would have no significantly adverse effect on waters of the U.S. or biological features because the following mitigation measures would reduce potential effects to insignificance:

- Impacts to 0.020 acre of Waters of the U.S. would be mitigated through creating a 0.038-acre segment of the Forrester Creek channel.
- Impacts to riparian habitat would be mitigated through the implementation of a revegetation plan.

Christine Cox-Kovacevich
Office Chief
Environmental North Office
Central Region Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation

Date

Section 1 Project Information

Project Title

Murphys Turnout and Chain Control Facility

Lead Agency Name and Address

California Department of Transportation
1976 East Charter Way/1976 East Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Stockton, CA 95205

Contact Person and Phone Number

Mary Oliva, Branch Chief
Northern San Joaquin Valley Environmental Management Branch
(209) 941-1919

Project Location

The proposed project is located in Calaveras County on State Route 4 near the town of Murphys (Post Mile 32.2). See Figures 1 and 2.

Project Sponsor's Name and Address

Same as Lead Agency

General Plan Description

Ebbet's Pass Highway Plan. Residential Center, Single-Family Residential.

Zoning

Highway Service (HS), Residential Agriculture (RA), Unclassified (U).

Description of Project

The proposed project would:

- Combine two existing turnouts into one continuous turnout and chain control facility with a length of 1,131.9 feet and a width of 15 feet in the eastbound direction on State Route 4 at Post Mile 32.2.
- Realign Forrester Creek.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The proposed project is located in the Sierra Nevada Mountain range where elevation ranges from 2,300 to 3,200 feet above mean sea level. Foothill pine-oak woodland, Westside ponderosa pine forest, and non-serpentine foothill pine woodland characterize the surrounding vegetation. Current land use is primarily rural housing. Forrester Creek, a tributary of Angels Creek, runs through the proposed project area. The climate consists of warm, dry summers and cool, moist winters with moderate snow accumulation.

Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

- Army Corps of Engineers. Section 404 permit.
- California Department of Fish and Game (Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act). Section 1602 permit.
- Regional Water Quality Control Board. Section 401 permit.

Figure 1: Project Location Map

Murphys Turnout and Chain Control Facility Location Map

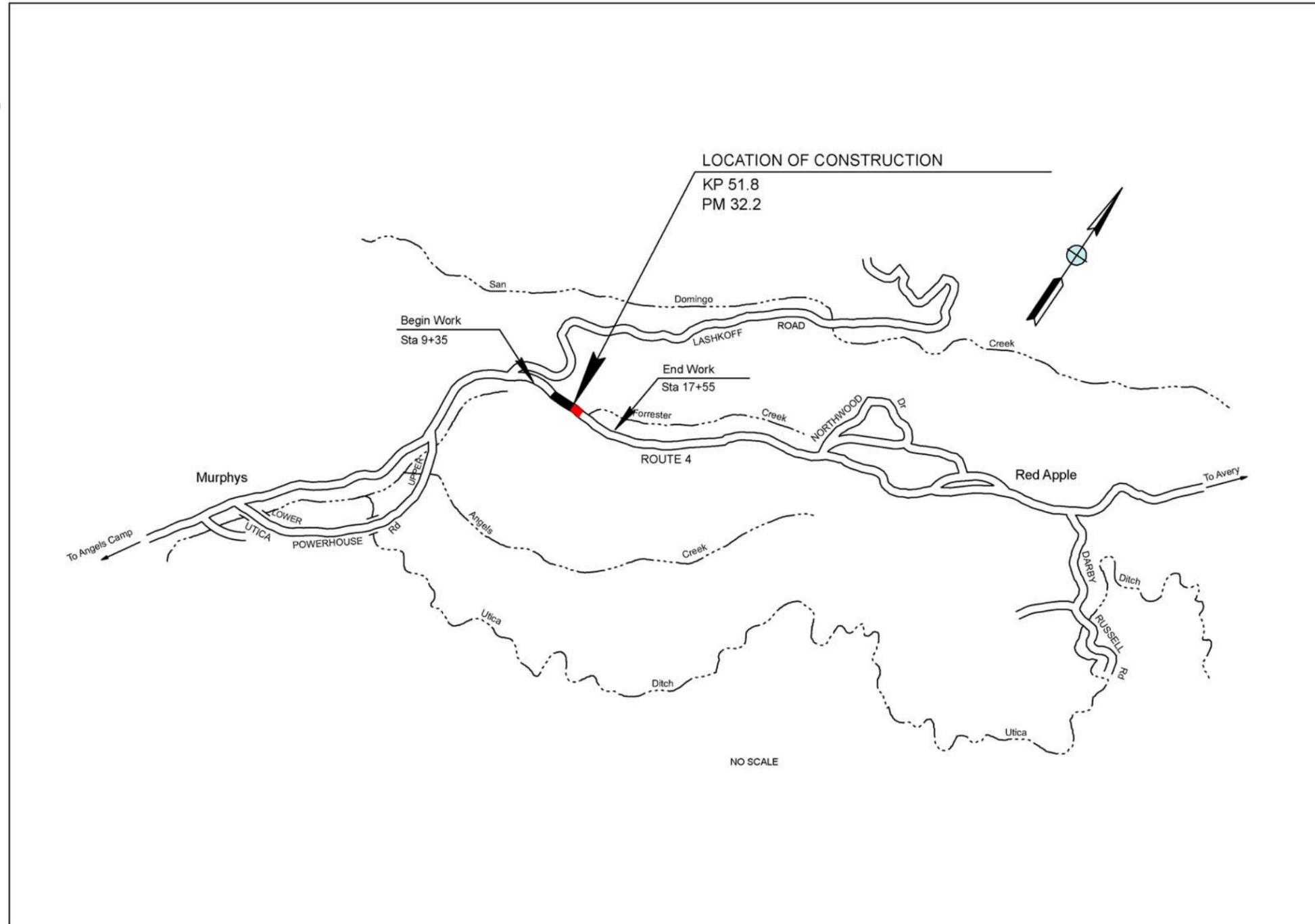
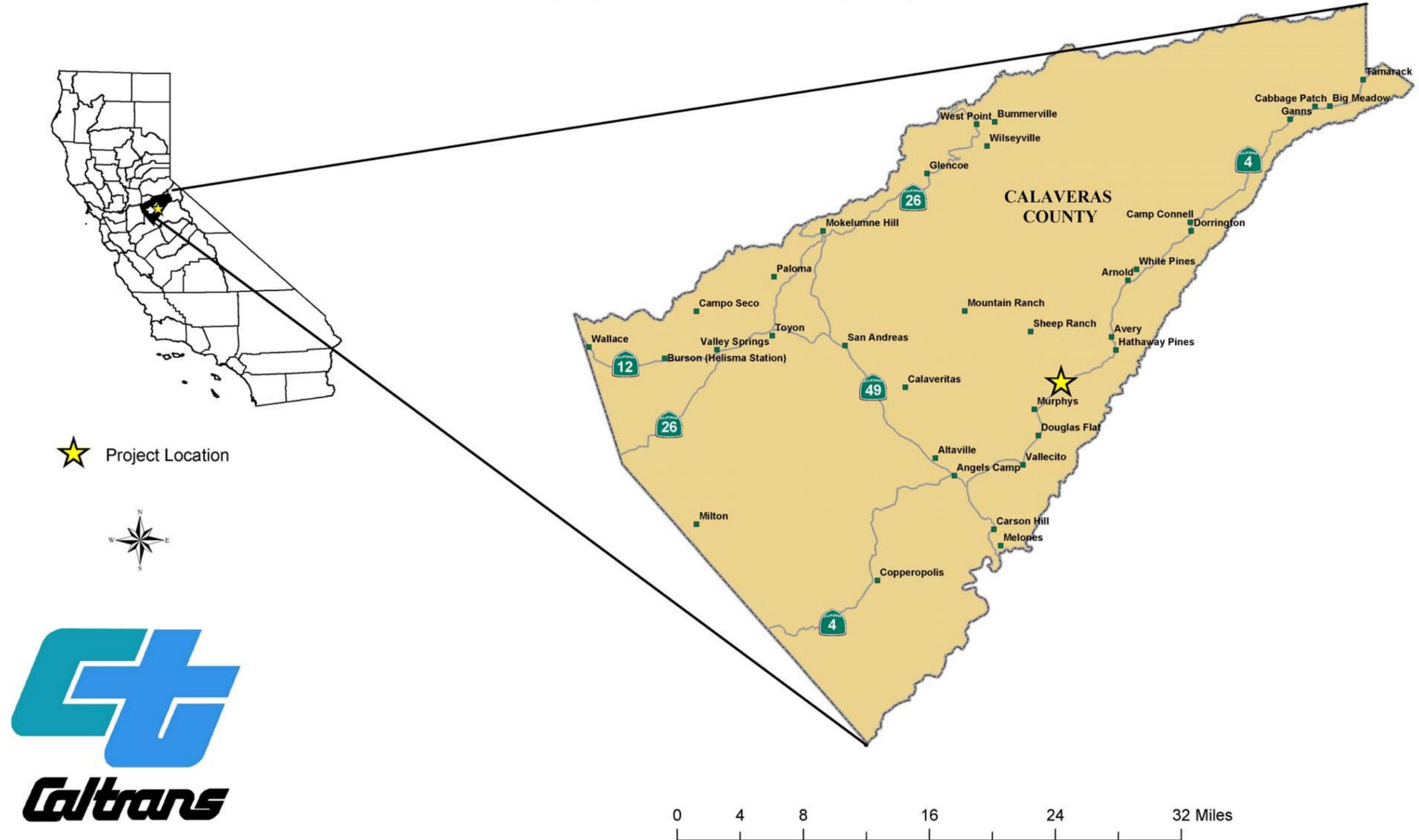


Figure 2: Project Vicinity Map

Murphys Turnout Vicinity Map



Section 2 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.

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology/Water Quality
- Land Use/Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population/Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities/Service Systems
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

Section 3 Determination

On the basis of this determination:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and 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 revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



Signature

Date 3-19-07

Office Chief
Environmental North Office
Central Region Environmental Planning
California Department of Transportation

Section 4 Impacts Checklist

The impacts checklist starting on the next page identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. The California Environmental Quality Act impact levels include “potentially significant impact,” “less than significant impact with mitigation,” “less than significant impact,” and “no impact.”

A brief explanation of each California Environmental Quality Act checklist determination follows each checklist item. Lengthy explanations, if needed, are provided after the checklist.

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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I. AESTHETICS — Would the project:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Explanation:

The project site is not designated as a scenic vista, nor is it located on a scenic highway. (Scenic Resource Evaluation, December 2006.)

- b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Explanation: State Route 4 is not a state scenic highway. (Scenic Resource Evaluation, December 2006.)

- c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

Explanation: The proposed project would not degrade the visual character or quality of the site. (Scenic Resource Evaluation, December 2006.)

- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Explanation: The project would not include any new artificial lighting or create new sources of glare. (Scenic Resource Evaluation, December 2006.)

II. AGRICULTURE 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. Would the project:

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

Explanation: There are no such designated soils in Calaveras County. (Natural Resources Conservation Service AD-1006, signed April 26, 2006.)

- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

Explanation: No agricultural land or rangeland would be affected by the proposed project. (Natural Resources Conservation Service AD-1006, signed April 26, 2006.)

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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- c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?

Explanation: There is no farmland in the project area. See II (b).

III. AIR QUALITY — Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management 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?

Explanation: Caltrans Standard Specifications pertaining to dust control would effectively control air quality regarding construction-related activity in compliance with the Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District's rules, ordinances, and regulations. The proposed project would not increase highway capacity; therefore air quality conformity is not required.

- b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

Explanation: See III (a).

- c) 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 (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

Explanation: Refer to III (a).

- d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Explanation: There are no sensitive receptors within the project vicinity. (Field Visit. January 12, 2007).

- e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

Explanation: The project would not create any objectionable odors. (Initial Site Investigation. August 2004.)

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES — Would the project:

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project would not impact any such species. (Natural Environment Study, December 2006[C1].)

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: 0.155 acre of riparian habitat would be affected. Impacts would be mitigated. See additional explanations following checklist[C2].

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: 0.020 [C3]acre of Waters of the U.S. would be impacted. See additional explanations following checklist. No wetlands would be affected.

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?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project would not impact any such species or sites. (Natural Environment Study, December 2006.)

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: There are no such policies or ordinances in the project vicinity. (Calaveras County Planning, April 2006)

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?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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Explanation: There are no conservation plans in effect in the project area. (Calaveras County Planning, April 2006)

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES — Would the project:

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

Explanation: Caltrans evaluated the proposed project area and concluded that the undertaking would not affect historic properties or resources. (Historic Property Survey Report, January 2007.)

- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Explanation: The proposed project would not affect archaeological resources. (Archaeological Survey Report, December 2006.)

- c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Explanation: There are no known paleontological resources or sites or unique geologic features in the project area. (Email from Peter Hansen, Paleontologist, January 2007.)

- d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Explanation: The proposed project would not disturb any human remains. (Archaeological Survey Report, December 2006.)

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS — Would the project:

- a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

- 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? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Explanation: Calaveras County is within the Sierra Block, a low seismic activity area. (Calaveras County General Plan, December 9, 1996.) Calaveras County is not on the Alquist-Priolo list. (California Geological Survey.)

- ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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Explanation: Refer to VI (a)(i).

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Explanation: Refer to VI (a)(i).

iv) Landslides?

Explanation: The project would not cause a landslide. The project site is not within an area with slopes greater than 30%. (Calaveras General Plan, December 9, 1996.)

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Explanation: The project would not result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Any soil disturbance would be properly taken care of in accordance with Caltrans erosion control and storm water runoff control measures.

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 onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

Explanation: Soils consist of coarse, well-drained soil, often granitic or basaltic, and very rarely serpentine. (Natural Environment Study, December 2006.)

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

Explanation: The proposed project is not located on expansive soil. (Natural Environment Study, December 2006.)

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

Explanation: The project would not generate wastewater and does not need to dispose of wastewater. (Draft Project Report. February 2007.)

VII. 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?

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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Explanation: The proposed project area is considered free of significant hazardous substances. (Hazardous Substances Disclosure Document. September 2006).

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?

Explanation: Refer to VII (a).

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Explanation: Refer to VII (a).

d) Be located on a site that 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?

Explanation: Refer to VII (a).

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 for people residing or working in the project area?

Explanation: The proposed project is not located within an airport zone. (Field Visit, July 2005).

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

Explanation: The proposed project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. (Field Visit, July 2005).

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Explanation: The proposed project would not interfere with any emergency response/evacuation plan. (Draft Project Report. February 2007.)

h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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Explanation: The proposed project would not expose people or structures to any wildland fires. (Draft Project Report. February 2007.)

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY —

Would the project:

- a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

Explanation: The project would implement Best Management Practices (BMPs), and adhere to the Caltrans Water Pollution Control Program and the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. Construction practices would comply with the Regional Water Quality Control Board’s regulations. (Water Quality Assessment, December 2006.)

- b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

Explanation: The project would not use water after construction. There is no specified groundwater basin underlying the site of the proposed project. (Water Quality Assessment. December 2006.)

- c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite?

Explanation: Refer to VIII (a).

- d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or offsite?

Explanation: Refer to VIII (a).

- e) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Explanation: The proposed project would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Refer to VIII (a).

g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project is not located in a 100-year flood zone. (Federal Emergency Management maps.)

h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Refer to VIII (g).

i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project would not expose people or structures to flooding. (Calaveras County General Plan, December 9, 1996.)

j) Result in inundation by a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project would not result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow. (Calaveras County General Plan, December 9, 1996.)

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING — Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project does not involve construction of a new highway route or a change in highway alignment. (Draft Project Report. February 2007.)

b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project would not conflict with the Calaveras County General Plan. (Calaveras County General Plan, December 9, 1996.)

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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Explanation: The proposed project would not conflict with any conservation plans. (Calaveras County General Plan, December 9, 1996.)

X. 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?

Explanation: The proposed project would not affect any mineral resources. (Calaveras County General Plan, December 9, 1996.)

- 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?

Explanation: Refer to X (a).

XI. NOISE — Would the project result in:

- a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Explanation: Since the proposed project would not construct a highway on a new location or significantly change the alignment of the existing highway, the proposed project is not subject to Noise Analysis. (Air, Noise, and Water Quality Scoping Document, August 2004.)

- b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Explanation: Refer to XI (a).

- c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Explanation: Refer to XI (a).

- d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

Explanation: Refer to XI (a).

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Not applicable.

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Not applicable.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING — Would the project:

a) Induce substantial 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)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project would not increase highway capacity or accommodate planned development. (Draft Project Report. February 2007.)

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project would acquire two houses. Both structures are unoccupied and have been condemned by Calaveras County. The proposed project would not necessitate replacement housing. In addition, both structures were evaluated and found to be of no historic value. (Historic Resources Compliance Report. January 2007.)

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project would not displace people. Refer to XII (b).

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES —

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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:

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Explanation: The road would remain open during construction (no detours); access would not be blocked. The proposed project also would not require new services. (Draft Project Report, February 2007.)

XIV. RECREATION —

a) Would the project 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: There are no parks/recreational facilities within the proposed project vicinity. (Calaveras County General Plan.)

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of such facilities. (Draft Project Report, February 2007.)

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC — Would the project:

a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project is non-capacity-increasing. (Draft Project Report, February 2007.)

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Refer to XV (a).

c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Not applicable.

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project is an Operational Improvements project designed to decrease hazards. (Draft Project Report, February 2007.)

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Refer to XIII and XV (a) and (d).

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Not applicable.

g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project would not conflict with alternative transportation policies. (Calaveras County General Plan, December 9, 1996.)

XVI. UTILITY AND SERVICE SYSTEMS — Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Water Quality Assessment, December 2006.

b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Explanation: The proposed project would not require or result in the construction of new water/waste water treatment facilities or the expansion of such facilities. (Water Quality Assessment, December 2006.)

c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Refer to XVI (b).

d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Refer to XVI (b).

e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Explanation: Not applicable.

f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: Not applicable.

g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: The proposed project would comply with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. (Initial Site Investigation. August 2004.)

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE —

a) Does the project have the potential to 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

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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?

Explanation: Natural Environment Study, December 2006.

b) Does the project 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)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Explanation: On the basis of this evaluation, the proposed project would not have cumulate effects.

c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Explanation: On the basis of this evaluation, the proposed project would not cause adverse effects on human beings.

Additional Explanations

IV. Biological Resources

Waters of the U.S. and Riparian Habitat

Affected Environment

Forrester Creek, a tributary of Angels Creek, runs through the proposed project area and is identified as Waters of the U.S. Riparian habitat is present along the creek banks.

Impacts

The proposed project would require realignment of a small segment of Forrester Creek. Approximately 0.020 acre of Waters of the U.S. (i.e., the realigned portion of Forrester Creek) and 0.155 acre of riparian habitat located along the banks of Forrester Creek would be directly impacted as a result of the construction of the proposed project. Based on the scope of the proposed project and the implementation of Caltrans' Best Management Practices, no indirect impacts to Waters of the U.S. or riparian habitat are anticipated to occur.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

It is Caltrans' policy to avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources whenever possible. Biological avoidance and minimization measures would be addressed in the required permits and would be implemented during construction activities. The following permits would be required for the proposed project: A Nationwide Permit (Section 404) would be required for work within Waters of the U.S. from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; A Water Quality Certification permit (Section 401) would be required from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board; A Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1602) would be required from the California Department of Fish and Game.

The following avoidance and minimization measures would be required:

- No work would be conducted outside of the project limits.
- Construction activities would be scheduled during periods of low water flow in Forrester Creek. This would be done to minimize turbidity (cloudiness) and ground disturbance.
- Prior to construction, preconstruction surveys would be performed by a Caltrans biologist to ensure that the proposed project area is free of nesting birds as required in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- If staging areas for equipment storage are required, they must be approved by a Caltrans biologist prior to use.

- The contractor shall adhere to the State Standard Best Management Practices and the project specific storm water pollution control plan.

Caltrans proposes to compensate for the loss of 0.020 acre of Waters of the U.S. by creating a 0.038-acre segment of the Forrester Creek channel. Caltrans proposes to mitigate for the loss of riparian habitat through revegetation of the new channel segment. See Figure 3. A Caltrans Landscape Architect would create a revegetation plan in consultation with the project biologist. Plant species to be replanted would consist of those species common to the proposed project's geographic region and ecological context.

Figure 3. Murphys Turnout Impacts and Mitigation Map

**0K630
Murphys Turnout
Impacts and
Mitigation Map**

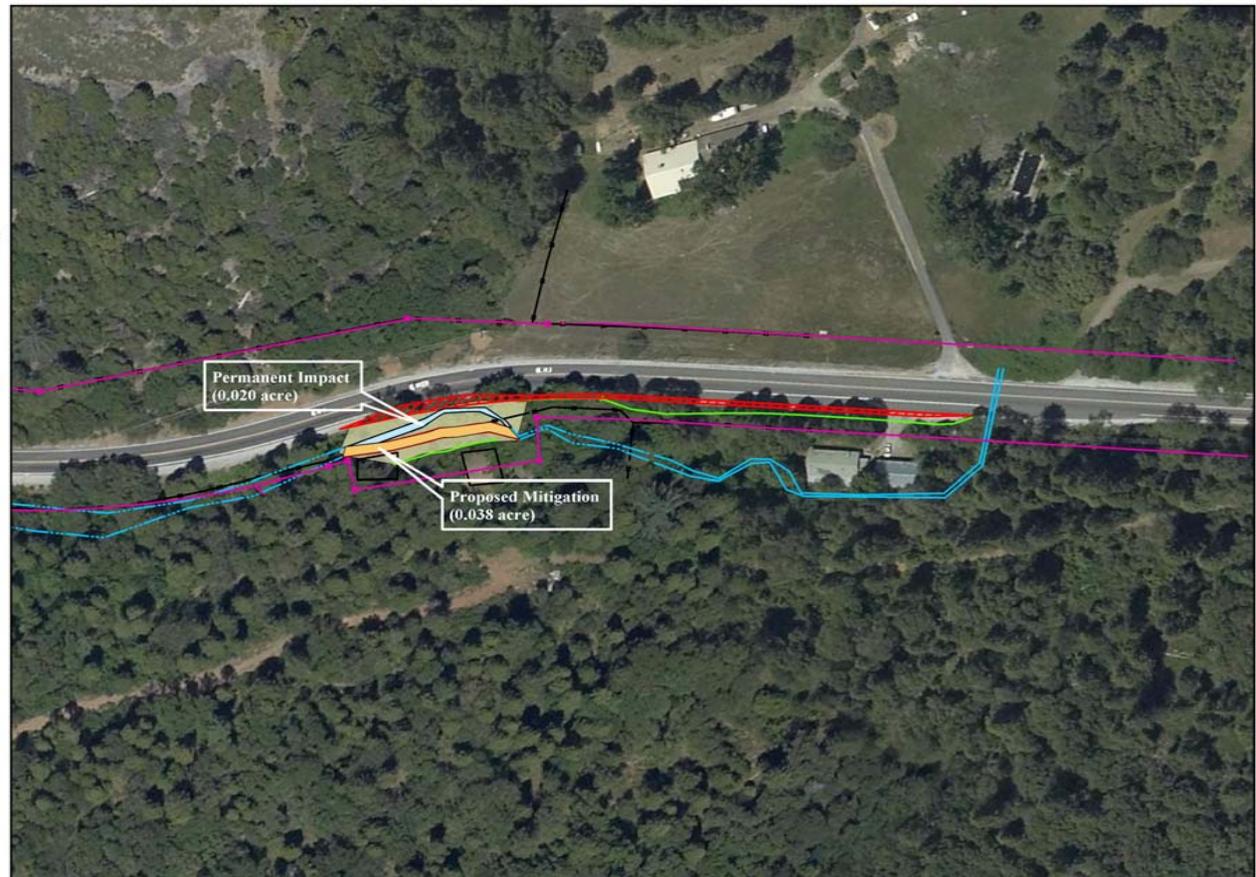
Legend

Waters of the U.S. Impact and Proposed Mitigation

- Proposed Mitigation (0.038 acres)
- Permanent Impact (0.020 acres)
- Riparian Habitat Impact (0.155 acre)

Proposed Design

- Existing Hydrological Features
- Existing Man Made Features
- Cut and Fill Location
- Right of Way Limit
- Construction Detail



0 50 100 200 300 Feet