

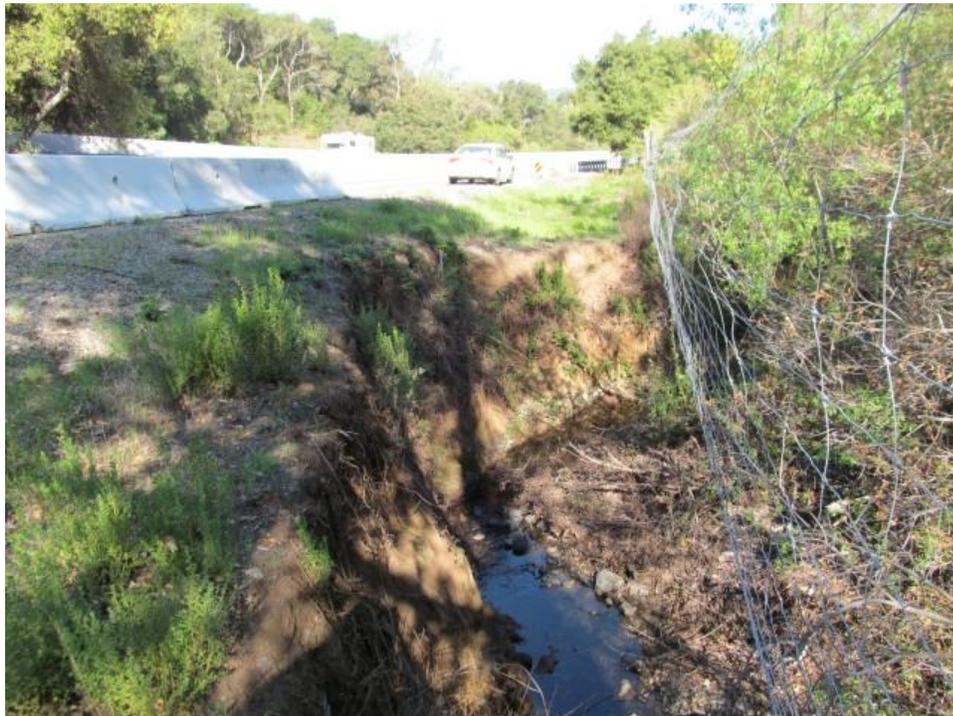
Santa Margarita Creek Bank Stabilization

At 0.3 Mile South of Tassajara Creek Road

05-SLO-101-PM 36.5

EA 05-1F5600 Project ID: 0514000009

Initial Study With Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration



Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation
August 2014



General Information About This Document

What's in this document:

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

What you should do:

Please read this Initial Study. Additional copies of this document as well as the technical studies are available for review at the Caltrans district office at 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, the Santa Margarita and San Luis Obispo Public Libraries, and electronically at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/>.

- We welcome your comments. If you would like the opportunity for a public hearing or have comments – please submit any comments or concerns via U.S. mail to Caltrans at the following address:

Randy LaVack, Senior Environmental Planner
Environmental Stewardship Branch
California Department of Transportation
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Or submit comments via email to: Randell.LaVack@dot.ca.gov.

- Submit comments by the deadline: October 15th, 2014.

What happens next:

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans may

1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, 2) do additional environmental studies, or 3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and build all or part of the project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Caltrans, Attn: Randy LaVack, Environmental Stewardship Branch, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA. 93401; (805) 549-3182 or use California Relay Service 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY), 1 (800) 735-2929 (Voice), or 711.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND:

Project Title:	Santa Margarita Creek Bank Stabilization Project
Lead Agency Name and Address:	California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) 50 Higuera Street. San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Contact Person:	Randy LaVack, (805) 549-3182
Project Location:	The project site is located along the northbound shoulder of US 101 at highway postmile 36.5, in San Luis Obispo County. The site is on the east slope of the Santa Lucia Range and within the greater Salinas River Watershed. The global positioning system coordinates for the location are: 35°21'58.60"N and -120°38'22.56"W. Work will occur in Santa Margarita Creek 0.3 mile south of Tassajara Creek Road.
Project Sponsor's Name and Address:	California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Randy LaVack, Senior Environmental Planner 50 Higuera Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
General Plan Description:	The project purpose is to prevent loss of the US 101 roadway. US 101 is the primary north-south corridor for coastal California and an important transportation route for commerce and the traveling public. The project is needed to maintain a safe travelway.
Zoning:	US 101 is California's primary north-south coastal transportation corridor. Santa Margarita Creek parallels US 101 on the east side of the Santa Lucia Range in an area known as Cuesta Pass. The left bank of Santa Margarita Creek is advancing into the State right-of way (R/W) toward the right hand, northbound travel lane.
Description of Project:	The bank of Santa Margarita Creek is eroding into the northbound shoulder of US 101. This was apparently started by a fallen tree that led to accumulation of sediment and deflection of the creek channel toward the highway. The creek has cut under wildlife fencing installed in the area that was built to limit vehicle/animal collisions. Continued bank cutting will eventually threaten the right-hand northbound lane of

	<p>US 101. The project will reclaim lost shoulder width and traffic recovery area by restoring the original bank alignment, removing accumulated material in the original flow line, and stabilizing the bank against future erosion. The benefits of this work are the protection of northbound US 101 travel lanes, maintaining safety by restoring the integrity of the wildlife fencing through the area, and reducing sediment load caused by on-going bank erosion in Santa Margarita Creek.</p> <p>This project will restore the original bank and creek alignment by placing rock and live tree pole plantings in the eroded area and removing accumulated sediment in the channel. Staging will occur along the road shoulder. There are no utilities in the affected area that require alteration or relocation.</p>
<p>Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:</p>	<p>The project location and surrounding area is located on the eastern slope of the Santa Lucia Range and much of the Santa Lucia Range is within the Los Padres National Forest. The surrounding land use is rural residential, rangelands used for grazing, and National Forest. Within and near the project area Santa Margarita Creek is paralleled by US 101 on the west and railroad tracks on the east. The creek is a perennial tributary to the Salinas River and contains approximately eight miles of streambed before its confluence with the Salinas River.</p> <p>The primary natural habitats in and near the project area are: Central Coast Cottonwood-Sycamore Riparian and Riverine along Santa Margarita Creek, and Non-native Grassland along the roadway shoulder. The US 101 area is also an important wildlife corridor linking the Los Padres National forest to east with the coast range to the west.</p> <p>See attached pictures in Appendix A.</p>
<p>Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:</p>	<p>The project location is within the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRWQCB), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).</p>

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 checked="" 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 stabilize the bank of Santa Margarita Creek located north of the City of San Luis Obispo on U.S. 101 in San Luis Obispo County. The purpose of the work is to prevent further erosion into the State right-of-way and eventually the northbound lanes of US 101; the primary north-south coastal route for California travel and commerce. The project will reclaim lost shoulder width and traffic recovery area by restoring the original bank alignment, removing accumulated material in the original flow line, and stabilizing the bank against future erosion. The benefits of this work are the protection of northbound US 101 travel lanes, maintaining safety by restoring the integrity of the wildlife fencing through the area, and reducing sediment load caused by on-going bank erosion in Santa Margarita Creek.

Determination

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

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

The proposed project would have no effect on: Aesthetics, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Land Use/Planning, Paleontology, Recreation, Agriculture and Forestry, Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Mineral Resources, Population/Housing, Transportation/Traffic, Air Quality, Geology/Soils, Hydrology/Water Quality, Noise, Public Services, and Utilities/Service Systems.

In addition, the proposed project would have no significantly adverse effect on biological resources because the following mitigation measures would reduce potential effects to insignificance:

- Bio-1. Construction will occur between August and October 15 to avoid the wet season.

- Bio-2. Staging area between creek and road. All equipment will have drip pans to collect potential leaks.
- Bio-3. All fueling in controlled environment outside of creek banks.
- Bio-4. Caltrans Construction Site Best Management Practices shall be implemented to minimize effects to steelhead and all habitats in the project area.
- Bio-5. During RSP placement, soil will be incorporated within the RSP to allow planting of locally obtained willows and cottonwoods at a 3:1 ratio.
- Bio-6. Prior to the start of construction a qualified biologist shall monitor the installation of ESA fencing and/or well marked stakes to delineate the boundaries of construction limits.
- Bio-7. A pumped diversion will be installed around the work area. The diversion shall consist of an up and down creek cofferdam constructed of hay bales, sand bags, visqueen, plywood, and/or other silt free materials. Prior to constructing the up creek cofferdam, woody debris will be hand removed from the creek channel. Once material is removed a block-net will be installed up creek of the diversion and another block net walked down creek to just beyond the anticipated sediment basin location. Any fish stranded between the cofferdam and the net will be captured and moved to an appropriate predetermined relocation site (likely the pool at the Tassajara Creek Road Bridge). The upper cofferdam and sediment basin will isolate the work area. A pump in a screened basket or bucket (mesh maximum of 0.2 inch), will pump water to the sediment basin. Screening will prevent entrainment of fish should they access the pump location. Water trapped in the work area or dewatered from that area will be pumped into a Baker tank for settling prior to discharge onto the vegetated creek bank or will be retained in a settling basin made of haybales, plywood, and plastic sheeting.
- Bio-8. Following the completion of the project, sediment collected in the sediment basin or Baker tank will be removed prior to deconstructing the basin.
- Bio-9. Following the completion of construction, disturbed area will be restored using a combination of the following: jute fiber erosion control blanket, fiber rolls, use of a seed mix containing locally occurring native species, and willow and cottonwood cuttings on disturbed banks and in the RSP.
- Bio-10. Prior to the start of construction a qualified biologist shall present a worker awareness training to all construction personnel, and the Resident Engineer and/or his designee.
- Bio-11. A qualified biologist shall be onsite during installation and removal of the water diversion and all initial ground disturbing activities. A qualified biologist is

one with previous experience monitoring cofferdam installation and moving steelhead. The qualified biologist will be responsible for monitoring the diversion.

- Bio-12. Avoidance measures found in the ACOE/USFWS CRLF Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) shall be implemented during construction.
- Bio-13. Caltrans requests that Tom Edell be approved to carry out the measures listed in the CRLF PBO.
- Bio-14. During pre-construction surveys and/or during construction, if biologists observe any *Pyrgulopsis* spp., they will be relocated to suitable aquatic habitat outside of the area of impact.



Randy LaVack
Senior Environmental Planner
District 5 Environmental Stewardship
California Department of Transportation



Date

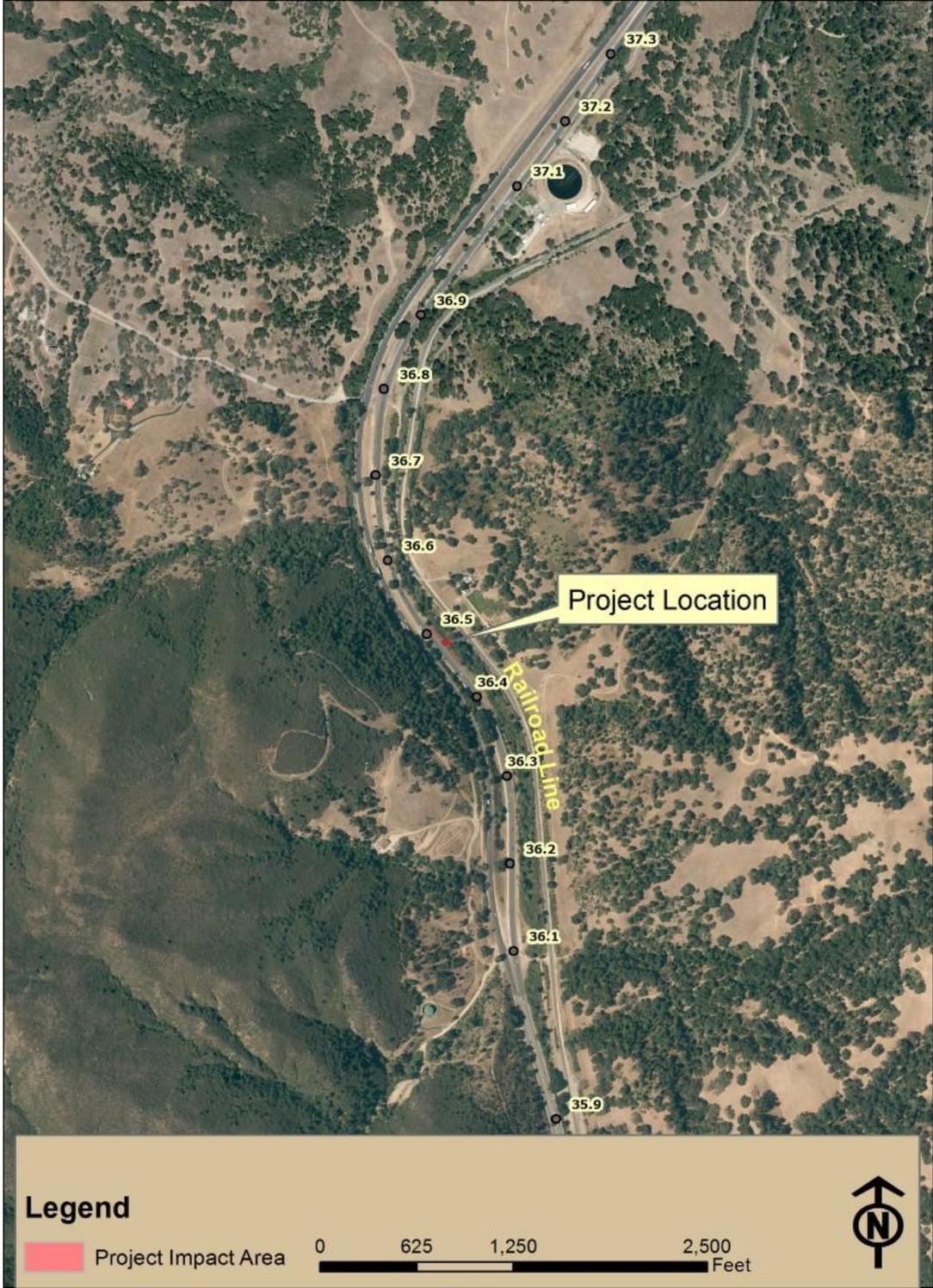


Figure 2 Project Location Map

CEQA Environmental Checklist

05-SLO-101

36.5

05-1F5600/051400009

Dist.-Co.-Rte.

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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"/>
	<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:				
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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:				
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"/>
<i>Explanation:</i> Additional Information found in the Natural Environment Study				
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Explanation:</i> Additional Information found in the Natural Environment Study				
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Explanation:</i> Additional Information found in the Natural Environment Study				

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Explanation:</i> Additional Information found in the Natural Environment Study				
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"/>

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS: Would the project:

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 the 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:

- a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- 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?
- c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?
- d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?
- 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?
- 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"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<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
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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
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"/>
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	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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"/>
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 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 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"/>
) 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"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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"/>

XV. RECREATION:

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"/>

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"/>
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"/>
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Explanation: Additional Information found in the Natural Environment Study

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 questions a and c)

Wetlands and Other Waters of the U.S.

Affected Environment:

The project impact area contains approximately .003 acre of aquatic habitat within the ordinary plane of highwater. This habitat is within the jurisdiction of the ACOE and the California Water Quality Control Board jurisdiction. Realigning the creek channel to its historic path will remove the existing meander and lead to a minor temporary impact to waters of the US. All of the riparian and riverine impact area is within the bed and bank of Santa Margarita Creek and therefore within the jurisdiction of the CDFW.

Environmental Consequences

The project will result in a small temporary spatial loss of creek shading. Riparian trees surrounding the project site provide most of the shade at the work location and the crest of the Santa Lucia Range to the west shades this area during the late afternoon. One 12-inch diameter at breast height (dbh) Fremont's cottonwood and five approximately 12 inch dbh multi-trunk red willows will be removed for this work. Willow and cottonwood root wads and pole plantings will offset lost riparian trees. Therefore, short and long term shade loss will be minimal.

A low flow channel along the reconstructed channel will maintain connectivity for aquatic organisms. A bench on each side of the channel will provide a small flood terrace and allow growth of herbaceous streamside vegetation. Although no wetland conditions were identified on-site, the bench will provide suitable conditions for passive development of fringe wetland vegetation.

At the finish of this work, the channel will be more stable than the existing meander that is cutting into the creek bank and depositing sediment into down creek waters. Rebuilding the bank will eliminate this source of sediment. The entire 0.078 acre of Riparian and Riverine impacts are within the bed and bank of Santa Margarita Creek and are therefore within the jurisdiction of the CDFW. The 0.003 acre of temporary impact to Riverine habitat is within Waters of the US and therefore falls under the jurisdiction of the ACOE and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Excavation and fill within the stream banks is necessary to return the creek to its original flowline. Approximately 60 cubic yards of material will be excavated from the channel to eliminate the accumulated sediment forcing flow toward the highway shoulder. In addition, about 150 cubic yards will be excavated for the toe of the RSP. Both RSP and dirt fill are

needed to reconstruct the stream bank. A total of 330 cubic yards of RSP is needed to construct and armor the new creek bank and an estimated 150 cubic yards of fill will be placed behind the RSP.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

During project development construction alternatives were considered to limit potential natural environment impacts. Due to the small size of the impact area, limited access options, limited options to prevent further bank cutting, and the need to maintain a standard shoulder width, a limited number of alternatives were available. One rejected alternative included accessing the site from the east bank. This alternative would have required more tree removal including slower growing coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*). Other alternatives involved a larger disturbance area that lead to greater impacts.

The following measures will be implemented for this project:

- Bio-1. Construction will occur between August and October 15 to avoid the wet season.
- Bio-2. Staging area between creek and road. All equipment will have drip pans to collect potential leaks.
- Bio-3. All fuelling in controlled environment outside of creek banks
- Bio-4. Caltrans Construction Site Best Management Practices shall be implemented to minimize effects to steelhead and all habitats in the project area.
- Bio-5. During RSP placement, soil will be incorporated within the RSP to allow planting of locally obtained willows and cottonwoods at a 3:1 ratio.
- Bio-6. Prior to the start of construction a qualified biologist shall monitor the installation of ESA fencing and/or well marked stakes to delineate the boundaries of construction limits.
- Bio-7. A pumped diversion will be installed around the work area. The diversion shall consist of an up and down creek cofferdam constructed of hay bales, sand bags, visqueen, plywood, and/or other silt fee materials. Prior to constructing the up creek cofferdam, woody debris will be hand removed from the creek channel. Once material is removed a block-net will be installed up creek of the diversion and another block net walked down creek to just beyond the anticipated sediment basin location. Any fish stranded between the cofferdam and the net will be captured and moved to an appropriate predetermined relocation site (likely the pool at the Tassajara Road Bridge). The upper cofferdam and sediment basin will isolate the work area. A pump in a screened basket or bucket (mesh maximum of 0.2 inch), will pump water to the sediment

basin. Screening will prevent entrainment of fish should they access the pump location. Water trapped in the work area or dewatered from that area will be pumped into a Baker tank for settling prior to discharge onto the vegetated creek bank or will be retained in a settling basin made of haybales, plywood, and plastic sheeting.

- Bio-8. Following the completion of the project, sediment collected in the sediment basin or Baker tank will be removed prior to deconstructing the basin.
- Bio-9. Following the completion of construction, disturbed area will be restored using a combination of the following: jute fiber erosion control blanket, fiber rolls, use of a seed mix containing locally occurring native species, and willow and cottonwood cuttings on disturbed banks and in the RSP.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Affected Environment

Animals are considered to be of special concern based on (1) federal, State, or local regulation; (2) limited distributions; and/or (3) species at risk. South-Central California Coast Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (Federally Threatened and State Endangered) and Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa torosa*) were found in the Biological Study Area. California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) (Federally and State Threatened) and San Luis Obispo pryg (*Pyrgulopsis taylori*) presence is inferred based on the presence of suitable habitat and the species distribution.

SOUTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST STEELHEAD

Trout are known to occur in the Salinas River watershed and in Santa Margarita Creek. Many were captured and relocated during a 2012-2013 widening of the US 101 Santa Margarita Creek Bridge. Trout present in Santa Margarita Creek are presumed to be steelhead.

Steelhead present from the Pajaro River south to, but not including, the Santa Maria River are classified by NMFS as South-Central California Coast steelhead. According to Becker et al (2010), Santa Margarita Creek is one of the five sub-basins of the Salinas River that provides rearing habitat. California Department of Fish and Game (Wildlife) records from the mid-1930's concluded there was a lack of suitable spawning habitat in Tassajara Creek (a tributary to Santa Margarita Creek) during the mid-1930's and that 18,000 trout were planted in the creek in 1932 and 1933 and another 5,000 in 1938 (Titus et al, 2006).

Two trout were observed during the March 24, 2014 survey. A 12-14 inch trout was in a pool at the Tassajara Creek Road Santa Margarita Creek Bridge and a 6-8 inch trout was seen in the creek between the project action area and inlet for the US 101 Santa Margarita Creek box

culvert indicating the culvert is not a complete barrier. However, the culvert likely limits small fish from moving up creek at most flow volumes. There is one small pool (3 feet by 3 feet and 1.5 foot deep) in the action area that could provide temporary refuge for a fish, but most of the creek is 3-4 inches deep and likely only used for movement along the stream channel. Water depths in late summer are unknown but anticipated to be lower than when surveyed in April 2014. Additional evidence of trout presence in Santa Margarita Creek comes from the widening of the US 101 Santa Margarita Creek Bridge. Approximately 85 trout ranging between 6 to 12.5 inches were relocated up creek to the Tassajara Creek Road Bridge over Santa Margarita Creek and farther up Tassajara Creek in 2013.

Given the survey results only a few, if any, fish are likely in the action area during construction. Fish would be most at risk during the following action: installation and removal of the water diversion; entrainment during the water diversion, and fish relocation. It is also possible that any sediment caused by construction could temporarily affect feeding. Proposed avoidance and minimization efforts will reduce the level of adverse effects, but not eliminate the potential for take if fish are present.

The “loss-of-service” area during construction will extend from the up-creek cofferdam down-creek to the sediment basin. Given the average width of the creek (3 feet) and the distance of the diversion (less than 100 feet), the total “loss-of-service area will be approximately 300 square feet (0.007 acre).

Remaining trees at the site and those planted in the RSP will provide shade for the creek. The RSP will cover 6-feet of the reconstructed bank over a 65-foot distance for a combined total area of 390 square feet (0.009 acre). A 5-foot wide low flow channel will be created in the reconstructed section of creek. These project components will reduce creek impacts to a temporary nature.

CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG

CRLF occurs in the Salinas River and San Luis Obispo Creek watersheds. CRLF has also been found at scattered locations along the west and east slopes of the Santa Lucia Range. No documented CRLF records were found within one mile of the action area. The nearest occurrence listed in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (#528) is along Tassajara Creek approximately 1.4 miles to the northwest. The next closest CNDDDB occurrences in each direction are 2.25 miles to the northeast at Buena Vista Creek (#741), 2.85 miles to the west at Chorro Creek (#150), and 3.45 miles to the southeast at Trout Creek (#628).

Tassajara Creek is a tributary to Santa Margarita Creek and has several small ponds suitable for CRLF including one previously mentioned. However, lower in the Santa Margarita Creek watershed at the US 101 Santa Margarita Creek Bridge bullfrogs (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) were abundant during a dewatering action in 2012-2013 and no CRLF were detected. Based on the CNDDDB, the Santa Margarita Ranch appears to have at least a small population in the upper reaches of the Santa Lucia Range. The species is also known from numerous locations to the northwest along the Santa Lucia Range and in the Chorro Creek Valley.

CRLF was not observed during project surveys. These surveys were general in nature and did not follow USFWS Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the CRLF. Riparian and riverine habitats in the action area provide the physical and biological features essential to the conservation of the species. It was not observed during project surveys, but is inferred to be present based on its distribution in the project area.

The project is located in designated critical habitat unit SLO-3. This unit extends from about Old Creek in Cayucos southwest to Lopez Canyon. Critical habitat is based on the physical and biological features essential to the conservation of the species, which for CRLF include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Space for individual and population growth and for normal behavior;
- (2) Food, water, air, light, minerals, or other nutritional or physiological requirements;
- (3) Cover or shelter;
- (4) Sites for breeding, reproduction, or rearing (or development) of offspring; and
- (5) Habitats that are protected from disturbance or are representative of the historical, geographical, and ecological distributions of a species.

Based on the species biological needs the primary constituent needs for CRLF are:

- (1) Aquatic Breeding Habitat. Standing bodies of fresh water (with salinities less than 4.5 ppt), including natural and manmade (e.g., stock) ponds, slow-moving streams or pools within streams, and other ephemeral or permanent water bodies that typically become inundated during winter rains and hold water for a minimum of 20 weeks in all but the driest of years.
- (2) Aquatic Non-Breeding Habitat. Freshwater pond and stream habitats, as described above, that may not hold water long enough for the species to complete its aquatic life cycle but

which provide for shelter, foraging, predator avoidance, and aquatic dispersal of juvenile and adult CRLFs.

(3) Upland Habitat. Upland areas adjacent to or surrounding breeding and non-breeding aquatic and riparian habitat up to a distance of 1 mi (1.6 km) in most cases (i.e., depending on surrounding landscape and dispersal barriers) including various vegetation types such as grassland, woodland, forest, wetland, or riparian areas that provide shelter, forage, and predator avoidance for the CRLF.

(4) Dispersal Habitat. Accessible upland or riparian habitat within and between occupied or previously occupied sites that are located within 1 mi (1.6 km) of each other, and that support movement between such sites

The project impact area provides physical and biological features essential to the conservation of the species. It also has the potential to provide three of the four constituent elements of critical habitat: aquatic non-breeding habitat, upland habitat, and dispersal habitat. Whether the action area is within or between one-mile of occupied or previously occupied sites is unknown.

The nearest recorded occurrence in the CNDDDB is 1.4 miles to the northwest of the project site. Based on aerial imagery and topographic maps (Figure 5), the nearest potential breeding pond (1) is across US 101 approximately 0.3 miles to the northwest. Another pond (2) associated with the State water project is 0.55 mile to the north. This managed pond is a concrete structure with no vegetation and appears unlikely to offer breeding habitat. The next two nearest ponds (3 and 4) are 1.1 and 1.2 miles to the north of the project site.

COAST RANGE NEWT

Like many salamanders, the Coast Range newt (CRN) spends most of its life in terrestrial habitats such as wet forest, oak forests, chaparral, and rolling grasslands. Adults migrate from terrestrial habitat to aquatic breeding sites in March and April where they breed. Typical breeding habitat can include ponds, reservoirs, and sluggish pools in streams. Transformed juveniles leave the breeding site and travel overland to suitable terrestrial refuge where they remain for three years before attaining breeding condition.

This species was found during project surveys. Individuals were seen in the project impact area and just up-creek of the US 101 culvert, and a mass of 25 breeding adults were in a plunge pool at the outlet of the US 101 culvert. Given these observations this species is

clearly present in the action area during the breeding season. US 101 is likely a complete barrier to overland travel, though animals can move freely up and down creek.

Suitable CRN habitat is present in the action area and site surveys found several animals including one in the action area. Construction could affect CRN if present; therefore measures to avoid and minimize adverse affects are being implemented. Primarily the measures being implemented are those found in the ACOE/USFWS PBO (Appendix E).

The project will have temporary and permanent impacts to CRN habitat. Permanent impacts will result from the elimination of the creek's meander toward US 101. Reestablishing the historic creek bank will move approximately 65 feet of creek away from the highway and back to its original flow line. This action will require 6 feet of exposed RSP along the highway-side creek bank. To offset this impact, the base of the RSP will be planted with native willows and cottonwoods, capped with soil, and seeded with locally occurring natives.

The total area of RSP covered bank will be 390 square feet (0.009 acre). Overall, the toe of the bank will be moved about 23 feet away from the highway and the total area of fill is approximately 1,495 square feet (0.034 acre). This reduction in riparian habitat is small compared to the overall riparian habitat available. It will continue to serve as dispersal habitat, but will account for at least a temporary reduction in potential summer refugia.

CRN occurs in along the Santa Lucia Range and is known from the Santa Margarita Creek and San Luis Obispo Creek watersheds. The apparent poor quality breeding habitat in the action area suggests that if present, only small numbers likely occur there. Implementation of avoidance and minimization efforts will greatly reduce the potential for take of this species.

SAN LUIS OBISPO PYRG

This small aquatic snail is included on the CNDDDB Special Animals List (CDFW 2011). Little has been published about this invertebrate species which is a member of the largest genus of freshwater gastropods in North America.

Santa Margarita Creek and the project impact area appear to support suitable habitat for San Luis Obispo pyrg, however this species was not detected during project surveys.

Environmental Consequences

SOUTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST STEELHEAD

Potential adverse affects to steelhead could occur during the following activities:

- Installation and removal of the water diversion
- Entrainment during the water diversion
- Fish relocation (if needed)
- Sediment released into the creek during construction

CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG

Potential adverse affects to CRLF could occur during the following activities:

- Vegetation clearing
- Installation and removal of the water diversion
- Entrainment during the water diversion
- Sediment removal
- Equipment operation
- Relocation efforts (if needed)
- Sediment released into the creek during construction

COAST RANGE NEWT

Potential adverse affects to CRN could occur during the following activities:

- Vegetation clearing
- Project construction (excavation)
- Installation and removal of the water diversion
- Entrainment during the water diversion
- Relocation efforts (if needed)
- Sediment released into the creek during construction

SAN LUIS OBISPO PYRG

- Project construction could result in the injury or mortality of San Luis Obispo pyrg (if present) during diversion/dewatering to accommodate the slope repair. The potential need to capture and relocate this species could subject it to stresses (e.g., temporary removal from aquatic habitat, desiccation, relocation to unfamiliar aquatic habitat) that could result in adverse effects. Injury or mortality could also occur via accidental crushing by worker foot-traffic or construction equipment. The potential for these impacts is anticipated to be low due to no observations of the species within the BSA during surveys.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

SOUTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA COAST STEELHEAD

The project location between US 101 and the railroad limited potential project modifications and alternatives. Nonetheless, the project has been designed to protect habitat and reduce the potential for adverse effects to steelhead.

In addition to the avoidance measures Bio-1 to 9 outlined in the Wetlands and Other Waters of the US (Aquatic) section, the following measures will be employed to avoid and minimize adverse affects to steelhead:

- Bio-10. Prior to the start of construction a qualified biologist shall present a worker awareness training to all construction personnel, and the Resident Engineer and/or his designee.
- Bio-11. A qualified biologist shall be onsite during installation and removal of the water diversion and all initial ground disturbing activities. A qualified biologist is one with previous experience monitoring cofferdam installation and moving steelhead. The qualified biologist will be responsible for monitoring the diversion.

CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG

The project location between US 101 and the railroad limited potential project modifications and alternatives. Nonetheless, the project has been designed to protect habitat and reduce the potential for adverse effects to CRLF.

The ACOE will be the lead federal agency for Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). It is presumed that the ACOE will utilize the Programmatic Formal Endangered Species Act Consultation on Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Authorization under the Nationwide Permit Program for Projects that May Affect the California Red-legged Frog (PBO). In addition to the avoidance efforts outlined in the PBO, Bio-1 through Bio-7 efforts listed in the previous Aquatic section of this report will be employed to avoid and minimize adverse affects to CRLF.

- Bio-12. Avoidance measures found in the ACOE/USFWS CRLF PBO shall be implemented during construction.

- Bio-13. Caltrans requests that Tom Edell be approved to carry out the measures listed in the CRLF PBO.

Tom Edell and/or Nancy Siepel will act as the Service-approved biologists. Both individuals are currently Service-approved under the Programmatic Biological Opinion for Project Funded or Approved under the Federal Highway Administration Federal Aid Program (8-8-10-F-58) and have extensive experience surveying for and handling CRLF.

COAST RANGE NEWT

The project location between US 101 and the railroad limited potential project modifications and alternatives. Nonetheless, the project has been designed to protect habitat and reduce the potential for adverse effects to CRN. Efforts outlined in the CRLF PBO and Bio-1 through Bio-7 efforts listed in the previous Aquatic section of this report will be employed to avoid and minimize adverse affects to CRN. In particular the projected construction timing will avoid this species breeding season and occur when animals are anticipated to be in terrestrial habitat away from the action area.

SAN LUIS OBISPO PYRG

Recommended avoidance and minimization measures for San Luis Obispo pyrg include the following:

- Bio-14. During pre-construction surveys and/or during construction, if biologists observe any *Pyrgulopsis* spp., they will be relocated to suitable aquatic habitat outside of the area of impact.

Appendix A – Site Photos

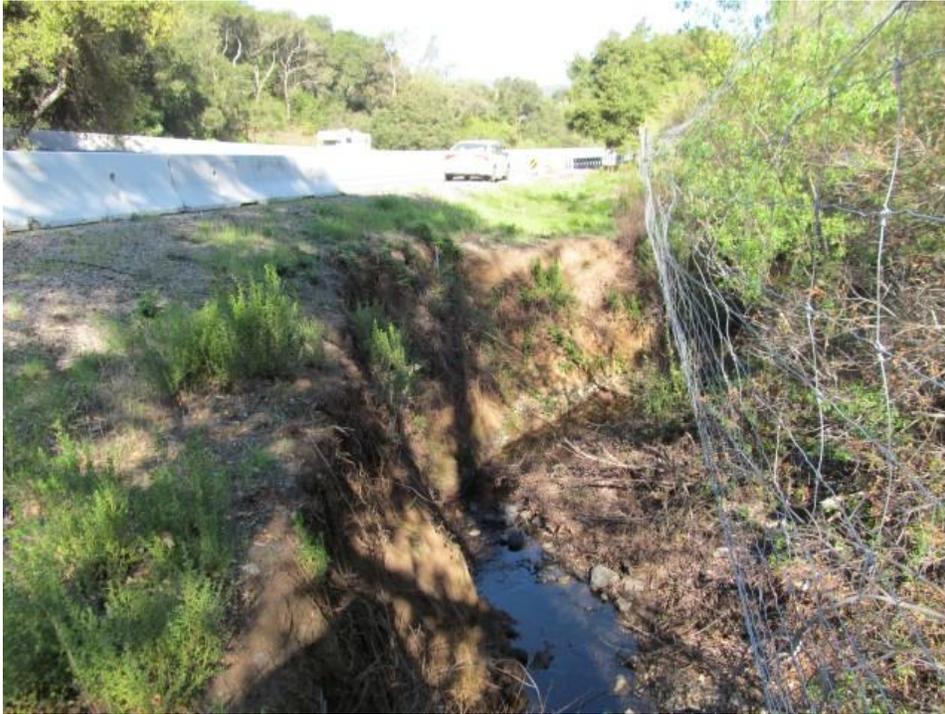


Photo 1: Eroded bank, March 2014



Photo 2: Eroded bank, April 2014

Santa Margarita Creek – Bank Stabilization



Photo 3. brush pile at up creek end of meander into the State R/W, April 2014



Photo 4. Eroded bank, April 2014

Santa Margarita Creek – Bank Stabilization



Photo 5. Looking down creek, April 2014



Photo 6. Looking up creek, April 2014

Appendix B – Regional Species of Concern

Table 5. Regional Plant Species of Concern

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal / State / CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
Brewer’s spineflower	<i>Chorizanthe breweri</i>	-- / -- / 1B.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual herb; occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub Soils: serpentinite, rocky or gravely Blooms March-May 45-800 meters (145-2625 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in BSA. No serpentinite present No further studies recommended.
Cambria Morning Glory	<i>Calystegia subacaulis ssp. episcopalis</i>	-- / -- / 4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial rhizomatous herb; occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland Blooms April-May 30-500 meters (100-1640 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in BSA. No further studies recommended.
Chorro Creek bog thistle	<i>Cirsium fontinale var. obispoense</i>	FE / SE / 1B.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial herb; occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland; serpentinite seeps and drainages Blooms February-September 35-380 meters (115-1250 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in BSA. No serpentinite present No further studies recommended.
Cuesta Pass checkerbloom	<i>Sidalcea hickmanii ssp. Anomala</i>	-- / -R / 1B.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial herb; occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest (serpentinite) Blooms May-June 600-800 meters (1979-2625 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in BSA. No serpentinite present No further studies recommended
Cuesta Ridge thistle	<i>Cirsium occidentale var. lucianum</i>	-- / -- / 1B.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial herb; occurs in chaparral openings, often on steep rocky slopes and disturbed roadsides. Serpentinite Blooms April-June 500-750 meters (1640-2460 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in BSA. No serpentinite present No further studies recommended
dwarf soaproot	<i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. minus</i>	-- / -- / 1B.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial bulbiferous herb; occurs in chaparral (serpentinite) Blooms: May-August 305 - 1000 meters (1000-3280 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in BSA. No serpentinite present No further studies recommended
hooked popcornflower	<i>Plagiobothrys uncinatus</i>	-- / -- / 1B.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual herb; chaparral (sandy), cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland Blooms: April-May 200-760 meters (985-2495 feet) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in BSA. No further studies recommended

Santa Margarita Creek – Bank Stabilization

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal / State / CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
Gambel's water cress	<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i>	FE / ST / 1B.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial stoloniferous herb; occurs in sandy areas and openings in freshwater or brackish marshes and swamps Flowers May-August 3-170 meters (10-560 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in BSA. No watercress present No further studies recommended.
mesa horkelia	<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> <i>var. puberula</i>	-- / -- / 1B.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial herb; occurs in chaparral (maritime), cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Blooms: February-September 70-810 meters (230-2660 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in BSA. No further studies recommended.
marsh sandwort	<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>	FE / SE / 1B.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial stoloniferous herb; occurs in freshwater or brackish marshes and swamps/sandy areas and openings Blooms: May-August 3-170 meters (10-560 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in the BSA. No further studies recommended.
Morro Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos morroensis</i>	FT /	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial evergreen shrub; occurs in Baywood fine sand. Chaparral (maritime), cismontane woodland, coastal dunes (pre-Flandrian). Coastal scrub Blooms: December-March 5-205 meters (15-675 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in the BSA. No further studies recommended
Palmer's monardella	<i>Monardella palmeri</i>	-- / -- / 1B.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial rhizomatous herb; occurs in serpentinite; chaparral, cismontane woodland Blooms: June-August 200-800 meters (655-2625 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in the BSA. No serpentinite present No further studies recommended
San Benito fritillary	<i>Fritillaria viridea</i>	-- / -- / 1B.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial bulbiferous herb; occurs in chaparral (serpentinite) Blooms: March-May 200-1525 meters (655-5000 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in the BSA. No serpentinite present No further studies recommended
San Luis Obispo mariposa-lily	<i>Calochortus obispoensis</i>	-- / -- / 1B.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial bulbiferous herb; often serpentinite; occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland Blooms May-July 50-730 meters (165-2400 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in the BSA. No further studies recommended
San Luis Obispo sedge	<i>Carex obispoensis</i>	-- / -- / 1B.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial rhizomatous herb; closed cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland Soils: often serpentinite seeps, sometimes gabbro, often on clay soils Blooms: April-June 10-820 meters (30-2700 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in the BSA. No serpentinite present No further studies recommended

Santa Margarita Creek – Bank Stabilization

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal / State / CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
Santa Lucia manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos luciana</i>	-- / -- / 1B.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial evergreen shrub; shale; chaparral, cismontane woodland Blooms: December-March 350-850 meters (1150-2800 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in the BSA. No further studies recommended
Santa Margarita Manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos pilosula</i>	-- / -- / 1B.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perennial evergreen shrub; sometimes sandstone; broadleafed upland forest, closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland Blooms: December-May 170-1100 meters (560-3610 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in the BSA. No further studies recommended
Spreading navarretia	<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	FT / -- / 1B.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual herb; chenopod shrub, marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater), playas, vernal pools Blooms: April-June 30-655 meters (100-2150 feet) 	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in the BSA. No further studies recommended
<p>Status Codes:</p> <p>Federal: FE = Federal Endangered FT = Federal Threatened</p> <p>State: SE = State Endangered ST = State Threatened SR = State Rare</p>			<p>California Native Plant Society (CNPS): List 1B = rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere. List 2 = rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere. List 4 = limited distribution (Watch List).</p> <p>CNPS Threat Code: .1 = Seriously endangered in CA (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat) .2 = Fairly endangered in CA (20-80% occurrences threatened) .3 = Not very endangered in CA (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)</p> <p>Habitat Present/Absent Absent [A]-no habitat present and no further work needed. Habitat Present [HP]-habitat is, or may be present. Present [P]-the species is present. Critical Habitat [CH] – the project footprint is located within a designated critical habitat unit, but does not necessarily mean that appropriate habitat is present.</p>		

Table 6. Regional Animal Species of Concern

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal / State / CDFG	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
Invertebrates					
San Luis Obispo pyrg	<i>Pyrgulopsis taylori</i>	-- / -- / --	Occurs in freshwater habitats including slow moving streams, seeps and springs. Occurrences along the western side of the Santa Lucia Range on San Luis Obispo Creek (Cuesta Pass), Chorro Creek, and Brizzolari Creek..	P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No gastropod mollusks observed during project surveys. • No further surveys recommended
vernal pool fairy shrimp (vernal pool branchiopods)	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FT / -- / --	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains, in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suitable habitat in the BSA. • No further studies recommended.
Mammals					
American Badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>	-- / -- / SSC	Typically occurs in open grasslands with sandy loam soils allowing excavation of dens and pursuit of prey	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suitable habitat in the BSA. • No suitable burrows noted during surveys • No further studies recommended.
pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	-- / -- / SSC	Roosts in small colonies in rock crevices, caves, mine shafts, under bridges, in buildings and tree hollows.	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suitable roost sites in or adjacent to project impact area. • No further studies required
Fish					
steelhead south/central California coast DPS	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	FT / -- / SSC	Federal listing refers to runs in coastal basins from the Pajaro River south to, but not including, the Santa Maria River.	P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable habitat in the BSA. • Action area outside of CH • 12-14 inch and 6-8 inch trout observed down creek of action area.
Amphibians					
California tiger salamander	<i>Ambstoma californiense</i>	FT / ST / --	Upland habitat: burrows in grassland, oak savannah, edges of mixed woodland and low elevation coniferous forest. Breeding habitat: seasonal ponds, occasionally reservoirs or slow moving portions of creeks.	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No suitable breed habitat in project area • Species not known to occur in surrounding area

Santa Margarita Creek – Bank Stabilization

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal / State / CDFG	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT, CH / -- / SSC	Aquatic habitats with little or no flow, the presence of surface water to at least early June, surface water depths to at least 2.3 feet, and fairly sturdy underwater supports such as cattails.	P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable breeding habitat in the BSA. Suitable non-breeding habitat present Action area within CH No further studies recommended.
foothill yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana boylei</i>	-- / -- / SSC	Rocky streams in with sunny banks in forests, chaparral, and woodlands. Occurs in isolated pools, vegetated backwaters, and shaded, spring-fed pools. 370-3660 meters (984-12000 feet)	P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable breeding habitat in the BSA. Suitable non-breeding habitat present No longer occurs south of Monterey County (Nafis, 2014) No further studies recommended.
Coast Range newt	<i>Taricha torosa</i>	-- / -- / SSC	Chaparral, oak woodland, and grasslands. Adults migrate to ponds, reservoirs, and sluggish pools in streams to breed. Occurs from sea level to 1280 meters (4200 feet).	P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suitable breeding habitat down creek Observed up and down creek of Hwy 101 culvert
Reptiles					
western pond turtle	<i>Emys marmorata</i>	-- / -- / SSC	Quiet waters of ponds, lakes, streams, and marshes. Typically in the deepest parts with an abundance of basking sites.	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable habitat in the BSA. No further studies recommended.
Birds					
California condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	FE / SE, FP / -	Nests in association with rocky cliffs. Forages in open savannah, grasslands, and foothill chaparral with cliffs, trees, and snags.	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No suitable breeding habitat in the BSA. No further studies recommended.
least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE / SE / --	(Nesting) summer resident of southern California in low riparian habitats near water or in dry river bottoms, below 2,000 ft. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, willows, coyote brush, or mesquite.	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marginal habitat in the project area Construction will occur outside the nesting season No further studies recommended.
Southwestern willow flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	FE / SE / --	(Nesting) summer resident of Southwest US in dense riparian tree and shrub communities associated with rivers, swamps, and wetlands. Prefers areas of dense vegetation interspersed with a mosaic of small openings, open water, or shorter/sparser vegetation.	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No known breeding records for San Luis Obispo County. Construction will occur outside of the nesting season Project not within designated critical habitat

Santa Margarita Creek – Bank Stabilization

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status Federal / State / CDFG	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
other nesting birds	Class Aves	MBTA / -- / CDFG Section 3503	Various habitats (nesting).	P	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable nesting habitat occurs in trees and poison oak thickets within the BSA. • No nesting birds observed during surveys. • Construction will occur outside of the nesting season
<p>Status Codes:</p> <p><i>Federal:</i> FE = Federal Endangered FT = Federal Threatened FC = Federal Candidate FD = Federal Delisted MBTA = Protected by Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act</p> <p><i>State:</i> SE = State Endangered ST = State Threatened SD = State Delisted FP = Fully Protected</p>			<p><i>California Department of Fish and Wildlife:</i> SSC = California Species of Special Concern WL = CDFW Watch List species SA = Included on CNDDDB Special Animals List (also protected under CEQA) FGC Section 3503 = Protected by Fish and Game Code Section 3503</p> <p><i>Habitat Present/Absent</i> Absent [A]-no habitat present and no further work needed. Habitat Present [HP]-habitat is, or may be present. Present [P]-the species is present. Critical Habitat [CH] – the project footprint is located within a designated critical habitat unit, but does not necessarily mean that appropriate habitat is present.</p>		

Appendix C – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Species List



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resources of Concern

This resource list is to be used for planning purposes only — it is not an official species list.

Endangered Species Act species list information for your project is available online and listed below for the following FWS Field Offices:

Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 PORTOLA ROAD, SUITE B
VENTURA, CA 93003
(805) 644-1766

Endangered Species Act species list information for your project is NOT available online for the following FWS Field Offices:

Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
FEDERAL BUILDING
2800 COTTAGE WAY, ROOM W-2605
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825
(916) 414-6600

Project Name:

SLO 101 PM 36.5_Rebuild Bank



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resources of Concern

Project Location Map:



Project Counties:

San Luis Obispo, CA

Geographic coordinates (Open Geospatial Consortium Well-Known Text, NAD83):

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MULTIPOLYGON (((-120.6406434 35.3676343, -120.6402899 35.3676426, -120.6400432 35.3672752, -120.6397106 35.3669165, -120.639378 35.3666278, -120.6384982 35.3657529, -120.6382944 35.3654729, -120.6388093 35.3654204, -120.6397642 35.3663828, -120.640483 35.3672314, -120.6406434 35.3676343))))
```

Project Type:

Transportation



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resources of Concern

Endangered Species Act Species List (USFWS Endangered Species Program).

There are a total of 11 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fishes may appear on the species list because a project could cause downstream effects on the species. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section below for critical habitat that lies within your project area. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Species that should be considered in an effects analysis for your project:

Amphibians	Status		Has Critical Habitat	Contact
California Tiger Salamander (<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>) Population: U.S.A. (Central CADPS)	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
California red-legged frog (<i>Rana draytonii</i>) Population: Entire	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Birds				
California condor (<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>) Population: Entire, except where listed as an experimental population below	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Least Bell's vireo (<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Southwestern Willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Crustaceans				



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resources of Concern

Vernal Pool fairy shrimp (<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>) Population: Entire	Threatened	species info	Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Flowering Plants				
Chorro Creek Bog thistle (<i>Cirsium fontinale var. obispoense</i>)	Endangered	species info		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Marsh Sandwort (<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>)	Endangered	species info		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Morro manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos morroensis</i>)	Threatened	species info		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Pismo clarkia (<i>Clarkia spectiosa ssp. immaculata</i>)	Endangered	species info		Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
Spreading navarretia (<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>)	Threatened	species info	Proposed critical habitat (map unavailable) Final designated critical habitat	Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office

Critical habitats within your project area: [\(View all critical habitats within your project area on one map\)](#)

The following critical habitats lie fully or partially within your project area.

Amphibians	Critical Habitat Type
California red-legged frog (<i>Rana draytonii</i>) Population: Entire	Final designated critical habitat



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resources of Concern

FWS National Wildlife Refuges (USFWS National Wildlife Refuges Program)

There are no refuges found within the vicinity of your project.

FWS Migratory Birds (USFWS Migratory Bird Program)

Most species of birds, including eagles and other raptors, are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703). Bald eagles and golden eagles receive additional protection under the [Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act](#) (16 U.S.C. 668). The Service's [Birds of Conservation Concern \(2008\)](#) report identifies species, subspecies, and populations of all migratory nongame birds that, without additional conservation actions, are likely to become listed under the Endangered Species Act as amended (16 U.S.C 1531 et seq.).

Migratory bird information is not available for your project location.

NWI Wetlands (USFWS National Wetlands Inventory)

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency that provides information on the extent and status of wetlands in the U.S., via the National Wetlands Inventory Program (NWI). In addition to impacts to wetlands within your immediate project area, wetlands outside of your project area may need to be considered in any evaluation of project impacts, due to the hydrologic nature of wetlands (for example, project activities may affect local hydrology within, and outside of, your immediate project area). It may be helpful to refer to the USFWS National Wetland Inventory website. The designated FWS office can also assist you. Impacts to wetlands and other aquatic habitats from your project may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal Statutes. Project Proponents should discuss the relationship of these requirements to their project with the Regulatory Program of the appropriate [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District](#).

The following wetlands intersect your project area:

Wetland Types	NWI Classification Code	Approximate Acres
Riverine	R4SRC	84.996807
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PSS/FOC	2.059985
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland	PSS/FOC	248.2385

Appendix D – California Natural Diversity Database



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
American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S4	SC
Brewer's spineflower <i>Chorizanthe breweri</i>	PDPGN04050	None	None	G2	S2.2	1B.3
California red-legged frog <i>Rana draytonii</i>	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	SC
Cambria morning-glory <i>Calystegia subacaulis ssp. episcopalis</i>	PDCON040J1	None	None	G3T3	S3	4.2
Coast Range newt <i>Taricha torosa</i>	AAAAF02032	None	None	G4	S4	SC
Cuesta Pass checkerbloom <i>Sidalcea hickmanii ssp. anomala</i>	PDMAL110A1	None	Rare	G3T1	S1	1B.2
Cuesta Ridge thistle <i>Cirsium occidentale var. lucianum</i>	PDAST2E1Z8	None	None	G3G4T2	S2	1B.2
dwarf soaproot <i>Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. minus</i>	PMLIL0G042	None	None	G5T2	S2	1B.2
foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	AAABH01050	None	None	G3	S2S3	SC
hooked popcornflower <i>Plagiobothrys uncinatus</i>	PDBOR0V170	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
mesa horkelia <i>Horkelia cuneata var. puberula</i>	PDROS0W045	None	None	G4T2	S2.1	1B.1
Northern Interior Cypress Forest <i>Northern Interior Cypress Forest</i>	CTT83220CA	None	None	G2	S2.2	
pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	AMACC10010	None	None	G5	S3	SC
Palmer's monardella <i>Monardella palmeri</i>	PDLAM180H0	None	None	G2	S2.2	1B.2
San Benito fritillary <i>Fritillaria viridea</i>	PMLIL0V0L0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
San Luis mariposa-lily <i>Calochortus obispoensis</i>	PMLILD110	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
San Luis Obispo pyrg <i>Pyrgulopsis taylori</i>	IMGASJ0A50	None	None	G1	S1	

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
San Luis Obispo sedge <i>Carex obispoensis</i>	PMCYP039J0	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	1B.2
Santa Lucia manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos luciana</i>	PDERI040N0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
Santa Margarita manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos pilosula</i>	PDERI04160	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
western pond turtle <i>Emys marmorata</i>	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SC