Geneseo Road Bridge at Huerhuero Creek Project
ED12-197/300387

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, NOTICE OF DETERMINATION, & INITIAL STUDY

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

County File Number: ED12-197 (300387) SCH Number: _____

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
GENESEO ROAD BRIDGE AT HUERHUERO CREEK PROJECT
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION & INITIAL STUDY

Abstract

The County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works (County) is proposing to replace the existing low water crossing on Geneseo Road at Huerhuero Creek with a new 300 foot long span bridge. The Project would result in the disturbance of approximately 3.3 acres (including existing paved areas), and movement of approximately 159,000 cubic yards of material. The Project is located on Geneseo Road approximately 1.1 miles north of Creston Road, southeast of the City of Paso Robles, in the El Pomar/Estrella sub area of the North County planning area, Supervisorial District #1.

This project is receiving funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and assistance from Caltrans. Activities for the Project involve the removal of the existing concrete structure and replacement with a modern reinforced concrete bridge. Project activities would also involve the diversion and dewatering of water resources from Huerhuero Creek to completely isolate the project site during construction activities.

Comments on this document should be sent to Eric Wier, 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:

Eric Wier, Environmental Programs Division
or
Matt Reinhart, Project Manager
County Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5252

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration has been issued by:

11.2.2015
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:

10/30/15
Date

Dave Flynn
Dave Flynn, Deputy Director of Public Works
County of San Luis Obispo

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

(ver 6.8)

Project Title & No. **Public Works - Geneseo Road Bridge at Huerhuero Creek Project; ED12-197 (300387)**

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.

Eric Wier — Eric M. Wier — 10/28/15
Prepared by (Print) — Signature — Date

Steve McMasters — Steve McMasters — Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator (for) — 10/30/15
Reviewed by (Print) — Signature — Date

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 Planning Department, 976 Osos Street, Rm. 200, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408-2040 or call (805) 781-5600.

A. PROJECT

DESCRIPTION: The San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department (County) proposes to replace the existing low water crossing on Geneseo Road at Huerhuero Creek with a new 300 foot long span bridge. The Project would result in the disturbance of approximately 3.3 acres (including existing paved areas), and movement of approximately 159,000 cubic yards of material. The Project is located on Geneseo Road approximately 1.1 miles north of Creston Road, southeast of the City of Paso Robles, in the El Pomar/Estrella sub area of the North County planning area.

The proposed project work activities would be limited to constructing the bridge and approximately 200 feet of roadway approach on either side of the bridge. The bridge will span approximately 300 feet over Huerhuero Creek and will have approximately six intermediate pier walls. The bridge will consist of a multi-span reinforced concrete slab with a clear deck width of 32 feet to accommodate four-foot shoulders and 12-foot lanes. The roadway approach will be widened to 34 feet to accommodate five-foot shoulders and 12-foot lanes. Construction activities will consist of: clearing and grubbing upland and riparian vegetation; excavating and placing concrete for the abutments and foundations; installing and removing falsework; placing the reinforced concrete slab; installing the barrier and guardrail; protecting the slope; compacting subgrade and installing base and hot mix asphalt to construct the roadway approach. Excavated topsoil will be stockpiled and used during site restoration. The project will be constructed in one season, from approximately mid-April to the end of October. Geneseo Road will be closed to through traffic between Linne Road and Creston Road during Project construction (approximately six months). A temporary detour across Huerhuero Creek is not proposed.

Typical equipment needed for this project would include: excavator, backhoe/loader, bulldozer, heavy trucks, crane, concrete transit mixer and pumper, motor grader, asphalt paver and roller.

Natural areas temporarily disturbed by the project work activities will be revegetated. The excavated, stockpiled local topsoil will be replaced and applied to the surface, then be seeded and planted with appropriate native species.

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER(S): County R-O-W; 035-041-034, 035-081-030, 035-171-018, 035-041-021

Latitude: 35 degrees 35' 1.11" N Longitude: 120 degrees 33' 16.07" W **SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT # 1**

B. EXISTING SETTING

PLAN AREA: North County **SUB**: El Pomar/Estrella **COMM:** Rural

LAND USE CATEGORY: Agriculture, Residential Rural

COMB. DESIGNATION: Flood Hazard

PARCEL SIZE: Not applicable

TOPOGRAPHY: Nearly level to steeply sloping

VEGETATION: Oak woodland, cottonwood forest, herbaceous fields, annual grassland

EXISTING USES: Undeveloped, blue line creek, agricultural uses

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

North: Agriculture; single-family residence(s)	*East:* Agriculture & Residential Rural; single-family residence(s)
South: Agriculture & Residential Rural; single-family residence(s)	*West:* Agriculture; single-family residence(s)

C. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

During the Initial Study process, at least one issue was identified as having a 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 is in a rural area characterized by oak woodland, grassland and horse ranches. The new bridge will be visible only from Geneseo Road, and will not silhouette against any ridgelines as viewed from public roadways. The project is considered compatible with the surrounding uses.

Impact. No significant visual impacts are expected to occur. During construction, the project will result in a moderate level of change, typical for road construction activity. After completion of construction, the change will be subtle for most viewers, since it will be a slab bridge on the same alignment. The bridge will span between two gently rolling hillsides and be relatively shallow in height, a maximum of about 10 to 12 feet high at the center of Huerhuero Creek. Visibility of the central piers will be obstructed by trees growing in and along the creek. The slab bridge will be about two feet thick and have a long slender appearance due to its shallow height, shallow thickness, and moderate length (approximately 200 feet).

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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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 Categories: Agriculture & Residential Rural

State Classification: Prime Farmland if irrigated

Historic/Existing Commercial Crops: None

In Agricultural Preserve? Yes (two adjoining parcels)

Under Williamson Act contract? Yes (two adjoining parcels)

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

- Hanford and Greenfield gravelly sandy loams, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- Metz-Tujunga complex, occasionally flooded, 0 to 5 percent slopes
- Xerofluvents-Riverwash association
- Nacimiento-Los Osos complex, 30 to 50 percent slopes

Properties adjacent to the County right-of-way have and continue to be used for animal grazing (cattle and horses). There are currently no intensive agricultural uses. In the County Department of Agriculture's response to the project referral no significant concerns were identified, however mitigation measures were recommended to ensure access and adequate dust control, and to locate staging areas off of agricultural land where feasible.

Impact. The project is located in an area with rural residences and animal grazing. No significant impacts to agricultural resources are anticipated, however mitigation measures were recommended by the County Department of Agriculture to protect agricultural resources.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Although the Project's impacts were not found to be potentially significant, the following mitigation measures will minimize effects on agricultural resources.

[AG-1] During construction, ensure access for agricultural operations.

[AG-2] Implement dust control measures.

[AG-3] Locate temporary staging areas off of agricultural land where feasible.

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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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 and updated their CEQA Air Quality Handbook (2012) 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 Air Pollution Control District (APCD) approved thresholds for GHG emission impacts, and these thresholds have been incorporated 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.

Demolition activities may have negative air quality impacts, including issues surrounding proper handling, demolition, and disposal of material. Notification requirements to the APCD may be required.

The project site is not located near any mapped occurrences of Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA); geotechnical borings on the site revealed alluvial materials and bedrock of the Paso Robles formation, which doesn't typically contain NOA. The nearest sensitive receptor is approximately 600 feet from the project site.

In their response to the project referral, the APCD recommended construction phase air quality mitigation measures listed in the mitigation/conclusion section below.

Impact. As proposed, the project will result in the disturbance of approximately 3.3 acres (approximately 144,000 square feet). This will result in the creation of construction dust, as well as short- and long-term vehicle emissions associated with construction activities. The project will be

moving less than 1,200 cubic yards/day of material and will disturb less than four acres of area, and therefore will be below the general thresholds triggering construction-related mitigation. The project is also not in close proximity to sensitive receptors that might otherwise result in nuisance complaints and be subject to limited dust and/or emission control measures during construction. The project, as described in the referral, will not likely exceed the APCD's CEQA significance threshold for construction phase emissions. However, construction activities can generate fugitive dust, which could be a nuisance to local residents and businesses in close proximity to the proposed construction site. APCD staff recommends the measures below be incorporated into the project to control dust.

From an operational standpoint, based on Table 1-1 of the CEQA Air Quality Handbook (2012), the project will not exceed operational thresholds triggering mitigation. The project is consistent with the general level of development anticipated and projected in the Clean Air Plan. No significant air quality impacts are expected to occur.

This project consists of replacing a low water crossing with a bridge. 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, no mitigation is required.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The Project's cumulative contribution to GHG emissions is limited to construction. The following mitigation measures will reduce internal combustion engine and dust impacts to a less than significant level.

[AQ-1] Portable equipment, 50 horsepower (hp) or greater, used during construction activities may require California statewide portable equipment registration (issued by the California Air Resources Board) or an APCD permit.The following list is provided as a guide to equipment and operations that may have permitting requirements, but should not be viewed as exclusive. For a more detailed listing, refer to the Technical Appendices, page 4-4, in the APCD's 2012 CEQA Handbook.

- Power screens, conveyors, diesel engines, and/or crushers;
- Portable generators and equipment with engines that are 50 hp or greater;
- Internal combustion engines;
- Rock and pavement crushing;
- Unconfined abrasive blasting operations;
- Tub grinders; and
- Trommel screens.

To minimize potential delays, prior to the start of the project, please contact the APCD Engineering Division at (805) 781-5912 for specific information regarding permitting requirements.

[AQ-2] Implement the following mitigation measures to significantly reduce fugitive dust emissions, to manage fugitive dust emissions such that they do not exceed the APCD 20% opacity limit (APCD Rule 401) and minimize nuisance impacts:

a. Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible;

b. Use water trucks, APCD approved dust suppressants (see Section 4.3 in the CEQA Air Quality Handbook), or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site and from exceeding the District's limit of 20% opacity for greater than 3 minutes in any 60 minute period. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible;

c. All dirt stock-pile areas should be sprayed daily and covered with tarps or other dust barriers as needed;
d. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible, and building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding, soil binders or other dust controls are used;
e. All of these fugitive dust mitigation measures shall be shown on grading and building plans; and,
f. The contractor shall designate a person or persons to monitor the fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress.

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 & Wildlife 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: blue oak woodland, valley oak woodland, Fremont cottonwood forest, fiddleneck fields, annual brome grassland, and ruderal

Name and distance from blue line creek(s): project spans Huerhuero Creek, a tributary to Salinas River

Habitat(s): pasture, riparian, barren

Site's tree canopy coverage: Approximately 15%

A Natural Environment Study was prepared for the project (CH2MHill 2015). A biological study area (BSA) was established to encompass the area of potential impact (API).

The vegetation types observed within the BSA included blue oak woodland (*Quercus douglasii* Alliance), Valley oak woodland (*Quercus lobata* Alliance), Fremont cottonwood forest (*Populus fremontii* Alliance), Fiddleneck fields (*Amsinckia menziesii, A. tessellata* Alliance), and annual brome grasslands (*Bromus diandrus, B. hordeaceus - Brachypodium distachyon*). Common wildlife in the project region includes many invertebrates, birds, reptiles, and mammals adapted for dry, hot summers and cool, wet winters including, but not limited to, the following: western side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana elegans*), yellow-billed magpie (*Pica nuttalli*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), black-tailed jack rabbit (*Lepus californicus*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*).

Huerhuero Creek is an ephemeral stream characterized by deciduous riparian forest. Huerhuero Creek is the only aquatic resource in the BSA. Huerhuero Creek spans approximately 27 mi from its headwaters south of Creston to its confluence with the Salinas River north of Paso Robles. Surface flows are infrequent as they depend on regional precipitation. The entire watershed traverses through private ranches, farmlands, and vineyards. As a result of these agricultural practices, the floodplain has been reduced to the width of its active flow channel buffered by a narrow riparian corridor.

The riparian corridor is characterized primarily by a wide, gently sloping, unvegetated channel with a slightly raised upper terrace to the east and south. The northwestern bank is steeply sloped and shows signs of scour and erosion from past flow events. The riparian corridor consisted of mature, phreatophytic native trees and shrubs including Fremont's cottonwood, red willow, and arroyo willow. In addition, a few isolated non-native tree of heaven saplings (*Ailanthus altissima*) were observed at the top of the western bank. A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) delineation technical memorandum was prepared and is included in the Natural Environment study as an appendix.

Huerhuero Creek is the main migration corridor for wildlife to disperse through the BSA and the surrounding project region. Mammal species can move easily up- and downstream through the floodplain to reach the hills to the north or the Salinas River Valley to the south. Aquatic species may migrate through the floodplain during ephemeral flows and connect to the Salinas River northwest of the BSA.

The following table lists special-status plant and animal species with known potential occurrence in the project vicinity or in the BSA based on the results of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) online searches in the Creston USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle and the surrounding eight quadrangles, and the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) results of federal- and state-listed species with known occurrences within 1-mi, 5-mi, and 10-mi radii of the BSA.

Special-Status Species and Critical Habitat with the Potential to Occur in the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State/ CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
Plants					
Arenaria paludicola	Marsh sandwort	FE/--/1B.1	Coastal wetlands and freshwater marshes in areas with or without standing water and in acidic, organic bog soils and sandy substrates with high organic content.	Absent	**None.** No suitable habitat present in BSA. No wetlands or freshwater marshes are in the BSA. In California, one wild population is known to occur at Oso Flaco Lake more than 10 mi south of the BSA, and one introduced population is on the southern edge of Morro Bay 24 mi from the BSA.
Calycadenia villosa	Dwarf calycadenia	--/--/1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows, valley and foothill grassland on rocky, fine	Present	**Moderate.** Marginally suitable habitat is present for this species within the fiddleneck fields and annual brome grassland communities in the BSA, although

Special-Status Species and Critical Habitat with the Potential to Occur in the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State/ CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
			soils.		the site is highly disturbed. CNDDB records list this species within the BSA or surrounding vicinity. Known to occur on the slopes of the Creston Cemetery approximately 4.5 mi southeast of the BSA.
Chlorogalum purpureum	Purple amole	FT/SR/1B.1	Cismontane woodland on serpentine; open areas with low vegetative cover in heavy clay soil.	Absent	**None.** No suitable serpentine or heavy clay soil habitat present within the BSA. Known to occur in southern Monterey County at Fort Liggett more than 5 mi northwest of the BSA and in northern San Luis Obispo County at Camp Roberts more than 5 mi northwest of the BSA. Designated critical habitat does not occur in the BSA.
Erlastrum luteum	Yellow-flowered erlastrum	--/--/4.3	Broadleafed upland forest, upland forest, cismontane woodland, chaparral, sandy or gravelly soil.	Present	**Moderate.** Marginally suitable soil present in the small area of blue oak woodland in the northeastern portion of the BSA. Nearest occurrence is approximately 8 mi south of the BSA.
Eriogonum elegans	Elegant wild buckwheat	--/--/1B.2	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, usually sandy or gravelly, often washes, sometimes roadsides.	Present	**High.** Suitable habitat present within the grassy fiddleneck fields on the low sandy terraces within the northeastern portion of the BSA.
Juncus luciensis	Santa Lucia dwarf rush	--/--/1B.2	Chaparral, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, vernal pools.	Absent	**None.** No suitable habitat within the BSA. Known to occur approximately 4 mi west of the BSA in damp grain fields.
Navarretia fossalis	Spreading navarretia	FT/--/1B.1	Vernal pools, chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps, and playas.	Absent	**None.** No suitable habitat within the BSA. No wetlands or chenopd scrub within the BSA. Known mostly from San Diego and Riverside Counties more than 5 mi south of the BSA. Nearest historical occurrence was observed in 1953 more than 5 mi southeast of the BSA near Creston, CA, toward Shandon, CA. Designated critical habitat does not occur in the BSA.
Navarretia nigelliformis ssp. *radians*	Shining navarretia	--/--/1B.2	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools, sometimes clay depressions.	Absent	**None.** No suitable habitat within the BSA. This species occurs in vernal pools and clay depressions within cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grasslands. There are no vernal pools and clay depressions within the woodland grassland habitats within the BSA. Known to occur within 5 mi east and south of the BSA.

Special-Status Species and Critical Habitat with the Potential to Occur in the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State/ CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
Invertebrates					
Branchinecta lynchi	Vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT, FCH/--/--	Vernal pools, ephemeral alkali pools, seasonal drainages, stock ponds, vernal swales, and rock outcrops.	Absent	**None.** Suitable habitats to support this species are not present within the BSA. Huerhuero Creek is characterized by ephemeral flows in response to rain events. Flows and ponding are temporary and short-lived (approximately 2 months in an average rainfall year). There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within the BSA or surrounding vicinity. Designated critical habitat does not occur in the BSA. The closest location is reported 4 mi south of the BSA in a disturbed vernal pool complex. With the lack of suitable habitats in the vicinity, the species' presence within the BSA is not expected.
Amphibians					
Amboystoma californiense	California tiger salamander	FT/ST/--	Grassland, oak savanna, and edges of mixed woodlands. Breeding: vernal pools, temporary rainwater ponds, permanent human-made ponds if predatory fishes are absent.	Breeding Absent/Dispersal Present	**None.** Suitable habitats to support breeding for this species are not present within the BSA. Huerhuero Creek is characterized by ephemeral flows in response to rain events. Flows and ponding are temporary and short-lived (approximately 2 months in an average rainfall year) and would not provide suitable aquatic conditions for the larval development stage. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 5 mi of the BSA or within the watershed. With the lack of suitable habitats for breeding in the vicinity, the species' presence within the BSA is not expected.
Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	FT, FCH/ SSC/–	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation; requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development; must have access to aestivation habitat.	Breeding Absent/Dispersal Present	**None.** Suitable habitats to support breeding for this species are not present within the BSA. Huerhuero Creek is characterized by ephemeral flows in response to rain events. Flows and ponding are temporary and short-lived (approximately 2 months in an average rainfall year) and would not provide suitable aquatic conditions for the larval development stage. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 5 mi of the BSA or within the watershed. Designated critical habitat does not occur in the BSA, nor do any recovery units. Presence/Absence surveys conducted in April and June 2011 resulted in negative findings for this species. With the lack of aquatic

Special-Status Species and Critical Habitat with the Potential to Occur in the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State/ CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
					habitats that last for 11-20 weeks in the vicinity, the species' presence within the BSA is not expected.
Rana boylii	Foothill yellow-legged frog	/--SSC/--	Inhabits partially shaded, rocky streams at low to moderate elevations in areas of chaparral, open woodland, and forest. Prefers partially shaded, small perennial streams, with at least some cobble-sized rocks; riffle areas and stream depth rarely greater than 3 feet. Requires 15 weeks of permanent water for larval development.	Breeding Absent/Dispersal Present	**None.** Suitable habitats to support breeding for this species are not present within the BSA. Huerhuero Creek is characterized by ephemeral flows in response to rain events. Flows and ponding are temporary and short-lived (approximately 2 months in an average rainfall year) and would not provide suitable aquatic conditions for the larval development stage. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 5 mi of the BSA or within the watershed. With the lack of aquatic habitats that last a minimum of 15 weeks in the vicinity, the species' presence within the BSA is not expected.
Spea hammondii	Western spadefoot	--/SSC/--	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying. Requires a minimum of 4 weeks of permanent water for larval development.	Present	**Present.** During the April 13, 2011 survey for CRLF, County Biologists observed 2 tadpoles in the BSA. One was located just upstream of Geneseo Road in a shallow pool adjacent to the low water crossing and the other tadpole was observed in a plunge pool downstream in the BSA. The site was surveyed again on April 27, 2011 and one tadpole was observed in the downstream pool. The upstream pool was dry. By June 2011, the pool downstream was dry.
Taricha torosa	Coast Range newt	--/SSC/--	Coastal drainages from Mendocino to San Diego County. Lives in terrestrial habitats and will migrate more than 1 mile to breed in ponds, reservoirs, and slow-moving streams.	Absent	**None.** Known only from coastal drainages in California. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 5 mi of the BSA or within the watershed. Since the BSA is out of this species' range, its presence within the BSA is not expected.
Reptiles					
Anniella pulchra	Silvery legless lizard	--/SSC/--	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Soil moisture is essential, they prefer soils with a high moisture content.	Absent	**None.** Suitable habitats to support this species are not present within the BSA. Sandy or loose, loamy soils with high moisture content are not present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 5 mi of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is not expected.
Emys marmorata	Western pond turtle	--/SSC/--	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers,	Present	**Low.** Huerhuero Creek is characterized by ephemeral flows in response to rain events. Flows and

Special-Status Species and Critical Habitat with the Potential to Occur in the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State/ CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
			streams, and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation; need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat for egg-laying.		ponding are temporary and short-lived (approximately 2 months in an average rainfall year) but that may be sufficient to provide suitable habitat for this species. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 5 mi of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is unlikely.
Fishes					
Oncorhynchus mykiss	South Central California Coast Steelhead DPS	FT, FCH/--/--	Coolwater streams and rivers with sufficient year-round flows and adequate water temperatures south of Pajaro River to Mexico.	Absent	**None.** Suitable permanent aquatic habitat to support this species is not present within the BSA. Huerhuero Creek is characterized by ephemeral flows in response to rain events. Flows and ponding are temporary and short-lived (approximately 2 months in an average rainfall year) and would not provide suitable aquatic conditions for this species. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 5 mi of the BSA. Designated critical habitat does not occur in the BSA. The closest designated critical habitat is in the upper Salinas River watershed, more than 15 river mi to the northwest. The species' presence within the BSA is not expected.
Birds					
Ammodramus savannarum	Grasshopper sparrow	--/SSC/	Dense grasslands on rolling hills, lowland plains, in valleys and on hillsides on lower mountain slopes. Favors native grasslands with mix of grasses, forbs, and scattered shrubs. Loosely colonial when nesting.	Present	**Low.** Marginal habitat to support this species is present within the BSA. Hillsides within the BSA are dominated by non-native annual grasses and forbs. BSA lacks scattered shrubs. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 10 mi of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is unlikely.
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden eagle	--/FP, WL/--	Ocean shore, lake margins, and rivers for both nesting and wintering. Nests within 1 mi of water in large, open-branched live trees.	Present	**Moderate.** Suitable habitat for nesting and foraging is present within the BSA. The closest CNDDB records listed for this species are within 7 mi of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is moderately likely.
Buteo regalis	Ferruginous hawk	--/WL/--	Open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills, and fringes of pinyon-juniper habitats.	Breeding Absent/Foraging Present	**Low.** Winter migrant. Suitable habitat for foraging is present within the BSA. The closest CNDDB record of winter migrants is approximately 12 mi south of the BSA. The likeliness of the species' presence within the BSA during the construction period (April to

Special-Status Species and Critical Habitat with the Potential to Occur in the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State/ CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
					October) is low.
Elanus leucurus	White-tailed kite	--/FP/--	Nests in rolling foothills/valley margins w/scattered oaks and river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland.	Present	**Moderate.** Suitable habitat for nesting and foraging is present within the BSA. The closest CNDDB records listed for this species are within 7 mi of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is moderately likely.
Empidonax traillii extimus	Southwestern willow flycatcher	FE/SE/--	Mesic willow thickets or willow riparian habitats with permanent water source, often in the form of low-gradient watercourses, ponds, lakes, wet meadows, marshes, and seeps within or adjacent to forested landscapes.	Absent	**None.** Suitable permanent water sources to support this species are not present within the BSA. Huerhuero Creek is characterized by ephemeral flows in response to rain events. Flows are temporary and short-lived (approximately 2 months in an average rainfall year) and would not provide suitable aquatic conditions for this species. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 20 mi of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is not expected.
Falco mexicanus	Prairie falcon	--/WL/--	Inhabits dry, open terrain, breeding sites located on cliffs. Forages far afield, even to marshlands and ocean shores.	Nesting Absent/Foraging Present	**Low.** Suitable habitat for nesting is not present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 7 mi of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is unlikely.
Falco peregrinus anatum	American peregrine falcon	--/FP/--	Near rivers, on cliffs, banks, dunes, mounds, or human architecture. Nest is a scrape in a depression or a ledge in an open site.	Nesting Absent/Foraging Present	**Low.** Suitable habitat for nesting is not present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 10 mi of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is unlikely.
Gymnogyps californianus	California condor	FE/SE, FP/--	Cavity nester on steep rock formations or burned out hollow conifer trees. May nest on cliffs, conifer snags, or other species nests.	Nesting Absent/Foraging Present	**Low.** Suitable habitat for nesting is not present in the BSA. There are no CNDDB records listed for this species within 50 mi of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is unlikely.
Progne subis	Purple martin	--/SSC/--	Woodlands and forests within old woodpecker cavities of an isolated tree or snag.	Present	**Low.** Suitable woodland habitat present within the BSA. The closest CNDDB location is approximately 10 mi southwest of the BSA along Atascadero Creek in sycamore riparian forest. It is the only known nesting site for this species in the county. The species' presence within the BSA is unlikely.
Vireo bellii pusillus	Least Bell's vireo	FE/SE/--	Summer resident of southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms below 2,000 ft. Nests placed along	Present	**Low.** Marginal habitat for nesting and foraging is present along Huerhuero Creek within the BSA, outside of the API. The closest CNDDB record listed for this species is approximately 9 mi northwest of

Special-Status Species and Critical Habitat with the Potential to Occur in the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State/ CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
			margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually in willow, mulefat, and mesquite trees from end of March to late September.		the BSA along the Salinas River. This CNDDB record was for a singing male observed at the Nacimiento Water Project's north Salinas River (CNDDB 2005) crossing from late spring into early summer, 2005. A female was also detected on one occasion at the same location (CNDDB 2005). The pair were not seen on three subsequent visits. There have been no documented breeding records in San Luis Obispo County since an egg set was collected in 1947 in Paso Robles The likelihood of the species' presence within the BSA is low.
Mammals					
Antrozous pallidus	Pallid bat	--/SSC/--	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forests. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. In California, common in oak woodlands and grasslands. Very sensitive to disturbance to roost sites.	Present	**Moderate.** Suitable roosting habitat occurs in BSA. The closest CNDDB record listed for this species is within 14 mi south of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is moderately likely.
Corynrhinus townsendii	Townsend's big-eared bat	--/PSC, SSC/--	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites and use caves, trees, and human-made structures such as abandoned buildings to roost. Sensitive to human disturbances.	Present	**Moderate.** Suitable roosting habitat occurs in BSA. The closest CNDDB record listed for this species is within 12 mi south of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is moderately likely.
Taxidea taxus	American badger	--/SSC/--	Forest, shrub, and herbaceous habitats; prey on burrowing rodents.	Present	**High.** Suitable habitat present with several large excavated burrows observed in the northeastern portion of the BSA. Friable soils with prey base present. Known from past occurrences in the area for over the past 15 years (pers. comm., Steve Sellwood 2014). Closest known locations are approximately 8 mi southwest of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is highly likely.
Vulpes macrotis mutica	San Joaquin kit fox	FE/ST/--	Annual grasslands or grassy open stages with scattered shrubby vegetation. Needs loose-textured sandy soils for burrowing and	Present	**Moderate.** Suitable habitat present with potential burrows observed in the grasslands in the northeastern and southeastern portions of the BSA, outside of the API. Friable soils with prey base present. A fox

Special-Status Species and Critical Habitat with the Potential to Occur in the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal/ State/ CNPS Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent	Rationale
			suitable prey base.		was reported from the northeastern portion of the BSA approximately 15 years ago (pers. comm., Steve Sellwood 2014). This area is now designated as a USFWS conservation easement for the species. Closest known recorded locations are approximately 5 mi southeast of the BSA. The species' presence within the BSA is moderately likely, but low in the API as foxes do not typically den in creekbeds or washes.

Sources: CDFW 2014, CNPS 2014, USFWS 2014.

Notes:

[1] Federal Status:
FCH – Designated Federal Critical Habitat
FE – Federally endangered
FT – Federally threatened
PFC – Proposed Federal Candidate Species
DPS – Distinct Population Segment

State Status:
FP – State Fully Protected
PSC – Proposed State Candidate Species
SE – State endangered
SSC – California Department of Fish and Wildlife Species of Special Concern
ST – State threatened
WL – State Watch List

CNPS Ranks:
1B.1 = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; ranked as seriously threatened in California
1B.2 = Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; ranked as moderately threatened in California
4.3 = Limited distribution (Watch List); not very endangered in California

Potential for Species Occurrence can be generally defined as follows:

None: Habitat within the BSA does not satisfy the species' requirements and/or the Project is not within the known or expected range of the species. No known occurrences have been reported from the Project region (in San Luis Obispo County or Huerhuero Creek Watershed). The species' presence within the BSA is not expected.

Low: Habitat within the BSA satisfies very few of the species' requirements and/or the known or expected range of the species is within the Project region. In addition, no known occurrences have been reported from the BSA or in close proximity. The species' presence within the BSA is unlikely.

Moderate: Habitat within the BSA meets some of the species' requirements and known locations for the species are found in the region of the Project. Presence of the species within the BSA is moderately likely.

High: Habitat within the BSA meets most or all of the species' requirements and known locations for the species are found within the Project region. Presence of the species within the BSA is highly likely.

Present: Species observed within the BSA during current or previous surveys.

Huerhuero Creek and its associated riparian habitat dominated by Fremont's cottonwood and arroyo willow are considered a sensitive community of concern. Huerhuero Creek is an ephemeral stream characterized by a mix of substrates including sand, gravel, and cobbles up to the ordinary high water mark with little to no understory vegetation. Adjacent wetlands were not present within the BSA, as all three criteria (wetland vegetation, soils, and hydrology) required for jurisdictional wetlands were not observed. The project site is outside of CDFW's SJKF mitigation ratio area.

Impact. The project would result in temporary and permanent impacts to Huerhuero Creek and its associated riparian habitat. Temporary and permanent impacts to these potentially jurisdictional features are listed below.

Impacts to USACE Waters of the U.S. and RWQCB Waters of the State

Feature	Permanent Impact (acre)	Temporary Impact (acre)	Project Activity
Potential USACE Waters of the U.S. and RWQCB Waters of the State Features			
Huerhuero Creek	0.02	0.07	Installation of bridge abutments and pier pilings.
Total Impacts to Potential Waters of the U.S. and State Features	0.02	0.07	
Potential CDFW Features			
Huerhuero Creek	0.02	0.07	Installation of bridge abutments and pier pilings.
Riparian Habitat	0.01	0.27	Installation of bridge abutments and roadway approach
Total Impact to CDFW Features	0.03	0.34	

Permanent and temporary impacts to these potentially jurisdictional features would result from clearing and grubbing vegetation, excavating the soil, installing the new bridge components and widening the roadway approach for the project.

Indirect impacts to Huerhuero Creek and its associated riparian habitat, such as erosion or sedimentation, would be avoided or minimized by implementing the applicable mitigation measures (see below).

The project would also result in beneficial impacts to Huerhuero Creek. The project would remove the low water crossing and install a bridge that would improve the span of the creek's floodplain, resulting in improved habitat conditions in the creek. The removal of the crossing will enable seasonal freshwater plant species and habitat conditions to become re-established in the area currently covered by the concrete crossing, increasing the function and value of the habitat for a variety of aquatic wildlife species.

There was only suitable foraging habitat for San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF) observed in the API. No potential burrows or sign of SJKF activity were found in the API during the reconnaissance surveys. The proposed project would result in the permanent loss of approximately 0.20 ac (0.19 ac open grassland, 0.01 ac Fremont cottonwood forest) of SJKF habitat, which represents potential foraging habitat for this species, and temporary effects to approximately 1.46 ac (1.14 open grassland, 0.32 Fremont cottonwood forest) of SJKF habitat. Permanent effects include the loss of open grasslands to accommodate the new bridge abutments and roadway approach improvements. Temporary effects include disturbances to suitable habitat during construction of the project to provide access and staging areas.

Although there is a low probability of SJKF occurring within the BSA, if individuals do occur in the API during construction activities, individuals could be struck and suffer injury or mortality from construction machinery or from increased construction-related traffic on the road during the construction process, and/or become inadvertently entrapped during the construction phase of the project. Strict adherence to the avoidance and minimization measures discussed below is expected to minimize and/or avoid these effects on the species. Furthermore, based on the fact that the species' presence within the BSA is not expected and the total amount of permanent and temporary

habitat lost as a result of project-related activities is minute and of lesser quality compared to the suitable habitat available regionally, implementation of the project may affect but is not likely to adversely affect SJKF. The natural vegetation types within the BSA are generally considered common enough to not be of concern as ranked by CDFW, with the exception of Fremont cottonwood forest and Valley oak woodland.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The following mitigation measures will ensure that impacts to biological resources resulting from the project are less than significant:

[BR-1] All construction personnel will attend an environmental education program delivered by a qualified biologist prior to initial ground disturbance. At a minimum, the program will include a description of SJKF, American badger, roosting bats, migratory birds, and their habitats; the occurrence of these species within the project footprint and boundary; and an explanation of the status of these species and protection under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The program will include an explanation of how to best avoid the accidental take of SJKF, American badger, and roosting bats. The qualified biologist will conduct a training session scheduled as a mandatory informational field meeting by the Resident Engineer for all construction contractor personnel. The field meeting will include topics on species identification, life history, descriptions, and habitat requirements during various life stages. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of the habitat and life stage requirements within the context of project maps showing areas where avoidance and minimization measures are being implemented. The program will include an explanation of applicable federal and state laws protecting endangered species as well as the importance of compliance with Caltrans and various resource agency conditions. Upon completion of the training program, personnel will sign a form stating that they attended the program and understand all the avoidance and minimization measures and implications of FESA.

[BR-2] Qualified biologists will conduct preconstruction clearance surveys for SJKF, migratory birds including raptors, roosting bats, and American badger. The biologists will be current with the latest information on protocols and guidelines and have thorough and current knowledge of the species' behavior, natural history, ecology, and physiology. If special-status species or active nest sites of bird species protected under the MBTA are observed within the vicinity of the API, then activities shall be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid take as per the appropriate protocols established through communications with the local resource agencies (i.e., construction buffers, biological monitoring, report documentation, etc.).

[BR-3] Qualified biologists will oversee all project construction activities with the potential to affect SJKF, migratory birds including raptors, roosting bats, and American badger. Biological monitors will oversee proper implementation of permit conditions. Documentation of project activities shall be submitted to the County summarizing project compliance with applicable permit avoidance and mitigation measures.

[BR-4] To prevent inadvertent entrapment of SJKF or other animals during construction, at the end of each work day, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 ft deep will be covered with plywood or similar materials or will be equipped with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals by the onsite biological monitor or construction personnel trained by the monitor. If a trapped SJKF or American badger is discovered, Caltrans will be immediately notified and will coordinate with the USFWS.

[BR-5] Project-related vehicle traffic will be restricted to established roads, construction areas, and other designated areas. These areas also will be included in preconstruction surveys and, to the maximum extent practicable, will be established in locations disturbed by previous activities to prevent further adverse effects. Project-related vehicles will observe a 20-mile-per-hour speed limit while in the boundary. Project employees will be provided with written guidance governing vehicle use, fire prevention, and other hazards.

[BR-6] Prior to, during, and after the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, use of pesticides or herbicides shall be in compliance with all local, state and federal regulations. This is necessary to minimize the probability of primary or secondary poisoning of endangered species utilizing adjacent habitats, and the depletion of prey upon which SJKFs depend.

[BR-7] To prevent attracting wildlife and avoid degrading habitat, food-related trash items, such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps, will be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once per day from the construction site.

[BR-8] Construction activities shall be limited to daylight hours (7:00 am to 5:00 pm) Monday through Friday. If weekend construction is approved, work may begin at 8:00 am but must conclude by 5:00 pm. Grading and construction activities after dusk shall be prohibited unless coordinated through the County, during which additional SJKF avoidance and minimization measures may be required.

[BR-9] Areas that are temporarily affected during construction will be reseeded with an assemblage of native vegetation appropriate for the area. The County will comply with Presidential Executive Order 13112 (Federal Register 1999) to reduce the spread of invasive, non-native plant species and minimize the potential decrease of palatable vegetation for wildlife. The temporarily disturbed restoration areas will be subjected to general restoration concepts and methods, including identifying locally native plant material, protecting and restoring soil conditions, irrigation as necessary, and controlling aggressive invasive species.

[BR-10] No firearms will be allowed in the project boundary by construction personnel. Those carried by authorized security personnel or local, state, or federal law enforcement officials are permitted.

[BR-11] Dedicated fueling and refueling areas will be designated as part of the approved Water Pollution Control Program. Dedicated fueling areas will be protected from stormwater run-on and runoff and will be located at least 50 ft from downslope drainage facilities and water courses. Fueling will be performed on level-grade areas. Onsite fueling will only be used when it is impractical to send vehicles and equipment offsite for fueling. When fueling must occur onsite, the contractor will designate an area to be used, subject to the approval of the Resident Engineer. Drip pans or absorbent pads will be used during onsite vehicle and equipment fueling. Additional construction site BMPs are as follows:

a. The potential for adverse effects to water quality will be minimized by implementing the temporary and permanent BMPs outlined in the Caltrans Standard Specifications. Caltrans erosion control BMPs will be used to minimize wind- or water-related erosion. Caltrans requires that a Water Pollution Control Program addressing control measures be prepared and implemented by the construction contractor for projects resulting in soil disturbance of less than 1 acre.

b. The Caltrans Construction Site BMPs Manual is comprehensive and includes many other protective measures and guidance to prevent and minimize pollutant discharges and can be found at the following Web site: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/manuals.htm

   Protective measures will be included in the contract, including, at a minimum, the following:

   - No discharge of pollutants from vehicle and equipment cleaning will be allowed into the storm drain or water courses.
   - Vehicle and equipment fueling and maintenance operations will be at least 50 ft away from water courses.

[BR-12] Concrete wastes will be collected in washouts, and water from curing operations will be collected and disposed of and will not be allowed into water courses. All grindings and asphalt concrete waste will be stored within previously disturbed areas absent of habitat and at a minimum of 150 ft from any downstream riparian habitat, aquatic habitat, culvert, or drainage feature.

[BR-13] BMPs will be installed along or at the base of unvegetated slopes during construction to capture sediment and control erosion. Erosion/sediment control BMPs include the following:

a. Work areas where temporary disturbance has removed the pre-existing vegetation will be restored and re-seeded with a native seed mix.

b. Graded areas will be protected from sedimentation and erosion using a combination of silt fences, fiber rolls along toe of slopes or along edges of designated staging areas, erosion-control netting (such as jute or coir), and organic hydromulching, as appropriate, on sloped areas.

c. Plastic monofilament netting (erosion control matting, fiber rolls) or similar material will not be used at the project site because small animal species may become entangled or trapped in it. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydroseeding compounds.

[BR-14] Precautionary measures developed from the *USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (USFWS 2011) will be undertaken in order to ensure that no kit foxes are impacted by project activities. The project is judged to meet the definition of a "small project", which according to these recommendations specifically includes stand-alone bridge repair projects. Thus, the avoidance and minimization measures that will be implemented include the following:

- All surveys, den destructions, and monitoring related to the SJKF must be conducted by a qualified biologist.
- A qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance and/or construction activities or any project activity likely to impact the SJKF. Surveys should identify SJKF habitat features on the project site and evaluate use by SJKF and, if possible, assess the potential impacts to the SJKF by the proposed activity. The status of all dens should be determined and mapped.
- Written results of pre-construction/pre-activity surveys will be submitted to Caltrans; Caltrans will notify the Service within five days after survey completion and prior to the start of ground disturbance and/or construction activities.
- If a natal or pupping den is discovered within the project area or within 200 ft of the project boundary, Caltrans shall be notified immediately, and shall in turn notify the USFWS. If the pre-construction survey reveals an active natal or pupping den or new information relating to the presence of SJKF within the BSA, Caltrans will contact the USFWS immediately to obtain the necessary take/authorization permit. The County will notify CDFW immediately if natal or pupping den is discovered during pre-construction survey, or at any time during project implementation. If a den is found, measures to avoid impacts to the den (including buffers and seasonal restrictions on work near the den) will be implemented, and if necessary, SJKF will be evicted after the non-breeding season.

[BR-15] Furthermore, in order to minimize and avoid impacts to SJKF during construction activities, the County, in coordination with Caltrans, will ensure that construction activities adhere to the Construction And On-Going Operation Requirements described in the *USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (USFWS 2011), which include the following:

1. Project-related vehicles should observe a daytime speed limit of 20-mph throughout the site in all project related areas, expect on county roads and State and Federal highways; this is particularly important at night when kit SJKF are most active. Night-time construction should be minimized to the extent possible. However, if it does occur, then the speed limit should be reduced to 10-mph. Off-road traffic outside of designated project areas should be prohibited.
2. To prevent inadvertent entrapment of SJKF or other animals during the construction phase of

a project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2-feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured SJKF is discovered, the USFWS and CDFW shall be contacted as noted under measure 13 referenced below.

3. SJKF are attracted to den-like structures such as pipes and may ender stored pipes and become trapped or injured. All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4-inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods should be thoroughly inspected for SJKF before the pipe is subsequently buried, caped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a SJK is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe should not be moved until the USFWS has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped.
4. All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.
5. No firearms shall be allowed on the project site.
6. No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the project site to prevent harassment, mortality of SJKF, or destruction of dens.
7. Use of rodenticides and herbicides in project areas should be restricted. This is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of SJKF and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and Federal legislation, as well as additional project-related restrictions deemed necessary by the USFWS. If rodent control mush be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of a proven lower risk to SJKF.
8. A representative shall be appointed by the project proponent who will be the contact source for nay employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a SJKF or who finds a dead, injured, or entrapped SJKF. The representative will be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number shall be provided to the USFWS.
9. An employee education program should be conducted for any project that has anticipated impacts to SJKF or other endangered species. The program should consist of a brief presentation by persons knowledgeable in SJKF biology and legislative protection to explain endangered species concerns to contractors, their employees, and military and/or agency personnel involved in the project. The program should include the following: A description of SJKF and its habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of SJKF in the project area; an explanation of the status of the species and its protection under the FESA; and a list of measures being taken to reduce impacts to the species during project construction and implementation. A fact sheet conveying this information should be prepared for distribution to the previously reference people and anyone else who may enter the project site.
10. Upon completion of the project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances, including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc. should be re-contoured if necessary, and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions. An area subject to "temporary disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the project, but after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated. Appropriate methods and plant species used to revegetate such areas should be determined on a site-specific basis in consultation with the USFWS, CDFW, and revegetation experts.

11. In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures should be installed immediately to allow the animal to escape, or the USFWS should be contacted for guidance.
12. Any contractor, employee, or military or agency personnel who are responsible for inadvertently killing or injuring a SJKF shall immediately report the incident to the representative. This representative shall contact CDFW immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox.
13. The Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office and CDFW shall be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a SJKF during project related activities. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information.
14. New sightings of SJKF shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). A copy of the reporting form and a topographical map clearly marked with the location of where the SJKF was observed should also be provided to the USFWS.

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 Salinan. The area would be considered culturally sensitive due to the presence of Huerhuero Creek (stream in the County are often associated with prehistoric occupation). A Phase I (surface) survey was conducted (Ballantyne 2014). This study identified a potential prehistoric site within the Project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). The site is a very sparse lithic scatter.

An Extended Phase I archaeological investigation of the site was conducted in October 2014 (Albion 2014). This investigation indicated potential significant cultural materials within the Project APE, warranting further archaeological investigation. Subsequently, a Phase II evaluation was conducted (Albion 2015). This study found that the portion of the archaeological site within the APE is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion "D," Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Under Criterion "D," significant cultural resources are defined as those "that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history."

No historic structures are present and no paleontological resources are known to exist in the area.

Impact. The site consists of a low to moderate density lithic scatter. Based on the findings of the Phase II evaluation, Albion determined that the Project will not cause an adverse effect to a historic property, and no further archaeological work is recommended.

The Project is receiving funding from Caltrans as a part of their Federal Highway Bridge Program. It is Caltrans policy to avoid cultural resources whenever possible. If buried cultural materials are encountered during construction, it is Caltrans policy that work stop in that area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find. Additional surveys will be required if the Project changes to include areas not previously surveyed.

A record search of the *Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File* failed to indicate the presence of Native American traditional cultural place(s) for the project site (letter from NAHC in project file). Consultation with Native American tribes pursuant to AB 52 was conducted during preparation of the Initial Study; no tribes requested consultation.

Paleontological resources are not expected to occur on the site. Furthermore, the project will require only a few deep excavations for the bridge piles, and no other deep excavations that could result in significant effects on paleontological resources.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant cultural resource impacts are expected to occur, and no mitigation measures beyond those already built into the Project are necessary.

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*?***	☐	☐	☐	☒
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. A geotechnical study (foundation report) is being prepared for the project. Logs of test borings document alluvial soils and bedrock of the Paso Robles formation. The following relates to the project's geologic aspects or conditions:

Topography: Gently sloping to steeply sloping with prominent drainage course

Within County's Geologic Study Area?: No

Landslide Risk Potential: Moderate

Liquefaction Potential: Low to moderate

Nearby potentially active faults?: Yes Distance? Approximately 2 miles to the west

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

Shrink/Swell potential of soil: Low

Other notable geologic features? None

Impact. As proposed, the project will result in the disturbance of approximately 3.3 acres (including existing paved areas). Geneseo Road will be closed to through traffic during construction; this will make portions of the roadway available for staging, minimizing the impact to other lands.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

7. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
g) Increase fire hazard risk or expose people or structures to high wildland fire hazard conditions?	☐	☒	☐	☐
h) Be within a 'very high' fire hazard severity zone?	☐	☐	☐	☒
I) Be within an area classified as a 'state responsibility' area as defined by CalFire?	☐	☐	☐	☐
j) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The project is not located in an area of known hazardous material contamination. The project is within a 'high' severity risk area for fire. The project is not within the Airport Review area. Cal Fire's response to the project referral indicated no significant concerns, however a pre-construction safety briefing will be held with the contractor and Public Works.

Impact. The project will temporarily introduce potentially hazardous materials into the area in the form of fuel, fluids and lubricants in construction equipment. All equipment will be staged on the road or in designated staging areas. 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. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur (refer to BR-11 & BR-12).

The project is not found on the 'Cortese List' (which is a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5). The project does not present a significant fire safety risk. The project is not expected to conflict with any regional emergency response or evacuation plan.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The following mitigation measures in addition to those regarding fuel and fluid handling under the Biological Resources Section will bring project impacts to a less than significant level:

[HM-1] All work will be conducted in accordance to CAL-OSHA and EPA regulations.

[HM-2] Work personnel will be educated on worker safety and appropriate disposal methods prior to handling hazardous materials.

[HM-3] Any staging or equipment/vehicle parking areas shall be free of combustible vegetation and work crews shall have shovels and a fire extinguisher on site during all construction activities.

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

8. NOISE

Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
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. The project is not within close proximity of loud noise sources, and will not conflict with any sensitive noise receptors (e.g., residences). Based on the Noise Element's projected future noise generation from known stationary and vehicle-generated noise sources, the project is within an acceptable threshold area. In the project vicinity, Geneseo Road in a narrow two-way paved road with minimal unpaved shoulders. Vehicle volumes and speeds are very low. Existing noise levels are also very low. The dominant land use is pasture. Within 500 feet of Geneseo Road in the project area, there are no residences.

Impact. A traffic noise assessment was prepared for the project by the County's consultant. The following summarizes the findings of this assessment. The physical alteration of the existing highway does not create a substantial horizontal or vertical alignment alteration. The characteristics of Geneseo Road do not provide for vehicle volumes or speeds to generate significant traffic noise. Consequently, no further traffic noise investigations are warranted.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant noise impacts are anticipated, and no 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. Bridge installation activities are not anticipated to result in substantial growth, development, or create a need for substantial housing in the Paso Robles area. The Project will not displace existing housing or people or require construction of replacement housing. Additionally, the project will not result in substantial use of fuel or energy.

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 significant population and housing impacts are anticipated. No significant impacts are anticipated and 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: Templeton (Approximately 15 miles to the west)

Fire: Cal Fire (formerly CDF) Hazard Severity: High Response Time: 5-10 minutes

Location: Approximately 6 miles to the south and 7 miles to the northwest

School District: Not Applicable

In their response to the County's referral, Cal Fire indicated no significant concerns with the project, but "maintaining emergency vehicle access to both sides of Huerhuero Creek from Geneseo Road will be addressed" in a meeting following initiation of construction (Cal Fire 10/9/14). Outreach to the emergency providers and others will occur prior to construction to allow for planning alternative routes.

For additional information regarding fire hazard impacts, see the 'Hazards and Hazardous Materials'

section.

Impact. No significant project-specific impacts to utilities or public services were identified. This project, will not contribute to a cumulative demand on public services.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No impact to public services was identified and no mitigation is necessary.

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. The County's Parks and Recreation Element does not show that a potential trail goes through the proposed Project. The Project is not proposed in a location that will affect any trail, park, recreational resource, coastal access, and/or Natural Area.

Impact. The proposed Project will not create a significant need for additional park, Natural Area, and/or recreational resources.

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/Impact. The Project is located in a rural area. Geneseo Road accommodates relatively light traffic volumes, averaging approximately 730 vehicles/day (2006 data). Geneseo Road will be closed to through traffic between Linne Road and Creston Road during Project construction (approximately six months). This small amount of additional traffic will not result in a significant change to the existing road service or traffic safety levels. The project does not conflict with adopted policies, plans and programs on transportation.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant traffic impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures above what are already required by ordinance 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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Adversely affect community wastewater service provider?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting/Impact. The Project involves replacing a low water crossing with a bridge which is not anticipated to generate waste or wastewater or adversely affect wastewater facilities and solid waste capacity. A portable chemical toilet will be available for use by construction crews. No impacts resulting from wastewater would occur as a result of the 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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. Huerhuero Creek courses through the site. Huerhuero Creek originates to the southeast in the mountainous area within Los Padres National Forest. Its confluence with the Salinas River is approximately 1.3 miles north of the Paso Robles city limit. Via the creek, the site is approximately 14.9 miles southeast of the Salinas River. A hydrology and hydraulic study report documented the tributary watershed for Huerhuero Creek at the proposed bridge crossing at approximately 64,000 acres or 100 square miles (San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department 2015).

The topography of the Project is gently sloping to steeply sloping with a prominent drainage (Huerhuero Creek courses through the site). As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the soil surface is considered to have low erodibility.

Projects involving more than one acre of disturbance are subject to preparing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to minimize on-site sedimentation and erosion. Temporary and permanent erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented during and after construction activities are complete (BR-10 and BR-13).

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

Within the 100-year Flood Hazard designation? Yes

Closest creek? Huerhuero Creek Distance? On-site

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 project's soil erodibility is as follows:

Soil erodibility: Low

Impact – Water Quality/Hydrology

With regards to project impacts on water quality the following conditions apply:

- ✓ Approximately 3.3 acres of site disturbance is proposed and the movement of approximately 159,000 cubic yards of material;
- ✓ The project will be subject to standard County requirements for drainage, sedimentation and erosion control for construction and permanent use;
- ✓ The project will be disturbing over an acre and will be required to prepare a SWPPP, which will be implemented during construction;
- ✓ The project is not on highly erodible soils, nor on moderate to steep slopes;
- ✓ A portion of the project is within a 100-year Flood Hazard designation;
- ✓ The project will span Huerhuero Creek;
- ✓ All disturbed areas will be permanently stabilized with impermeable surfaces and landscaping;
- ✓ Post-construction requirements designed to infiltrate drainage water will be installed;
- ✓ Stockpiles will be properly managed during construction to avoid material loss due to erosion;
- ✓ All hazardous materials and/or wastes will be properly stored on-site, which include secondary containment should spills or leaks occur;

Water Quantity

During construction the Project will require a limited amount of non-potable water for dust control and compaction. The construction contractor will be responsible for providing this water (typically non-potable).

Mitigation/Conclusion. As specified above for water quality, existing regulations and/or required plans will adequately address surface water quality impacts during construction and permanent use of the project. No additional measures above what are required or proposed are needed to protect water quality.

Based on the limited amount of water to be used (only for construction uses), no significant impacts from water use are anticipated.

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, Local Coastal Plan, etc.). Referrals were sent to outside agencies to review for policy consistencies (e.g., CAL FIRE for Fire Code, APCD for Clean Air Plan, etc.). The project was found to be consistent with these documents (refer also to Exhibit A on reference documents used).

The project is not within or adjacent to a Habitat Conservation Plan area. 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 pre-history?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 Department has 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 Services	**Not Applicable**
☒	County Agricultural Commissioner's Office	**Attached**
☐	County Airport Manager	**Not Applicable**
☐	Airport Land Use Commission	**Not Applicable**
☒	Air Pollution Control District	**Attached**
☐	County Sheriff's Department	**Not Applicable**
☐	Regional Water Quality Control Board	**Not Applicable**
☐	CA Coastal Commission	**Not Applicable**
☒	CA Department of Fish and Wildlife	**None**
☒	CA Department of Forestry (Cal Fire)	**Attached**
☐	CA Department of Transportation	**Not Applicable**
☐	Community Services District	**Not Applicable**
☐	Other _____	**Not Applicable**
☐	Other _____	**Not Applicable**

*** "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

- ☐ Coastal Plan Policies
- ☒ Framework for Planning (Coastal/Inland)
- ☒ General Plan (Inland/Coastal), includes all maps/elements; more pertinent elements:
  - ☒ Agriculture Element
  - ☒ Conservation & Open Space Element
  - ☐ Economic Element
  - ☒ Housing Element
  - ☒ Noise Element
  - ☐ Parks & Recreation Element/Project List
  - ☒ Safety Element
- ☒ Land Use Ordinance (Inland/Coastal)
- ☐ Building and Construction Ordinance
- ☒ Public Facilities Fee Ordinance
- ☐ Real Property Division Ordinance
- ☒ Affordable Housing Fund
- ☐ Airport Land Use Plan
- ☐ Energy Wise Plan
- ☒ North County Area Plan/El Pomar-Estrella SA and Update EIR
- ☐ Design Plan
- ☐ Specific Plan
- ☒ Annual Resource Summary Report
- ☐ Circulation Study

Other documents

- ☒ Clean Air Plan/APCD Handbook
- ☒ Regional Transportation Plan
- ☒ Uniform Fire Code
- ☒ Water Quality Control Plan (Central Coast Basin – Region 3)
- ☒ Archaeological Resources Map
- ☒ Area of Critical Concerns Map
- ☒ Special Biological Importance Map
- ☒ CA Natural Species Diversity Database
- ☒ Fire Hazard Severity Map
- ☒ Flood Hazard Maps
- ☒ Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey for SLO County
- ☒ 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:

Albion Environmental, Inc. 2014. Extended Phase I Archaeological Investigations for the Geneseo Road Bridge Replacement Project: BRLO-5949 (120), State Bridge No. 00L0040

Albion Environmental, Inc. 2015. Phase II Archaeological Evaluation Investigations for the Geneseo Road Bridge Replacement Project: BRLO-5949 (120), State Bridge No. 00L0040

CH2M HILL, Inc. 2015. Geneseo Road Bridge at Huerhuero Creek Project, Natural Environment Study

CH2M HILL, Inc. 2014. Traffic Noise Assessment Geneseo Road over Huer Huero Creek San Luis Obispo County, California

County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works. 2015. Biological Assessment, Geneseo Road Bridge at Huerhuero Creek Project

County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works. 2014. Archaeological Survey Report, Geneseo Road Bridge at Huerhuero Creek Project, Paso Robles, San Luis Obispo County, BRLO-5949(120).

San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department. 2015. Hydrologic and Hydraulic Study Report for the Proposed Bridge Crossing at Geneseo Road and Huerhuero Creek.

Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary Table

Per Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, the following measures also constitute the mitigation monitoring and/or reporting program that will reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels.

Agricultural Resources

[AG-1] During construction, ensure access for agricultural operations.

[AG-2] Implement dust control measures.

[AG-3] Locate temporary staging areas off of agricultural land where feasible.

Biological Resources

[BR-1] All construction personnel will attend an environmental education program delivered by a qualified biologist prior to initial ground disturbance. At a minimum, the program will include a description of SJKF, American badger, roosting bats, migratory birds, and their habitats; the occurrence of these species within the project footprint and boundary; and an explanation of the status of these species and protection under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The program will include an explanation of how to best avoid the accidental take of SJKF, American badger, and roosting bats. The qualified biologist will conduct a training session scheduled as a mandatory informational field meeting by the Resident Engineer for all construction contractor personnel. The field meeting will include topics on species identification, life history, descriptions, and habitat requirements during various life stages. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of the habitat and life stage requirements within the context of project maps showing areas where avoidance and minimization measures are being implemented. The program will include an explanation of applicable federal and state laws protecting endangered species as well as the importance of compliance with Caltrans and various resource agency conditions. Upon completion of the training program, personnel will sign a form stating that they attended the program and understand all the avoidance and minimization measures and implications of FESA.

[BR-2] Qualified biologists will conduct preconstruction clearance surveys for SJKF, migratory birds including raptors, roosting bats, and American badger. The biologists will be current with the latest information on protocols and guidelines and have thorough and current knowledge of the species' behavior, natural history, ecology, and physiology. If special-status species or active nest sites of bird species protected under the MBTA are observed within the vicinity of the API, then activities shall be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid take as per the appropriate protocols established through communications with the local resource agencies (i.e., construction buffers, biological monitoring, report documentation, etc.).

[BR-3] Qualified biologists will oversee all project construction activities with the potential to affect SJKF, migratory birds including raptors, roosting bats, and American badger. Biological monitors will oversee proper implementation of permit conditions. Documentation of project activities shall be submitted to the County summarizing project compliance with applicable permit avoidance and mitigation measures.

[BR-4] To prevent inadvertent entrapment of SJKF or other animals during construction, at the end of each work day, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 ft deep will be covered with plywood or similar materials or will be equipped with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals by the onsite biological monitor or construction personnel trained by the monitor. If a trapped SJKF or American badger is discovered, Caltrans will be immediately notified and will coordinate with the USFWS.

[BR-5] Project-related vehicle traffic will be restricted to established roads, construction areas, and other designated areas. These areas also will be included in preconstruction surveys and, to the maximum extent practicable, will be established in locations disturbed by previous activities to prevent further adverse effects. Project-related vehicles will observe a 20-mile-per-hour speed limit while in the boundary. Project employees will be provided with written guidance governing vehicle use, fire prevention, and other hazards.

[BR-6] Prior to, during, and after the site-disturbance and/or construction phase, use of pesticides or herbicides shall be in compliance with all local, state and federal regulations. This is necessary to minimize the probability of primary or secondary poisoning of endangered species utilizing adjacent habitats, and the depletion of prey upon which SJKFs depend.

[BR-7] To prevent attracting wildlife and avoid degrading habitat, food-related trash items, such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps, will be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once per day from the construction site.

[BR-8] Construction activities shall be limited to daylight hours (7:00 am to 5:00 pm) Monday through Friday. If weekend construction is approved, work may begin at 8:00 am but must conclude by 5:00 pm. Grading and construction activities after dusk shall be prohibited unless coordinated through the County, during which additional SJKF avoidance and minimization measures may be required.

[BR-9] Areas that are temporarily affected during construction will be reseeded with an assemblage of native vegetation appropriate for the area. The County will comply with Presidential Executive Order 13112 (Federal Register 1999) to reduce the spread of invasive, non-native plant species and minimize the potential decrease of palatable vegetation for wildlife. The temporarily disturbed restoration areas will be subjected to general restoration concepts and methods, including identifying locally native plant material, protecting and restoring soil conditions, irrigation as necessary, and controlling aggressive invasive species.

[BR-10] No firearms will be allowed in the project boundary by construction personnel. Those carried by authorized security personnel or local, state, or federal law enforcement officials are permitted.

[BR-11] Dedicated fueling and refueling areas will be designated as part of the approved Water Pollution Control Program. Dedicated fueling areas will be protected from stormwater run-on and runoff and will be located at least 50 ft from downslope drainage facilities and water courses. Fueling will be performed on level-grade areas. Onsite fueling will only be used when it is impractical to send vehicles and equipment offsite for fueling. When fueling must occur onsite, the contractor will designate an area to be used, subject to the approval of the Resident Engineer. Drip pans or absorbent pads will be used during onsite vehicle and equipment fueling. Additional construction site BMPs are as follows:

c. The potential for adverse effects to water quality will be minimized by implementing the temporary and permanent BMPs outlined in the Caltrans Standard Specifications. Caltrans erosion control BMPs will be used to minimize wind- or water-related erosion. Caltrans requires that a Water Pollution Control Program addressing control measures be prepared and implemented by the construction contractor for projects resulting in soil disturbance of less than 1 acre.

d. The Caltrans Construction Site BMPs Manual is comprehensive and includes many other protective measures and guidance to prevent and minimize pollutant discharges and can be found at the following Web site: http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/stormwater/manuals.htm.

   Protective measures will be included in the contract, including, at a minimum, the following:

   - No discharge of pollutants from vehicle and equipment cleaning will be allowed into the storm drain or water courses.

- Vehicle and equipment fueling and maintenance operations will be at least 50 ft away from water courses.

[BR-12] Concrete wastes will be collected in washouts, and water from curing operations will be collected and disposed of and will not be allowed into water courses. All grindings and asphalt concrete waste will be stored within previously disturbed areas absent of habitat and at a minimum of 150 ft from any downstream riparian habitat, aquatic habitat, culvert, or drainage feature.

[BR-13] BMPs will be installed along or at the base of unvegetated slopes during construction to capture sediment and control erosion. Erosion/sediment control BMPs include the following:

d. Work areas where temporary disturbance has removed the pre-existing vegetation will be restored and re-seeded with a native seed mix.

e. Graded areas will be protected from sedimentation and erosion using a combination of silt fences, fiber rolls along toe of slopes or along edges of designated staging areas, erosion-control netting (such as jute or coir), and organic hydromulching, as appropriate, on sloped areas.

f. Plastic monofilament netting (erosion control matting, fiber rolls) or similar material will not be used at the project site because small animal species may become entangled or trapped in it. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydroseeding compounds.

[BR-14] Precautionary measures developed from the *USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (USFWS 2011) will be undertaken in order to ensure that no kit foxes are impacted by project activities. The project is judged to meet the definition of a "small project", which according to these recommendations specifically includes stand-alone bridge repair projects. Thus, the avoidance and minimization measures that will be implemented include the following:

- All surveys, den destructions, and monitoring related to the SJKF must be conducted by a qualified biologist.
- A qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance and/or construction activities or any project activity likely to impact the SJKF. Surveys should identify SJKF habitat features on the project site and evaluate use by SJKF and, if possible, assess the potential impacts to the SJKF by the proposed activity. The status of all dens should be determined and mapped.
- Written results of pre-construction/pre-activity surveys will be submitted to Caltrans; Caltrans will notify the Service within five days after survey completion and prior to the start of ground disturbance and/or construction activities.
- If a natal or pupping den is discovered within the project area or within 200 ft of the project boundary, Caltrans shall be notified immediately, and shall in turn notify the USFWS. If the pre-construction survey reveals an active natal or pupping den or new information relating to the presence of SJKF within the BSA, Caltrans will contact the USFWS immediately to obtain the necessary take/authorization permit. The County will notify CDFW immediately if natal or pupping den is discovered during pre-construction survey, or at any time during project implementation. If a den is found, measures to avoid impacts to the den (including buffers and seasonal restrictions on work near the den) will be implemented, and if necessary, SJKF will be evicted after the non-breeding season.

[BR-15] Furthermore, in order to minimize and avoid impacts to SJKF during construction activities, the County, in coordination with Caltrans, will ensure that construction activities adhere to the Construction And On-Going Operation Requirements described in the *USFWS Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance* (USFWS 2011), which include the following:

15. Project-related vehicles should observe a daytime speed limit of 20-mph throughout the site in all project related areas, expect on county roads and State and Federal highways; this is particularly important at night when kit SJKF are most active. Night-time construction should be minimized to the extent possible. However, if it does occur, then the speed limit should be reduced to 10-mph. Off-road traffic outside of designated project areas should be prohibited.

16. To prevent inadvertent entrapment of SJKF or other animals during the construction phase of a project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2-feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured SJKF is discovered, the USFWS and CDFW shall be contacted as noted under measure 13 referenced below.

17. SJKF are attracted to den-like structures such as pipes and may ender stored pipes and become trapped or injured. All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4-inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods should be thoroughly inspected for SJKF before the pipe is subsequently buried, caped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a SJK is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe should not be moved until the USFWS has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped.

18. All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.

19. No firearms shall be allowed on the project site.

20. No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the project site to prevent harassment, mortality of SJKF, or destruction of dens.

21. Use of rodenticides and herbicides in project areas should be restricted. This is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of SJKF and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and Federal legislation, as well as additional project-related restrictions deemed necessary by the USFWS. If rodent control mush be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of a proven lower risk to SJKF.

22. A representative shall be appointed by the project proponent who will be the contact source for nay employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a SJKF or who finds a dead, injured, or entrapped SJKF. The representative will be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number shall be provided to the USFWS.

23. An employee education program should be conducted for any project that has anticipated impacts to SJKF or other endangered species. The program should consist of a brief presentation by persons knowledgeable in SJKF biology and legislative protection to explain endangered species concerns to contractors, their employees, and military and/or agency personnel involved in the project. The program should include the following: A description of SJKF and its habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of SJKF in the project area; an explanation of the status of the species and its protection under the FESA; and a list of measures being taken to reduce impacts to the species during project construction and implementation. A fact sheet conveying this information should be prepared for distribution to the previously reference people and anyone else who may enter the project site.

24. Upon completion of the project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances, including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc. should be re-contoured if necessary, and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions. An area subject to "temporary disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the project, but after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated. Appropriate methods and plant species used to revegetate such areas should be determined on a site-specific basis in consultation with the USFWS, CDFW, and revegetation experts.
25. In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures should be installed immediately to allow the animal to escape, or the USFWS should be contacted for guidance.
26. Any contractor, employee, or military or agency personnel who are responsible for inadvertently killing or injuring a SJKF shall immediately report the incident to the representative. This representative shall contact CDFW immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox.
27. The Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office and CDFW shall be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a SJKF during project related activities. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the Incident or of the finding of a dead or Injured animal and any other pertinent information.
28. New sightings of SJKF shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). A copy of the reporting form and a topographical map clearly marked with the location of where the SJKF was observed should also be provided to the USFWS.

Hazards & Hazardous Materials

[HM-1] All work will be conducted in accordance to CAL-OSHA and EPA regulations.

[HM-2] Work personnel will be educated on worker safety and appropriate disposal methods prior to handling hazardous materials.

[HM-3] Any staging or equipment/vehicle parking areas shall be free of combustible vegetation and work crews shall have shovels and a fire extinguisher on site during all construction activities.

Mitigation Monitoring Plan

The purpose of a Mitigation Monitoring Plan is to provide a program to examine, document, and record compliance with the environmental plans and specifications pertinent to the proposed project, in order to comply with Section 21081.6 of the CEQA. This plan provides the standards and methods necessary to ensure and document the implementation of the environmental mitigation measures that have been included in the project description as well as with the conditions of approval in the various project permits. Responsibility for ensuring successful implementation of the Mitigation Monitoring Plan lies with the County, as the project proponent and Lead Agency for the project under CEQA. If the recommended mitigation measures and monitoring plan are implemented successfully, the potential significant adverse effects resulting from project construction will be reduced to a level of insignificance.

Mitigation monitoring will be carried out by the Environmental Programs Division of the County's Department of Public Works. The Environmental Programs Division provides environmental services to the Department of Public Works, including mitigation compliance and monitoring, with CEQA oversight by the County's Environmental Coordinator.

Upon approval of the CEQA document, and issuance of all required permits, the Environmental Programs Division will assign internal responsibility for compliance with each mitigation measure to one or more members of the project team. Responsible parties include the Environmental Programs Division, the Project Manager (PM), the Resident Engineer (RE), and/or on-site monitors.

Mitigation measures are organized into project design, pre-construction, construction, and post construction tasks. Compliance with mitigation measures is documented in the project file through written reports and accompanied project photographs when necessary. Post construction monitoring of revegetation and other project components is documented by annual reports, on a schedule typically determined by one or more of the project permits. Depending on the complexity of the post construction mitigation effort, tasks will be carried out by County staff or other technical experts under contract to the County. Post construction monitoring is typically conducted for three to five years, depending on permit requirements and specified success criteria.

When necessary, construction personnel will be required to attend a crew orientation meeting. The meeting will be conducted by the RE and will be used to acquaint the construction crews with the environmental sensitivities of the project site and parameters within which the project may be accomplished. The orientation meeting shall place an emphasis on the need for adherence to the mitigation measures and permit conditions as well as the need for cooperation and communication among all parties concerned (i.e., RE, Environmental Programs Division, Environmental Coordinator, construction personnel) in working together to solve problems and arrive at solutions on site.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Dave Flynn, Interim Director
County Government Center, Room 206 · San Luis Obispo CA 93408 · (805) 781-5252
Fax (805) 781-1229 email address: pwd@co.slo.ca.us

THIS IS A NEW PROJECT REFERRAL

DATE: October 8, 2014

TO: Cal Fire

FROM: Eric Wier, Environmental Resource Specialist
ewier@co.slo.ca.us; (805) 788-2766

Name and Location: *Geneseo Road Bridge at Huerhuero Creek Project (300387)*; on County road right-of-way and portions of four privately owned rural parcels; approximately 1.1 miles north of Creston Road, southeast of the City of El Paso de Robles (see attached maps)

Project Description: Replace existing low water crossing with an approximately 200 foot long concrete slab bridge on the same alignment

Applicant: County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works

Return this letter with your comments attached no later than: 14 days from receipt of this referral.

PART I - IS THE ATTACHED INFORMATION ADEQUATE TO COMPLETE YOUR REVIEW?
- ☒ YES (Please go on to PART II.)
- ☐ NO (Call me ASAP to discuss what else you need. We have only 10 days in which we must obtain comments from outside agencies.)

PART II - ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS, PROBLEMS OR IMPACTS IN YOUR AREA OF REVIEW?
- ☐ YES (Please describe Impacts, along with recommended mitigation measures to reduce the impacts to less-than-significant levels, and attach to this letter)
- ☒ NO (Please go on to PART III)

PART III - INDICATE YOUR RECOMMENDATION FOR FINAL ACTION.

Please attach any conditions of approval you recommend to be incorporated into the project's approval, or state reasons for recommending denial.

IF YOU HAVE "NO COMMENT," PLEASE SO INDICATE, OR CALL.

CAL FIRE / COUNTY FIRE -

S.L.O. COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS STANDARDS EXCEEDS CAL FIRE'S.

10/9/14 — Date

[signature] — Name

543-4244 — Phone

Bullard, Clint@CALFIRE

From: Bullard, Clint@CALFIRE
Sent: Thursday, October 09, 2014 8:16 AM
To: 'ewier@co.slo.ca.us'
Subject: Geneseo Road Bridge at Huer Huero Creek

Good morning Mr. Wier,

CAL FIRE/County Fire has no significant concerns relative to the proposal to replace the existing low water crossing at the Huer Huero Creek on Geneseo Road with a 200-foot long bridge. Once bridge construction has begun, this department will conduct a pre-construction safety briefing with the bridge contractor and Public Works in order to address fire/life matters such as welding, cutting and grinding within the Wildland Urban Interface. Also, maintaining emergency vehicle access to both sides of the Huer Huero Creek from Geneseo Road will be addressed during this meeting.

San Luis Obispo County Department of Public Works bridge design criteria exceeds minimum standards that CAL FIRE enforces.

Thank you,

Clinton I. Bullard
Fire Inspector
CAL FIRE/
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FIRE
(805)543-4244 ext. 3425

FW

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Dove Flynn, Interim Director
County Government Center, Room 206 • San Luis Obispo, CA 93408 • (805) 781-5252
Fax (805) 781-1229
email address: pwd@co.slo.ca.us

RECEIVED
OCT 22 2014
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

THIS IS A NEW PROJECT REFERRAL

DATE: October 8, 2014

TO: San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture

FROM: Eric Wier, Environmental Resource Specialist
ewier@co.slo.ca.us; (805) 788-2766

Name and Location: *Geneseo Road Bridge at Huerhuero Creek Project (300387)*; on County road right-of-way and portions of four privately owned rural parcels; approximately 1.1 miles north of Creston Road, southeast of the City of El Paso de Robles (see attached maps)

Project Description: Replace existing low water crossing with an approximately 200 foot long concrete slab bridge on the same alignment

Applicant: County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works

Return this letter with your comments attached no later than: 14 days from receipt of this referral.

PART I - IS THE ATTACHED INFORMATION ADEQUATE TO COMPLETE YOUR REVIEW?

- ☒ YES (Please go on to PART II.)
- ☐ NO (Call me ASAP to discuss what else you need. We have only 10 days in which we must obtain comments from outside agencies.)

PART II - ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS, PROBLEMS OR IMPACTS IN YOUR AREA OF REVIEW?

- ☐ YES (Please describe impacts, along with recommended mitigation measures to reduce the impacts to less-than-significant levels, and attach to this letter)
- ☒ NO (Please go on to PART III)

PART III - INDICATE YOUR RECOMMENDATION FOR FINAL ACTION.

Please attach any conditions of approval you recommend to be incorporated into the project's approval, or state reasons for recommending denial.

IF YOU HAVE "NO COMMENT," PLEASE SO INDICATE, OR CALL.

TO PROTECT SURROUNDING AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDE MITIGATION MEASURES TO ENSURE ACCESS AND ADEQUATE DUST CONTROL. LOCATE TEMP STAGING AREA OFF AG. LAND WHERE FEASIBLE.

10/27/14 — LYNDA AUCHINACHIE — 5914
Date — Name — Phone

Re: Fw: APCD Comments Regarding the Geneseo Road Bridge Project at Huerhuero Creek, 300387

Andrew Mutziger to: Eric Wier 10/30/2014 08:39 AM

Cc: Alyssa Roslan, Aeron Arlin Genet

History: This message has been replied to.

Hi Eric,

Thank you for the inquiry and you have a good question. When I originally reviewed this, I considered the small nature of this rural project but should have looked more closely at the area around the project.

With a second look today, I do note that there are at least two nearby residences. Therefore, APCD recommends adding the following dust control measure set to this project:

Thanks again for checking.

Sincerely,
Andy Mutziger
Air Quality Specialist
San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District
(805) 781-5956
fax: (805) 781-1002
www.slocleanair.org

Dust Control Measures

The project, as described in the referral, will not likely exceed the APCD's CEQA significance threshold for construction phase emissions. However, construction activities can generate fugitive dust, which could be a nuisance to local residents and businesses in close proximity to the proposed construction site. **APCD staff recommends the following measures be incorporated into the project to control dust:**

Projects with grading areas that are less than 4-acres and that are not within 1,000 feet of any sensitive receptor shall implement the following mitigation measures to significantly reduce fugitive dust emissions, to manage fugitive dust emissions such that they do not exceed the APCD 20% opacity limit (APCD Rule 401) and minimize nuisance impacts:

a. Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible;
b. Use water trucks, APCD approved dust suppressants (see Section 4.3 in the CEQA Air Quality Handbook), or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site and from exceeding the District's limit of 20% opacity for greater than 3 minutes in any 60 minute period. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible;
c. All dirt stock-pile areas should be sprayed daily and covered with tarps or other dust barriers as needed;
d. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible, and building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding, soil binders or other dust controls are used;
e. All of these fugitive dust mitigation measures shall be shown on grading and building plans; and,

The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress.

Eric Wier	Hi Andy, APCD typically recommends dust contr...	10/29/2014 09:37:35 AM

From: Eric Wier/PubWorks/COSLO
To: Andrew Mutziger/APCD/COSLO@Wings
Date: 10/29/2014 09:37 AM
Subject: Fw: APCD Comments Regarding the Geneseo Road Bridge Project at Huerhuero Creek, 300387

Hi Andy,

APCD typically recommends dust control measures for construction projects. I just wanted to double-check that they're not being recommended for this project.

Thanks,

Eric Wier
Environmental Programs Division
Department of Public Works
County of San Luis Obispo
ewier@co.slo.ca.us
(805) 788-2766
----- Forwarded by Eric Wier/PubWorks/COSLO on 10/29/2014 09:34 AM -----

From: Andrew Mutziger/APCD/COSLO
To: Eric Wier/PubWorks/COSLO@Wings
Date: 10/17/2014 01:10 PM
Subject: Re: APCD Comments Regarding the Geneseo Road Bridge Project at Huerhuero Creek, 300387

Great Eric - Thanks.

Andy Mutziger
Air Quality Specialist
San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District
(805) 781-5956
fax: (805) 781-1002
www.slocleanair.org

Eric Wier	Greetings Andy, Thank you for providing comme...	10/17/2014 12:12:20 PM
Andrew Mutziger	Hi Eric, I reviewed the referral for the proposed...	10/17/2014 10:45:28 AM

From: Andrew Mutziger/APCD/COSLO
To: ewier@co.slo.ca.us
Cc: Alyssa Roslan/APCD/COSLO@Wings, Aeron Arlin Genet/APCD/COSLO@Wings
Date: 10/17/2014 10:45 AM
Subject: APCD Comments Regarding the Geneseo Road Bridge Project at Huerhuero Creek, 300387

Hi Eric,

I reviewed the referral for the proposed Geneseo bridge that would replace the current low water crossing. Below are the applicable construction phase air quality mitigation measures for the project's conditions of approval. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Andy Mutzlger
Air Quality Specialist
San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District
(805) 781-5956
fax: (805) 781-1002
www.slocleanair.org

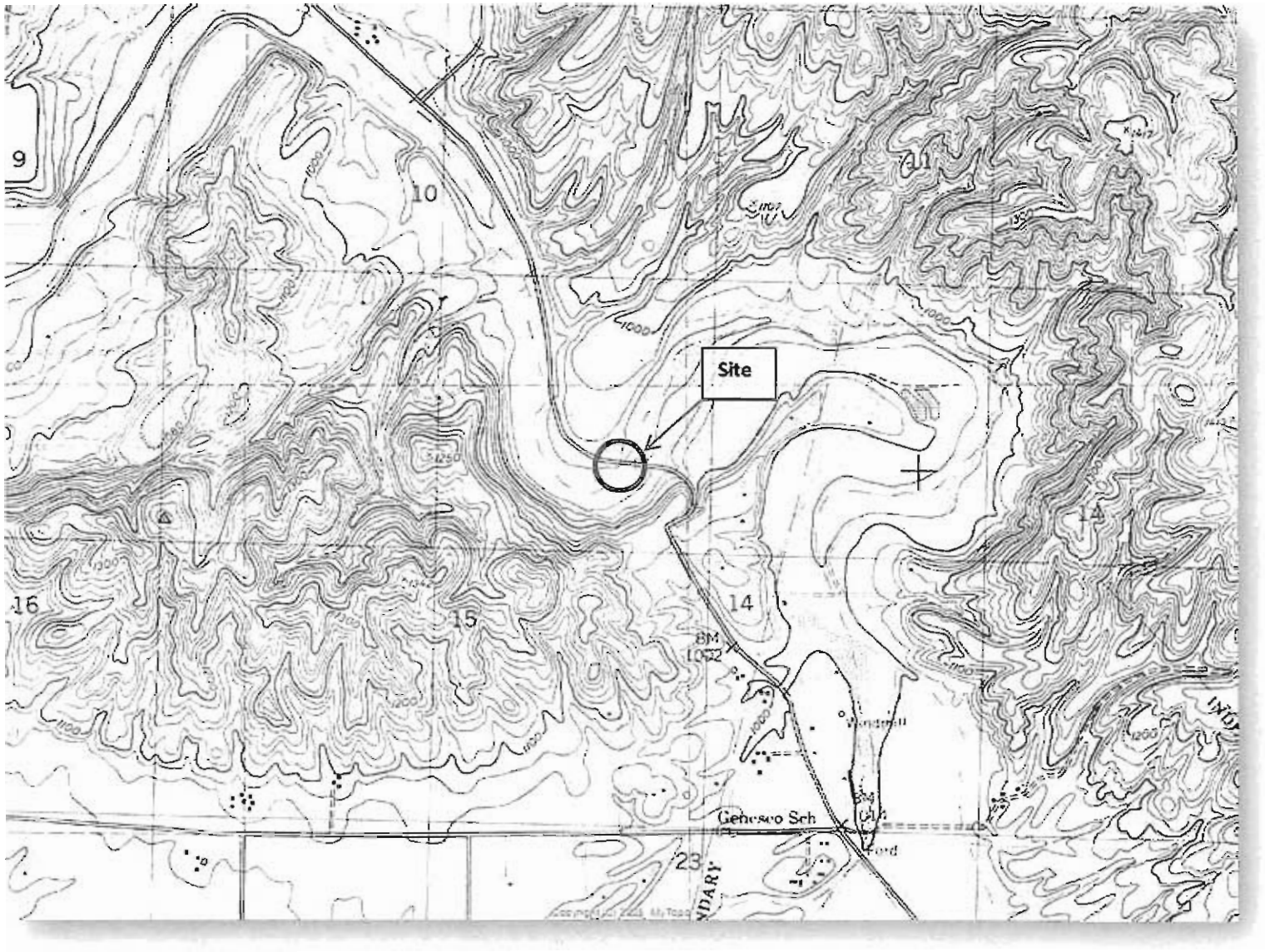
Construction Permit Requirements

Based on the information provided, we are unsure of the types of equipment that may be present during the project's construction phase. Portable equipment, 50 horsepower (hp) or greater, used during construction activities may require California statewide portable equipment registration (issued by the California Air Resources Board) or an APCD permit.

The following list is provided as a guide to equipment and operations that may have permitting requirements, but should not be viewed as exclusive. For a more detailed listing, refer to the Technical Appendices, page 4-4, in the APCD's 2012 CEQA Handbook.

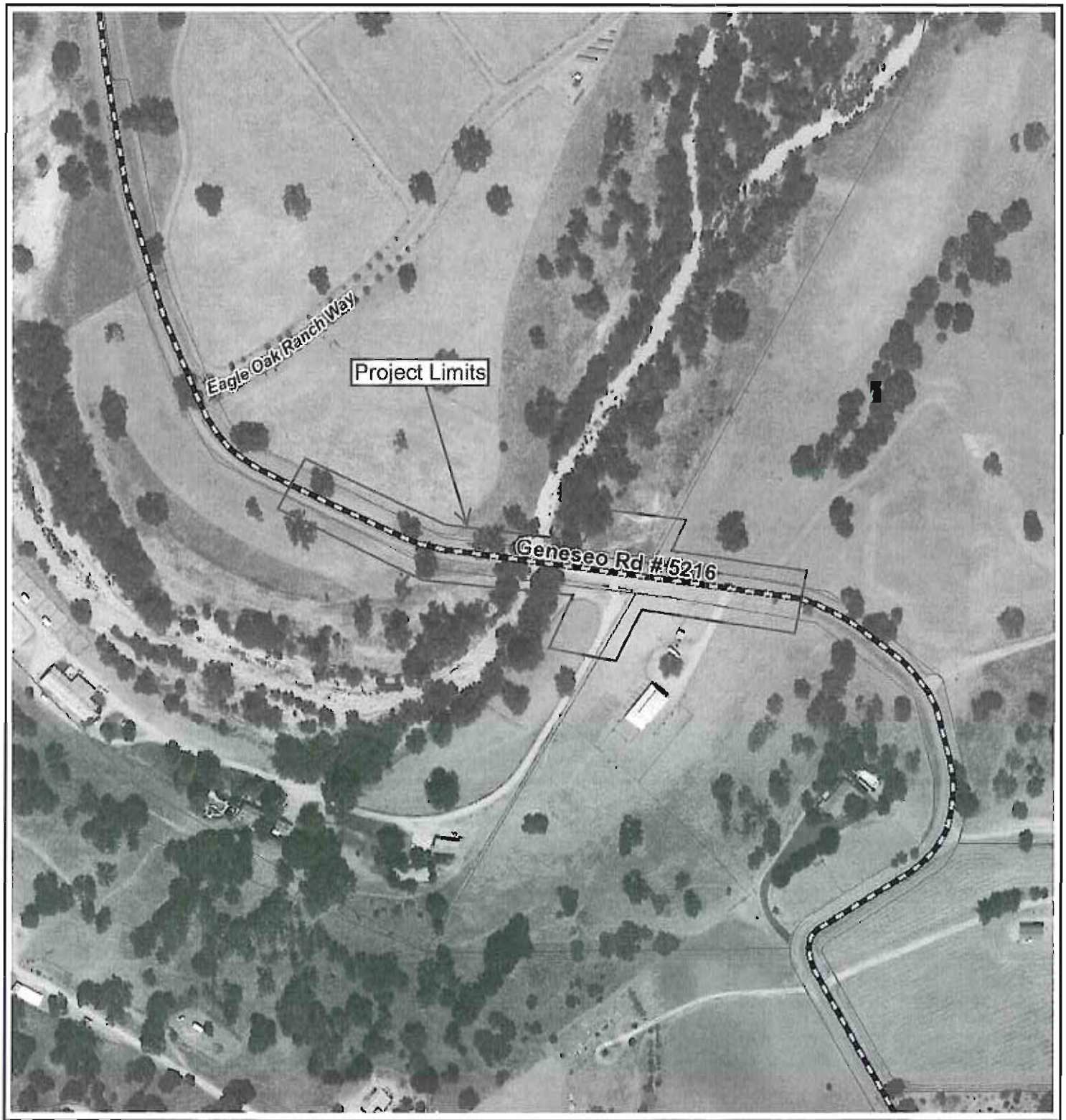
- Power screens, conveyors, diesel engines, and/or crushers;
- Portable generators and equipment with engines that are 50 hp or greater;
- Internal combustion engines;
- Rock and pavement crushing;
- Unconfined abrasive blasting operations;
- Tub grinders; and
- Trommel screens.

To minimize potential delays, prior to the start of the project, please contact the APCD Engineering Division at (805) 781-5912 for specific information regarding permitting requirements.



Geneseo Road Bridge at Huerhuero Creek; 300387

USGS Location Map – Creston Quadrangle



VICINITY MAP

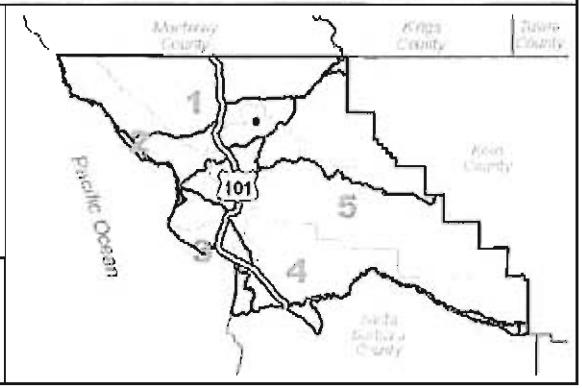
Geneseo Road Bridge at Huerhuero Creek Project

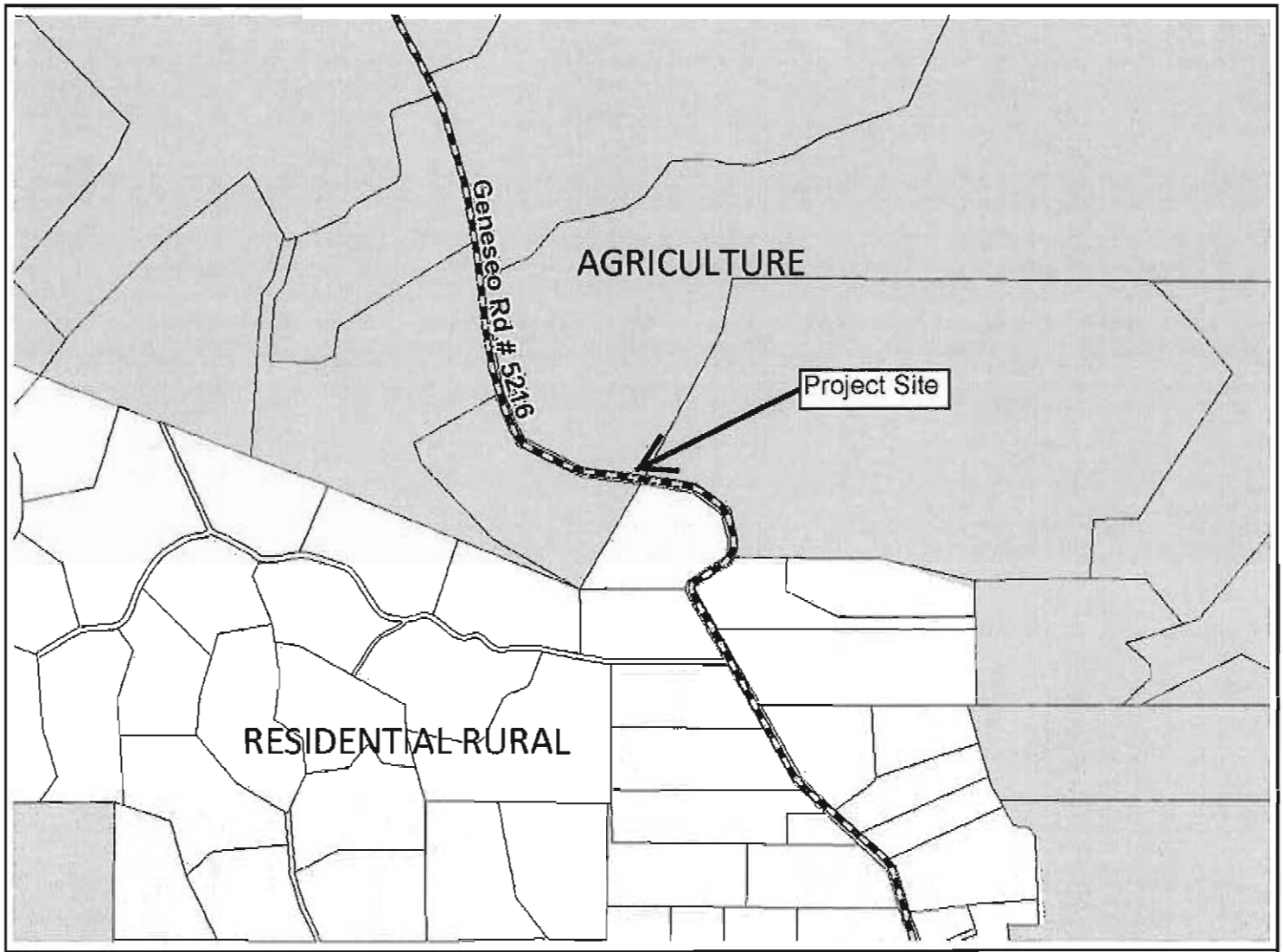
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

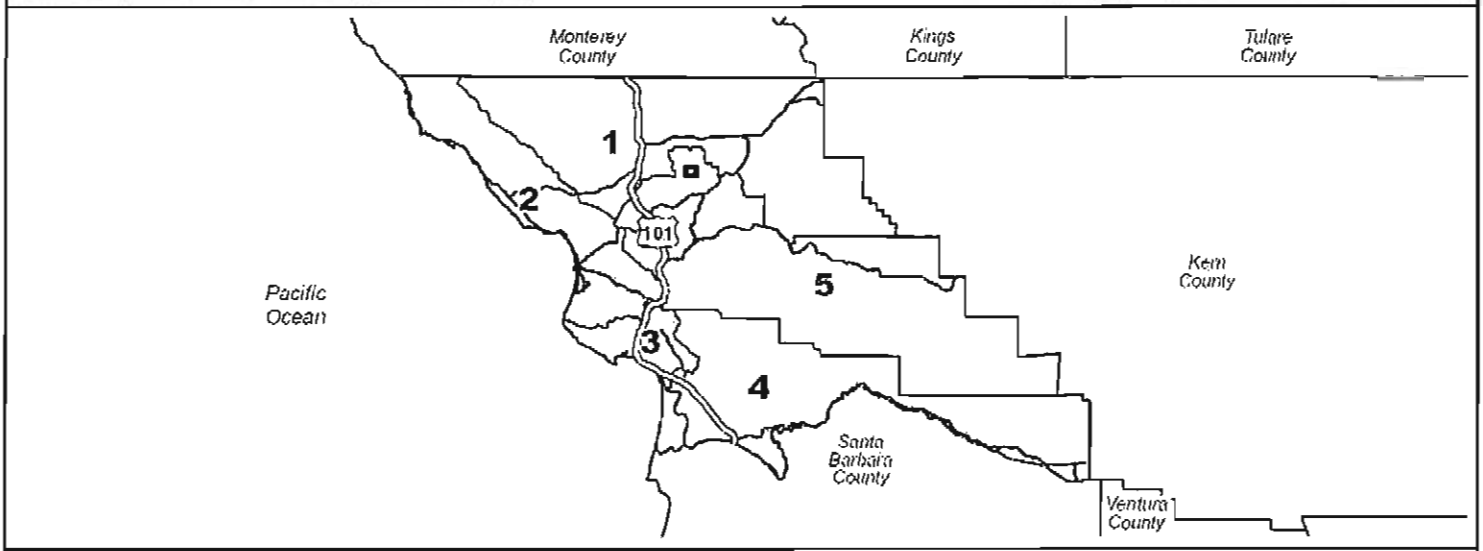
PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

1: 4,000

0 167 333 Feet







LAND USE CATEGORY MAP

Geneseo Road Bridge Project

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

1:13,482

0 562 1,123 Feet

Created by: Eric Wier

Printed: 9/17/2015

ROAD NO.	JOB NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
5216	300387	1	9

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
DESIGN DIVISION

30% DRAFT

PLANS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF
GENESEO ROAD BRIDGE OVER HUERHUERO CREEK
Bridge No. 49C0431
Located 1 Mile North of Creston Road Replacing Low Water Crossing 00L0040
COUNTY CONTRACT #300387
FEDERAL AID LOW WATER REPLACEMENT PROJECT No. BRLO-5949(120)

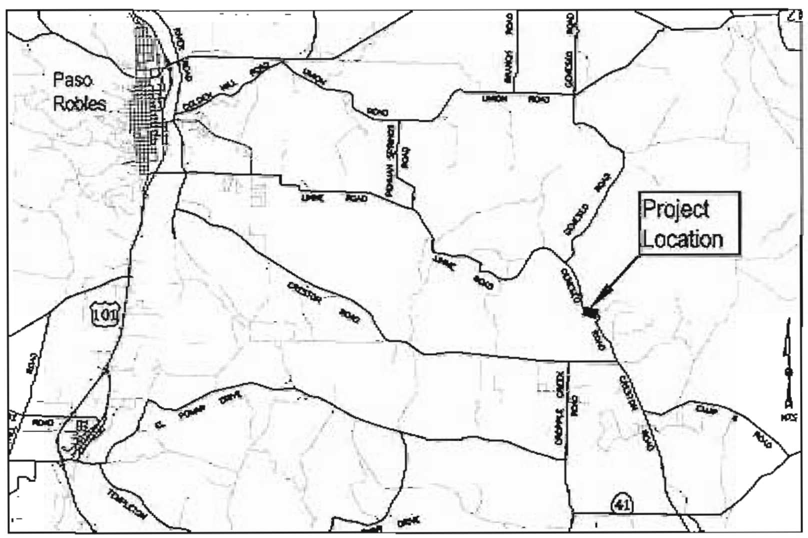
To Be Supplemented By State Standard Plans Dated 2010.

APPROVED: ____________ ,20____

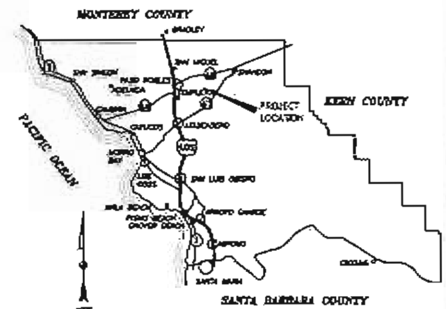
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS
R.C.E. 64745 (Exp. 6-30-2015)

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS:

THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER SHALL POSSESS A CLASS A GENERAL ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE AT THE TIME THIS CONTRACT IS AWARDED. IN THE ALTERNATIVE, THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER SHALL POSSESS A SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE AT THE TIME THIS CONTRACT IS AWARDED THAT PERMITS THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER TO PERFORM WITH HIS OR HER OWN ORGANIZATION CONTRACT WORK AMOUNTING TO NOT LESS THAN 30% OF THE ORIGINAL TOTAL CONTRACT PRICE AND TO SUBCONTRACT THE REMAINING WORK IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 8-1.01, "SUBCONTRACTING," OF THE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS.



LOCATION MAP
NO SCALE



VICINITY MAP
NO SCALE

CONVENTIONAL SYMBOLS

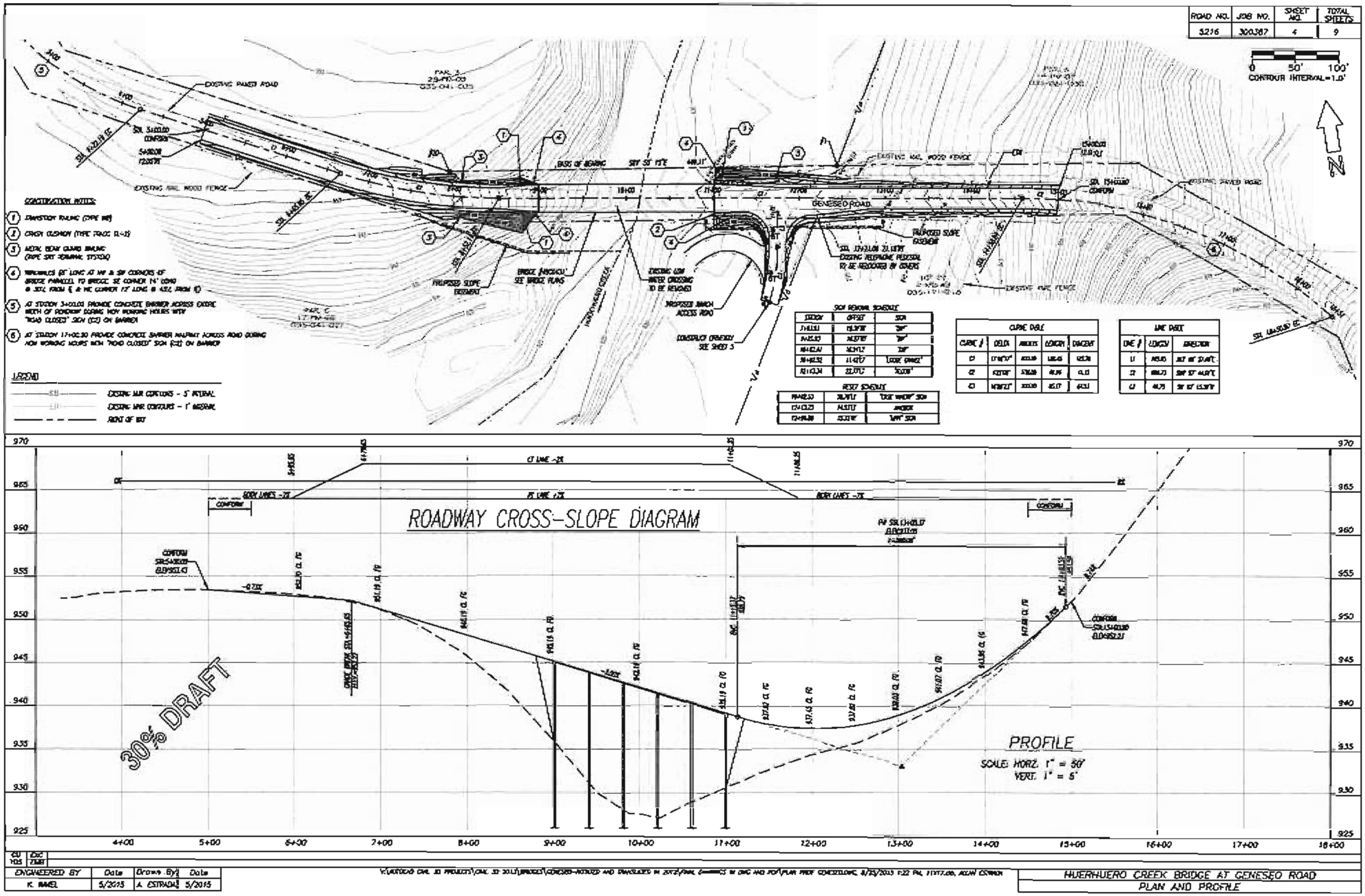
- FENCE
- UNFENCED PROPERTY LINE
- RIGHT OF WAY LINE
- TRAVELED WAY
- CULVERT
- DROP INLET
- UTILITY POLE
- POWER TOWER
- STREAM
- RAILROAD TRACKS
- TOP OF CUT/TOE OF FILL
- BASE OR SURVEY LINE

DIGALERT

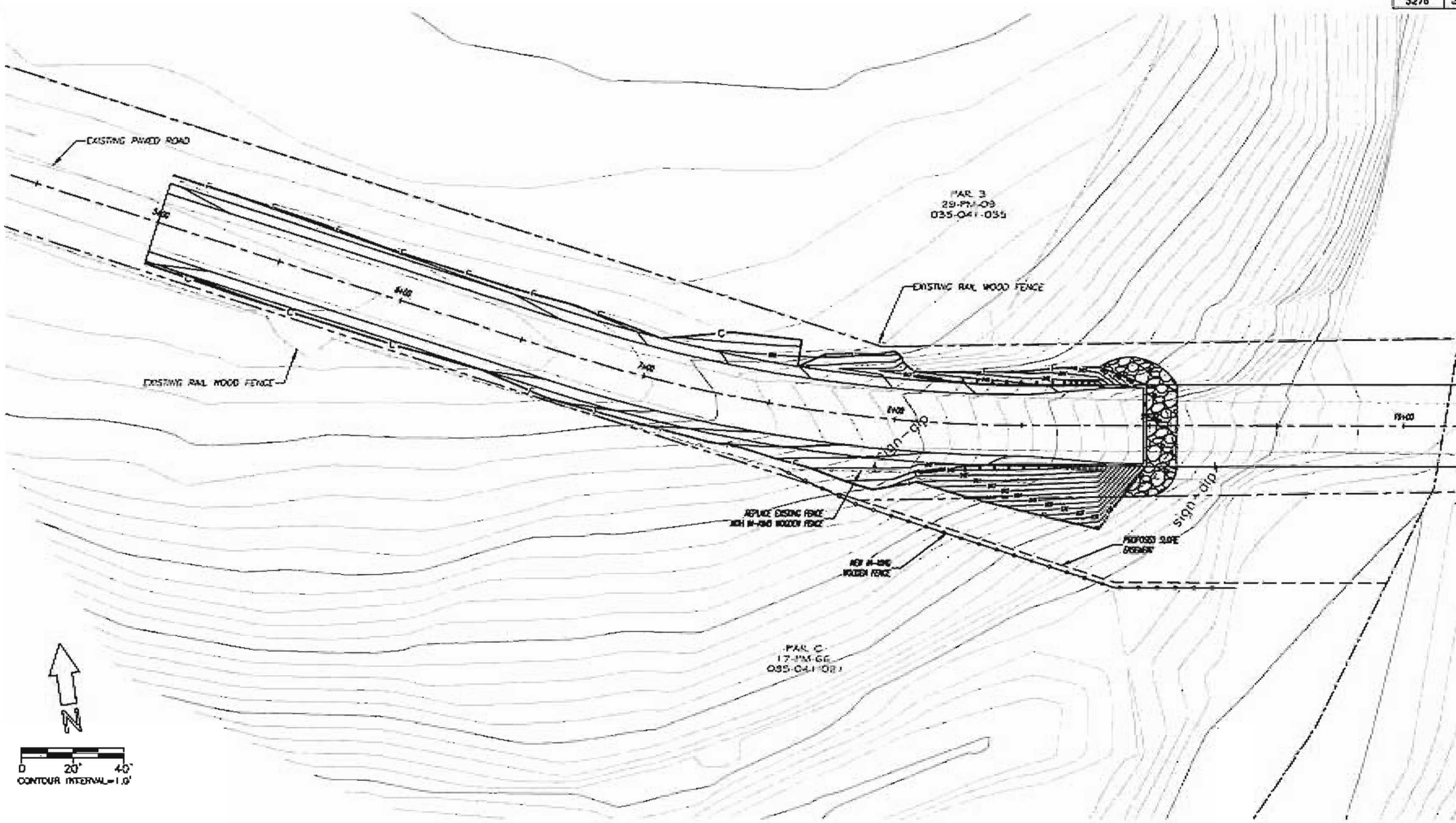
CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
1-800-227-2600

ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES FOR REDUCED PLANS

GENESEO ROAD LOW WATER CROSSING					
TITLE SHEET					
OVER HUERHUERO CREEK					
ENGINEERED BY:	DATE	CADD BY:	DATE	CHECK BY:	DATE
K. NAEL	5/2015	A. ESTRADA	5/2015	M. REINHART	5/2015


ROAD NO. | JOB NO. | SHEET NO. | TOTAL SHEETS
5216 | 300387 | 4 | 9
0 50' 100'
CONTOUR INTERVAL=1.0'
N
GENESEO ROAD
CONSTRUCTION NOTES:
LEGEND
ROADWAY CROSS-SLOPE DIAGRAM
30% DRAFT
PROFILE
SCALE: HORZ. 1" = 50'
VERT. 1" = 5'
4+00
5+00
6+00
7+00
8+00
9+00
10+00
11+00
12+00
13+00
14+00
15+00
16+00
17+00
18+00
970
965
960
955
950
945
940
935
930
925
ENGINEERED BY | Date | Drawn By | Date
K. RAMEL | 5/2015 | A. ESTRADA | 5/2015
HUERHUERO CREEK BRIDGE AT GENESEO ROAD
PLAN AND PROFILE

ROAD NO.	JOB NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
5216	300387	6	9



LEGEND

- PROPOSED MJR CONTOURS - 5' INTERVAL
- PROPOSED MNR CONTOURS - 1' INTERVAL
- EXISTING MJR CONTOURS - 5' INTERVAL
- EXISTING MNR CONTOURS - 1' INTERVAL
- RIGHT OF WAY
- FILL LINE
- CUT LINE

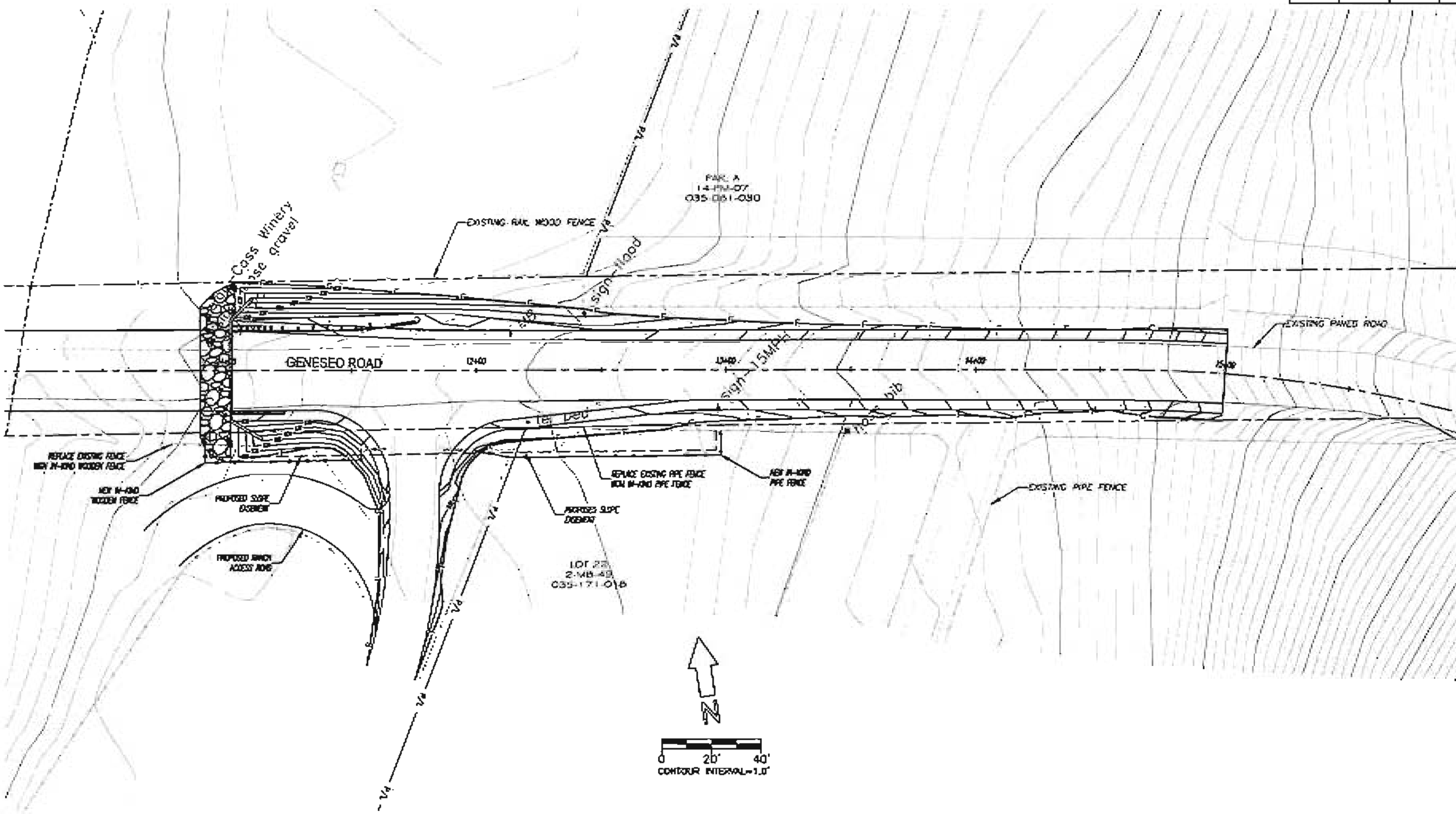
NOTES:

1. THIS PLAN FOR CONTOUR GRADING WORK ONLY.
2. GRADING SHOWN IS APPROXIMATE ONLY. ADJUST IN FIELD AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.

30% DRAFT

ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES FOR REDUCED PLANS 0 1 2 3

HUERHUERO CREEK BRIDGE AT GENESEO ROAD					
GRADING PLAN					
LOW WATER REPLACEMENT PROJECT # BRLO-5949(120)					
Designer	Date	Drawn By	Date	Project Manager	Date
K. NAMEL	5/2015	A.ESTRADA	5/2015	M. REINHART	5/2015



LEGEND

- PROPOSED MJR CONTOURS - 5' INTERVAL
- PROPOSED MNR CONTOURS - 1' INTERVAL
- EXISTING MJR CONTOURS - 5' INTERVAL
- EXISTING MNR CONTOURS - 1' INTERVAL
- RIGHT OF WAY
- FILL LINE
- CUT LINE

NOTES:

1. THIS PLAN FOR CONTOUR GRADING WORK ONLY.
2. GRADING SHOWN IS APPROXIMATE ONLY, ADJUST IN FIELD AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER.

30% DRAFT

HUERHUERO CREEK BRIDGE AT GENESEO ROAD					
GRADING PLAN					
LOW WATER REPLACEMENT PROJECT # BRLO-5949(120)					
Designer	Date	Drawn By	Date	Project Manager	Date
K. NAMEL	5/2015	A.ESTRADA	5/2015	M. REPOGURT	5/2015

ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES FOR REDUCED PLANS 0 1 2 3