

State Route 580 Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements

On State Route 580 from Interstate 5 to the Alameda County Boundary
in San Joaquin County

10-SJ-580-L0.1/15.3

10-SJ-132-0.0/0.45

1000020646, 1012000047, 1012000004

SCH No: 2015031101

Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration



Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation

April 2015



General Information About This Document

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Project Description and Background:

Note: Pursuant to (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code—This project documentation has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A Categorical Exclusion has been signed for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.

Project Title:	State Route 580 Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements
Lead Agency Name and Address:	Caltrans, Central Region; 855 M Street, Suite 200, Fresno, CA 93721
Contact Person and Telephone Number:	Scott Smith, Senior Environmental Planner. (559) 445-6172
Project Sponsor's Name and Address:	Same as Lead Agency
Approved By:	Signature:  Date: 4/28/2015
	Title: Senior Environmental Planner
Project Location:	State Route 580 in San Joaquin County (PM L0.1/15.3) and State Route 132 in San Joaquin County (PM 0.0/0.45)
General Plan Description:	State Highway
Zoning:	State Highway
Description of Project:	Roadway rehab and ITS elements installation
Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:	Rural/Agricultural
Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project. Please see the CEQA checklist for additional information. Any boxes *not* checked represent issues that were considered as part of the scoping and environmental analysis for the project, but for which no adverse impacts were identified; therefore, no further discussion of those issues is in this document.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture and Forestry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology/Soils
<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards and 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"/>	Paleontology	<input type="checkbox"/>	Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation/Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities/Service Systems
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance				

Mitigated Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) elements and rehabilitate the roadway on State Route 580 from the Interstate 5 connector to the Alameda County line in San Joaquin County (post mile L0.1/15.3). The project also proposes to widen and replace the shoulders of the State Route 132 on and off-ramps (post mile 0.0-0.45).

Determination

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project and, following public review, has determined from this study that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons.

The proposed project would have no effect on: land use, coastal zone, wild and scenic rivers, parks and recreational facilities, growth, farmland, timberland, community character and cohesion, relocations and real property acquisition, environmental justice, pedestrian and bicycle, emergency services, visual/aesthetics, cultural resources, water quality and storm water runoff, geology, paleontology, natural communities, wetlands and other waters, or animal species.

In addition, the proposed project would have no significant effect on: traffic and transportation, utilities, air quality, noise, hazardous waste and materials, hydrology and floodplain, plant species, or invasive species.

Additionally, the proposed project would have no significantly adverse effect on threatened and endangered species because the following mitigation measures would reduce potential effects to insignificance:

- San Joaquin kit fox, California tiger salamander, and the California red-legged frog: Impacts would be reduced by the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures (pre-construction surveys, best management practices, construction standard special provisions, and environmental awareness training per the Letter of Concurrence sent by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service).


Scott Smith
Senior Environmental Planner
Central Region
California Department of Transportation


Date

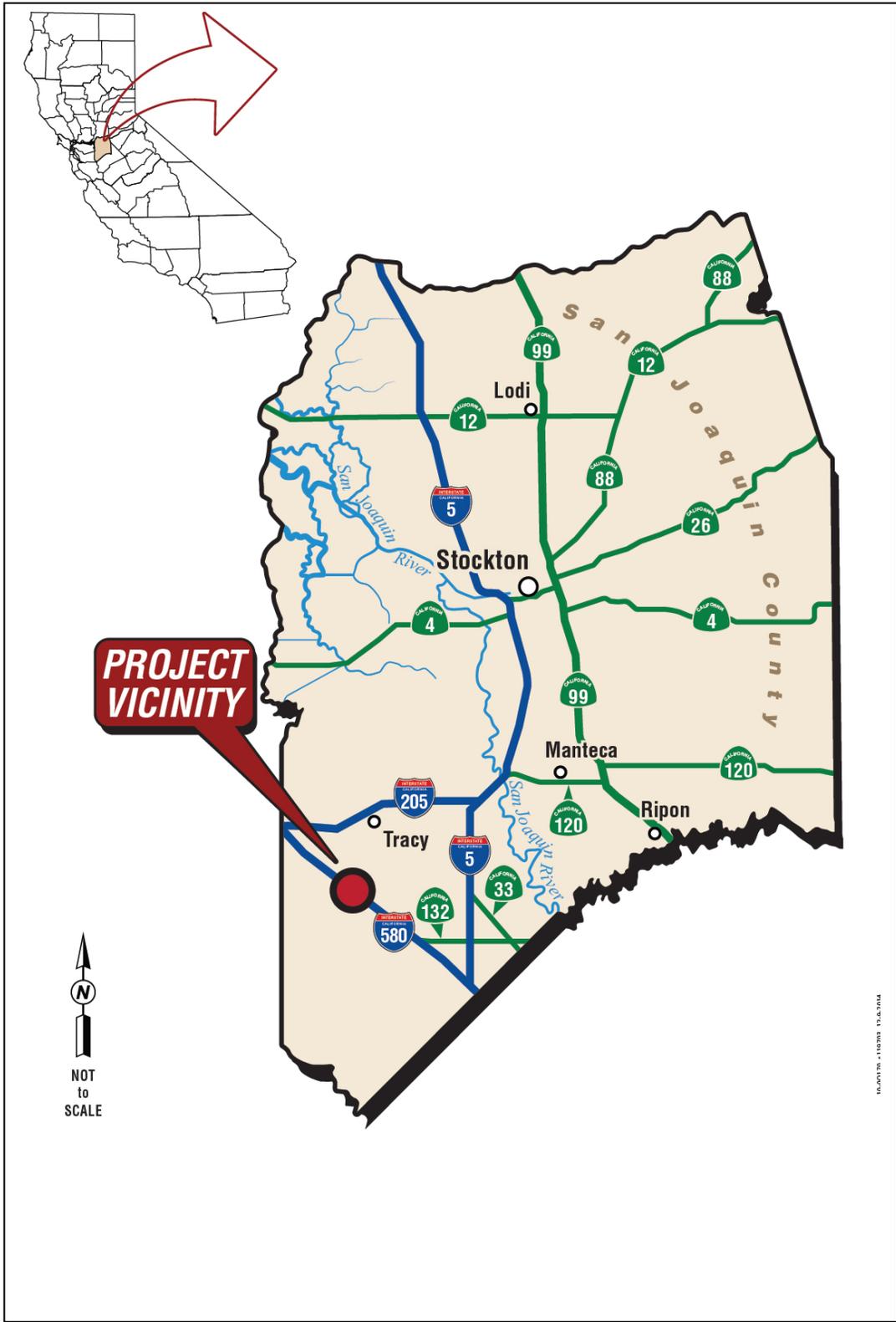


Figure 1-1 Project Vicinity Map

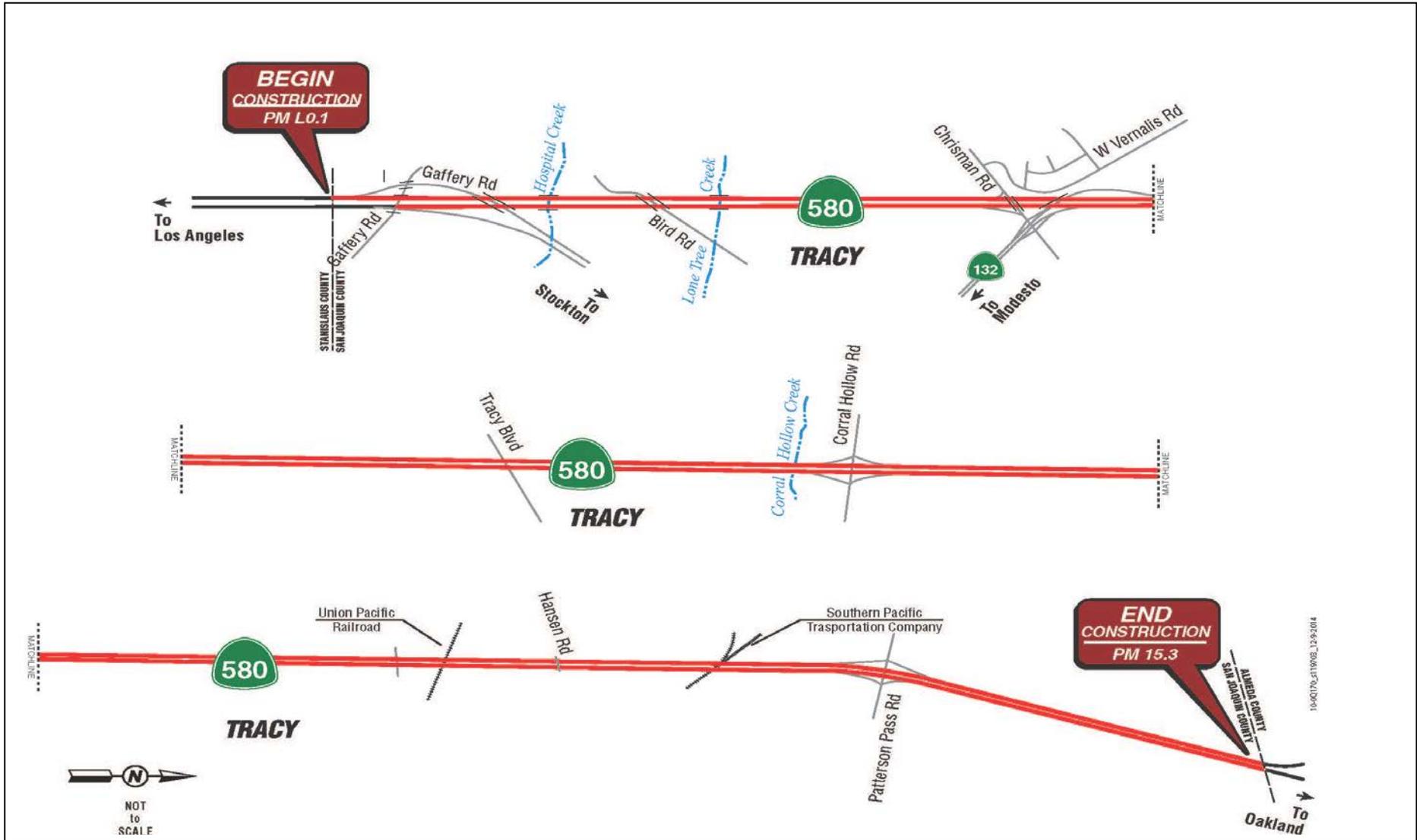


Figure 1-2 Project Location Map

CEQA Environmental Checklist

10-SJ-580
10-SJ-132

L0.1/15.3
0.0/0.45

1000020646
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P.M/P.M.

Project ID#

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. In many cases, background studies performed in connection with the projects indicated no impacts. A NO IMPACT answer in the last column reflects this determination. Where a clarifying discussion is needed, the discussion either follows the applicable section in the checklist or is placed within the body of the environmental document itself. The words "significant" and "significance" used throughout the following checklist are related to CEQA—not NEPA—impacts. The questions in this form are intended to encourage the thoughtful assessment of impacts and do not represent thresholds of significance.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS: Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST 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 Department 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, Forest Legacy Assessment Project, and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect San Joaquin kit fox, California tiger salamander, or California red-legged frog habitat. See <i>Additional Explanations for Questions in the Impacts Checklist</i> (page 16) for further details.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?				
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
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"/>
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"/>
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES: Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:

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|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| iv) Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS: Would the project:

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

If applicable, an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change is included in the body of environmental document. While Caltrans has included this good faith effort in order to provide the public and decision-makers as much information as possible about the project, it is Caltrans' determination that in the absence of further regulatory or scientific information related to greenhouse gas emissions and CEQA significance, it is too speculative to make a significance determination regarding the project's direct and indirect impact with respect to climate change. Caltrans does remain firmly committed to implementing measures to help reduce the potential effects of the project. Necessary information is located in Technical Studies Bound Separately.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY: Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
X. 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"/>
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"/>
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"/>
XI. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
XII. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
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"/>

XIII. 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"/>
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"/>
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"/>

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES:

a) 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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"/>

Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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XV. RECREATION:

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| 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"/> |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC: Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards 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"/> |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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"/> |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

XVII. UTILITIES 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"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment 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"/>
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"/>
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"/>
e) 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
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"/>

XVIII. 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 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which 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"/>

Additional Explanations for Questions in the Impacts Checklist

IV. Biological Resources (checklist question a)

Threatened and Endangered Species

Affected Environment

A Natural Environment Study was completed on December 11, 2014. A Letter of Concurrence was received from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on April 14, 2015 (see Appendix B). The biological study area consisted of the existing Caltrans right-of-way and 200 feet beyond. Using the Sacramento U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on-line official species list and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Natural Diversity Database, the area was researched for potential occurrences of special-status species within the following U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangles: Midway, Tracy, Lone Tree Creek, and Solyo.

San Joaquin Kit Fox

The San Joaquin kit fox is federally listed as an endangered species and state listed as threatened. They are the smallest canid species in North America, having an average length of 20 inches and an average weight of five pounds. They are described as having small, slim bodies, long ears, a narrow nose, and a long bushy black-tipped tail. Their colors vary from buff, tan, grizzled, or yellow-grey. San Joaquin kit foxes are found in the southern half of California living within annual grasslands or grassy, open stages of vegetation dominated by shrubs and brush. They are mostly nocturnal but can be seen in the daytime during cool weather. They are carnivorous and like to eat desert cottontails, rodents, insects, reptiles, birds, bird eggs, and vegetation.

The project area contains suitable forging habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox. The closest documented sighting of this species is less than 0.25 miles from the project area. Most of the known occurrences are located west of State Route 580.

California Tiger Salamander

The California tiger salamander is a federally and state listed threatened species. This species is native to grasslands and oak savannah in the Central Valley and the central California coastal ranges. The California tiger salamander is a large, nocturnal salamander that are mostly black with yellow spots and bars.

The project area contains suitable habitat for the California tiger salamander. The closest documented sighting of this species is 0.5 miles west of the project location.

California Red-Legged Frog

The California tiger salamander is federally listed as a threatened species. This species is native to lowlands and foothills in the Central Valley and central California coastal mountain ranges. The California red-legged frog is a medium sized frog that is

reddish-brown, gray, or olive in color with small black flecks and spots on their back with bands on their legs.

The project area contains suitable foraging habitat for the California red-legged frog. The closest documented sighting of this species is 0.25 miles west of the project location.

Swainson's Hawk

The Swainson's hawk is state listed as a threatened species and is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. This species is a summer migrant to the Central Valley and typically winters in South America. They are described as being slender with long, pointed wings and have dark flight feathers. They occur in a variety of color morphs and have clean, whitish undersides with a neat, dark breast. Swainson's hawks forage in grasslands, grain or alfalfa fields, and livestock pastures. They roost in trees and sometimes in the ground. They eat mice, gophers, ground squirrels, rabbits, large arthropods, amphibians, reptiles, and birds.

There are many mature trees located within the project area that create suitable nesting habitat for this species. The closest documented sighting of this species is six miles from the project area.

Burrowing Owl

The burrowing owl is listed as a California species of concern and is also protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. They are described as having long legs, spotted upper-sides, a white throat, and broad, arched eyebrows. The burrowing owl resides in dry grassland, desert, grassy, forbs, and open shrub stages of pinyon-juniper and ponderosa pine habitats. They feed on insects but will also consume small mammals, reptiles, birds, and carrion. Burrowing owls live in abandoned rodent or other existing animal burrows. The burrowing owl thermo-regulates and can be seen perching in open sunlight in the early morning and sheltering themselves in shaded areas in the afternoon.

The project area contains ample grassy surroundings that make suitable burrowing habitat for this species. The closest documented sighting of this species is less than 0.25 miles from the project area.

Coast Horned Lizard

The coast horned lizard is a state species of concern. It is smooth-skinned and has sharp spikes along its sides, back, and head. The coast horned lizard is found in valley-foothill riparian, woodland, and grass habitats. It is also found in the Sierra foothills.

Coast horned lizards are known to live within the sandy washes in the project area. There are a few known sightings of this species near the project area, one within a mile and half and the rest within five miles of the project area.

Migratory Birds

There are a number of migratory bird species that have been found within the project area, including the recently state listed tricolor black bird, the golden eagle, ferruginous hawk, the white tailed kite, the California horned lark, and the loggerhead shrike. There are a number of known sightings for migratory birds within a mile of the project area. Also, the California horned lark was documented near Chrisman Road and the tri-color black bird occurrence was documented within quarter mile of the project area.

Rare Plant Species

There are a few plants that were found within the project area. These include the round leaf filaree, shadowy madia, and shining navaritta. There is one known sighting of the round leaf filaree within 5 miles of the project area, and the project area contains suitable grassland habitat.

Environmental Consequences

San Joaquin Kit Fox

Protocol surveys were not conducted for the San Joaquin kit fox due to the presence of suitable forging habitat in the project area. However, no dens were observed within the project area during reconnaissance surveys. Potential direct impacts to this species include approximately 14.5 acres of forging habitat. This includes 12.5 acres of temporary impacts and 2 acres of permanent impacts.

California Tiger Salamander

Protocol surveys were not conducted for the California tiger salamander due to the presence of suitable forging habitat in the project area. However, this species was not observed within the project area during reconnaissance surveys. Potential temporary direct impacts to this species include approximately .5 acres of habitat due to the trenching that is required for the ITS elements. No indirect impacts are expected to occur.

California Red-Legged Frog

Protocol surveys were not conducted for the California red-legged frog due to the presence of suitable forging habitat in the project area. However, this species was not

observed within the project area during reconnaissance surveys. Potential temporary direct impacts to this species include approximately .5 acres of habitat due to the trenching that is required for the ITS elements. No indirect impacts are expected to occur.

Swainson's Hawk

The project area contains suitable nesting habitat for this species, although no Swainson's hawk nests were observed during surveys. No direct impacts are anticipated to occur due to this project, although indirect impacts due to construction noise may occur.

Burrowing Owl

The project area contains suitable burrowing habitat for this species, although no burrows were observed during surveys. Potential direct impacts to this species include approximately 14.5 acres of foraging habitat. This includes 12.5 acres of temporary impacts and 2 acres of permanent impacts.

Coast Horned Lizard

No effects to this species are anticipated. However, if the project requires the placement of booms to catch falling debris during the installation of conduit into the bridges, there could be impacts to coast horned lizard habitat.

Migratory Birds

The grassland habitat within the project area provides foraging and nesting habitat for the white tailed kite, the California horned lark and the loggerhead shrike, all of which are ground nesters. There is also potential foraging habitat for the ferruginous hawk and the golden eagle. There are a number of drainages which pass through the project area that could potentially provide nesting habitat for the tri-color blackbird. However, because no drainage work is being proposed as part of the current project, impacts to tri-color black bird nesting habitat are not anticipated.

Rare Plant Species

Although the project area contains suitable grassland habitat, it does not support habitat for rare plants because it is regularly mowed and sprayed. No direct or indirect impacts to rare plant species are anticipated.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

San Joaquin Kit Fox

The project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the San Joaquin kit fox. Caltrans is not proposing compensational mitigation for loss of habitat since the anticipated impacts do not reach the level of harm.

The following avoidance and minimization efforts are required:

- A United States Fish and Wildlife Service-approved biologist would conduct San Joaquin kit fox surveys within the project area to determine the presence of natal, potential, or atypical San Joaquin kit fox dens as defined in the *Standardized Recommendations for the Protection of the San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* no more than 30 days prior to operations and maintenance activities that involve ground disturbance or excessive noise generation within or adjacent to the San Joaquin kit fox habitat.
- Any natal, potential, or atypical den would be monitored for evidence of San Joaquin kit fox use by placing a wildlife monitoring camera or tracking media at the den entrance for at least three consecutive nights to survey suspected dens for use. Active dens would be marked with a 100-foot no disturbance buffer. All work within 200 feet of a natal or pupping den will be delayed until the den is vacated.
- Project-related vehicles would observe a 20 mile per hour speed limit in all project areas, except on county roads and State and Federal highways. This is particularly important at night when kit foxes are most active. Night-time construction would be minimized and off-road traffic outside of designated project areas would be prohibited.
- When K-rails are used, gaps will be placed between individual rails every 1,000 feet to allow animals trapped between travel lanes and the cement railing to escape into non-traffic areas.
- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes during construction of the project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 feet deep will be covered at the end of each working day by plywood or similar materials. Or, the excavations would be equipped with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. All covered holes will be inspected by a Service-approved biologist every day to ensure that no kit fox is entrapped in the covered hold.
- Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, work will stop in the area and the project biologist must contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife immediately.
- Kit foxes are attracted to den-like structures (such as pipes) and may enter a stored pipe, resulting in them becoming trapped or injured. All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4-inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods would be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes before the pipe is subsequently buried,

capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe will not be moved until the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has been consulted.

- All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps would be disposed of in closed containers and removed daily from the construction site.
- No firearms would be allowed on the project site.
- To prevent harassment, mortality of kit foxes, or destruction of dens by dogs or cats, no pets would be permitted on project sites.
- No rodenticides and herbicides will be used as part of this project.
- A representative would be appointed by Caltrans who would be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped individual. The representative would be identified during the employee education program. The representative's name and telephone number would be provided to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Construction personnel will participate in an education program due to possible occurrences and potential impacts to kit fox. The program would consist of a brief presentation by persons knowledgeable in kit fox biology and legislative protection to explain endangered species concerns to contractors, their employees, and personnel involved in the project. The program would include the following: a description of the San Joaquin kit fox and its habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of kit fox in the project area; an explanation of the status of the species and its protection under the Endangered Species Act; and a list of measures being taken to reduce impacts to the species during project construction and implementation. A fact sheet conveying this information would be prepared for distribution to the above-mentioned people and anyone else who may enter the project site.
- Upon completion of the project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances, including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc. should be recontoured (if necessary), and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions. An area subject to "temporary" disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the project, but that after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated. Appropriate methods and plant species used to revegetate such areas should be determined on a site-specific basis in consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and revegetation experts.

- Any contractor, employee, or agency personnel who inadvertently kills or injures a San Joaquin kit fox would immediately report the incident to the project biologist. This project biologist shall contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox.
- The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife would be notified in writing by the project biologist within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during project related activities. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information.

California Tiger Salamander

The project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the California tiger salamander. Caltrans is not proposing compensational mitigation for the loss of habitat because the level of impact is minimal and will not reach the level of harm. There is also ample amount of habitat outside the project area. The following avoidance and minimization efforts are required:

- Prior to any construction activities, a United States Department of Fish and Wildlife approved biologist will conduct environmental awareness training for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training will include a description of the species and its habitat, the specific measures that are being implemented to reduce the potential for adverse effects, and the project boundaries.
- A Service-approved biologist will conduct clearance surveys for the California tiger salamander in all staging areas, temporary and permanent impact areas for ITS elements and MVP, and directional drilling locations on the west side of State Route 580 within 3 days of work in each specific area and after the installation of temporary exclusion fencing.
- Temporary exclusion fencing (or similar materials which lack openings that might cause the California tiger salamander to become stranded or otherwise become entangled) will be installed around all areas outside of the roadway where construction activities will occur along the west side of the action area including areas for directional drilling, MVPs, and trenching away from the roadway. Prior to construction, a Service-approved biologist will ensure that enclosure fencing has been installed properly around the project footprint.
- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of California tiger salamanders during construction of the project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more

than 2 feet deep will be covered at the end of each working day by plywood or similar materials. Or, the excavations would be equipped with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. All covered holes will be inspected by a Service-approved biologist every day to ensure that no California tiger salamander is entrapped in the covered hole.

- Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured California tiger salamander is discovered, work will stop in the area and the project biologist must contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife immediately.
- Any contractor, employee, or agency personnel who inadvertently kills or injures a California tiger salamander would immediately report the incident to the project biologist. This project biologist shall contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped California tiger salamander.
- All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles will occur at least 100 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies and not in a location from where a spill would drain directly toward aquatic habitat. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.
- No plastic, monofilament, jute, or similar erosion control matting that could entangle California tiger salamanders will be employed. Possible substitutions include coconut coir matting, tackified hydro seeding materials, or other material approved by the Service.
- Construction will be suspended during any rain event, defined as precipitation of more than one half of an inch in 24 hours and for a subsequent 24 hour drying-out period, including night work.

California Red-Legged Frog

The project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the California red-legged frog. Caltrans is not proposing compensational mitigation for loss of habitat since the anticipated impacts do not reach the level of harm.

The following avoidance and minimization efforts are required:

- Prior to any construction activities, a United States Department of Fish and Wildlife approved biologist will conduct environmental awareness training for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training will include a description of the species and its habitat, the specific measures that are being

implemented to reduce the potential for adverse effects, and the project boundaries.

- A Service-approved biologist will conduct clearance surveys for the California red-legged frog in all staging areas, temporary and permanent impact areas for ITS elements and MVP, and directional drilling locations on the west side of State Route 580 within 3 days of work in each specific area and after the installation of temporary exclusion fencing.
- Temporary exclusion fencing (or similar materials which lack openings that might cause the California red-legged frog to become stranded or otherwise become entangled) will be installed around all areas outside of the roadway where construction activities will occur along the west side of the action area including areas for directional drilling, MVPs, and trenching away from the roadway. Prior to construction, a Service-approved biologist will ensure that enclosure fencing has been installed properly around the project footprint.
- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of California red-legged frog during construction of the project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 feet deep will be covered at the end of each working day by plywood or similar materials. Or, the excavations would be equipped with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. All covered holes will be inspected by a Service-approved biologist every day to ensure that no California red-legged frog is entrapped in the covered hold.
- Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured California red-legged frog is discovered, work will stop in the area and the project biologist must contact the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife immediately.
- Any contractor, employee, or agency personnel who inadvertently kills or injures a California red-legged frog would immediately report the incident to the project biologist. This project biologist shall contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped California red-legged frog.
- All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles will occur at least 100 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies and not in a location from where a spill would drain directly toward aquatic habitat. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

- Construction will be suspended during any rain event, defined as precipitation of more than one half of an inch in 24 hours and for a subsequent 24 hour drying-out period, including night work.

Swainson's Hawk

No effect to this species is anticipated with the use of the following avoidance and minimization measures:

- A Caltrans biologist would conduct a pre-construction survey for potential nests within and around the project boundaries. The survey would be completed the season prior to construction.
- If construction is to be completed during nesting season (between February 15th and September 1st) a survey would be required no more than two weeks prior to construction.
- If a Swainson's hawk nest is found, a 600 foot (or an agreed upon buffer with California Department of Fish and Wildlife) would be established around the nest until the young have fledged.
- Any tree removal should be done outside of the designated nesting season (between February 15th and September 1st).
- If a potential Swainson's nest is found during prior season surveys, a 2081 permit may be obtained from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Burrowing Owl

No effect to this species is anticipated with the use of the following avoidance and minimization measures:

- A Caltrans biologist would conduct a pre-construction survey for potential burrows within and around the project boundaries no more than two weeks prior to construction.
- If an active burrowing owl burrow is observed during pre-construction surveys, a no work buffer will be established.
- If construction occurs between April 1st and October 15th, the required buffer is 565 feet around the active burrow.
- If construction occurs between October 16th and March 31st, a 165 foot no work buffer will be established around any active burrows.

Coast Horned Lizard

No effects to the coast horned lizard are anticipated to occur. However, a Caltrans biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for coast horned lizards in drainages prior to boom placement to make sure the area is clear.

Migratory Birds

A Caltrans biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for potential nests within and around the project area the season prior to construction and no more than two weeks prior to construction if work is to be complete during the Migratory Bird Treaty Act nesting period (between February 15th and September 1st). A 100 foot buffer will be established around known migratory bird active nests. If an active raptor nest is found, a 300 foot protective buffer will be established around the nest until the young have fledged. If it is necessary to encroach into the 300 foot buffer, monitoring by the project biologist will be required.

Rare Plant Species

Although no effects to rare plant species are anticipated, preconstruction surveys will be conducted in the project area before construction.

Appendix A Comments and Responses

This appendix contains the comments received during the public circulation and comment period from March 30, 2015 to April 28, 2015. A Caltrans response follows each comment presented here.

Comment from the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG)

From: [Smith, Scott S@DOT](mailto:Smith_Scott_S@DOT)
To: [Lugo, Jennifer@DOT](mailto:Lugo_Jennifer@DOT)
Cc: [Helton, Kirsten J@DOT](mailto:Helton_Kirsten_J@DOT)
Subject: FW: SJMSCP - Notice of Availability of the IS/Proposed Mitigated Neg Dec for the Route 580 Roadway Rehab and ITS Element Proj
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 8:51:33 PM
Attachments: [RTL - Caltrans NOA of the IS Proposed Mitigated Neg Dec for Route 580 Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements Project.pdf](#)

FYI.
-SS

From: Laurel Boyd [boyd@sjcog.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2015 9:30 AM
To: Smith, Scott S@DOT
Cc: Emery, Joshua; Gardner, Todd@Wildlife; Stanley, Robert@Wildlife; Steve Mayo
Subject: SJMSCP - Notice of Availability of the IS/Proposed Mitigated Neg Dec for the Route 580 Roadway Rehab and ITS Element Proj

Good morning Scott,

Attached, please find SJCOG, Inc.'s response to the Notice of Availability of the Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity for a Public Hearing for the Route 580 Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements project.

Our agency received the Notice of Availability of the Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity for a Public Hearing for the Route 580 Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements project. On page 8, under the CEQA Environmental Checklist, Biological Resources Item IV (F) of the Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration it states the project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan. While the statement is true, the project can elect to use the established federal and state incidental take permits for the project through participation in the county-wide habitat conservation plan. Lead Agencies/project proponents should be aware that if projects choose not to participate in the SJMSCP then the project will be required to seek incidental take coverage by other means for listed species (e.g. impacts to the San Joaquin kit fox, Swainson's hawk, burrowing owls, etc.). So, while, the project does not conflict with the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP), our staff recommends that the project participates in the regional HCP.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Laurel K Boyd
Habitat Planner Technician
SJCOG, Inc.
555 E. Weber Avenue
Stockton, CA 95202
Phone: (209) 235-0600
Fax: (209) 235-0438
Email: boyd@sjcog.org



S J C O G, Inc.

555 East Weber Avenue • Stockton, CA 95202 • (209) 235-0600 • FAX (209) 235-0438

San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation & Open Space Plan (SJMSCP)

**SJMSCP RESPONSE TO LOCAL JURISDICTION (RTLJ)
ADVISORY AGENCY NOTICE TO SJCOG, Inc.**

To: Scott Smith, Caltrans, District 10
From: Laurel Boyd, SJCOG, Inc.
Date: March 31, 2015

Local Jurisdiction Project Title: Notice of Availability of the Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity for a Public Hearing for the Route 580 Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements Project

Assessor Parcel Number(s): Multiple

Local Jurisdiction Project Number: N/A

Total Acres to be converted from Open Space Use: Unknown

Habitat Types to be Disturbed: Agricultural, Natural and Urban Habitat Land

Species Impact Findings: Findings to be determined by SJMSCP biologist.

Dear Mr. Smith:

SJCOG, Inc. has reviewed the Notice of Availability of the Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity for a Public Hearing for the Route 580 Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements Project. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) elements and rehabilitate the roadway on Route 580 from the Interstate 5 connector to the Alameda County line in San Joaquin County (post mile L0.1/15.3). The project also proposes to widen and replace the shoulders of the Route 132 on and off-ramps (post mile 0.0/0.45).

Participation in the SJMSCP satisfies requirements of both the state and federal endangered species acts, and ensures that the impacts are mitigated below a level of significance in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Although participation in the SJMSCP is voluntary, Local Jurisdiction/Lead Agencies should be aware that if project applicants choose against participating in the SJMSCP, they will be required to provide alternative mitigation in an amount and kind equal to that provided in the SJMSCP.

The project may elect to participate in the SJMSCP because this project is may be subject to the SJMSCP and is located within the unmapped land use area. Per requirements of the SJMSCP, unmapped projects are subject to case-by-case review. This can be a 90 day process and it is recommended that the project applicant contact SJMSCP staff as early as possible. It is also recommended that the project applicant obtain an information package. <http://www.sjco.org>

After this project is approved by the Habitat Technical Advisory Committee and the SJCOG Inc. Board, the following process must occur to participate in the SJMSCP:

- Schedule a SJMSCP Biologist to perform a pre-construction survey **prior to any ground disturbance**
- SJMSCP Incidental take Minimization Measures and mitigation requirement:
 1. Incidental Take Minimization Measures (ITMMs) will be issued to the project and must be signed by the project applicant prior to any ground disturbance but no later than six (6) months from receipt of the ITMMs. If ITMMs are not signed within six months, the applicant must reapply for SJMSCP Coverage. Upon receipt of signed ITMMs from project applicant, SJCOG, Inc. staff will sign the ITMMs. This is the effective date of the ITMMs.
 2. Under no circumstance shall ground disturbance occur without compliance and satisfaction of the ITMMs.
 3. Upon issuance of fully executed ITMMs and prior to any ground disturbance, the project applicant must:
 - a. Post a bond for payment of the applicable SJMSCP fee covering the entirety of the project acreage being covered (the bond should be valid for no longer than a 6 month period); or
 - b. Pay the appropriate SJMSCP fee for the entirety of the project acreage being covered; or
 - c. Dedicate land in-lieu of fees, either as conservation easements or fee title; or
 - d. Purchase approved mitigation bank credits.
 4. Within 6 months from the effective date of the ITMMs or issuance of a building permit, whichever occurs first, the project applicant must:
 - a. Pay the appropriate SJMSCP for the entirety of the project acreage being covered; or
 - b. Dedicate land in-lieu of fees, either as conservation easements or fee title; or

2 | SJCOG, Inc.

c. Purchase approved mitigation bank credits.

Failure to satisfy the obligations of the mitigation fee shall subject the bond to be called.

- Receive your Certificate of Payment and release the required permit

It should be noted that if this project has any potential impacts to waters of the United States [pursuant to Section 404 Clean Water Act], it would require the project to seek voluntary coverage through the unmapped process under the SJMSCP which could take up to 90 days. It may be prudent to obtain a preliminary wetlands map from a qualified consultant. If waters of the United States are confirmed on the project site, the Corps and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) would have regulatory authority over those mapped areas [pursuant to Section 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act respectively] and permits would be required from each of these resource agencies prior to grading the project site.

If you have any questions, please call (209) 235-0600.

***Response to Comment from the San Joaquin Council of Governments
(SJCOG)***

Response to #1 and #2

Thank you for your comments. For this project, Caltrans used the Section 7 process to receive compliance from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Caltrans Biology looks forward to adding future projects to the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan.

Comment from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

20 April 2015

Scott Smith
State of California Department of Transportation
855 M Street, Suite 200
Fresno, CA 93721

CERTIFIED MAIL
7014 2870 0000 7535 8553

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, ROUTE 580 ROADWAY AND ITS ELEMENT PROJECT, SCH# 2015031101, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 27 March 2015 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Mitigated Negative Declaration* for the Route 580 Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements Project, located in San Joaquin County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml.

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PAMELA C. CREEDON P.E., BCEE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

11020 Sun Center Drive #200, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley



Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits¹

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/.

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 97-03-DWQ.

For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml.

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACOE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACOE at (916) 557-5250.

¹ Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACOE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications.

Waste Discharge Requirements

If USACOE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., "non-federal" waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project will require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation.

For more information on the Water Quality Certification and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit2.shtml.

Regulatory Compliance for Commercially Irrigated Agriculture

If the property will be used for commercial irrigated agricultural, the discharger will be required to obtain regulatory coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

There are two options to comply:

1. **Obtain Coverage Under a Coalition Group.** Join the local Coalition Group that supports land owners with the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The Coalition Group conducts water quality monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of its growers. The Coalition Groups charge an annual membership fee, which varies by Coalition Group. To find the Coalition Group in your area, visit the Central Valley Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/app_approval/index.shtml; or contact water board staff at (916) 464-4611 or via email at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.
2. **Obtain Coverage Under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Individual Growers, General Order R5-2013-0100.** Dischargers not participating in a third-party group (Coalition) are regulated individually. Depending on the specific site conditions, growers may be required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit a notice of intent, farm plan, and other action plans regarding their actions to comply with their General Order. Yearly costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 10-100 acres are currently \$1,084 + \$6.70/Acre); the cost to prepare annual monitoring reports; and water quality monitoring costs. To enroll as an Individual Discharger under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory

Program, call the Central Valley Water Board phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.

Low or Limited Threat General NPDES Permit

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for *Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters* (Low Threat General Order) or the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges of Treated/Untreated Groundwater from Cleanup Sites, Wastewater from Superchlorination Projects, and Other Limited Threat Wastewaters to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete application must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under these General NPDES permits.

For more information regarding the Low Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0074.pdf

For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0073.pdf

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4684 or tcleak@waterboards.ca.gov.



Trevor Cleak
Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento

Response to Comment from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Thank you for your comments. The project will comply with any necessary permits and discharge requirements.

Appendix B United States Fish and Wildlife Service Letter of Concurrence



In Reply Refer to:
08ESMF00-
2015-I-0183

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846



APR 14 2015

Ms. Dena Gonzalez
Chief, Central Valley Biology Branch North
State of California
Department of Transportation
855 M Street, Suite 200
Fresno, California 93721

Subject: Informal Consultation on the SR580 CAPM Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements (EAs:
10-0G810, 10-0Q170, 10-0W750)

Dear Ms. Gonzalez:

This letter is in response to Caltrans' March 2, 2015, request for initiation of formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on the proposed SR580 CAPM Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements Project (proposed project) in San Joaquin County, California. Your request was received by the Service on March 10, 2015. At issue are the proposed project's effects on the federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis nivalis*) and the federally threatened central California distinct population segment of the California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*)(central California tiger salamander) and California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*).

Under the provisions of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act that was signed into law on July 16, 2012, Caltrans was approved to assume responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act, as well as Federal Highway Administration's consultation and coordination responsibilities under Federal environmental laws for the majority of transportation projects in California. The federal action we are consulting on is the installation of Intelligent Transportation System Elements (ITS) and safety improvements to SR580 and the Chrisman Road interchange in San Joaquin County. Pursuant to 50 CFR 402.12(j), you submitted a biological assessment for our review and requested concurrence with the findings presented therein. These findings conclude that the proposed project may affect and is not likely to adversely affect the San Joaquin kit fox, central California tiger salamander, and California red-legged frog. Critical Habitat for these three species does not overlap the action area.

This response is provided under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)(Act) and in accordance with the implementing regulations pertaining to interagency cooperation (50 CFR 402). The findings and recommendations of this document are based on: (1) Caltrans' March 3, 2015, request for consultation; (2) the February 2015 biological assessment; (3) site visits; (4) email correspondence and telephone discussions; and (5) other

information available to the Service. The Service received complete information for this project on March 10, 2015.

Description of the Action

Caltrans proposes to combine three projects within the action area including: (1) the installation of ITS elements with associated fiber optics cable; (2) surface improvements including widening shoulders, repairing surface irregularities, and resurfacing the roadway; and (3) widening interchange ramps at Chrisman Road. The proposed action will temporarily impact 12.5 acres of grasslands (primarily within the existing median) and permanently impact 1.5 acres of grassland on the outside of the roadway. Staging will occur within the median and on shoulders. Temporary K-rail may be used at some locations throughout the project footprint.

Construction is planned to start December 2015 and will last approximately 291 working days. Night work will include the cutting, removing, and replacing concrete slabs, and will take approximately 58 working days. The majority of work, including trenching for fiber optic cable and ITS installation will be done during the daytime. The roadway is defined as the outer edge of shoulder backing on the west side to the outer edge of shoulder backing on the east side of SR580.

ITS Elements

Caltrans proposes to install four types of ITS elements within and adjacent to the roadway along SR580 in San Joaquin County between the Stanislaus County line and the Alameda County line. Caltrans proposes to install 4 Changeable Message Signs (CMS), 7 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) locations, 14 Traffic Monitoring Stations (TMS) and 2 Regional Weather Information Systems (RWIS). A fiber optic cable and associated electronics will be installed in the median for the entire length of the proposed project. Fiber optic feeder cables will be installed connecting the main cable to the ITS elements. Fiber optic cables and their associated electronics boxes will be buried in trenches that have a minimum depth of 32 inches. All cable will pass under travel lanes in tunnels that will be directionally drilled. Conduit for fiber optic and electrical power cables will have an inside diameter of 2 inches. All cable placed along the outside of the roadway will be trenched within the existing shoulder or shoulder backing. Power cables will be placed within 3 feet of the edge of pavement along arterial roads and within disturbed areas around existing roadside power poles.

The installation of each CMS includes constructing a 20-foot by 50-foot Maintenance Vehicle Pullout (MVP) and installing a guardrail to protect each structure at PMs 2.3 and 4.8 on the east side of the roadway and at PMs 9.1 and 14.1 along the west side of the highway. Within the fill placed for the pullout and during a single day, a 5-foot diameter hole will be augured to a depth of 22 feet. Formed rebar will be placed in the hole and the hole will be filled with cement. Bolts will extend upward from the pad to allow the supporting pole to be connected to the footer. When the cement has cured, the pole and sign will be installed. A controller box will be placed on a small pad adjacent to the pole and behind the guardrail. Electric cable will be trenched within the shoulder/shoulder backing to the nearest utility pole. Each CMS will have a CCTV installed as part of the overhead unit.

The installation of TMS includes the placement of in-lane plates that are connected to the controller box that will be placed on a small pad (10 feet by 10 feet) adjacent to the shoulder edge. TMS

elements will be installed at eastbound and westbound PMs 2.5, 3.2, 5.7, 6.4, 9.8, and 13.3, and at eastbound PM 14.1. Individual CCTV cameras will be installed on poles adjacent to a controller cabinet on a small cement pad at PMs 4.1 (westbound), 8.1 (westbound), and 12.1 (median). RWIS will be installed along the eastside of the roadway at PM 5.7 and within the median at PM 12.1. A 10-foot by 10-foot pad will be installed for placement of the RWIS controller box.

Surface Improvements

The inside shoulders of both travel lanes will be widened to 5 feet to correct the existing cross slope to 2 percent. The outside paved shoulder will be overlain with 0.25 feet of Asphalt Concrete and the shoulder backing will be extended on the outside shoulders 2 feet past the edge of shoulder. Rumble strips will be installed along the edge of the inside and outside shoulders. Existing asphalt concrete dike and concrete curbs will be replaced and all guardrails and bridge approach rails will be upgraded to current standards.

On SR580 between PM L0.1 and PM 5.0, the proposed project will crack, seat, and overlay with Rubberized Hot Mix Asphalt-Type G (RHMA-G) the existing Portland Cement Concrete pavement. On SR580 between PM 5.0 and 15.4, the proposed project will dig out and repair areas of localized failure and place RHMA-G over the existing Portland Cement Concrete for the length of this component.

Interchange Ramps

On State Route 132 at Chrisman Road, the proposed project will widen and replace the shoulders on the eastbound on-ramp and eastbound off-ramp to full travel-way structural section and to accommodate trucks turning onto and from Chrisman Road. The guardrails and bridge approach rails at ramps will be upgraded to current standards.

Conservation Measures

The following conservation measures are proposed by the action agency and will be implemented as part of the proposed action.

1. A Service-approved biologist will conduct San Joaquin kit fox surveys within the action area to determine the presence of natal, potential, or atypical San Joaquin kit fox dens as defined in *Standardized Recommendations for the Protection of the San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (Service 2011) no more than 30 days prior to operations and maintenance activities that involve ground disturbance or excessive noise generation within or adjacent to San Joaquin kit fox habitat. Any natal, potential, or atypical den would be monitored for evidence of San Joaquin kit fox use by placing a wildlife monitoring camera or tracking media at the entrance for at least three consecutive nights to survey suspected dens for use. Active dens will be marked with a 100-foot no disturbance buffer. All work within 200 feet of a natal or pupping den will be delayed until the den is vacated.
2. Construction personnel will participate in a Service-approved worker environmental awareness program prior to the onset of construction activities. A qualified biologist will inform all construction personnel about the life history of the central California tiger salamander, California red-legged frog, and San Joaquin kit fox, how to identify these species

and their habitats, what to do if these species are encountered during construction activities, and explain the State and Federal laws pertaining to them.

3. Temporary exclusion fencing (or similar materials which lack openings that might cause the central California tiger salamander or California red-legged frog to become stranded or otherwise become entangled) will be installed around all areas outside of the roadway where construction activities will occur along the west side of the action area including areas for directional drilling, MVPs, and trenching away from the roadway. Prior to construction, a Service-approved biologist will ensure that enclosure fencing has been installed properly around the project footprint.
4. When K-rails are used, gaps will be placed between individual rails every 1,000 feet to allow animals trapped between travel lanes and the cement railing to escape into non-traffic areas.
5. No plastic, monofilament, jute, or similar erosion control matting that could entangle central California tiger salamanders or California red-legged frogs will be employed. Possible substitutions include coconut coir matting, tackified hydro seeding compounds, or other material approved by the Service.
6. A Service-approved biologist will conduct clearance surveys for central California tiger salamander and California red-legged frog in all staging areas, temporary and permanent impact areas for ITS elements, MVP, and directional drilling locations on the west side of SR580 within 3 days of work in each specific area and after the installation of temporary exclusion fencing.
7. Project related vehicles will observe a 20 mile per hour speed limit in all project areas, except on county roads and State and Federal highways; this is particularly important at night when kit foxes are most active. Night work will be limited as defined above. Off-road traffic outside of the designated project footprint will be prohibited.
8. To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes, salamanders, or frogs during the construction phase of a project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 feet deep will be covered at the close of each working day with plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. All covered holes will be inspected by a Service-approved biologist every day to ensure that no kit fox, salamanders, or frogs are entrapped in the covered hole.
9. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured San Joaquin kit fox, central California tiger salamander, or California red-legged frog is discovered, work will stop in the area until the animal leaves the construction site on its own and Caltrans will contact the Service for further guidance.
10. Kit foxes are attracted to den-like structures such as pipes and may enter a stored pipe becoming trapped or injured. All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4-inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods will be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a

pipe, that section of pipe will not be moved or impacted in any way until the Service has been contacted for guidance.

11. All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps will be disposed of in closed containers and removed daily from the construction site.
12. No firearms will be allowed on the project site.
13. To prevent harassment, mortality of kit foxes, or destruction of dens by dogs or cats, no pets will be permitted on project sites.
14. No rodenticides or herbicides will be used as part of this project.
15. A representative will be appointed by the project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped individual. The representative will be identified during the employee education program. The representative's name and telephone number will be provided to the Service.
16. Upon completion of the proposed project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances, including storage and staging areas will be recontoured to preconstruction conditions and revegetated.
17. Any contractor, employee, or agency personnel who inadvertently kills or injures a San Joaquin kit fox, central California tiger salamander, or California red-legged frog will immediately report the incident to the project biologist. This project biologist will contact the Service immediately to report the finding.
18. All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles will occur at least 100 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies and not in a location where a spill would drain directly toward aquatic habitat.
19. Construction will be suspended during any rain event, defined as precipitation of more than one half inch in 24 hours and for a subsequent 24 hour drying-out period, including night work.

Action Area

The action area is defined in 50 CFR § 402.02, as "all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action." For the proposed project, the action area encompasses the entire 15.4 mile project length including all permanent and temporary impact areas and the area out to 200 feet on either side of the project footprint to include all potential San Joaquin kit fox denning sites.

Effects Analysis

The majority of work will be completed within the existing roadway including trenching within the median, outside shoulders/shoulder backing, along the edge of pavement of local arterial roads, and short distances across disturbed areas to existing power poles and controller cabinets. Work outside

of the existing roadway will occur at CMS locations PMs 4.8, 9.1, and 14.1. CMS location PM 2.3 is at an existing graveled pullout on flat ground level with adjacent agricultural fields. The 5-foot diameter holes drilled 22 feet deep will be filled with rebar forms and concrete on the same day as the hole is drilled. If some form of delay occurred between the time the hole is drilled and the concrete poured that resulted in the hole being open overnight, then the covering of the hole with plywood or some other sheeting material will prevent the San Joaquin kit fox from entering the open hole. All trenching will be backfilled at the end of each day and the inside diameter of pipe used for conduit is 2 inches. All areas where work will be implemented outside of the roadway have been surveyed and no areas within the proposed project footprint contain signs of burrowing mammals other than voles which do not create suitable habitat for the listed species that occur in the area. Temporary K-rail will be placed with gaps every 1,000 feet to prevent kit foxes from becoming entrapped in a travel lane where it could be struck by a motor vehicle. In areas where K-rail will be installed, speed limits will be reduced for construction and lane closures will reduce speeds to a level where motor vehicles can avoid animals moving along the K-rail to opening for escape.

According to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB: CDFW 2015), there are numerous recorded observations (between the early 1970's and late 1990's) of San Joaquin kit fox along both sides of the roadway. In addition, a habitat suitability model (Cypher et al. 2013) suggests that habitat to the west of the roadway is a mixture of high and moderate quality San Joaquin kit fox habitat extending from the roadway to the sloping foothills to the west. The model also shows a narrow strip of moderate and high quality habitat to the east of the roadway that is fragmented by the two aqueducts that parallel the roadway. No recent sightings have been recorded on the private lands to the west of the roadway. Caltrans Right of Way staff have not noted a San Joaquin kit fox as road kill on SR580 along this stretch of highway in the last ten years.

According to the CNDDDB (CDFW 2015), there are numerous sightings of California red-legged frog along the northern end of the project between PMs 7.5 and 14.5. A review of aerial photos of the habitat west of the action area shows numerous stock ponds and streams and extensive flatlands that likely supports vernal pools. A field review of the project footprint adjacent to the existing roadway for CMS, directional drilling, and trenching showed dry uplands with no upland refugia for California red-legged frog.

According to CNDDDB (CDFW 2015), there is a recorded observation of central California tiger salamander within 0.61 miles west of the Corral Hollow Interchange located at PM 8.1. A review of aerial photos suggests the potential for vernal pools in the area around the sighting and towards SR580. A field review of the proposed project footprint within 1.3 miles of the observation showed no sign of small mammal burrowing within the limits of the proposed action.

Although the habitat surrounding the action area has extensive ground squirrel and pocket gopher colonies, none of these burrows overlap the proposed project footprint. Based on these factors, the Service has determined that the proposed action is reasonably likely to cause no harm to San Joaquin kit fox, central California tiger salamander, and California red-legged frog.

Determination

Caltrans has concluded that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the San Joaquin kit fox, central California tiger salamander, and California red-legged frog. This

Ms. Dena Gonzalez

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determination is based on the lack of suitable habitat present within the proposed project footprint and the conservation measures proposed to minimize potential effects to the species.

After reviewing Caltrans' written correspondence, reviewing the site in the field, and discussions via teleconference, the Service concurs that it is reasonably likely that effects to individual San Joaquin kit fox, central California tiger salamander, and California red-legged frog will be discountable, and that effects to habitat for the species will be insignificant; the proposed action, therefore, is not likely to adversely affect the San Joaquin kit fox, central California tiger salamander, and California red-legged frog.

Closing Statement

This concludes the Service's review of Caltrans action to construct the SR580 CAPM Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements Project and the Service's consideration of the proposed project's effects on the San Joaquin kit fox, central California tiger salamander, and California red-legged frog. No further coordination with the Service under the Act is necessary at this time. Note that take of listed species is not exempted from the prohibitions described under section 9 of the Act. If conditions change so that the project may adversely affect listed species, initiation of formal consultation, as provided in 50 CFR §402.14, is required.

If you have any questions regarding this SR580 CAPM Roadway Rehab and ITS Elements Project, please contact John DiGregoria, Transportation Liaison (John_DiGregoria@fws.gov), or me (Thomas_Leeman@fws.gov), at the letterhead address, or at (916) 414-6600.

Sincerely,



Thomas Leeman
Chief, San Joaquin Valley Division

cc:

Craig Bailey, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fresno, CA

Literature Cited

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2015. California Natural Diversity Database.

Cypher, B.L., S.E. Phillips, and P.A. Kelly. 2013. Quantity and distribution of suitable habitat for endangered San Joaquin kit foxes: conservation implications. *Canid Biology and Conservation* 16(7): 25-31.

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. Standardized Recommendations for the Protection of the San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance. Sacramento Office.

Appendix C United States Fish and Wildlife Service Species List

Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office Species List

Page 1 of 4

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office
Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that Occur in
or may be Affected by Projects in the Counties and/or
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 Minute Quads you requested
Document Number: 141113121504
Current as of: November 13, 2014

Quad Lists

Listed Species

Invertebrates

- Branchinecta longiantenna*
longhorn fairy shrimp (E)
- Branchinecta lynchi*
vernal pool fairy shrimp (T)
- Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*
valley elderberry longhorn beetle (T)
- Lepidurus packardii*
vernal pool tadpole shrimp (E)

Fish

- Hypomesus transpacificus*
Critical habitat, delta smelt (X)
delta smelt (T)
- Oncorhynchus mykiss*
Central Valley steelhead (T) (NMFS)

Amphibians

- Ambystoma californiense*
California tiger salamander, central population (T)
- Rana draytonii*
California red-legged frog (T)
Critical habitat, California red-legged frog (X)

Reptiles

- Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus*
Alameda whipsnake [=striped racer] (T)
Critical habitat, Alameda whipsnake (X)
- Thamnophis gigas*
giant garter snake (T)

Mammals

- Vulpes macrotis mutica*
San Joaquin kit fox (E)

Plants

- Amsinckia grandiflora*
Critical habitat, large-flowered fiddleneck (X)

11/13/2014

large-flowered fiddleneck (E)

Quads Containing Listed, Proposed or Candidate Species:

TRACY (444B)

LONE TREE CREEK (444C)

SOLYO (444D)

MIDWAY (445A)

County Lists

No county species lists requested.

Key:

(E) *Endangered* - Listed as being in danger of extinction.

(T) *Threatened* - Listed as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.

(P) *Proposed* - Officially proposed in the Federal Register for listing as endangered or threatened.

(NMFS) Species under the Jurisdiction of the [National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service](#). Consult with them directly about these species.

Critical Habitat - Area essential to the conservation of a species.

(PX) *Proposed Critical Habitat* - The species is already listed. Critical habitat is being proposed for it.

(C) *Candidate* - Candidate to become a proposed species.

(V) Vacated by a court order. Not currently in effect. Being reviewed by the Service.

(X) *Critical Habitat* designated for this species

Important Information About Your Species List

How We Make Species Lists

We store information about endangered and threatened species lists by U.S. Geological Survey 7½ minute quads. The United States is divided into these quads, which are about the size of San Francisco.

The animals on your species list are ones that occur within, **or may be affected by** projects within, the quads covered by the list.

- Fish and other aquatic species appear on your list if they are in the same watershed as your quad or if water use in your quad might affect them.
- Amphibians will be on the list for a quad or county if pesticides applied in that area may be carried to their habitat by air currents.
- Birds are shown regardless of whether they are resident or migratory. Relevant birds on the county list should be considered regardless of whether they appear on a quad list.

Plants

Any plants on your list are ones that have actually been observed in the area covered by the list. Plants may exist in an area without ever having been detected there. You can find out what's in the surrounding quads through the California Native Plant Society's online [Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants](#).

Surveying

Some of the species on your list may not be affected by your project. A trained biologist and/or botanist, familiar with the habitat requirements of the species on your list, should

11/13/2014

determine whether they or habitats suitable for them may be affected by your project. We recommend that your surveys include any proposed and candidate species on your list. See our [Protocol](#) and [Recovery Permits](#) pages.

For plant surveys, we recommend using the [Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories](#). The results of your surveys should be published in any environmental documents prepared for your project.

Your Responsibilities Under the Endangered Species Act

All animals identified as listed above are fully protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Section 9 of the Act and its implementing regulations prohibit the take of a federally listed wildlife species. Take is defined by the Act as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect" any such animal.

Take may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding, or shelter (50 CFR §17.3).

Take incidental to an otherwise lawful activity may be authorized by one of two procedures:

- If a Federal agency is involved with the permitting, funding, or carrying out of a project that may result in take, then that agency must engage in a formal [consultation](#) with the Service.

During formal consultation, the Federal agency, the applicant and the Service work together to avoid or minimize the impact on listed species and their habitat. Such consultation would result in a biological opinion by the Service addressing the anticipated effect of the project on listed and proposed species. The opinion may authorize a limited level of incidental take.

- If no Federal agency is involved with the project, and federally listed species may be taken as part of the project, then you, the applicant, should apply for an incidental take permit. The Service may issue such a permit if you submit a satisfactory conservation plan for the species that would be affected by your project.

Should your survey determine that federally listed or proposed species occur in the area and are likely to be affected by the project, we recommend that you work with this office and the California Department of Fish and Game to develop a plan that minimizes the project's direct and indirect impacts to listed species and compensates for project-related loss of habitat. You should include the plan in any environmental documents you file.

Critical Habitat

When a species is listed as endangered or threatened, areas of habitat considered essential to its conservation may be designated as critical habitat. These areas may require special management considerations or protection. They provide needed space for growth and normal behavior; food, water, air, light, other nutritional or physiological requirements; cover or shelter; and sites for breeding, reproduction, rearing of offspring, germination or seed dispersal.

Although critical habitat may be designated on private or State lands, activities on these lands are not restricted unless there is Federal involvement in the activities or direct harm to listed wildlife.

If any species has proposed or designated critical habitat within a quad, there will be a separate line for this on the species list. Boundary descriptions of the critical habitat may be found in the Federal Register. The information is also reprinted in the Code of Federal Regulations (50 CFR 17.95). See our [Map Room](#) page.

Candidate Species

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We recommend that you address impacts to candidate species. We put plants and animals on our candidate list when we have enough scientific information to eventually propose them for listing as threatened or endangered. By considering these species early in your planning process you may be able to avoid the problems that could develop if one of these candidates was listed before the end of your project.

Species of Concern

The Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office no longer maintains a list of species of concern. However, various other agencies and organizations maintain lists of at-risk species. These lists provide essential information for land management planning and conservation efforts. [More info](#)

Wetlands

If your project will impact wetlands, riparian habitat, or other jurisdictional waters as defined by section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, you will need to obtain a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Impacts to wetland habitats require site specific mitigation and monitoring. For questions regarding wetlands, please contact Mark Littlefield of this office at (916) 414-6520.

Updates

Our database is constantly updated as species are proposed, listed and delisted. If you address proposed and candidate species in your planning, this should not be a problem. However, we recommend that you get an updated list every 90 days. That would be February 11, 2015.

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Selected Elements by Common Name
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Natural Diversity Database



Query Criteria: Quad is (Solyo (3712153) or Lone Tree Creek (3712154) or Midway (3712165) or Tracy (3712164))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Alameda whipsnake <i>Masticophis lateralis euryxanthus</i>	ARADB21031	Threatened	Threatened	G4T2	S2	
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
big tarplant <i>Blepharizonia plumosa</i>	PDAST1C011	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
burrowing owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
California horned lark <i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	ABPAT02011	None	None	G5T3Q	S3	WL
California linderiella <i>Linderiella occidentalis</i>	ICBRA06010	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	
California red-legged frog <i>Rana draytonii</i>	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC
California tiger salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	AAAAA01180	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3	S2S3	SSC
caper-fruited tropidocarpum <i>Tropidocarpum capparideum</i>	PDBRA2R010	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1
chaparral ragwort <i>Senecio aphanactis</i>	PDAST8H060	None	None	G3?	S2	2B.2
coast horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	ARACF12100	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	SSC
diamond-petaled California poppy <i>Eschscholzia rhombipetala</i>	PDPAP0A0D0	None	None	G1	S1	1B.1
ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	ABNKC19120	None	None	G4	S3S4	WL
foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	AAABH01050	None	None	G3	S2S3	SSC
golden eagle <i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	ABNKC22010	None	None	G5	S3	FP
Hall's bush-mallow <i>Malacothamnus hallii</i>	PDMAL0Q0F0	None	None	G2Q	S2	1B.2
Hospital Canyon larkspur <i>Delphinium californicum ssp. interius</i>	PDRAN0B0A2	None	None	G3T3	S3	1B.2
large-flowered fiddleneck <i>Amsinckia grandiflora</i>	PDBOR01050	Endangered	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
least Bell's vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	ABPBW01114	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2	S2	
Lemmon's Jewelflower <i>Caulanthus lemmonii</i>	PDBRA0M0E0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2



Selected Elements by Common Name
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
loggerhead shrike <i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	ABPBR01030	None	None	G4	S4	SSC
Mt. Diablo phacelia <i>Phacelia phacelioides</i>	PDHYD0C3Q0	None	None	G1	S1	1B.2
Mt. Hamilton coreopsis <i>Leptosyne hamiltonii</i>	PDAST2L0C0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	AMACC10010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
round-leaved filaree <i>California macrophylla</i>	PDGER01070	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
San Joaquin kit fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	AMAJA03041	Endangered	Threatened	G4T2	S2	
San Joaquin Pocket Mouse <i>Perognathus inornatus</i>	AMAFD01060	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	
San Joaquin whipsnake <i>Masticophis flagellum ruddocki</i>	ARADB21021	None	None	G5T2T3	S2?	SSC
shining navarretia <i>Navarretia nigelliformis ssp. radians</i>	PDPLM0C0J2	None	None	G4T2	S2	1B.2
showy golden madia <i>Madia radiata</i>	PDAST650E0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
silvery legless lizard <i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	ARACC01012	None	None	G3G4T3T4Q	S3	SSC
song sparrow ("Modesto" population) <i>Melospiza melodia</i>	ABPBXA3010	None	None	G5	S3?	SSC
Swainson's hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	ABNKC19070	None	Threatened	G5	S3	
Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	AMACC08010	None	Candidate Threatened	G3G4	S2S3	SSC
Tracy's eriastrum <i>Eriastrum tracyi</i>	PDPLM030C0	None	Rare	G3Q	S3	3.2
tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	ABPBXB0020	None	None	G2G3	S1S2	SSC
valley elderberry longhorn beetle <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	IICOL48011	Threatened	None	G3T2	S2	
Valley Sink Scrub <i>Valley Sink Scrub</i>	CTT36210CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
western mastiff bat <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	AMACD02011	None	None	G5T4	S4	SSC
western pond turtle <i>Emys marmorata</i>	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
western spadefoot <i>Spea hammondi</i>	AAABF02020	None	None	G3	S3	SSC



Selected Elements by Common Name
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Natural Diversity Database



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
white-tailed kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	ABNKC06010	None	None	G5	S3	FP

Record Count: 42

CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants							
Status: Plant Press Manager window with 14 items - Thu, Nov. 13, 2014 14:17 ET c							
Reformat list as: Standard List - with Plant Press controls							
STATUS and RARITY REPORT							
scientific	family	CNPS	R-E-D	STATE	State Rank	FEDERAL	Global Rank
<u>Amsinckia grandiflora</u>	Boraginaceae	List 1B.1	3 - 3	Endangered	S1	Endangered	G1
<u>Blepharizonia plumosa</u>	Asteraceae	List 1B.1	3 - 3	None	S2	None	G2
<u>California macrophylla</u>	Geraniaceae	List 1B.1	3	None	S2	None	G2
<u>Caulanthus lemmonii</u>	Brassicaceae	List 1B.2	3	None	S3	None	G3
<u>Delphinium californicum</u> ssp. <u>interius</u>	Ranunculaceae	List 1B.2	3 - 2 - 3	None	S3	None	G3T3
<u>Eriastrum tracyi</u>	Polemoniaceae	List 3.2	3 - 2 - 3	Rare	S3	None	G3Q
<u>Eschscholzia rhombipetala</u>	Papaveraceae	List 1B.1	3 - 3 - 3	None	S1	None	G1
<u>Leptosyne hamiltonii</u>	Asteraceae	List 1B.2	3	None	S2	None	G2
<u>Madia radiata</u>	Asteraceae	List 1B.1	2 - 3 - 3	None	S2	None	G2
<u>Malacothamnus hallii</u>	Malvaceae	List 1B.2	3 - 2 - 3	None	S2	None	G2Q
<u>Navarretia nigelliformis</u> ssp. <u>radians</u>	Polemoniaceae	List 1B.2	2 - 2 - 3	None	S2	None	G4T2
<u>Phacelia phacelioides</u>	Boraginaceae	List 1B.2	3 -	None	S1	None	G1

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			2				
			-				
			3				
			3				
<u>Senecio</u>	Asteraceae	List	-	None	S2	None	G3?
<u>aphanactis</u>		2B.2	2				
			-				
			1				
<u>Symphotrichum</u>	Asteraceae	List		None	S2	None	G2
<u>lentum</u>		1B.2					

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List of Technical Studies Bound Separately

- Air Quality, Water Quality, and Noise Impact Analysis Compliance Memo
- Scenic Resource Evaluation
- Screening Memo for Cultural Resources
- Paleontological Identification Report
- Natural Environment Study
- Initial Site Assessment for Hazardous Waste
- Location Hydraulic Study and Floodplain Analysis