NEGATIVE DECLARATION & NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600

Promoting the Wise Use of Land • Helping to Build Great Communities

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION NO. ED11-173 (DRC2012-00044) **DATE: January 31, 2013**

PROJECT/ENTITLEMENT: Oceano Drainage Project

APPLICANT NAME: County of San Luis Obispo.
ADDRESS: 1050 Monterey Street Room 207 San Luis Obispo CA 93408
CONTACT PERSON: Katie Drexhage, County Public Works **Telephone: 805-781-5252**

PROPOSED USES/INTENT: Request by San Luis Obispo County Public Works for a Development Plan/Conditional Use Permit/Coastal Development Permit to construct new storm drain improvements to alleviate existing drainage issues which will result in the disturbance of approximately 14.4 acres and 12,500 cubic yards of cut and fill. The proposed project includes improvements within County and State Right of Way and on private property. .

LOCATION: The project is located alongside State Higway 1 in Oceano, beginning at the intersection of Paso Robles Street and Highway 1 and terminating approximately 1,250 feet to the southwest at Arroyo Grande Creek, in the San Luis Bay Coastal and Inland planning areas.

LEAD AGENCY: **County of San Luis Obispo**
Dept of Planning & Building
976 Osos Street, Rm. 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

Website: http://www.sloplanning.org

OTHER POTENTIAL PERMITTING AGENCIES: Cal Trans, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board, US Army Corps of Engineers

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW: YES ☒ **NO** ☐

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information pertaining to this environmental Determination may be obtained by contacting the above Lead Agency address of (805)781-5600.

COUNTY "REQUEST FOR REVIEW" PERIOD ENDS AT .....4:30 p.m. February 14, 2013

30 Day PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD begins at the time of public notification

Notice of Determination

State Clearinghouse No. _____

This is to advise that the San Luis Obispo County_____ as ☐ *Lead Agency* ☐ *Responsible Agency* approved/denied the above described project on _____, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Mitigation measures and monitoring were made a condition of the approval of the project. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Negative Declaration with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at the 'Lead Agency' address above.

	Ryan Hostetter		County of San Luis Obispo
Signature	**Project Manager Name**	**Date**	**Public Agency**

Oceano Drainage Project at 13th Street and Highway 1
ED11-173 / WBS 300465

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, NOTICE OF DETERMINATION, & INITIAL STUDY

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
ENVIRONMENTAL & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Initial Study Summary – Environmental Checklist

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600
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(ver 5.0) Using Form

Project Title & No. (Oceano Drainage Project at Highway 1 and 13th Street in Oceano) ED11-173 (300465)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The proposed project could have a "Potentially Significant Impact" for at least one of the environmental factors checked below. Please refer to the attached pages for discussion on mitigation measures or project revisions to either reduce these impacts to less than significant levels or require further study.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Geology and Soils	☐ Recreation
☐ Agricultural Resources	☐ Hazards/Hazardous Materials	☐ Transportation/Circulation
☒ Air Quality	☐ Noise	☐ Wastewater
☒ Biological Resources	☐ Population/Housing	☒ Water /Hydrology
☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Public Services/Utilities	☐ Land Use

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the Environmental Coordinator finds that:

☐ The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Katie Drexhage — Prepared by (Print) | Signature | 11/7/12 Date

Murry Wilson — Reviewed by (Print) | Signature | Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator (for) | 11/7/12 Date

County File Number: ED11-173 (300465) SCH Number: _____

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
OCEANO DRAINAGE PROJECT
AT 13th STREET AND HIGHWAY 1
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION & INITIAL STUDY

Abstract

The Project is a proposal by the Department of Public Works in coordination with Caltrans and other local agencies, to construct new storm drain improvements to alleviate existing drainage issues. The Project will result in the disturbance of approximately 14.4 acres and 12,500 cubic yards of cut and fill. The proposed project includes improvements within County Right of Way and on private property. The proposed project is located alongside the State Highway 1 in Oceano, beginning at the intersection of Paso Robles Street and Highway 1 and terminating approximately 1,250 feet to the southwest at Arroyo Grande Creek. The proposed project is within the Industrial and Commercial Retail land use categories in the San Luis Bay Coastal and Inland planning areas, fourth Supervisorial district. Comments on this document should be sent to Katie Drexhage, County Department of Public Works, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

Katie Drexhage, Environmental Programs Division
or
Jeff Lee, Project Manager
County Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 207
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-1043

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration has been issued by:

11.7.2012
Date

Ellen Carroll
Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Luis Obispo

The project proponent, who agrees to implement the mitigation measures for the project, is:

11.26.2012
Date

Paavo Ogren
Paavo Ogren, Director of Public Works
County of San Luis Obispo

Project Environmental Analysis

The County's environmental review process incorporates all of the requirements for completing the Initial Study as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The Initial Study includes staff's on-site inspection of the project site and surroundings and a detailed review of the information in the file for the project. In addition, available background information is reviewed for each project. Relevant information regarding soil types and characteristics, geologic information, significant vegetation and/or wildlife resources, water availability, wastewater disposal services, existing land uses and surrounding land use categories and other information relevant to the environmental review process are evaluated for each project. Exhibit A includes the references used, as well as the agencies or groups that were contacted as a part of the Initial Study. The County Planning Department uses the checklist to summarize the results of the research accomplished during the initial environmental review of the project.

Persons, agencies or organizations interested in obtaining more information regarding the environmental review process for a project should contact the County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Division, Rm. 200, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408-2040 or call (805) 781-5600.

A. PROJECT

DESCRIPTION: Request by the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works (County), in coordination with Caltrans and other local agencies, to construct new storm drain improvements to alleviate existing drainage issues which will result in the disturbance of approximately 14.4 acres and 12,500 cubic yards of cut and fill. The proposed project includes improvements within County and State Right of Way and on private property. The Oceano Drainage Project (Project) is located alongside the State Highway 1 in Oceano, beginning at the intersection of Paso Robles Street and Highway 1 and terminating approximately 1,250 feet to the southwest at Arroyo Grande Creek, in the San Luis Bay Coastal and Inland planning areas (Figure 1).

DISCUSSION:

The Project aims to:

- Reduce flooding at the intersection of Highway 1 and 13th Street;
- Mitigate storm water runoff impacts to properties downstream of Union Pacific Railroad;
- Treat storm water runoff with LID solutions;
- Minimize the amount of property acquisition;
- Avoid relocation and conflict with existing infrastructure (utilities, buildings, etc.);
- Minimize environmental impacts;
- Minimize long-term operation and maintenance of storm water facilities;
- Minimize impacts to Airport operations; and
- Comply with Federal, State and local standards.

Historically, Highway 1 floods during small rain events at the intersection of 13th and Paso Robles Street. Existing flooding at this location is a result of insufficient and undersized drainage facilities and relatively flat topography. The proposed improvements include new drainage inlets and conveyance of drainage by an underground pipe, south, to a new concrete sedimentation basin located within the RV storage lot. Runoff will discharge into Arroyo Grande Creek through an existing flap gate in the willow riparian woodland area adjacent to the RV storage lot (situated on Oceano Airport property) and a new box culvert. Additionally, roadside infiltrators will be installed and utilized for the Project to capture and treat first flush storm water runoff. The drainage inlets will connect into a new underground storm drain system.

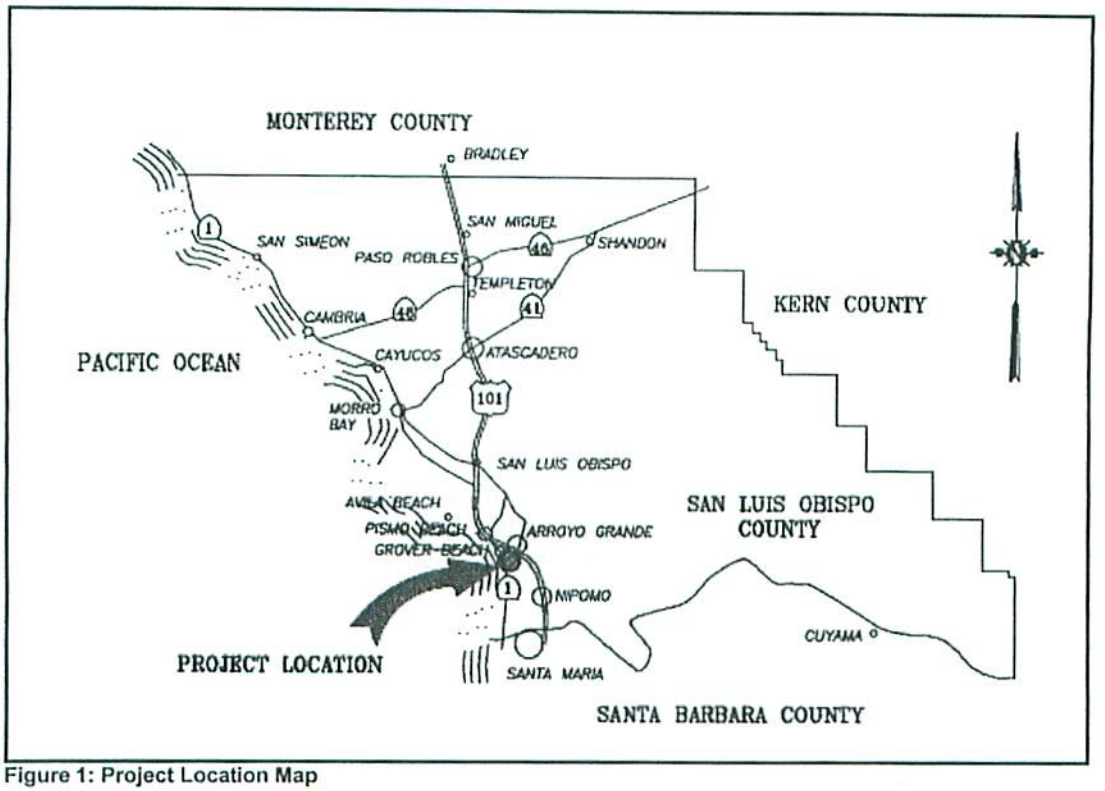


Figure 1: Project Location Map

The drainage inlets (along Front Street and Paso Robles Street) and road side infiltrators (along 13th and Paso Robles Street) will connect to a new underground storm drain system underneath Highway 1, through private property, Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) property and along County roads to the concrete sedimentation basin.

The concrete sedimentation basin will be 0.66 acre and have a storage capacity of 1.42 acre-feet and an elevation of 17.5-feet. The storage capacity of the sedimentation basin is adequate to handle the 10-year design storm event. The proposed sediment basin will be on County Airport lands within the runway protection zone (RPZ), but outside of the central portion of the RPZ. In order to meet airport regulations (FAA requirements), the basin must be shallow and must drain with no standing water remaining after 48-hours. Additionally, due to the threat of bird strike hazards, no bird habitat will be allowed. It is anticipated that the sediment basin will be finished with concrete and gravel in order to meet airport regulations and facilitate implementation of proposed long-term maintenance activities including sediment/debris removal by the County Public Works Roads Division.

The sediment basin will discharge to the adjacent willow woodland riparian area, which currently acts as a basin for storm water from the surrounding areas. The new sediment basin will be the primary feed to the existing basin in the willow woodland area. Storm water will move through the willow woodland, which will act as a bio filter, to an existing 36-inch flap gate as well as through a new 3-foot by 4-foot box culvert with a flap gate, which outlets to Arroyo Grande Creek. The existing culvert and willow woodland riparian area will handle low flow and the new box culvert will handle high flow situations. The sedimentation basin will capture debris, sediments and other suspended solids and allow them to settle out within the basin prior to release to the bio-swale. Refer to the attached plan sheet (Appendix A).

The Project includes regular maintenance of both basins (existing willow woodland and new concrete sediment basin) to remove trash and sediment. Additionally, the Project includes occasional willow trimming/topping to meet FAA and the Caltrans Division of Aeronautics requirements within the RPZ. Trash removal would occur by hand and sediment removal would be conducted using hand tools and

the limited use of an excavator and haul truck. The volume of sediment removal would vary from year-to-year, and in some years sediment removal may not be required at all.

Vegetation management, i.e., willow trimming and topping, would be done annually depending upon the amount of growth and re-growth or as required by the FAA and Caltrans. Trimming activities for willows greater than 4" DBH will consist of trimming horizontal branches to a height of no more than six feet above ground level. Willow sprouts less than 4" DBH will be cut to within 6" of the ground. Willow topping would be in accordance with FAA and Caltrans requirements or to a maximum height of 20 feet above ground level, whichever is greater.

Willow trimming and topping would occur outside of the nesting bird season. If willow trimming/topping could not occur outside of nesting bird season, a qualified biologist will conduct surveys for nesting birds prior to maintenance activities.

Prior to maintenance activities, a qualified biologist will survey for sensitive species (e.g., California red-legged frog, two-striped garter snake, nesting birds, and pacific pond turtles). If sensitive species are found within the maintenance area, maintenance activities will halt until the animal has moved out of the Project area without assistance (e.g., harassment or handling). If nesting birds are discovered within the maintenance area, CDFG will be contacted to establish an appropriate buffer around the nest site. Maintenance activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence. Active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist and a letter-report shall be submitted to the County, USFWS, and CDFG, documenting Project compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and applicable Project mitigation measures.

Currently, the willow woodland/natural basin is used by trespassing transients for shelter. By implementing a regular maintenance program, this area would be cleaned up and cleared of trash which could potentially attract wildlife predators of sensitive species. Thus, the basin habitat within the woodland would be improved by maintenance activities.

Clearing debris and sediment from the new concrete basin would allow it to continue to function as a settling pond and prevent vegetation from growing within the newly-constructed basin. Since this concrete basin provides flood control functions, preventing vegetation establishment within the basin will discourage wildlife from using it as habitat which minimizes and avoids impacts to sensitive species. Access to the concrete basin will be via an access ramp off of Delta Street and will not impact the willow riparian basin or wildlife habitat.

The anticipated area of disturbance for construction of the Project is 14.4 acres (629,000 square feet). Overall, the construction duration is anticipated to be five (5) months, starting as early as June of 2014 and ending by November of the same year. The County requests that all regulatory permits be valid through 2017 in case construction is delayed by permit process procedures.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

A concrete drainage swale will be constructed within the RV storage lot for surface flows from adjacent properties along Railroad Street. This swale will capture flow from Railroad Street and discharge runoff into the new drainage system that runs through the RV storage lot. Another concrete drainage swale will be constructed along the southern property line of Pismo Coast Village (PCV) property. The runoff currently flows into an existing swale along the eastern edge of the PCV property. The new concrete drainage swale will be constructed to take this existing flow and direct it to the sediment basin on the RV storage lot.

The storage capacity of the basin is adequate to handle the 10-year design storm event. The additional storage added by the raising of the RV storage lot and PCV property will be used when

storm events in Oceano exceed the 10-year design storm. Import will be required to raise the RV storage site. Elevations will range from 15.7' to 21.8'. Approximately 12,500 cubic yards of material will be required to raise the RV storage lot site. If material excavated from the project area is acceptable, onsite material will be used rather than importing fill to raise the RV storage lot.

In order to collect a majority of flows into the proposed storm drain system, Highway 1 will be overlaid with additional asphalt concrete (AC) to create a centerline crown. Slight grade modifications are also proposed to help with drainage flows. A portion of Delta Street will be re-graded and a concrete curb added to the east side of the street from Ocean Street to the entrance of the RV storage lot. Once ponding begins in the unimproved portion of the RV storage lot, drainage will collect in the existing swale next to Delta Street. The curb will be used for additional storage capabilities. To create additional storage capacity, the existing ground within the RV storage lot will be raised to an elevation of 15.7- to 21.8-feet.

The types of construction methods for this Project include: grading, trenching, sawcutting, grinding, asphalt concrete resurfacing, jacking and boring (a type of trenchless pipe installation), concrete form work and relocation of existing utilities. Equipment most likely used for this work may include: dump trucks, bulldozers, water tanks, backhoes, scrapers, and rollers.

Some resurfacing and reconstruction for new grade changes and storm drainage work will occur along Highway 1. This work will include: preparing the existing surface for an AC overlay, grinding operations, sawcutting, removal of existing roadway, compaction, paving, installation of new inlets and manholes, and slurry sealing the asphalt. The limits of this work will be from Belridge Street to Ocean Street.

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER(S): County Right of Way and 062-118-013, 062-118-014, 062-118-002, & 061-093-044

Latitude: 35 degrees 5' 59" N Longitude: 120 degrees 36 ' 56" W **SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #** 4

B. EXISTING SETTING

PLANNING AREA: San Luis Obispo, Coastal/ Inland **TOPOGRAPHY**: Nearly level

LAND USE CATEGORY: Industrial and Commercial Retail

VEGETATION: None, urban built-up

PARCEL SIZE: N/A _

COMBINING DESIGNATION(S): None

EXISTING USES: Undeveloped

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

North: Industrial; multi-family residences	*East:* Industrial;
South: Industrial; blue line creek	*West:* Industrial;

C. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

During the Initial Study process, several issues were identified as having potentially significant environmental effects (see following Initial Study). Those potentially significant items associated with the proposed uses can be minimized to less than significant levels.

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

1. AESTHETICS *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Create an aesthetically incompatible site open to public view?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Introduce a use within a scenic view open to public view?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Change the visual character of an area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create glare or night lighting, which may affect surrounding areas?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Impact unique geological or physical features?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The Project starts at 13th Street and Highway 1 in Oceano. It extends southwest through an industrial area consisting of Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange (POVE) property, UPRR tracks which run parallel to Highway 1, and an existing RV storage lot. The RV storage lot is owned by the County and is a part of the Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) for the Oceano Airport. The Project terminates at Arroyo Grande Creek. An existing sediment basin will be incorporated into the Project; this, too, is owned by the County and is a part of the RPZ.

Impact. After construction, the Project will not be visible from any major public roadway or silhouette against any ridgelines as viewed from public roadways. The drainage system will be flush with the ground surface or underground, and the new culvert to Arroyo Grande Creek will be installed in an existing earthen levee which is adjacent to an RV storage lot. The Project is considered compatible with the surrounding uses. No significant visual impacts are expected to occur.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures are necessary.

2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Convert prime agricultural land, per NRCS soil classification, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Impair agricultural use of other property or result in conversion to other uses?	☐	☐	☒	☐

2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
d) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or Williamson Act program?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. Project Elements. The following area-specific elements relate to the property's importance for agricultural production:

Land Use Category: [Industrial, Commercial Retail]

State Classification: Farmland of Statewide Importance, Prime Farmland if irrigated

Historic/Existing Commercial Crops: None

In Agricultural Preserve? Yes, Arroyo Grande Valley AG Preserve

Under Williamson Act contract? No

The soil type(s) and characteristics on the subject property include:

Mocho fine sandy loam. This nearly level soil is considered moderately drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: poor filtering capabilities, slow percolation. The soil is considered Class III without irrigation and Class II when irrigated.

Mocho Variant fine sandy loam. This nearly level soil is considered well drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: poor filtering capabilities. The soil is considered Class III without irrigation and Class III when irrigated.

Oceano sand (0 - 9 % slope). This nearly level to gently sloping sandy soil is considered well drained. The soil has low erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: poor filtering capabilities. The soil is considered Class VI without irrigation and Class IV when irrigated.

Impact. The Project is located in an area with agricultural activities occurring to the south and east of the project site. Agricultural support activities (packing and shipping) occur in the vicinity of the proposed improvements as well. The project will not encroach upon agricultural operation nor will it interfere with agricultural support activities. No significant impacts to agricultural resources are anticipated.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures are necessary.

3. AIR QUALITY *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Violate any state or federal ambient air quality standard, or exceed air quality emission thresholds as established by County Air Pollution Control District?	☐	☒	☐	☐

3. AIR QUALITY *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
b) Expose any sensitive receptor to substantial air pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Create or subject individuals to objectionable odors?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be inconsistent with the District's Clean Air Plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant either considered in non-attainment under applicable state or federal ambient air quality standards that are due to increased energy use or traffic generation, or intensified land use change?	☐	☐	☐	☒
GREENHOUSE GASES				
f) *Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has developed the 2012 CEQA Air Quality Handbook to evaluate Project specific impacts and help determine if air quality mitigation measures are needed, or if potentially significant impacts could result. To evaluate long-term emissions, cumulative effects, and establish countywide programs to reach acceptable air quality levels, a Clean Air Plan has been adopted (prepared by APCD).

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions are said to result in an increase in the earth's average surface temperature. This is commonly referred to as global warming. The rise in global temperature is associated with long-term changes in precipitation, temperature, wind patterns, and other elements of the earth's climate system. This is also known as climate change. These changes are now thought to be broadly attributed to GHG emissions, particularly those emissions that result from the human production and use of fossil fuels.

The passage of AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act (2006), recognized the need to reduce GHG emissions and set the greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for the State of California into law. The law required that by 2020, State emissions must be reduced to 1990 levels. This is to be accomplished by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from significant sources via

regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions. Subsequent legislation (e.g., SB97-Greenhouse Gas Emissions bill) directed the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop statewide thresholds.

In March 2012, the San Luis Obispo County APCD approved thresholds for GHG emission impacts, and these thresholds have been incorporated into the APCD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook. APCD determined that a tiered process for residential / commercial land use projects was the most appropriate and effective approach for assessing the GHG emission impacts. The tiered approach includes three methods, any of which can be used for any given project:

1. Qualitative GHG Reduction Strategies (e.g. Climate Action Plans): A qualitative threshold that is consistent with AB 32 Scoping Plan measures and goals; or,
2. Bright-Line Threshold: Numerical value to determine the significance of a project's annual GHG emissions; or,
3. Efficiency-Based Threshold: Assesses the GHG impacts of a project on an emissions per capita basis.

For most projects the Bright-Line Threshold of 1,150 Metric Tons CO2/year (MT CO2e/yr) will be the most applicable threshold. In addition to the residential/commercial threshold options proposed above, a bright-line numerical value threshold of 10,000 MT CO2e/yr was adopted for stationary source (industrial) projects.

It should be noted that projects that generate less than the above mentioned thresholds will also participate in emission reductions because air emissions, including GHGs, are under the purview of the California Air Resources Board (or other regulatory agencies) and will be "regulated" either by CARB, the Federal Government, or other entities. For example, new vehicles will be subject to increased fuel economy standards and emission reductions, large and small appliances will be subject to more strict emissions standards, and energy delivered to consumers will increasingly come from renewable sources. Other programs that are intended to reduce the overall GHG emissions include Low Carbon Fuel Standards, Renewable Portfolio standards and the Clean Car standards. As a result, even the emissions that result from projects that produce fewer emissions than the threshold will be subject to emission reductions.

Under CEQA, an individual project's GHG emissions will generally not result in direct significant impacts. This is because the climate change issue is global in nature. However, an individual project could be found to contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact. Projects that have GHG emissions above the noted thresholds may be considered cumulatively considerable and require mitigation.

Impact. As proposed, the Project will result in the disturbance of approximately 14.4 acres (629,000 square feet). This will result in the creation of construction dust, as well as short- and long-term vehicle emissions associated with on-going maintenance activities. Based on Table 2-1 of the CEQA Air Quality Handbook, the Project may result in an exceedance of the 2.5 ton PM_{10} quarterly threshold.

Using the GHG threshold information described in the Setting section, the Project is expected to generate less than the Bright-Line Threshold of 1,150 metric tons of GHG emissions. Therefore, the Project's potential direct and cumulative GHG emissions are found to be less significant and less than a cumulatively considerable contribution to GHG emissions. Section 15064(h)(2) of the CEQA Guidelines provide guidance on how to evaluate cumulative impacts. If it is shown that an incremental contribution to a cumulative impact, such as global climate change, is not 'cumulatively considerable', no mitigation is required. Because this Project's emissions fall under the threshold established by the

APCD, no mitigation is required.

The project has the potential to encounter hydrocarbon contaminated soils, Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA), existing utility lines, and create construction related dust impacts. The project will also result in vehicle emissions associated with construction activities.

The Project is consistent with the general level of development anticipated and projected in the Clean Air Plan with the inclusion of the mitigation measures discussed below.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The Project's cumulative contribution to GHG emissions is limited to construction and is relatively small and considered insignificant therefore no mitigation is necessary beyond the measures listed below (which have been incorporated into the project description).

The following recommendations (which have been turned into project components) were made by APCD in their May 29, 2012 comment letter for the Project. These measures will mitigate impacts to air quality to a level that is less than significant.

[AQ-1] Should hydrocarbon contaminated soil be encountered during construction activities, the APCD must be notified as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after affected material is discovered to determine if an APCD Permit will be required. In addition, the following measures shall be implemented immediately after contaminated soil is discovered:

a. Covers on storage piles shall be maintained in place at all times in areas not actively involved in soil addition or removal;
b. Contaminated soil shall be covered with at least six inches of packed uncontaminated soil or other TPH-non-permeable barrier such as plastic tarp. No headspace shall be allowed where vapors could accumulate;
c. Covered piles shall be designed in such a way to eliminate erosion due to wind or water. No openings in the covers are permitted;
d. The air quality impacts from the excavation and haul trips associated with removing the contaminated soil must be evaluated and mitigated if total emissions exceed the APCD's construction phase thresholds;
e. During soil excavation, odors shall not be evident to such a degree as to cause a public nuisance; and
f. Clean soil must be segregated from contaminated soil.

[AQ-2] Prior to any construction activities at the site, the Project proponent shall ensure that a geologic evaluation is conducted to determine if Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) is present within the area that will be disturbed. If NOA is not present, an exemption request must be filled with the APCD. If NOA is found at the site, the applicant must comply with all requirements outlined in the Asbestos ATCM.

[AQ-3] If building(s) are removed or renovated; or utility pipelines are scheduled for removal or relocation, this Project may be subject to various regulatory jurisdictions, including the requirements stipulated in the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (40CFR61, Subpart M – asbestos NESHAP).

[AQ-4] Projects with grading areas that are greater than 4-acres or within 1,000 feet of any sensitive receptors shall implement the following mitigation measures to manage fugitive dust emissions such that they do not exceed the APCD 20% opacity limit (APCD rule 401) and do not impact off-site areas prompting nuisance violations (APCD rule 402):

a. Reduce the amount of disturbed area where possible;

b. Use of water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever possible;
c. All dirt stock pile areas should be sprayed daily as needed;
d. Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved Project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible, following completion of any soil disturbing activities;
e. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater then one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast germinating, non-invasive, grass seed and watered until vegetation is established;
f. All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the APCD;
g. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used;
h. Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site;
i. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with CVC Section 23114;
j. Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto streets, or wash off trucks and equipment leaving the site;
k. Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water should be used where feasible;
l. All PM_{10} mitigation measures require should be shown on grading and building plans; and
m. The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity, and to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD Compliance Division prior to the start of any grading, earthwork or demolition.

[AQ-5] To help reduce the emissions impact of diesel vehicles and equipment used to construct the Project, the applicant shall implement the following idling control techniques:

<u>California Diesel Idling Regulations</u>

a. On-road diesel vehicles shall comply with Section 2485 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations. This regulation limits idling form diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles with gross vehicular weight ratings of more than 10,000 pounds and licensed for operation on highways. It applies to California and non-California based vehicles. In general, the regulation specifies that drivers of said vehicles:

    1. Shall not idle the vehicle's primary diesel engine for greater than 5 minutes at any location, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation; and
    2. Shall not operate a diesel-fueled auxiliary power system (APS) to power a heater, air conditioner, or any ancillary equipment on that vehicle during sleeping or resting in a sleeper berth for greater than 5.0 minutes at any location when within 1,000 feet of a restricted area, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation.

b. Off-road diesel equipment shall comply with the 5 minute idling restriction identified in Section 2449(d)(2) of the California Air Resources Board's In-Use off-Road Diesel regulation.

c. Signs must be posted in the designated queuing areas and job sites to remind drivers and operators of the State's 5 minute idling limit.

[AQ-6] Diesel Idling Regulations Near Sensitive Receptors
Sensitive receptors appear to be located within 1000 feet of the Project area (residences, Oceano Elementary School grounds). In addition to State required diesel idling requirements, the Project applicant shall comply with these more restrictive requirements to minimize impacts to nearby sensitive receptors:

a. Staging and queuing areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors;
b. Diesel idling within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors shall not be permitted;
c. Use of alternative fueled equipment is recommended; and
d. Signs that specify the no idling areas must be posted and enforced at the site.

[AQ-7] Proposed truck routes should be evaluated and selected to ensure routing patterns have the least impact to nearby residential communities and sensitive receptors, such as schools, daycare facilities, hospitals, and senior centers.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) ***Result in a loss of unique or special status species* or their habitats?***	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) ***Reduce the extent, diversity or quality of native or other important vegetation?***	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) ***Impact wetland or riparian habitat?***	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) ***Interfere with the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or factors, which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?***	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) ***Conflict with any regional plans or policies to protect sensitive species, or regulations of the California Department of Fish & Game or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service?***	☐	☒	☐	☐
f) ***Other:*** _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

* **Species – as defined in Section15380 of the CEQA Guidelines, which includes all plant and wildlife species that fall under the category of rare, threatened or endangered, as described in this section.**

Setting. The following are existing elements on or near the proposed Project relating to potential biological concerns:

On-site Vegetation: Coyote brush scrub, non-native (ruderal) grassland, willow riparian woodland, eucalyptus stand.

Name and distance from blue line creek(s): The Arroyo Grande Creek is approximately 20 feet west of the proposed Project.

The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) was accessed for information on sensitive plant, invertebrate, and wildlife species known to occur in the action area and its vicinity (CNDDB 2012). A search radius of the USGS Oceano Quadrangle and eight surrounding Quads was used for the CNDDB. Sensitive species include all federally and state-listed endangered and threatened species, candidates, species proposed for listing, state species of concern, and species considered rare by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).

Monarch butterfly surveys were conducted on October 25, 2010 and December 7, 2010 at the stand of eucalyptus trees adjacent to Highway 1 by County staff (Katie Drexhage and Kelly Sypolt). A botanical survey was conducted on May 11, 2012 by County staff (Eric Wier and Katie Drexhage). Biological studies have been completed for other on-going projects along the Arroyo Grande Creek including the Arroyo Grande Creek Habitat Conservation Plan and Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Waterways Management Program. Information from these documents also assisted in the preparation of this Biological Assessment.

The Project site is surrounded by State Highway 1, residential homes, industrial facilities, a County airport, and a wastewater treatment facility that services the town of Oceano as well as the cities of Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach. The majority of the Project area is located in an area actively used for industrial purposes and RV storage.

One of the two aspects of the Project that may impact a sensitive habitat is where the new culvert will be created to outlet storm water through the levee into Arroyo Grande Creek. The Arroyo Grande Creek low water channel, which contains constant flowing water as a result of releases from Lopez Dam, will not be disturbed. The culvert would be located approximately 0.65- to 0.76-mile upstream from Arroyo Grande Creek's outlet to the ocean.

As authorized by a separate project, "The Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Waterways Management Plan," this section of creek is actively managed on an annual basis to control vegetative cover within the channel for the purposes of flood control. Vegetation growth and sediment within this section of the channel will be regularly managed, permits pending, for flood control purposes.

The second aspect of the Project that could impact a sensitive habitat is the use of the 0.75-acre area of willow riparian woodland located adjacent to the County airport facility and within the airport's RPZ. This area is considered "Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area" by the Coastal Commission. This area is highly disturbed as it is regularly used by trespassing transients as living quarters. It is bordered by the airport, the north levee, and an RV storage lot. No construction activities will impact this habitat. Occasional willow trimming/topping would occur to meet FAA and the Caltrans Division of Aeronautics requirements within the RPZ.

Vegetation

Per the California Department of Fish and Games comments received on May 17, 2012, the County addressed potential impacts to Gambel's watercress (*Nasturtium gambelii*), marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*), and La Graciosa thistle (*Cirsium loncholepis*) (B. Sanderson pers. comm.).

Four plant community types occur within the Project Area including willow riparian woodland, coyote brush scrub, ruderal (weedy) grassland, and a lone stand of eucalyptus trees.

Special Status Plant Species

Based on a records search of the CNPS and CNDDB inventories and the presence of suitable habitat, the following Federally-listed floral species have the potential to occur within the Project area: Morro Manzanita (*Arctostaphylos morroensis*), marsh sandwort, Chorro Creek bog thistle (*Cirsium fontinale*

var. obispoensis), La Graciosa thistle, Gambel's watercress, Gaviota tarplant (*Deinandra increscens ssp.villosa*), Indian knob mountainbalm (*Eriodictyon altissimum*), Nipomo Mesa lupine (*Lupinus nipomensis*),Pismo clarkia (*Clarkia speciosa ssp. immaculata*), and San Bernardino aster (*Symphyotrichum defoliatum*). Some of the above-listed floral species are both Federally- and State-listed. In addition to this list, the following State-listed species surfaced during the inventory search: surf thistle (*Cirsium rhothophilum*) and beach spectaclepod (*Dithyrea maritima*).

None of these floral species were detected during field surveys conducted in May of 2012; therefore, no impacts to special status plant species are anticipated to occur as a result of the Project.

Wildlife

Per the California Department of Fish and Games comments received on May 17, 2012, the County addressed potential impacts to California red-legged frog, steelhead, and tidewater goby (B. Sanderson pers. comm.). It was also noted that this project would likely required a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement from the Department of Fish and Game.

Special status wildlife species include those proposed for listing, candidates for listing, or those listed by either the Federal or State resource agencies as threatened or endangered. Special status wildlife species also includes State species of special concern. In addition, all raptor nests are protected by Fish and Game Code, and all migratory birds are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Special status wildlife species were evaluated for their known and/or potential presence in the Project area as described in Appendix B. Special status wildlife species that are known or likely to inhabit the Project area are described briefly below.

In addition to the wildlife species listed in Appendix B, several other special status wildlife species are known to occur within 10 miles of the general study area vicinity, but are not expected to occur on site because the site lacks suitable habitat.

Impacts to Federally-listed animals and other sensitive species may occur as a result of this Project. Avoidance and minimization measures are recommended below in the Mitigation/Conclusion section.

California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)

The California red-legged frog is federally listed as threatened and is a State Species of Special Concern. This species is found in quiet pools along streams, in marshes, and ponds. Red-legged frogs are closely tied to aquatic environments, and favor intermittent streams which include some areas with water at least 0.7 meters deep, a largely intact emergent or shoreline vegetation, and a lack of introduced bullfrogs and non-native fishes. This species' breeding season spans January to April (Stebbins 1985). Females deposit large egg masses on submerged vegetation at or near the surface. Recent studies have shown that although only a small percentage of red-legged frogs from a pond population disperse, they are capable of moving distances of up to 2 miles (Bulger 1999). The red-legged frog occurs west of the Sierra Nevada-Cascade crest and in the Coast Ranges along the entire length of the state. Much of its habitat has undergone significant alterations in recent years, leading to extirpation of many populations. Other factors contributing to its decline include its former exploitation as food, water pollution, and predation and competition by the introduced bullfrog and green sunfish (Moyle 1973, Hayes and Jennings 1988).

California red-legged frogs have been observed within Arroyo Grande Creek. Surveys conducted downstream of the dam outlet in Arroyo Grande Creek have documented observations of California red-legged frogs (Essex Environmental 2002; Rischbieter 2009). The Project site may provide summer and foraging habitat. The Project site is not likely to provide suitable breeding habitat due to swift winter flows. The Project site is not within the currently designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog (USFWS 2010).

Steelhead Trout, South Central California Coast ESU, (*Onchorynchus mykiss*)
The Steelhead Trout is federally listed as threatened and is a State species of special concern. Steelhead are genetically indistinct from rainbow trout and differ only in their behavior. They prefer cool, clear, coastal streams and rivers with a gradient less than five percent. Steelhead exhibit life cycle strategies similar to other salmonids, known as anadromy. Steelhead enter streams and rivers to prepare for migration to spawning grounds as soon as streamflow is adequate and the summer sand bar present at the mouths of many coastal lagoons have breached.

Central coast steelhead populations have experienced a significant decline in numbers over the last 50 years due to water supply projects, barriers to migration, loss of habitat, reduced water quality, increased fine sediment production, and introduction of non-native predatory fish. The decline in steelhead numbers can often be directly correlated to the level of development within individual watersheds. The most significant impact to steelhead on Arroyo Grande Creek was the building of Lopez Dam, which was completed in 1969. The dam blocked much of the steelhead's historic spawning and rearing habitat located in the primary tributaries such as Lopez Creek. Without access to these areas, steelhead were forced to utilize lower quality habitat on the mainstem that was being impacted by agriculture and urban development. Habitat surveys in 1997 and 2004 suggest that the Arroyo Grande lacks deep pools, has high water temperatures during the summer, and contains non-native fish species that prey on juvenile steelhead. Adult steelhead are also known to have occurred within Arroyo Grande Creek where they were vulnerable to stranding as a result of fluctuations in instream flow levels.

The most recent habitat assessment and steelhead abundance surveys were conducted in 2004 and 2006, respectively. Habitat assessments of the entire mainstem of Arroyo Grande Creek below Lopez Reservoir were conducted in the summer of 2004 by the California Conservation Corps (Close and Smith 2004). Based on this assessment, a random sample of discreet habitat units was surveyed for fish abundance in the fall of 2006 (Dvorsky and Hagar 2008). Within the lower portion of Arroyo Grande Creek, which includes the Project area, a total of five discreet habitat units were sampled representing approximately 840 feet of channel. All of the habitat units were sampled via snorkeling and one of the habitat units was sampled via both snorkeling and electrofishing. The number of steelhead observed via snorkeling in all five habitat units sampled as part of the study was five. No steelhead were captured via electrofishing in the single habitat unit (Dvorsky 2010).

In addition to steelhead a number of other species of fish occur in the system including Sacramento sucker, California roach, and threespine stickleback. Non-native fish species include bullhead, centrarchids, and mosquitofish (Dvorsky 2010). Tidewater gobies occur within the lagoon where Arroyo Grande Creek intersects with Meadow Creek, on the Arroyo Grande Creek side of an earthen levee and flap gates. Occasionally a goby has been found approximately 150 yards upstream of the lagoon area (Rischbieter pers. comm. 2012). Project impacts will not extend down to this area, which is approximately 0.66 mile from the Project site.

Steelhead Critical Habitat
The study area is within the Oceano Hydrologic Sub-area, 331031, of the Estero Bay Hydrologic Unit, 3310, of critical habitat for steelhead (70 FR 52488 - 52627). The primary constituent elements essential for the conservation of the species within ESUs are those sites and habitat components that support one or more life stages, including:

1. Freshwater spawning sites with water quantity and quality conditions and substrates supporting spawning, incubation and larval development;

2. Freshwater rearing sites with: a. Water quantity and floodplain connectivity to form and maintain physical habitat conditions and support juvenile growth and mobility; b. Water quality and forage supporting juvenile development; and c. Natural cover such as shade, submerged and overhanging large wood, log jams, and beaver dams, aquatic vegetation, large rocks and boulders, side channels, and undercut banks;

3. Freshwater migration corridors free of obstruction and excessive predation, with water quantity and quality conditions, and natural cover such as submerged and overhanging large wood, aquatic vegetation, large rocks and boulders, side channels, and undercut banks, supporting juvenile and adult mobility and survival;

4. Estuarine areas free of obstruction and excessive predation with: a. Water quality, water quantity, and salinity conditions supporting juvenile and adult physiological transitions between fresh- and saltwater; b. Natural cover such as submerged and overhanging large wood, aquatic vegetation, large rocks and boulders, side channels; and c. Juvenile and adult forage, including aquatic invertebrates and fishes, supporting growth and maturation;

5. Nearshore marine areas free of obstruction with water quality and quantity conditions and forage, including aquatic invertebrates and fishes, supporting growth and maturation; and natural cover such as submerged and overhanging large wood, aquatic vegetation, large rocks and boulders, and side channels;

6. Offshore marine areas with water quality conditions and forage, including aquatic invertebrates and fishes, supporting growth and maturation.

Pacific pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*)
The pacific pond turtle is a Federal and State Species of Special Concern. This aquatic turtle inhabits ponds, lakes, streams, marshes, and other permanent waters located in woodland, grassland, and open forests below 6,000 ft (Stebbins 1985). Pond turtles can often be seen basking in the sun on partially submerged logs, rocks, mats of floating vegetation or mud banks. During cold weather, they hibernate in bottom mud. The diet of these turtles consists of aquatic vegetation, insects, fish, worms, and carrion. Females dig soil nests in or near stream banks (Rathbun et al. 1992). Eggs are deposited between April and August. One factor in the decline of this species is the introduction of non-native fish which prey on hatchlings and juveniles.

Arroyo Grande Creek provides habitat for turtles which have been found approximately 3.3 miles northeast of the Project site in Arroyo Grande Creek (CNDDB 2012). It is possible that the Project site provides suitable nesting habitat for turtles due to rocky and muddy bottom and stream margins which females utilize to dig nests and deposit eggs.

Two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondii)*
The two-striped garter snake is a State Species of Special Concern. This species is primarily aquatic and it is diurnal (active during the day). In some areas this species is also active at night and at dusk during hot weather. These snakes can be active from January to November depending on weather conditions. Breeding has been observed in late March and early April, with live young born in late July and August. This species eats tadpoles, newt larvae, small frogs and toads, fish, and occasionally worms and fish eggs. It is likely that this species forages for food in and under water (California Herps 2010).

Two-striped garter snakes have been found in the USGS quadrangle east of the Project's quadrant. There is potential for this species to occur within the Project site. Two-striped garter snakes may be present in the riparian corridor surrounding Arroyo Grande Creek at the Project site but are unlikely in

the agriculturally active fields adjacent to the site due to the lack of thick vegetative cover which offers protection from predation.

Monarch butterfly *(Danaus plexippus)*
The Monarch butterfly has been found about 1.9 miles to the northeast. This species is considered a "threatened phenomenon" by the State and "rare" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15380 because of declining availability of winter roosting habitat. Monarchs from west of the Rocky Mountains spend the winter along the California coast. Overwintering sites typically occur in dense, wind-protected tree groves with eucalyptus, Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*), and/or Monterey cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) with nectar and water supplies nearby. This species has been found near the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California (CNDDB 2012). The reference site located 1.9 miles northeast of the Project site was used to determine whether or not monarchs were present within the area during survey efforts conducted in 2010. Monarchs were present during survey efforts at the reference site; however, no monarchs were present within the eucalyptus trees adjacent to Highway 1. Therefore, impacts to this species are not anticipated.

Impact. Arroyo Grande Creek supports federally threatened California red-legged frog and south-central California coast steelhead and is designated steelhead critical habitat. The Project site has the potential to provide habitat for pacific pond turtles, two-striped garter snakes, and monarch butterflies. No special status or sensitive floral species were detected during field surveys.

Project activities are proposed to occur during the dry season (typically from May 1 to November 1) when California-red legged frogs are less active to avoid or minimize impacts to Federally-listed species. Refer to the Avoidance and Minimization Measures, below in the Mitigation/Conclusion section, for measures proposed to offset impacts associated with erosion and sedimentation.

Because steelhead have been identified in or near the Project site, the proposed Project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect this species. Appropriate Project timing would minimize potential adverse effects to these species and would reduce impacts to their habitats. The temporary impacts associated with construction of this Project are not anticipated to impact steelhead critical habitat as no activities are proposed to occur within the low water channel, where water is present. All work will occur with in the upper channel which consists of non-native grassland and coyote scrub. Avoidance and minimization measures proposed will reduce the potential for the Project to significantly impact habitat within/near the Project site.

Up to four of the 30 eucalyptus trees will be removed to facilitate the construction of roadside ditches and inlets along Highway 1. The four trees are approximately 1 to 5 feet west of Highway 1. If trees will be removed during nesting bird season, surveys will be conducted prior to any removal activities. With the implementation of this avoidance measures, and because these trees do not provide habitat for monarchs, no impacts to sensitive species are anticipated as a result of tree removal and construction of the above referenced project components.

The Project will permanently impact approximately 0.014 acre of coyote brush scrub and nonnative grassland as a result of the installation of a culvert through the existing earthen levee. Storm water will continue to filter through the existing basin (i.e., woodland riparian basin) into Arroyo Grande Creek. Although this Project will create one additional outlet into Arroyo Grande Creek, storm water is anticipated to be cleaner than current conditions with the addition of the new sediment basin.

With the exception of occasional trimming or topping, no additional disturbance will occur within the willow riparian woodland area. This area currently functions as a basin for storm water from the surrounding area. The new sediment basin will become the primary feed to this basin. Water will pool in this area and outlet to Arroyo Grande Creek, as it does now. Surveys would be conducted prior to

trimming/topping activities if they occur within the nesting bird season to avoid disturbing nesting birds.

Currently, the willow woodland/natural basin is used by trespassing transients for shelter. By implementing a regular maintenance program, this area would be cleaned up and cleared of trash which currently could potentially attract wildlife predators of sensitive species. Thus, the habitat within the woodland would be improved by maintenance activities.

Clearing sediment from the new concrete basin would allow it to continue to function as a settling pond and prevent vegetation from growing within the newly-constructed basin. This basin will function for flood control purposes; by preventing vegetation establishment within the basin, wildlife will be discouraged from using the basin as habitat, which will minimize and avoid impacts to sensitive species.

As proposed, the Project will result in the disturbance of an approximately 60-foot by 10-foot area within the upper Arroyo Grande Creek channel to install the new box culvert from the new sediment basin, through the earthen levee, and into Arroyo Grande Creek. Dust, erosion, and/or sedimentation associated with Project activities could impact listed species and their habitats. Although some willows may be trimmed in order to access either Project site, no willows will be removed, as this could compromise creek bank stability. To minimize these impacts, in addition to measures [BR-1] through [BR-12], the contractor shall designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering, as necessary, to prevent transport of dust off site.

It is anticipated that Project construction will take approximately 5 months and is anticipated to be completed by November of 2014. Appropriate Project timing would minimize potential adverse effects to these species and would reduce temporary impacts to their habitats. The County is also required to obtain permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game, and Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to commencement of disturbance within Arroyo Grande Creek.

In an effort to minimize impacts, construction access will be limited to the western bank of Arroyo Grande Creek in the prescribed Project area and equipment will be operated within the County-Right-of-Way on top of the earthen levee. Trimming of riparian vegetation during proposed site preparation activities including channel excavation could potentially result in harm or take of California red-legged frogs, pacific pond turtles, and two-striped garter snakes. A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan [BR-10] will reduce habitat degradation from construction access and activities and implement a recovery plan for disturbed areas of the Project.

The Project will temporarily introduce potentially hazardous materials into the area in the form of fuel in construction equipment. A spill and clean-up kit will be stored onsite at all times. All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. Prior to the onset of work, the County will ensure that the contractor has prepared a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to accidental spills [BR-6 and -7]. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

With the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures such as preconstruction surveys and relocation efforts, the construction of this Project will have minimal, temporary effects on listed and sensitive species and their habitats. No adverse cumulative effects on biological resources are anticipated to occur as a result of this Project.

The Project should improve water quality by allowing additional settling time for sediments in the newly constructed sediment basin, so cleaner storm water flows to Arroyo Grande Creek. The Project

will also improve water quality by moving storm water off of existing roads, which contain oil and other road-associated contaminants, & directing water to an underground pipeline, a sediment basin, and natural basin where the water can pass through existing bio filters and into Arroyo Grand Creek. Currently, this same storm water picks up road contaminants and contributes to flooding of local residents before finally reaching Arroyo Grande Creek.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Because both Federally-listed species have been identified in or near the Project site, the proposed Project may impact California red-legged frogs, steelhead critical habitat, pacific pond turtles, two-striped garter snakes, and monarchs if they are present. The below mitigation measures will ensure that impacts to biological resources resulting from the Project are less than significant.

[BR-1]Prior to construction, the County shall obtain all necessary permits, approvals, and authorizations from jurisdictional agencies. These may include, but may not be limited to: (1) ACOE, Section 404 Nationwide Permit 43; (2) RWQCB, Section 401 Water Quality Certification; and (3) CDFG, Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement for activities within the tops of banks or outer edges of riparian canopies (whichever is furthest from the streambed) of Arroyo Grande Creek. The County shall adhere to all conditions included within these permits, approvals, and authorizations.

[BR-2] Prior to construction, exclusionary fencing shall be erected by the contractor at the boundaries of all construction areas to avoid equipment and human intrusion into adjacent creek/wetland habitats. The fencing shall remain in place throughout construction.

[BR-3] During Project activities, all trash that may attract predators shall be properly contained, removed from the work site and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris shall be removed from work areas.

[BR-4] If determined to be necessary by the ACOE (lead federal agency), the ACOE will consult with NMFS and USFWS on behalf of the County for impacts to California red-legged frogs and steelhead. The County will adhere to all conditions included within the Biological Opinions issued for the Project.

[BR-5] Before any construction activities begin on the Project, a biologist shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel. The training session shall include a description of species that may be encountered during construction, the importance of these species and their habitat, the general measures that are being implemented to conserve these species as they relate to the Project, and the boundaries within which the Project may be accomplished. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session, provided that a qualified person is on hand to answer any questions.

[BR-6] All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. The County shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the County shall ensure that the contractor has prepared a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

[BR-7] Prior to site disturbance, the County shall print Best Management Practices (BMPs) on all applicable construction plans. BMPs shall be implemented prior to, during, and following construction activities. Measures shall include, but not be limited to the following:

a. Silt fencing shall be placed along the down-slope side of the construction zone.
b. A spill and clean-up kit shall be stored onsite at all times.
c. Temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation measures shall be implemented (e.g., silt fencing, hay bales, straw wattles, etc.).

[BR-8] If construction activities are conducted during the typical nesting bird season (February 15 – September 15th), preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by the County-approved biologist or County Environmental Resource Specialist prior to any construction activity or vegetation trimming to identify potential bird nesting activity, and:

a. If active nest sites of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are observed within the vicinity of the Project site, then the Project shall be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid direct take of the identified nests, eggs, and/or young;
b. If active nest sites of raptors and/or bird species of special concern are observed within the vicinity of the Project site, then CDFG shall be contacted to establish the appropriate buffer around the nest site. Construction activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence; and
c. Active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist and a letter-report shall be submitted to the County, USFWS, and CDFG, documenting Project compliance with the MBTA and applicable Project mitigation measures.

[BR-9] To avoid inadvertent impacts to western pond turtle, red-legged frog, two-striped garter snake, steelhead, and nesting birds during grading and site disturbance activities, a biological monitor will conduct preconstruction surveys in Arroyo Grande Creek and adjacent areas within the Project site, conduct construction employee training prior to site disturbance and continue monitoring during grading and construction activities. In the instance a listed sensitive species is discovered, the County shall contact CDFG, NMFS, and USFWS for consultation, unless otherwise authorized under an NMFS- or USFWS-issued *Biological Opinion*. In the instance nesting birds are discovered, work shall cease until the birds have fledged and left the area, or CDFG or USFWS shall be consulted. If any swallow nests are observed, empty nests shall be removed prior to February 15, and shall continue to remove nests as they are being built to avoid impacts to active nests prior to construction.

[BR-10] A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan will be prepared and will include specific measures for restoration and revegetation of all temporarily disturbed areas. The Plan will include protection measures, standards for revegetation, a monitoring program to ensure proper implementation and maintenance of restored areas, and performance criteria to determine success.

[BR-11] Eucalyptus tree removal and willow trimming and/or topping will occur outside of the nesting bird season. If tree removal and/or willow trimming/topping can not occur outside of nesting bird season, a qualified biologist will conduct surveys for nesting birds prior to maintenance activities. If nesting birds are discovered within the maintenance area, CDFG shall be contacted to establish the appropriate buffer around the nest site. Maintenance activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence; and active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist and a letter-report shall be submitted to the County, USFWS, and CDFG, documenting Project compliance with the MBTA and applicable Project mitigation measures.

[BR-12] Prior to maintenance activities (e.g., sediment removal and/or vegetation trimming/topping), a qualified biologist will survey for sensitive species (e.g., California red-legged frog, two-stripe garter snake, and pacific pond turtles). If frogs, garter snakes, or pond turtles are found within

the maintenance area, maintenance activities will halt until the animal has moved out of the Project area without assistance (e.g., harassment or handling).

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Will the project:

		Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a)	*Disturb archaeological resources?*	☐	☒	☐	☐
b)	*Disturb historical resources?*	☐	☐	☒	☐
c)	*Disturb paleontological resources?*	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	*Other:* _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The project is located in an area historically occupied by the Obispeno Chumash. A Phase I Cultural Resources Study was prepared for the project and one cultural resource was identified within the project area (Applied Earthworks 2012). A segment of the Southern Pacific Railroad Coast Line is within the northern portion of the project area. The storm drain will bore under the railroad and will not impact the structure.

Impact. A Phase I Surface Survey was conducted for areas that will be impacted by the Project. Although no archaeological sites were identified from the field survey, there is a potential for subsurface deposits.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The Phase I Study recommends additional subsurface testing prior to construction or an archaeologist and a Native American monitor during ground-disturbing activities. This measure will ensure that no significant impacts to Cultural Resources occur as a result of the Project.

[CR-1] The County shall conduct additional subsurface testing for buried deposits prior to construction or have an archaeologist and Native American monitor during ground-disturbing activities.

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Will the project:

		Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a)	*Result in exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions, such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, ground failure, land subsidence or other similar hazards?*	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	*Be within a California Geological Survey "Alquist-Priolo" Earthquake Fault Zone", or other known fault zones*?*	☐	☐	☐	☒

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
c) Result in soil erosion, topographic changes, loss of topsoil or unstable soil conditions from project-related improvements, such as vegetation removal, grading, excavation, or fill?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Include structures located on expansive soils?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Be inconsistent with the goals and policies of the County's Safety Element relating to Geologic and Seismic Hazards?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Preclude the future extraction of valuable mineral resources?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

* Per Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication #42

Setting. The following relates to the project's geologic aspects or conditions:

Topography: Nearly level

Within County's Geologic Study Area?: No

Landslide Risk Potential: Low

Liquefaction Potential: High

Nearby potentially active faults?: No Distance? Not applicable

Area known to contain serpentine or ultramafic rock or soils?: No

Shrink/Swell potential of soil: Low

Other notable geologic features? None

The Project is not within the Geologic Study area designation; however, Oceano has highly liquefiable soils.

DRAINAGE – The following relates to the Project's drainage aspects:

Within the 100-year Flood Hazard designation? Yes

Closest creek? Arroyo Grande Creek Distance? Approximately 20 feet

Soil drainage characteristics: Well drained

This Project will improve drainage in this area of Oceano.

SEDIMENTATION AND EROSION – The Project's soil types and descriptions are listed in the previous Agriculture section under "Setting". As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the Project's soil erodibility is as follows:

Soil erodibility: Low

The Project will impact more than 1 acre and will require the preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which focuses on controlling storm water runoff.

Impact. As proposed, the Project will result in the disturbance of approximately 14.4 acres (629,000 square feet). Although the Project area contains highly liquefiable soils, no new buildings or major underground utilities are proposed as a part of the Project; therefore, mitigation is not warranted (Holzer et al. 2004).

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts to Geology and Soils were identified; therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

7. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) ***Create a hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?***	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) ***Create a 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 ¼-mile of an existing or proposed school?***	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) ***Be located on, or adjacent to, a site which is included on a list of hazardous material/waste sites compiled pursuant to Gov't Code 65962.5 ("Cortese List"), and result in an adverse public health condition?***	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) ***Impair implementation or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan?***	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) ***If within the Airport Review designation, or near a private airstrip, result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?***	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) ***Increase fire hazard risk or expose people or structures to high wildland fire hazard conditions?***	☐	☐	☐	☒

7. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
f) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The Project is not located in an area of known hazardous material contamination. The Project is within the Airport Review area.

With regards to potential fire hazards, the subject Project is within the low Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Based on the County's fire response time map, it will take approximately 6-10 minutes to respond to a call regarding fire or life safety. Refer to the Public Services section for further discussion on Fire Safety impacts. The Project is within close proximity to a business that includes either permitted hazardous materials or waste storage (Phelan & Taylor Produce Co., 1820 Railroad Street, Oceano).

A Phase I Hazardous Material Assessment was completed and recommended the completion of Preliminary Site Assessment activities along the Project Site between State Route 1 and Railroad Street to assess the proposed storm drain alignment for elevated metals concentrations from historical metals-containing herbicide spraying along the UPRR railroad tracks and at a possible former cooling tower site located east of Railroad Street and the UPRR tracks. The preliminary site assessment should include the advancement of drill holes along the proposed storm drain alignment segment between State Route 1 and Railroad Street, collection of discrete soil samples within the anticipated depth of trenching, and chemical analyses of selected soil samples for the presence of petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile organic compounds, chlorinated herbicides, and California-regulated metals.

Portions of the subject Project are within the 100-year Flood Hazard Combining designation (FH). The Project is within the Lopez Dam "dam inundation" area. The boundary of the dam inundation area is intended to show the maximum water limit line should there be a catastrophic release/failure of the upstream dam. The Project's goal is to alleviate flooding issues as a result of storm events.

Impact. The Project does not propose the use of hazardous materials. The Project does not present a significant fire safety risk. The Project is not expected to conflict with any regional evacuation plan. A Preliminary Site Assessment was conducted and concluded that none of the soil samples chemically analyzed exceeded established regulatory criteria, with the exception of one soil sample drilled at 5 feet. However, the soil at this depth was observed to contain inert asphaltic fragments. Asphaltic material does not pose a significant risk to human health or the environment. No further action was recommended for the Project. The County Public Works Department is working closely with County Airport representatives to avoid ALUP conflicts and obtain Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approvals.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts as a result of hazards or hazardous materials are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

8. NOISE

Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Expose people to noise levels that exceed the County Noise Element thresholds?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generate permanent increases in the ambient noise levels in the project vicinity?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Cause a temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise in the project vicinity?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose people to severe noise or vibration?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) If located within the Airport Review designation or adjacent to a private airstrip, expose people residing or working in the project area to severe noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. A portion of the Project is within close proximity to a transportation noise source (Highway 1), an active airport, and industrial facilities that operate on a daily basis. Work associated with this Project will occur only during daylight hours and construction-related noise is not expected to compete with surrounding noise sources.

Impact. Noise impacts resulting from construction will be of a short duration, during normal work hours, and temporary in nature. It is not expected that County noise standards will be exceeded as a result of the Project. The Project is not expected to generate loud noises, nor conflict with the surrounding uses after completion of construction activities.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant noise impacts are anticipated, and no additional mitigation measures are necessary.

9. POPULATION/HOUSING

Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly (e.g., construct new homes or businesses) or indirectly (e.g., extension of major infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace existing housing or people, requiring construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

9. POPULATION/HOUSING *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
c) Create the need for substantial new housing in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting/Impact. The Project will not result in a need for a significant amount of new housing, and will not displace existing housing.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No impacts to population or housing, and no substantial use of fuel or energy are anticipated; therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/UTILITIES *Will the project have an effect upon, or result in the need for new or altered public services in any of the following areas:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Police protection (e.g., Sheriff, CHP)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Roads?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Solid Wastes?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The Project area is served by the following public services/facilities:

Police: County Sheriff Location: Oceano (Approximately 950 feet to the northwest of Project)

Fire: Five Cities Fire Hazard Severity: low Response Time: 5-10 minutes

Location: Approximately 1 block north.

School District: Lucia Mar Unified School District.

The proposed Project is approximately 577 feet from Even Start/Oceano Migrant, Oceano Elementary and Lucia Mar Adult Education Center, California State Preschool at Oceano, and Five Cities Head Start school.

Impact. No significant Project-specific impacts to utilities or public services were identified. Construction-related traffic may use the same roads as public services.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No impacts are anticipated therefore impacts are considered less than significant.

11. RECREATION *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Increase the use or demand for parks or other recreation opportunities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Affect the access to trails, parks or other recreation opportunities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. Based on the County Trails Map, the Project is within reasonably close proximity to the Arroyo Grande Creek Trail.

Impact. The proposed Project will not create a significant need for additional park, Natural Area, and/or recreational resources. The trail appears to be proposed along the District's levee which is a flood-control structure. The levee is zoned as a public facility for storm water purposes. Although it is signed (no trespassing signs citing public and County codes), the levee is used frequently for beach access by pedestrians and equestrians. The Project will have no impact on this proposed trail. Temporary impacts to unauthorized access of the levee may occur during culvert installation activities.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant recreation impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

12. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Increase vehicle trips to local or areawide circulation system?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Reduce existing "Level of Service" on public roadway(s)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Create unsafe conditions on public roadways (e.g., limited access, design features, sight distance, slow vehicles)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Provide for adequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with an established measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system considering all modes of transportation (e.g. LOS, mass transit, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program?	☐	☐	☐	☒

12. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Result in a change in air traffic patterns that may result in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. As a result of the Project, a small number of vehicles may use Highway 1 and surrounding roads to access the site on a daily basis for the construction phase of the project. However, most of the construction will take place in County Right of Way or on adjacent private property. Staging may occur on UPRR property on Highway 1 (with UPRR approval), the Phelan & Taylor property (fronting Highway 1), and possibly a portion of Delta Street during construction.

Airport Review Combining Designation. The Project is within the County's Airport Review combining designation (AR). The AR is used to recognize and minimize the potential conflict between new development around the Oceano airport and the ability of aircraft to safely and efficiently maneuver to and from this airport. This includes additional standards relating to limiting structure/vegetation heights as well as avoiding airport operation conflicts (e.g., exterior lighting, radio/electronic interference, 48-hour maximum storage duration in basin, etc.). The Airport Land Use Plan (ALUP) provides guidance for and limitations to the type of development allowed within the AR designation.

Impact. Construction vehicle access will be needed temporarily during Project construction. Otherwise, the Project may temporarily slow traffic but will have no negative effects on transportation or circulation. The County Public Works Department is working closely with Caltrans on this Project and no significant traffic-related concerns have been identified to date.

The County Public Works Department is working closely with County Airport representatives to avoid ALUP conflicts and obtain Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approvals.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant traffic impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

13. WASTEWATER *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Violate waste discharge requirements or Central Coast Basin Plan criteria for wastewater systems?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Change the quality of surface or ground water (e.g., nitrogen-loading, day-lighting)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

13. WASTEWATER

Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
c) Adversely affect community wastewater service provider?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting/Impact. The proposed Project involves reducing flooding of a developed area which is not anticipated to generate waste or wastewater or adversely affect wastewater facilities and solid waste capacity. No impacts resulting from wastewater would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

14. WATER & HYDROLOGY

Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
QUALITY				
a) Violate any water quality standards?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Discharge into surface waters or otherwise alter surface water quality (e.g., turbidity, sediment, temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Change the quality of groundwater (e.g., saltwater intrusion, nitrogen-loading, etc.)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Change rates of soil absorption, or amount or direction of surface runoff?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f) Change the drainage patterns where substantial on- or off-site sedimentation/ erosion or flooding may occur?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Involve activities within the 100-year flood zone?	☐	☐	☒	☐
QUANTITY				
h) Change the quantity or movement of available surface or ground water?	☐	☐	☒	☐

14. WATER & HYDROLOGY *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
i) Adversely affect community water service provider?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Expose people to a risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding (e.g., dam failure,etc.), or inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒
k) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The topography of the project is nearly level Arroyo Grande Creek is located less than 200 feet from the proposed development. As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the soil surface is considered to have low erodability. The subject property is within the Arroyo Grande groundwater basin.

DRAINAGE – The following relates to the Project's drainage aspects:

Within the 100-year Flood Hazard designation? Yes

Closest creek? Arroyo Grande Creek Distance? Approximately 20 feet

Soil drainage characteristics: Well drained

SEDIMENTATION AND EROSION – Soil type, area of disturbance, and slopes are key aspects to analyzing potential sedimentation and erosion issues. The Project's soil types and descriptions are listed in the previous Agriculture section under "Setting". As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the the Project's soil erodibility is as follows:

Soil erodibility: Low

The Project is within close proximity to an area (Phelan & Taylor Packing Facility and Bell Craig Facility) identified as having a problem with an underground tank. The Hazardous Material Site Assessment conducted for the Project found no contamination issues (Section 7).

Impact. The Project could result in water quality impacts through the discharge of sediments during construction or an accidental spill of petroleum based fuels or lubricants. However, mitigation measures will be implemented to decrease these potentials (BR-6 & BR-7). Additionally, this Project will result in more than one acre of disturbance so the County will prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to minimize on-site sedimentation and erosion and focus on controlling storm water runoff. The Regional Water Quality Control Board is the local extension who monitors this program.

The Project will not affect groundwater levels. The Project should improve water quality by allowing additional settling time for sediments in the newly constructed sediment basin, so cleaner storm water flows to Arroyo Grande Creek. The Project will also improve water quality by moving storm water off of existing roads, which contain oil and other road-associated contaminants, & directing water to underground pipes, a sediment basin, and natural basin where the water can pass through existing bio filters and into Arroyo Grand Creek. Currently, this same storm water picks up road contaminants

and contributes to flooding of local residents before finally reaching Arroyo Grande Creek.

The project will result in a change to the direction of surface runoff. The project includes two Low Impact Development (LID) components: the willow riparian woodland basin, which acts as a second stage settlement basin for storm water overflow; and the installation of road-side infiltrators in Paso Robles Street and 13th Street. These components will also work to improve water quality.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Since no potentially significant water quantity or quality impacts were identified, no specific measures above the items discussed above have been determined necessary. Standard drainage and erosion control measures will be include as part of the SWPPP for the proposed Project and will provide sufficient measures to adequately protect surface water quality.

15. LAND USE

Will the project:

	Inconsistent	Potentially Inconsistent	Consistent	Not Applicable
a) Be potentially inconsistent with land use, policy/regulation (e.g., general plan [County Land Use Element and Ordinance], local coastal plan, specific plan, Clean Air Plan, etc.) adopted to avoid or mitigate for environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Be potentially inconsistent with any habitat or community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be potentially inconsistent with adopted agency environmental plans or policies with jurisdiction over the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be potentially incompatible with surrounding land uses?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting/Impact. Surrounding uses are identified on Page 2 of the Initial Study. The proposed Project was reviewed for consistency with policy and/or regulatory documents relating to the environment and appropriate land use (e.g., County Land Use Ordinance (LUO), Local Coastal Plan (CZLUO), etc.). Referrals were sent to outside agencies to review for policy consistencies (e.g., APCD for Clean Air Plan, Caltrans. etc.). The Project was found to be consistent with these documents (refer also to Exhibit A on reference documents used).

The Project is adjacent to an area proposed to be covered by a Habitat Conservation Plan; however, that Plan is not final and the Project is consistent or compatible with the draft Plan. The Project is consistent or compatible with the surrounding uses as summarized on page 2 of this Initial Study.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No inconsistencies were identified and therefore no additional measures above what will already be required were determined necessary.

16. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) 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, 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

For further information on CEQA or the county's environmental review process, please visit the County's web site at "www.sloplanning.org" under "Environmental Information", or the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System at: http://www.ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines for information about the California Environmental Quality Act.

Exhibit A - Initial Study References and Agency Contacts

The County Planning or Environmental Divisions have contacted various agencies for their comments on the proposed project. With respect to the subject application, the following have been contacted (marked with an ☒) and when a response was made, it is either attached or in the application file:

Contacted	Agency	Response
☐	County Public Works Department	**Not Applicable**
☐	County Environmental Health Division	**Not Applicable**
☐	County Agricultural Commissioner's Office	**Not Applicable**
☐	County Airport Manager	**Not Applicable**
☐	Airport Land Use Commission	**Not Applicable**
☒	Air Pollution Control District	**In File****
☐	County Sheriff's Department	**Not Applicable**
☒	Regional Water Quality Control Board	**In File****
☒	CA Coastal Commission	**None**
☒	CA Department of Fish and Game	**In File****
☐	CA Department of Forestry (Cal Fire)	**Not Applicable**
☐	CA Department of Transportation	**Not Applicable**
☒	Oceano Community Service District	**In File****
☒	Other Zone 1-1A	**None**
☒	Other U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	**In File****

*** "No comment" or "No concerns"-type responses are usually not attached*

The following checked ("☒") reference materials have been used in the environmental review for the proposed project and are hereby incorporated by reference into the Initial Study. The following information is available at the County Planning and Building Department.

☒ Project File for the Subject Application

County documents

- ☐ Airport Land Use Plans
- ☒ Annual Resource Summary Report
- ☐ Building and Construction Ordinance
- ☐ Coastal Policies
- ☒ Framework for Planning (Coastal & Inland)
- ☒ General Plan (Inland & Coastal), including all maps & elements; more pertinent elements considered include:
  - ☒ Agriculture & Open Space Element
  - ☒ Energy Element
  - ☒ Environment Plan (Conservation, Historic and Esthetic Elements)
  - ☒ Housing Element
  - ☒ Noise Element
  - ☐ Parks & Recreation Element
  - ☒ Safety Element
- ☒ Land Use Ordinance
- ☐ Real Property Division Ordinance
- ☒ Trails Plan
- ☐ Solid Waste Management Plan
- ☒ San Luis Bay(Coastal) and San Luis Bay (Inland) Area Plan and Update EIR
- ☒ South County Circulation Study

Other documents

- ☒ Archaeological Resources Map
- ☒ Area of Critical Concerns Map
- ☒ Areas of Special Biological Importance Map
- ☒ California Natural Species Diversity Database
- ☒ Clean Air Plan
- ☒ Fire Hazard Severity Map
- ☒ Flood Hazard Maps
- ☒ Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey for SLO County
- ☒ Regional Transportation Plan
- ☒ Uniform Fire Code
- ☒ Water Quality Control Plan (Central Coast Basin – Region 3)
- ☒ GIS mapping layers (e.g., habitat, streams, contours, etc.)
- ☐ Other

In addition, the following Project specific information and/or reference materials have been considered as a part of the Initial Study:

Bulger, J. B. 1999. Terrestrial activity and conservation of California red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora draytonii*) in forested habitats of Santa Cruz County, California. Report prepared for Land Trust of Santa Cruz, dated March 2, 1999.

California Herps. 2012. Accessed on May 9, 2012. Http://www.californiaherps.com.

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), Biogeographic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. Version 3.1.0. May 9, 2012.

Close, Bobby Jo and Stacey Smith. 2004. Stream Inventory Report, Arroyo Grande Creek, Summer 2004. Prepared for Central Coast Salmon Enhancement. 71 pp.

Dvorsky, J. and J. Hagar. 2008. Arroyo Grande Creek Steelhead Distribution & Abundance Study - 2006. Prepared for Central Coast Salmon Enhancement in association with Hagar Environmental Science. March 20, 2008.

Dvorsky, John. 2010. Arroyo Grande Creek Channel Waterway Management Program. Prepared for San Luis Obispo County Flood and Water Conservation District Zones 1 and 1A Flood Control District.

Essex Environmental. 2002. 2002 Postconstruction Monitoring Report for the Arroyo Grande Creek Sediment Removal Project. Unpublished report prepared for San Luis Obispo County, November 2002.

Hayes and Jennings. 1988. "Habitat correlates of distribution of California Red-Legged Frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) and the foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii*): implications for management, " pages 144-158 in Proceedings of the Symposium on the Management of Amphibians, Reptiles and Small Mammals in North America, USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-166.

Moyle, P. B. 1973. Effects of introduced bullfrogs, *Rana catesbeiana*, on the native frogs of the San Joaquin Valley, California. Copeia 1973:18-22.

Rathbun, G.B., N. Siepel, and D. Holland. 1992. Nesting behavior and movements of Western Pond Turtles, *Clemmys marmorata*. Southwestern Naturalist 37:319-324.

Rischbieter, Douglas. 2009. Lower Arroyo Grande Creek and Lagoon Fishery and Aquatic Resources Summary 2008 Monitoring Report. Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area, Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve.

Rischbieter, Douglas. 2012. "TWG Upstream Extent (A.G. Creek)." Email to Katie Drexhage, San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department. August 7, 2012.

Stebbins. 1985. A field guide to western reptiles and amphibians. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, MA.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2010. Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the California Red-Legged Frog. 75 FR 12816 – 12959.

Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary Table

AIR QUALITY

[AQ-1] Should hydrocarbon contaminated soil be encountered during construction activities, the APCD must be notified as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after affected material is discovered to determine if an APCD Permit will be required. In addition, the following measures shall be implemented immediately after contaminated soil is discovered:

a. Covers on storage piles shall be maintained in place at all times in areas not actively involved in soil addition or removal;

b. Contaminated soil shall be covered with at least six inches of packed uncontaminated soil or other TPH-non-permeable barrier such as plastic tarp. No headspace shall be allowed where vapors could accumulate;

c. Covered piles shall be designed in such a way to eliminate erosion due to wind or water. No openings in the covers are permitted;

d. The air quality impacts from the excavation and haul trips associated with removing the contaminated soil must be evaluated and mitigated if total emissions exceed the APCD's construction phase thresholds;

e. During soil excavation, odors shall not be evident to such a degree as to cause a public nuisance; and

f. Clean soil must be segregated from contaminated soil.

[AQ-2] Prior to any construction activities at the site, the Project proponent shall ensure that a geologic evaluation is conducted to determine if Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) is present within the area that will be disturbed. If NOA is not present, an exemption request must be filled with the APCD. If NOA is found at the site, the applicant must comply with all requirements outlined in the Asbestos ATCM.

[AQ-3] If building(s) are removed or renovated; or utility pipelines are scheduled for removal or relocation, this Project may be subject to various regulatory jurisdictions, including the requirements stipulated in the National Emission Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutants (40CFR61, Subpart M – asbestos NESHAP).

[AQ-4] Projects with grading areas that are greater than 4-acres or within 1,000 feet of any sensitive receptors shall implement the following mitigation measures to manage fugitive dust emissions such that they do not exceed the APCD 20% opacity limit (APCD rule 401) and do not impact off-site areas prompting nuisance violations (APCD rule 402):

a. Reduce the amount of disturbed area where possible;
b. Use of water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever possible;
c. All dirt stock pile areas should be sprayed daily as needed;
d. Permanent dust control measures identified in the approved Project revegetation and landscape plans should be implemented as soon as possible, following completion of any soil disturbing activities;
e. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater then one month after initial grading should be sown with a fast germinating, non-invasive, grass seed and watered until vegetation is established;
f. All disturbed soil areas not subject to revegetation should be stabilized using approved chemical soil binders, jute netting, or other methods approved in advance by the APCD;
g. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used;

h. Vehicle speed for all construction vehicles shall not exceed 15 mph on any unpaved surface at the construction site;
i. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with CVC Section 23114;
j. Install wheel washers where vehicles enter and exit unpaved roads onto streets, or wash off trucks and equipment leaving the site;
k. Sweep streets at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent paved roads. Water sweepers with reclaimed water should be used where feasible;
l. All PM_{10} mitigation measures require should be shown on grading and building plans; and
m. The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity, and to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD Compliance Division prior to the start of any grading, earthwork or demolition.

[AQ-5] To help reduce the emissions impact of diesel vehicles and equipment used to construct the Project, the applicant shall implement the following idling control techniques:

California Diesel Idling Regulations

a. On-road diesel vehicles shall comply with Section 2485 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations. This regulation limits idling form diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles with gross vehicular weight ratings of more than 10,000 pounds and licensed for operation on highways. It applies to California and non-California based vehicles. In general, the regulation specifies that drivers of said vehicles:
    1. Shall not idle the vehicle's primary diesel engine for greater than 5 minutes at any location, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation; and
    2. Shall not operate a diesel-fueled auxiliary power system (APS) to power a heater, air conditioner, or any ancillary equipment on that vehicle during sleeping or resting in a sleeper berth for greater than 5.0 minutes at any location when within 1,000 feet of a restricted area, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation.
b. Off-road diesel equipment shall comply with the 5 minute idling restriction identified in Section 2449(d)(2) of the California Air Resources Board's In-Use off-Road Diesel regulation.
c. Signs must be posted in the designated queuing areas and job sites to remind drivers and operators of the State's 5 minute idling limit.

[AQ-6] Diesel Idling Regulations Near Sensitive Receptors
Sensitive receptors appear to be located within 1000 feet of the Project area (residences, Oceano Elementary School grounds). In addition to State required diesel idling requirements, the Project applicant shall comply with these more restrictive requirements to minimize impacts to nearby sensitive receptors:

a. Staging and queuing areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors;
b. Diesel idling within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors shall not be permitted;
c. Use of alternative fueled equipment is recommended; and
d. Signs that specify the no idling areas must be posted and enforced at the site.

[AQ-7] Proposed truck routes should be evaluated and selected to ensure routing patterns have

the least impact to nearby residential communities and sensitive receptors, such as schools, daycare facilities, hospitals, and senior centers.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

[BR-1]Prior to construction, the County shall obtain all necessary permits, approvals, and authorizations from jurisdictional agencies. These may include, but may not be limited to: (1) ACOE, Section 404 Nationwide Permit 43; (2) RWQCB, Section 401 Water Quality Certification; and (3) CDFG, Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement for activities within the tops of banks or outer edges of riparian canopies (whichever is furthest from the streambed) of Arroyo Grande Creek. The County shall adhere to all conditions included within these permits, approvals, and authorizations.

[BR-2] Prior to construction, exclusionary fencing shall be erected by the contractor at the boundaries of all construction areas to avoid equipment and human intrusion into adjacent creek/wetland habitats. The fencing shall remain in place throughout construction.

[BR-3] During Project activities, all trash that may attract predators shall be properly contained, removed from the work site and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris shall be removed from work areas.

[BR-4] If determined to be necessary by the ACOE (lead federal agency), the ACOE will consult with NMFS and USFWS on behalf of the County for impacts to California red-legged frogs and steelhead. The County will adhere to all conditions included within the Biological Opinions issued for the Project.

[BR-5] Before any construction activities begin on the Project, a biologist shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel. The training session shall include a description of species that may be encountered during construction, the importance of these species and their habitat, the general measures that are being implemented to conserve these species as they relate to the Project, and the boundaries within which the Project may be accomplished. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session, provided that a qualified person is on hand to answer any questions.

[BR-6] All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. The County shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the County shall ensure that the contractor has prepared a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

[BR-7] Prior to site disturbance, the County shall print Best Management Practices (BMPs) on all applicable construction plans. BMPs shall be implemented prior to, during, and following construction activities. Measures shall include, but not be limited to the following:

a. Silt fencing shall be placed along the down-slope side of the construction zone.
b. A spill and clean-up kit shall be stored onsite at all times.
c. Temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation measures shall be implemented (e.g., silt fencing, hay bales, straw wattles, etc.).

[BR-8] If construction activities are conducted during the typical nesting bird season (February 15 – September 15th), preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by the County-approved biologist or County Environmental Resource Specialist prior to any construction activity or vegetation trimming to identify potential bird nesting activity, and:

a. If active nest sites of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are observed within the vicinity of the Project site, then the Project shall be modified

and/or delayed as necessary to avoid direct take of the identified nests, eggs, and/or young;

b. If active nest sites of raptors and/or bird species of special concern are observed within the vicinity of the Project site, then CDFG shall be contacted to establish the appropriate buffer around the nest site. Construction activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence; and

c. Active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist and a letter-report shall be submitted to the County, USFWS, and CDFG, documenting Project compliance with the MBTA and applicable Project mitigation measures.

[BR-9] To avoid inadvertent impacts to western pond turtle, red-legged frog, two-striped garter snake, steelhead, and nesting birds during grading and site disturbance activities, a biological monitor will conduct preconstruction surveys in Arroyo Grande Creek and adjacent areas within the Project site, conduct construction employee training prior to site disturbance and continue monitoring during grading and construction activities. In the instance a listed sensitive species is discovered, the County shall contact CDFG, NMFS, and USFWS for consultation, unless otherwise authorized under an NMFS- or USFWS-issued *Biological Opinion*. In the instance nesting birds are discovered, work shall cease until the birds have fledged and left the area, or CDFG or USFWS shall be consulted. If any swallow nests are observed, empty nests shall be removed prior to February 15, and shall continue to remove nests as they are being built to avoid impacts to active nests prior to construction.

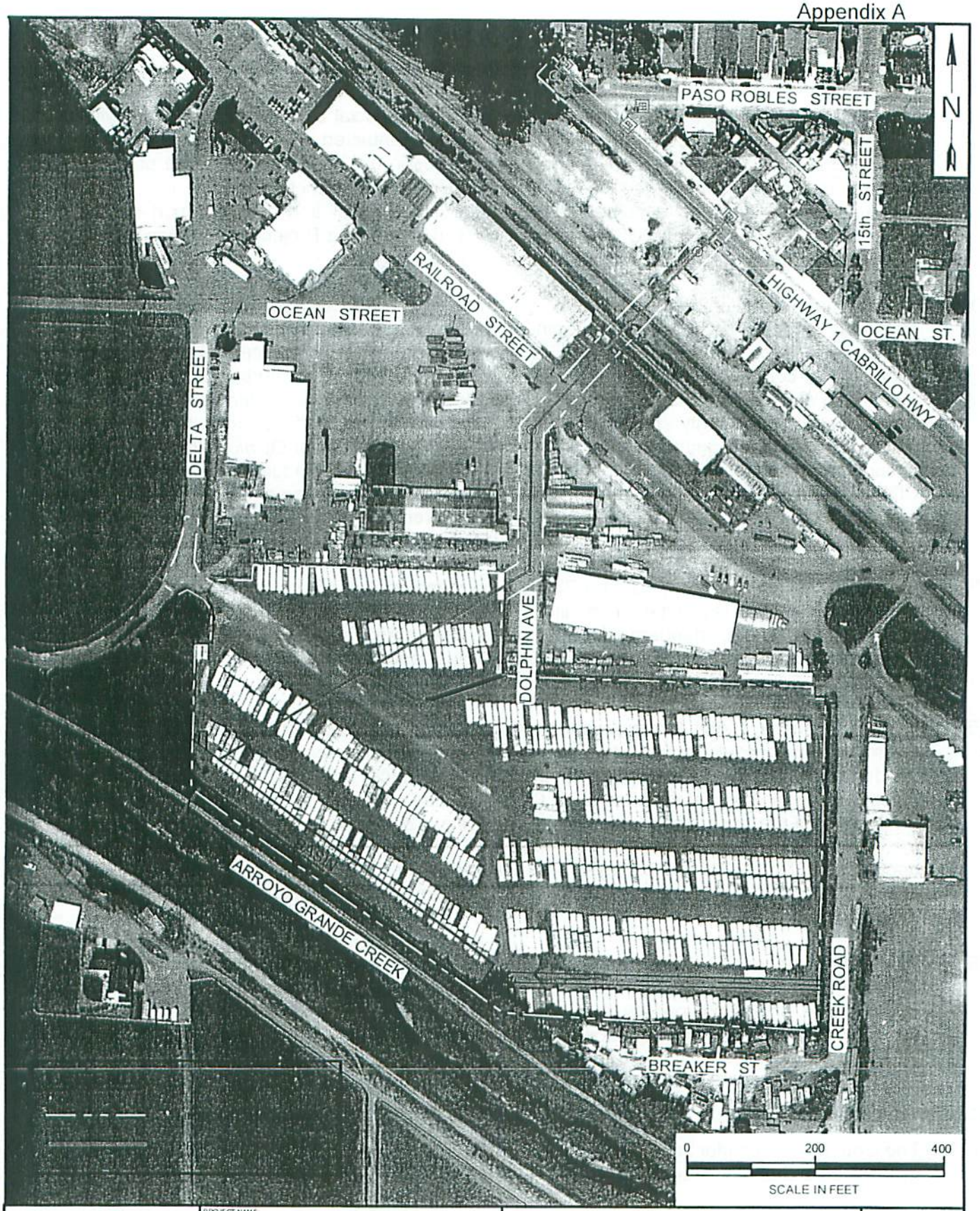
[BR-10] A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan will be prepared and will include specific measures for restoration and revegetation of all temporarily disturbed areas. The Plan will include protection measures, standards for revegetation, a monitoring program to ensure proper implementation and maintenance of restored areas, and performance criteria to determine success.

[BR-11] Willow trimming and/or topping would occur outside of the nesting bird season. If willow trimming/topping could not occur outside of nesting bird season, a qualified biologist will conduct surveys for nesting birds prior to maintenance activities. If nesting birds are discovered within the maintenance area, CDFG shall be contacted to establish the appropriate buffer around the nest site. Maintenance activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence; and active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist and a letter-report shall be submitted to the County, USFWS, and CDFG, documenting Project compliance with the MBTA and applicable Project mitigation measures.

[BR-12] Prior to maintenance activities (e.g., sediment removal and/or vegetation trimming/topping), a qualified biologist will survey for sensitive species (e.g., California red-legged frog, two-stripe garter snake, and pacific pond turtles). If frogs, garter snakes, or pond turtles are found within the maintenance area, maintenance activities will halt until the animal has moved out of the Project area without assistance (e.g., harassment or handling).

CULTURAL RESOURCES

[CR-1] The County shall conduct additional subsurface testing for buried deposits prior to construction or have an archaeologist and Native American monitor during ground-disturbing activities.



padre associates, inc.
ENGINEERS, GEOLOGISTS & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS

PROJECT NAME
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
OCEANO DRAINAGE PROJECT
OCEANO, CA

PROJECT NUMBER 1201-0131 | DATE March 2012

SITE PLAN

PLATE 2

padre associates, inc.
ENGINEERS, GEOLOGISTS & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS

PROJECT NAME:
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
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DATE: March 2012

SITE PLAN

PLATE
2

Appendix B: 9-quadrangle CNDDB search results for the Oceano Drainage Project, 300465

Species	Habitat Description	Habitat Presence/Absence	Details
Agrostis hooveri Hoover's bent grass	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland; sandy sites	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Ambystoma californiense California tiger salamander	Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat.
Anniella pulchra pulchra silvery legless lizard	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation; soil moisture is essential	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat.
Aphanisma blitoides Aphanisma	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub	Absent	Not expected due to lack of scrub and dune habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Arctostaphylos luciana Santa Lucia Manzanita	Chaparral; on shale outcrops, on slopes, in chaparral	Absent	Not expected due to lack of chaparral habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Arctostaphylos morroensis Morro Manzanita	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, coastal scrub	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Arctostaphylos pechoensis Pecho Manzanita	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub; grows on siliceous shale with other chaparral associates	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Arctostaphylos pilosula Santa Margarita Manzanita	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral; shale outcrops and slopes; reported growing on decomposed granite or sandstone in SLO	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Arctostaphylos rudis sand mesa Manzanita	Chaparral, coastal scrub; on sandy soils in Lompoc/Nipomo area	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Arenaria paludicola marsh sandwort	Marshes and swamps; growing up through dense mats of Typha, Juncus, Scirpus, etc. in freshwater marsh	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable marsh habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Astragalus didymocarpus var. milesianus Mile's milk-vetch	Coastal scrub; clay soils	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Athene cunicularia Burrowing owl	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low-growing vegetation	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat.
Atriplex serenana var. davidsonii Davidson's saltscale	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Branchinecta lynchi Vernal pool fairy shrimp	Inhabits small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Found in quadrangle northwest of Project's quadrangle.
Calochortus	Chaparral, coastal scrub,	Absent	Not expected due to lack of

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obispoensis La Panza mariposa-lily	valley and foothill grassland; often in serpentine grassland		suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Calochortus simulans San Luis Obispo mariposa-lily	Valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland, chaparral; decomposed granite	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Calystegia subacaulis ssp. episcopalism Cambria morning-glory	Chaparral, cismontane woodland	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Castilleja densiflora ssp. obispoensis San Luis Obispo owl's-clover	Valley and foothill grassland	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Centromadia parryi ssp.congdonii Congdon's tarplant	Valley and foothill grassland	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus western snowy plover	Sandy beaches, salt pond levees & shores of large alkali lakes; needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting	Absent; additionally, proposed critical habitat is not present in the project area.	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat.
Chenopodium littoreum Coastal goosefoot	Coastal dunes	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Chorizanthe breweri Brewer's spineflower	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest; rocky or gravelly serpentine sites; usually in barren areas	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Chorizanthe rectispina Straight-awned spineflower	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub; often on granite in chaparral	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Cirsium fontinale var. obispoensis Chorro Creek bog thistle	Chaparral, cismontane woodland	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Cirsium loncholepis La Graciosa thistle	Coastal dunes, brackish marshes, riparian scrub; lake edges, riverbanks, other wetlands; often in dune areas	Absent; additionally, critical habitat not designated in the project area.	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Cirsium rhothophilum Surf thistle	Coastal dunes, coastal bluff scrub; open areas in central dune scrub; usually in coastal dune	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Clarkia speciosa ssp. immaculata Pismo clarkia	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland; on ancient sand dunes not far from the coast; sandy soils	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Deinandra increscens ssp. foliosa Leafy tarplant	Valley and foothill grassland	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Deinandra increscens ssp.villosa Gaviota tarplant	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, coastal bluff scrub	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Delphinium parryi ssp. blochmaniae dune larkspur	Chaparral, coastal dunes (maritime); on rocky areas and dunes	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.

Appendix B: 9-quadrangle CNDDB search results for the Oceano Drainage Project, 300465

Delphinium parryi ssp. eastwoodiae Eastwood's larkspur	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Delphinium umbraculorum Umbrella larkspur	Cismontane woodland; mesic sites	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Dithyrea maritima beach spectaclepod	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub; formerly more widespread in coastal habitats in So Cal; sea shores on sand dunes and sandy places near shore	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Dudleya abramsii ssp. murina Mouse-gray dudleya	Chaparral, cismontane woodland; serpentine outcrops	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Dudleya blochmaniae ssp. blochmaniae Blochman's dudleya	Coastal scrub, coastal bluff scrub, valley and foothill grassland	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Actinemys marmorata Pacific pond turtle	Inhabits permanent or nearly permanent bodies of water in many habitat types; requires basking sites such as partially submerged logs, vegetation mats, or open mud banks	Present	Has been found along Arroyo Grande Creek; potential to occur in uplands near culvert outlet into creek.
Erigeron blochmaniae Blochman's leafy daisy	Coastal dunes	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Eriodictyon altissimum Indian knob mountainbalm	Chaparral (maritime), cismontane woodland	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Eryngium aristulatum var. hooveri Hoover's button-celery	Vernal pools	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Eucyclogobius newberryi tidewater goby	Brackish water habitats along the CA coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego Co. to the mouth of the Smith River; found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water & high oxygen levels	Absent	This species has been found in Arroyo Grande Creek in the lagoon. Species is not expected at project site due to lack impacts to low water channel and/or brackish water.
Gila orcuttii Arroyo chub	Los Angeles basin south coastal streams; slow water stream sections with mud or sand bottoms	Absent	Species is not expected at project site due to lack impacts to low water channel.
Gymnogyps californianus California condor	Requires vast expanses of open savannah, grasslands, and foothill chaparral in mountain ranges or moderate altitude; deep canyons containing clefts in the rocky walls provide nesting sites; forages up to 100 miles from roost/nest	Present	There is potential for this species to fly over the project site. Project activities will be temporary in nature and are not expected to affect this species. No trees will be removed as a result of project activities.
Horkelia cuneata ssp. puberula mesa horkelia	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub; sandy or gravelly sites	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Horkelia cuneata ssp.	Closed-cone coniferous	Absent	Not expected due to lack of

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sericea Kellogg's horkelia	forest, coastal scrub, chaparral; old dunes, coastal sandhills		suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus California black rail	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays	Absent	Species is not expected at project site due to lack impacts to low water channel and/or meadow or marsh habitat.
Layia jonesii Jones' layia	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland; clay soils and serpentine outcrops	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Lupinus ludovicianus San Luis Obispo County lupine	Chaparral, cismontane woodland; open areas in sandy soil, Santa Margarita formation	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Lupinus nipomensis Nipomo Mesa lupine	Coastal dunes; dry sandy flats, restricted to back dunes, assoc with central dune scrub habitat – a rare community type	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Monardella crispa crisp monardella	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Monardella frutescens San Luis Obispo monardella	Coastal dunes, coastal scrub; stabilized sand of the immediate coast	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Monardella palmeri Palmer's monardella	Cismontane woodland, chaparral	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. CNDDB lists occurrences in quadrants northwest and north of Tar Springs.
Nasturtium gambelii Gambel's water cress	Marshes and swamps; freshwater and brackish marshes at the margins of lakes and along streams, in or just above the water level	Absent	Species is not expected at project site due to lack impacts to low water channel and/or meadow or marsh habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Nemacladus secundiflorus var. robbinsii Robbin's nemacladus	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus Steelhead	Runs in coastal basins from the Pajaro River south to, but not including, the Santa Maria River	Present	This species has been found in Arroyo Grande Creek. Species is not expected at project site due to lack impacts to low water channel.
Phrynosoma coronatum (frontale population) coast horned lizard	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes; open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial & abundant supply of ants and other insects	Absent	Not expected due to disturbed nature of habitat.
Rana draytonii California red-legged frog	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation	Present	Has been found along Arroyo Grande Creek; potential to occur in uplands near culvert outlet into creek.
Scrophularia atrata Black-flowered figwort	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal scrub,	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field

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	riparian scrub; sand, diatomaceous shales, and soils derived from other parent material; around swales and in sand dunes		surveys.
Spea hammondii Western spadefoot	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for egg-laying	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable breeding habitat.
Sternula antillarum browni California least tern	Nests along the coast; colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates; sand beaches, alkali flats, landfills, or paved areas	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
Symphyotrichum defoliatum San Bernardino aster	Meadows and seeps, marshes and swamps, coastal scrub, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, grassland. Vernally mesic grassland or near ditches, streams and springs; disturbed areas	Absent	Not expected due to lack of suitable habitat. Not detected during field surveys.
Taricha torosa torosa Coast Range newt	Coastal drainages; lives in terrestrial habitats and will migrate over 1 km to breed in ponds, reservoirs, and slow moving streams	Present	Potential to occur within either project site. This species has been found in Arroyo Grande Creek at the base of Lopez Dam, approximately 12 miles north of the project sites.
Taxidea taxus American badger	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soils; need sufficient food, friable soils & open, uncultivated ground	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
Thamnophis hammondii Two-striped garter snake	Coastal California; highly aquatic, found in or near permanent freshwater; often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth	Present	Potential to occur within the project site.