

Initial Study Biological Assessment

State Route- 1 Bridge Rail Upgrade

Original ISBA report date: 5/4/2021

Case number (to be entered by Planning Div.): PL20-0134

Permit type: Coastal Development Permit

Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Case Planner (to be entered by Planning Div.): Noe Torres

Total parcel(s) size: 0.02 acres

Assessor Parcel Number(s): West of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 060-0-1-00-420 and 060-0-100-080

Development proposal description:

Caltrans proposes to widen and upgrade the existing bridge on State Route (SR)-1 at Willow Creek (Bridge No. 52-0003), post mile (PM) 28.15 in Ventura County. The bridge will be widened to upgrade non-standard wooden railing, accommodate standard shoulders, and replace bridge rail end treatments.

Prepared for Ventura County Planning Division by:

As a Qualified Biologist, approved by the Ventura County Planning Division, I hereby certify that this Initial Study Biological Assessment was prepared according to the Planning Division's requirements and that the statements furnished in the report and associated maps are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Qualified Biologist (signature): <i>Paul Caron</i>		Date: May 4, 2021
Name (printed): Paul Caron	Title: Senior Biologist	Company: Caltrans
Phone: (213) 326-0378	email: Paul.Caron@dot.ca.gov	
Other Biologist (signature): <i>P</i>		Date: May 4, 2021
Name (printed): Patrick Thompson	Title: Associate Biologist	Company: Caltrans
Phone: (213) 266-6973	email: Patrick.Thompson@dot.ca.gov	
Role: Field surveys, project coordination, inter agency coordination, project documentation, vegetation surveys, nesting bird surveys.		

County of Ventura
 Planning Director Hearing
 PL20-0134
 Exhibit 7 - Initial Study Biological
 Assessment (May 4, 2021)

Initial Study Checklist

This Biological Assessment DID provide adequate information to make recommended CEQA findings regarding potentially significant impacts.

	Project Impact Degree of Effect				Cumulative Impact Degree of Effect			
	N	LS	PS-M*	PS	N	LS	PS-M*	PS
Biological Resources								
Species	N				N			
Ecological Communities		LS			N			
Habitat Connectivity	N				N			

N: No impact

LS: Less than significant impact

PS-M: Potentially significant unless mitigation incorporated.

PS: Potentially significant

* DO NOT check this box unless the Biological Assessment provided information adequate enough to develop mitigation measures that reduce the level of impact to less than significant.

Contents

Summary	4
Section 1: Construction Footprint Description.....	4
Section 2: Survey Area Description and Methodology	10
2.1 Survey Purpose.....	10
2.2 Survey Area Description.....	11
2.3 Methodology	14
Section 3: The Biological Inventory	16
3.1 Ecological Communities	16
3.2 Species	20
3.3 Wildlife Movement and Connectivity.....	22
Section 4: Impact Assessment	23
4.1 Sufficiency of Biological Data	23
4.2 Impacts and Mitigation	23
Section 5: Photos	27
Appendix 1: Summary of Biological Resource Regulations.....	33
Appendix 2: Observed Species Tables	41
Maps	
Project Location Maps:	
Project Location	5
Project Location with Parcel Boundaries	6
Site and Survey Maps:	
Construction Footprint.....	7
Development Area	8
Coastal Zone Area.....	9
Biological Survey Area Boundaries	11
Ground Cover with Vegetation Health Index	13
Environmentally Sensitive Habitat.....	17
Waters and Wetlands.....	19
Photo Locations	27
Attachments	
A. List of California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) Tracked Species	
B. USFWS List of Threatened and Endangered Species	
C. National Marine Fisheries Service Species List	
D. Willow Creek Bridge Water Diversion Plan	
E. Bridges Rail Upgrade Natural Environment Study	
F. CNPS Willow Creek Inventory Results	

Summary

The proposed project activities for the Caltrans Bridge Widening and Bridge Rail Upgrade project will have minimal impacts to Willow/ Los Sauces Creek. The riparian stream will be temporally impacted by foot traffic and the project Water Diversion Plan. Minimal vegetation removal will be required for work to occur within the project area. No major tree trimming/ removal is anticipated as a result of the proposed project. There are no sensitive or listed species within the project boundaries. Upstream from the project location lies a concrete lined channel that lacks riparian vegetation and does not create an important nexus for wildlife. Downstream of the project location is a culvert that travels under the 101 freeway which drains into the Pacific Ocean. The temporary impacts associated with this project are 0.02 acres. Temporary impacts to native trees are not anticipated, however, if the project results in tree trimming and/or removal, the project will place willow cuttings within the project area. The appropriate avoidance and minimization measures discussed in this Initial Study Biological Assessment (ISBA) will be implemented in the project to avoid biological impacts.

Section 1: Construction Footprint Description

Construction Footprint Definition (per the Ventura County Planning Division): The construction footprint includes the proposed maximum limits of temporary or permanent direct land or vegetation disturbance for a project including such things as the building pad(s), roads/road improvements, grading, septic systems, wells, drainage improvements, fire hazard brush clearance area(s), tennis courts, pools/spas, landscaping, storage/stockpile areas, construction staging areas, fire department turnarounds, utility trenching and other grading areas. The construction footprint on some types of projects, such as mining, oil and gas exploration or agricultural operations, may be quite different than the above.

Development Proposal Description:

Caltrans proposes to upgrade the non-standard timber bridge railing to meet the current bridge rail standards. The bridge rail barrier on the Willow Creek Bridge (Bridge No. 52-0003) on State Route 1 in Ventura County post mile (PM) 28.2 will be replaced with the new bridge railing type CA ST-75 bridge rail with tubular 42" bicycle railing. The northbound roadway shoulder will need to be widened by 4' for 100' before and after the bridge in order to accommodate standard 8' foot shoulders through the bridge. The bridge deck will also be widened by 1'-1.5' on the west side (Beach Side) of the bridge by extending the bridge deck/slab. There will be no excavation on the bridge abutments. Caltrans will remove the existing Metal Beam Guard Rail (MBGR) and upgrade it to Midwest Guardrail System (MGS) and attach new end line terminal system type WB-31 to the new bridge railing. To create a work area for construction personnel, the traffic will be diverted into the center of the roadway to create room for construction to occur. There will be no temporary construction easements needed for the construction of this project as all work will be conducted from Caltrans right of way (ROW) and there will be no changes in future development as a result of this project. All traffic lanes will be restriped, and the Class II bike lanes will be maintained within the shoulders on each side of the bridge following construction.

Figure 1: Project Location

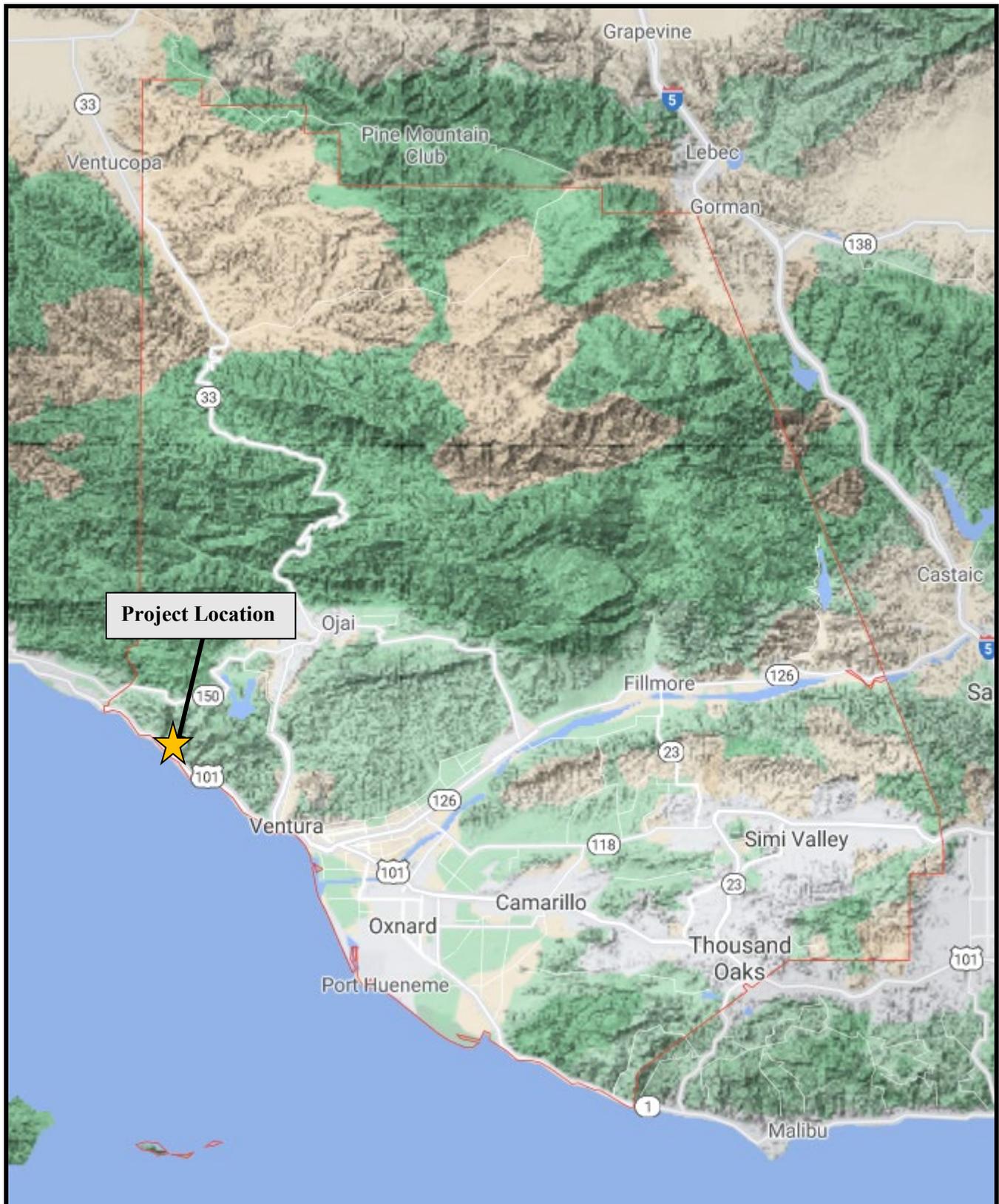


Figure 2: Project Location with Parcel Boundaries



Construction Footprint Size

Construction of the proposed project would include permanent alterations to an approximate 0.36 acres, 0.02 acres of which temporarily impacting Willow/ Los Sauces Creek, of Caltrans ROW For construction to occur, construction crews will need to access Willow Creek to create a platform for the alterations to the bridge and to build the falsework for the new deck slab and the new bridge rail barriers. All equipment and materials for work under the bridge will be lowered from above the bridge, as there are no access roads on the sides of the bridge. There will be corrugated metal pipes (CMPs) for water diversion installed in each side of the bridge extended 5' under the bridge and 5' outside of the bridge on the northbound (NB) side of the bridge, and 2' outside of the bridge and 5' under the southbound (SB) side of the bridge. For the water to be diverted under the bridge the voids between these pipes will be filled with sandbags. There will be plywood placed on top of the of the pipes that will extend to the abutments of the structure to create a work platform during construction. This water diversion will create 1200 square feet (0.02 acres) of temporary impacts to Willow Creek. All work within the creek will be conducted between June 1st and November 1st during the dry season. Please see **Attachment D. Willow Creek Bridge Water Diversion Plan** sheet for more information on the Water Diversion Plan. No trees will be removed as part of the work at the Willow Creek location so tree replanting will not be necessary for this location.

Figure 3: Construction Footprint Size



Development Area Size

The proposed project’s development area size includes the steel reinforced edge extension of 1’-1.5’ on the SB portion of Willow/ Los Sauces Creek Bridge. There will be no additional permanent structures installed within the creek.

Table 1: Development Area Size

Square Feet	Feature
88.5 ft ²	Bridge Edge Extension
	Total 88.5 ft²

Figure 4: Bridge Edge Extension



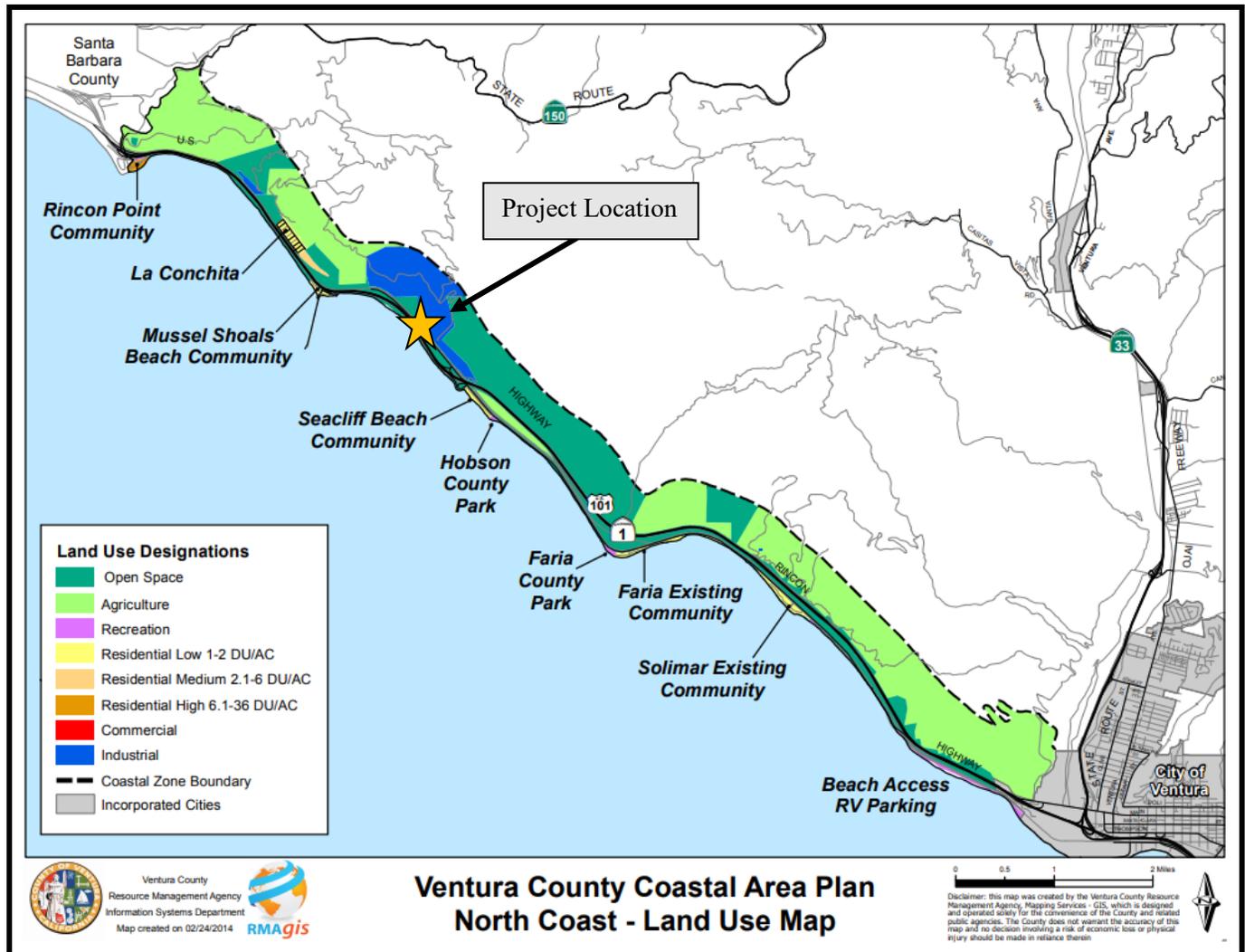
Project Design for Impact Avoidance or Minimization

The proposed project originally included a Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) to acquire a portion of the land immediately to the southwest of Willow/ Los Sauces Creek bridge. The TCE would have been 50’ wide by 260’ long. The bridge deck would have been widened by 2’ 4” by extending the bridge’s steel reinforced edge. This design was abandoned, as it would have required tree trimming and increased vegetation removal, which may have led to a significant impact to the native willow riparian habitat. By altering the project design, the Project Development Team (PDT) avoided impacts to approximately 0.22 acres of riparian habitat.

Coastal Zone/Overlay Zones

The proposed project lies within land zoned by Ventura County’s “My Zoning” website as Coastal Open Space (COS)¹. According the Ventura County’s municipal code, the purpose of COS zoning is to “provide for the preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of natural and recreational resources in the coastal areas of the County while allowing reasonable and compatible uses of the land.”²

Figure 5: Coastal Zone Area Map



¹ <https://maps.ventura.org/MyZoningGIS/>

² https://library.municode.com/ca/ventura_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=DIV8PLDE_CH1.1ZOCO_ART3PUZO_8173-1COOPSPCOZO

Zoning

In addition to the project's COS zoning designation, the project is also surrounded by land zoned as "Industrial" by the Ventura County Resource Management Agency (VCRMA). According to Ventura County's General Plan, the Industrial land use designation "provides for a range of industrial employment-generating uses, including production, assembly, warehousing, and distribution, that are conducted within enclosed buildings or in appropriately sited and screened outdoor work spaces that are designed for compatibility with surrounding land uses."³ The neighboring lots have historically been used as auxiliary locations for the surrounding oil and gas processing facilities.

Elevation

The elevation of the project area ranges between 13.2'-16.3' on the roadway, and 9.2'-10.6' within the creek bed.

Other

There are two utility relocations on the west side of the bridge that will be positioned on a designed cantilever beam. Relocation of the SoCal Gas 3" gas line in 6" casing will be relocated from east side (Railroad side) to the west side. The existing Ventura County Public Works Agency San Sewer forced main on the bridge's SB will be temporarily relocated to the proposed sewer location on the designed cantilever beam on the SB bridge widening. The proposed gas line will be adjacent to the proposed sewer line also supported by the proposed cantilever beam. The structure work is split into two stages, due to the gas line relocation. Since the gas line must remain operational during its relocation, work shall occur on the SB side first. Once the work on the SB side of the bridge has been completed, the gas line will be relocated from the NB side of the bridge to the SB side. Construction activities will then commence on the NB side of the bridge.

Section 2: Survey Information

2.1 Survey Purpose

Discretionary actions undertaken by public agencies are required to demonstrate compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The purpose of this Initial Study Biological Assessment (ISBA) is to gather enough information about the biological resources associated with the proposed project, and their potential to be impacted by the project, to make a CEQA Initial Study significance finding for biological resources. In general, ISBA's are intended to:

- Provide an inventory of the biological resources on a project site and the values of those resources.
- Determine if a proposed project has the potential to impact any significant biological resources.
- Recommend project redesign to avoid, minimize or reduce impacts to significant biological resources.
- Recommend additional studies necessary to adequately assess potential impacts and/or to develop adequate mitigation measures.
- Develop mitigation measures, when necessary, in cases where adequate information is available.

³https://docs.vcrma.org/images/pdf/planning/plans/Final_2040_General_Plan_docs/VCGPU_02_Land_Use_Element_2020_09_15_web.pdf

2.2 Survey Area Description

Survey Area Definition (per the Ventura County Planning Division): The physical area a biologist evaluates as part of a biological assessment. This includes all areas that could potentially be subject to direct or indirect impacts from the project, including, but not limited to: the construction footprint; areas that would be subject to noise, light, dust or runoff generated by the project; any required buffer areas (e.g., buffers surrounding wetland habitat). The construction footprint plus a 100 to 300-foot buffer—beyond the required fire hazard brush clearance boundary—(or 20-foot from the cut/fill boundary or road fire hazard brush clearance boundary – whichever is greater) is generally the size of a survey area. Required off-site improvements—such as roads or fire hazard brush clearance—are included in the survey area. Survey areas can extend off the project’s parcel(s) because indirect impacts may cross property lines. The extent of the survey area shall be determined by the biologist in consultation with the lead agency.

Survey Area 1 (SA1)

Location

The proposed project is located on SR-1 (PM 28.15) at Willow Creek in the Pitas Point quadrangle, Ventura County. The Pacific Ocean lies roughly 500’ to the west of the site. To the northeast of the project lies the Los Padres National Forest. The project area is about 70 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles and 8 miles southeast of Carpinteria. The project area lies amidst industrial oil fields. SA1 consists of a 250-foot buffer around the Willow/ Los Sauces Creek Bridge (Br.# 52-003). SA1 is approximately 5.35 acres in area. Please refer to **Figure 1: Project location**.

Figure 6: Biological Survey Area Boundaries



Survey Area Environmental Setting

Most of the area is a heavily disturbed mix of invasive vegetation along with native trees and shrubs. This portion Willow/ Los Sauces Creek is fed by a channelized concrete portion from the industrial areas to the northeast, which is owned and operated by Dos Cuadras Offshore Drilling. The Union Pacific Railroad to the east of the project area and SR-101 to the west act as potential wildlife barriers to the survey area. Vegetation along the stream corridor is composed of an overstory of willow (*Salix* sp.) and an understory of giant reed (*Arundo donax*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.). Emergent vegetation was present consisting of cattails (*Typha* sp.), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), and watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*). Wildlife that was identified were California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

Surrounding Area Environmental Setting

The area surrounding the survey area is rural, mountainous/coastal portion of Ventura County. Coastal Open Space consists sporadic beaches, rocky cliff faces, with moderate to sparse Coastal Sage Scrub ground cover. Industrial land use surrounding the survey area is primarily used for oil and gas production, with the Rincon Oil Field and San Miguelito Oil Field located uphill of the project area. There are large portions of agricultural land at higher elevations to the northwest, containing various orchards, groves, and farmland. There are clusters of light residential land use in the coastal communities to the north and south of the survey area.

Cover

Within the 5.35 acres of the study area, approximately 0.51 acres are native vegetation, 0.64 acres are non-native vegetation, 1.38 are paved, railroad, or active industrial lots, and 2.82 acres are bare or cleared ground.

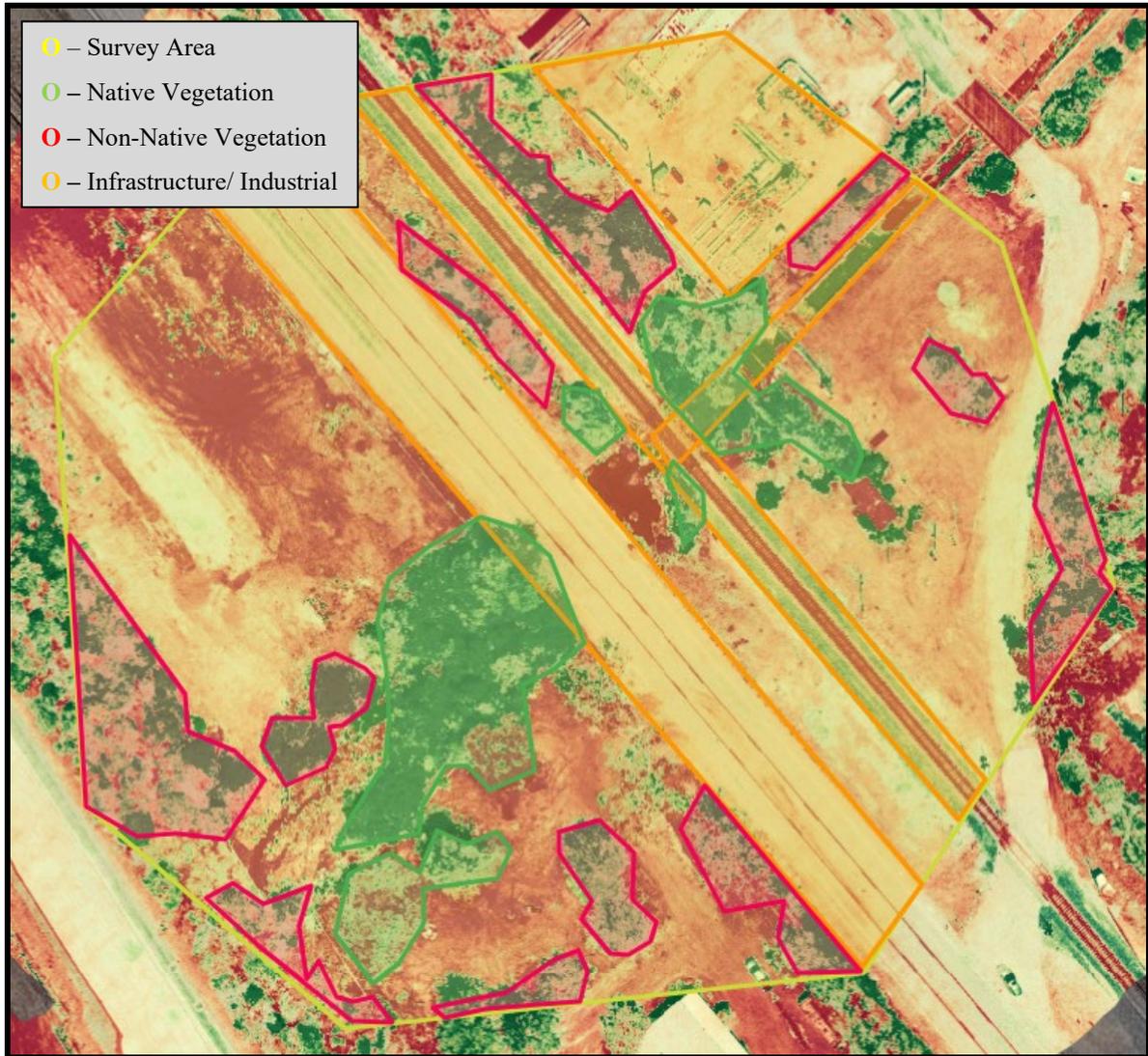
9% Native vegetation

12% Non-native vegetation

53% Bare and cleared ground

26% Infrastructure and industrial lot

Figure 7: Ground Cover with Vegetation Health Index



2.3 Methodology

References

The following documents and sources of information have been used to complete this assessment:

- California Department of Fish and Game. 2021. California Natural Diversity Database.
- IPAC System. United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Retrieved 2021
- Calflora: Information on wild California plants for conservation, education, and appreciation. Accessed throughout 2017-2021 from www.calflora.org.
- CNPS: California Native Plant Society, Accessed throughout 2017-2021 from <https://www.cnps.org>.
- Vegetation Classification of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and Environs in Ventura and Los Angeles Counties, California, January 2006
- National Marine Fisheries Service species list, retrieved 2021.
- Oak Woodland Conservation Management Planning in Southern CA https://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr251/psw_gtr251_471.pdf
- Ventura County Resource Management Agency's website: <https://vcrma.org/>
- Bridge Rail Upgrade Natural Environment Study, October 2018

Survey Details

General habitat assessments began on November 30th, 2017 by Patrick Thompson, District Biologist, Tania Asef Associate District Biologist, and Christopher Laurel, Environmental Planner. The Biological Study Area (BSA) buffer zone extended roughly 250 feet and included riparian and upland habitat. Additional Surveys were conducted between 2017 and 2021. Please reference the following table for survey dates:

Survey Date & Details							
Survey Key (1)	Survey Date (2)	Survey Area Map Key(s) (3)	Survey Type (4)	Time Period (5)	Methods/Constraints (6)	GPS	Surveyors
SD1	11/30/2017	SA1	NES	9:15 am–10:45 am	Walked BSA. The entire site was accessible.	N/A	Tania Asef, Patrick Thompson, Christopher Laurel
SD2	12/25/2017	SA1	NES	8:30 am–11:00 am	Walked BSA. The entire site was accessible.	N/A	Michael Klima, Patrick Thompson, Christopher Laurel
SD3	1/4/2018	SA1	NES	8:45 am–11:40 am	Walked BSA. The entire site was accessible.	N/A	Andrew Johnstone, Michael Klima, Patrick Thompson, Christopher Laurel
SD4	1/31/2018	SA1	NES	10:00 am–11:30 am	Walked BSA. The entire site was accessible.	N/A	Michael Klima, Patrick Thompson
SD4	4/19/2018	SA1	NES	8:00 am – 12:30 pm	Walked BSA. The entire site was accessible.	N/A	Patrick Thompson, Alyssa Veloze, Christopher Laurel, Ben Siemens, Joshua Miller, Paul Caron
SD6	6/20/2018	SA1	NES	10:00 am – 2:00 pm	Walked BSA. The entire site was accessible.	N/A	Andrew Johnstone, Peter Champion, Patrick Thompson, Christopher Laurel
SD7	12/16/2020	SA1	ISBA	10:00am – 2:00 .pm	Walked BSA. The entire site was accessible.	N/A	Patrick Thompson, Nick Pisano
SD8	2/4/2021	SA1	ISBA	10:00 am – 11:30 am	Walked BSA. Took pictures. The entire site was accessible.	34.2045486, -119.252045	Paul Caron, Patrick Thompson, Nick Pisano, Noe Torres (Ventura County), Jennifer Welch (Ventura County)
SD9	4/16/2021	SA1	ISBA	10:00 am – 2:30 pm	Walked BSA. Collected UAS Data. The entire site was accessible.	34.3485954, -119.4222289	Patrick Thompson, Joshua Miller
ISBAInitial Study Biological Assessment NESNatural Environment Study							

Section 3: The Biological Inventory

See Appendix One for an overview of the types of biological resources that are protected in Ventura County.

3.1 Ecological Communities: Plant Communities, Physical Features and Wetland

Plant Communities

Locally important or rare plant communities were not found within the survey area.

Major Plant Communities Summary

Most of the area is a mix of invasive vegetation along with native trees and shrubs. Vegetation along the stream corridor was composed of an overstory of willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and an understory of giant reed (*Arundo donax*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.). Emergent vegetation was present consisting of cattails (*Typha* sp.), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), and watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*).

Plant Communities								
Map Key (1)	SVC Alliance	SVC Association	Misc. (2)	Status (3)	Condition (4)	Acres Total	Acres Impacted	Comments (5)
PC1	Freshwater Forested Arroyo Willow ⁴ , <i>Salix lasiolepis</i> / Shrub Wetland	Poison oak, <i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>			Disturbed	.51	0.02	No mature trees shall be impacted as a result of this project.
PC2	Non-Native		Ruderal		Disturbed	0.64	0	
PC3			Cleared Land			2.82	0	
Totals						3.97	0.02	
LIC..... Locally Important Plant Community ESHA..... Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (Coastal Zone) CDFG Rare: G1 or S1..... Critically Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state) G2 or S2..... Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state) G3 or S3..... Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction Globally or Subnationally (state) Cal OWA..... Protected by the California Oak Woodlands Act								

⁴ <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=18243&inline>

Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA)

ESHA is “any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments” (Public Resources Code § 30107.5). ESHA includes coastal dunes, beaches, tidepools, wetlands, creek corridors, and certain upland habitats in the Santa Monica Mountains (Ventura County Coastal Area Plan).

Habitats that meet the definition of ESHA were found within the survey area(s).

Willow/ Los Sauces creek is considered a coastal wetland, therefore the proposed project location is within an ESHA. The project will temporarily impact 0.02 acres of designated the ESHA. There will be no permanent impacts to wetlands as a result of the proposed project.

Figure 8: Environmentally Sensitive Habitat



Physical Features

There are no physical features of ecological significance in the survey area.

Waters and Wetlands

See Appendix One for an overview of the local, state and federal regulations protecting waters, wetlands and riparian habitats. Wetlands are complex systems; delineating their specific boundaries, functions and values generally takes a level of effort beyond the scope of an Initial Study Biological Assessment (ISBA). The goal of the ISBA with regard to waters and wetlands is simply to identify whether they may exist or not and to determine the potential for impacts to them from the proposed project. This much information can be adequate for designing projects to avoid impacts to waters and wetlands. Additional studies are generally warranted to delineate specific wetland boundaries and to develop recommendations for impact minimization or impact mitigation measures.

Waters and/or wetlands were found within the survey area(s).

Waters and Wetlands Summary

Willow Creek, also known locally as Los Sauces Creek, is fed through west facing mountain ridges, southwest of Lake Casitas, from Los Padres National Forest. The creek has been channelized with concrete (10'x10') through industrial lots for an approximate 1,200' northeast of the project location. The creek has various overpasses: Oil and gas utility pipes, catwalks, an industrial vehicle bridge, and the Union Pacific (UP)-Railroad. The creek pools 40' between the end of the industrial channel and the UP-Railroad crossing, and again for 30' to SR-1 Br.# 52-0003. The creek then flows through natural boundaries, to the culvert beneath US-101, to the Pacific Ocean (approximately 500'). Immediately surrounding the creek in the survey area lies heavily disturbed land with no connection to other riparian or coastal habitats.

Waters and Wetlands									
Map Key (1)	Wetland Type (2)	Wetland Name (if any)	Wetland Status (3) (if known)	Wetland Size (4)	Hydrologic Status (5)	Primary Water Source (6)	County Wetland Significance (7)	Wetland Distance from Project (8)	Comments (9)
W1	Stream/ drainage	Willow Creek/ Los Sauces Creek	USACE	0.49 acres within SA1	Flowing	Concrete channelized runoff (Other Runoff)	Not Significant	Within construction footprint.	No connectivity upstream or downstream. The wetland is of low value to wildlife.
USACE..... U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulated CDFG..... California Department of Fish & Game regulated County..... County General Plan protected wetland WPD..... Co. Watershed Protection District (red-line stream)									

Figure 9: Waters and Wetlands



3.2 Species

Observed Species

Most of the area is a mix of invasive vegetation along with native trees and shrubs. Vegetation along the stream corridor was composed of an overstory of willow (*Salix* sp.) and an understory of giant reed (*Arundo donax*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.). Emergent vegetation was present consisting of cattails (*Typha* sp.), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), and watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*).

Wildlife that was identified were California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

Please see appended species list for the complete observed species within the survey area (SA1).

Protected Trees

No protected trees were identified in the project's survey area (SA1). The dominant arroyo willow overstory has not been regionally identified as a protected tree species. Any vegetation removal/ tree trimming is not anticipated to impact willows within the riparian habitat.

Special Status Species and Nests

Special status species were not found and are not expected to occur within the survey area(s).

The project area does not support suitable habitat for California Native Plant Society (CNPS) listed species southern tar plant (*Centromadia parryi australis*) or woolly seablite (*Suaeda taxifolia*). These species are ranked by CNPS as shown in **Table 2: Special Status Species** and are found in saltmarshes, wetland, and chaparral. The project location was surveyed and none of these species were observed within the limits of impact.

Table 2: Special Status Species

Special Status Species							
Scientific Name	Common Name	CA Rare Plant Status	State Rank	Global Rank	Potential to Occur	Adequate Habitat on Site	Comments
<i>Centromadia parryi Australis</i>	Southern tarplant	RPR 1B	S2	G3T2	Low	No	None present in survey area.
<i>Suaeda taxifolia</i>	Woolly seablite	RPR 4	S4	G4	Low	No	None present in survey area.

FE Federal Endangered
 FT Federal Threatened
 FC..... Federal Candidate Species
 FSC Federal Species of Concern
 SFP California Fully Protected Species
 SE California Endangered
 ST California Threatened
 SR..... California Rare
 SSC California Species of Special Concern
 CDFG/NatureServe Rank
 G1 or S1 - Critically Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state)
 G2 or S2 - Imperiled Globally or Subnationally (state)
 G3 or S3 - Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction Globally or Subnationally (state)
 California Rare Plant Rank (RPR)
 RPR 1A - California Native Plant Society/CDFG listed as presumed to be extinct
 RPR 1B - California Native Plant Society/CDFG listed as rare or endangered in California and elsewhere
 RPR 2 - California Native Plant Society/CDFG listed as rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
 RPR 3 - California Native Plant Society/CDFG listed as in need of more information.
 RPR 4 - California Native Plant Society/CDFG listed as of limited distribution or infrequent throughout a broader area in California.
 LIS Locally Important Species

As part related work on other bridges in Ventura County, Caltrans hired GPA Consulting to conduct protocol surveys level presence/ absence surveys for federally listed species in the survey area. The protocol surveys included surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher (SWWF) and California red-legged frog (CRLF). Suitable habitat for SWWF and CRLF were found to be low quality at Willow/ Los Sauces Creek.

Determination for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)

The GPA Consulting protocol surveys conducted in 2017 concluded that no southwestern willow fly catcher were found due to lack of suitable habitat. Caltrans will conduct preconstruction surveys if work is to be done during nesting season (February 1st through September 1st). Any sighting of a SWWFL in the construction limits or directly adjacent will trigger a notification to USFWS by Caltrans, for purposes of additional guidance. If SWWFL nests are found within 500 feet of the construction site, work will stop until the nesting has been completed and the birds have left the area. Construction limits will be marked in the field and indicated by flagging, stakes, and construction fencing. Construction personnel would be instructed on the ecological sensitivity of the area. Pre-construction surveys will be done to make a final determination of whether southwestern willow flycatcher is present.

This project will have no effect to south western willow flycatcher as this location lacks the primary constituent elements needed for this species to thrive. Additionally, protocol surveys were conducted and found no SWWFL present.

Determination for California Red Legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*)

The GPA protocol surveys conducted in 2017 concluded no California red-legged frog were found. This was most likely due to potential threats and limiting factors such as; non-native crayfish, heavy recreation use, and trash associated with recreation.

At the Willow Creek site, habitat appeared to be of low quality for CRLF. The only pool with sufficient depth for CRLF breeding was the large pool at the SR-101 culverts, which likely had high salinity from frequent ocean wave over wash. Other threats noted included surrounding oilfield land use, and prickly sculpin which may predate on amphibian larvae.

This project will have no effect to California red-legged frog as this location lacks the primary constituent elements needed for this species to thrive. Additionally, protocol surveys were conducted and found no CRLF present.

Nesting Bird Summary

Habitat suitable for nests of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act does exist within the survey area(s).

The project has the potential to impact breeding/nesting birds protected by Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA). The proposed project involves tree trimming and minor vegetation removal. These activities have the potential to impact nesting birds within the project area. The proposed project will include all necessary avoidance and minimization measures to avoid impacts to nesting birds and their habitat. Please see chapter **4.2 Impacts and Mitigation** for a list of avoidance and minimization measures related to the MBTA.

3.3 Wildlife Movement and Connectivity *(Initial Study Checklist D)*

Wildlife movement or connectivity features, or evidence thereof, were not found within the survey area(s).

Connectivity Features

The project's survey area is immediately surrounded by industrial oil fields. The majority of the fields are fenced, impeding access to larger terrestrial wildlife. US-101 lies west of the project site. There is a culvert that runs under the highway, where Willow/ Los Sauces creek feeds into the riprap above the ocean. Because of an elevation change of the culvert to the Pacific Ocean, there is negligible probability of aquatic wildlife entering Willow/ Los Sauces Creek from the ocean. To the east, the creek is fed by a concrete channelized industrial drainage that stretches northeast 1000'. This drainage lacks riparian trees for migratory birds and does not contain suitable ripples or pools for migrating aquatic life.

Section 4: Recommended Impact Assessment & Mitigation

4.1 Sufficiency of Biological Data

Additional biology-related permits needed prior to issuance of land use permit:

Table 3: Project Related Permits

Agency	Permit/Approval	Status
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	1602 Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement	Pending.
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Section 401 Water quality Certification	Pending.
United States Army Corps of Engineers	Nationwide Permit (NWP) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act	Pending.

4.2 Impacts and Mitigation

A. Species

Project: N; Cumulative: N

No Special status animal species that were listed in the CNDDDB or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have the potential to occur in the project area. Additional provisions, listed below, will be implemented during construction to avoid any potential impacts to California State Species of Concern.

An Essential Fish Habitat Assessment report is not required for this project due to the absence of estuaries and ocean habitats for assessment. Although the project location is in close proximity to the Pacific Ocean, the project activities will be far enough away from any Essential Fish Habitat. Proper BMPs will be placed to prevent any debris from entering the ocean.

The following is a list of avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented in the project to prevent any potential impacts to protected species:

- Caltrans will incorporate all applicable Avoidance and Minimization Measures regarding CRLF and SWWFC as identified in the Programmatic Biological Opinion issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Federal Highways Administration (1-8-02-F-68).
- If bats or their signs are determined to be present by the project biologist, pre-construction surveys must be conducted within 3 business days of commencement of work, and the Resident Engineer ®E must notify the biologist. If bats are present, exclusionary devices must be employed by the contractor to keep the bats from roosting.

- Biological surveys of the project area shall be performed in locations having increased biological sensitivity as determined by the District Biologist. Surveys shall be conducted at most one week prior to the clearing and grubbing of vegetation.
- Wherever possible, vegetation would be trimmed and/or removed outside of core nesting period (February 1st - September 1st).
- If avoidance of these activities during this period is not possible, preconstruction surveys by a qualified biologist would be conducted to identify any existing nests or breeding birds within the area scheduled for construction. The survey should be completed no more than 48 hours prior to the start of project activities. Additional surveys would be conducted if more than 72 hours pass between preconstruction nesting bird surveys and the start of construction.
- If breeding/nesting birds are located within 150 ft. of the limits of disturbance, a buffer shall be flagged around the nest and ESA signs posted. Any work within 150 ft. of the flagged area would require a biologist to monitor the birds and ensure that the construction activities do not negatively impact the birds.
- If the biologist identifies signs of stress, the biologist will inform the Engineer that activities within the immediate area cannot resume until the birds resume their normal behavior or until the nest has been determined to be no longer active.
- Should breeding/nesting of raptors be located within the area scheduled for construction, the buffer shall be extended to 500 ft. as raptors are more sensitive to disturbance.
- When work is conducted during June 1st to November 1st (dry season), work shall occur during daylight hours when feasible, to minimize impacts on nocturnal wildlife activity.
- Caltrans will properly maintain, remove from the work site, and dispose of regularly all trash that may attract predators. Caltrans will remove all trash and construction debris from work areas following construction.

B. Ecological Communities

Project: LS; Cumulative: N

Sensitive Plant Communities

The project area does not support suitable habitat for CNPS listed species. No listed species or protected plant communities have been identified within the survey area. With the following avoidance and minimization features in place, the project shall have a less than significant effect on ecological communities:

- The removal and/or disturbance of trees and vegetation would be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
- At least 2 business days before using vehicles and equipment on the job site, the contractor must submit a signed statement that the vehicles and equipment have been cleaned of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, and other such debris that may introduce or spread invasive species.
- Erosion control measures are to be applied to all disturbed slopes. If seeds are to be used to revegetate the slope, native plant materials and seed species will be determined by Caltrans District Landscape Architects, Coastal Commission, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife specialists.
- A weed abatement program will be developed to minimize the importation of nonnative plant material during and after construction. Eradication strategies would be employed should an invasion occur. At a minimum, this program will include the following measures:
 - During construction, the construction contractor shall inspect and clean construction equipment at the beginning and end of each day and prior to transporting equipment from one project location to another.

- During construction, soil and vegetation disturbance will be minimized to the greatest extent feasible.
- During construction, the contractor shall ensure that all active portions of the construction site are watered a minimum of twice daily or more often when needed due to dry or windy conditions to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- During construction, the contractor shall ensure that all material stockpiled is sufficiently watered or covered to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- During construction, soil/gravel/rock will be obtained from weed-free sources.
- Only certified weed-free straw, mulch, and/or fiber rolls will be used for erosion control.
- After construction, affected areas adjacent to native vegetation will be revegetated with plant species approved by the District Biologist that are native to the vicinity.
- Replacement tree planting shall occur within suitable, onsite areas at ratios that ensure success of the planted species.
- After construction, all revegetated areas will avoid the use of species listed on Cal-IPC's California Invasive Plant Inventory.
- The planting of invasive trees shall be prohibited.
- Erosion control and revegetation sites will be monitored during construction.
- Caltrans will not use herbicides as the primary method to control invasive, exotic plants. If herbicides are the only feasible method for controlling invasive, exotic plants Caltrans will implement the protective measures described in the avoidance and minimization measure 18 of the PBO to reduce drift and overspray of herbicides in the project area.

Waters and Wetlands

Impacts

The proposed project will temporally impact 1200' or 0.02 acres of riparian habitat while implementing the creek's Water Diversion Plan and constructing the 1'-1.5' bridge edge extension over Willow/ Los Sauces Creek. Please reference **Figure 3: Construction Footprint Size** and **Figure 4: Bridge Edge Extension** for temporary and permanent project features.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

In order to avoid any potential significant impacts to waters and wetlands, the project shall include the following avoidance and minimization measures:

- All applicable Construction Best Management Practices for water quality shall be implemented to minimize project affects to jurisdictional drainages. All Federal and State litter laws shall be followed by the contractors.
- A Water Diversion Plan shall be developed and implemented to de-water the construction zone in consultation with NOAA, CDFW, USFWS, ACOE, and RWQCB. The plan will include measures to divert water through the project site to reduce turbidity and prevent sediments from entering the stream course.
- A site-specific investigation will be conducted at the final design phase to investigate the subsurface conditions including depth to groundwater.
- Any work that requires creek access will take place during the dry season (June 1st to November 1st) and a water diversion method will ensure the work area is free from moisture.

- The contractor must follow Caltrans and CDFW manuals for deployment of sediment control devices. Typical sediment control devices include siltation curtains, sandbags, hay bales, filter fabrics, and fiber rolls.
- Heavy equipment shall be positioned away from the creek channel at the end of each workday. All heavy equipment will be checked for oil leaks, gas, hydraulic fluid, and any other pollutant which could impact water quality and instream habitat each workday prior to being deployed into the project area. Drip pans should be installed on all equipment working in the project area to control leaks and for the purpose of avoiding water quality impacts to surface waters.
- Vehicle maintenance will not be conducted in the streambed, herein defined as the channel through which a natural stream of water runs or used to run.
- The local riverbed and unpaved soil at Willow/Los Sauces Creek Bridge will require protection so that debris does not fall into the river. All debris falling on the ground must be immediately cleaned up and work stopped until debris is removed. After completion of work, testing of unpaved soil below the work area is required to ensure soil was not impacted during construction.
- Removal of the wood posts, railings, MBGRs, and piping may result in debris from the TWW, paint, concrete and ACM entering the underlying creeks and water. These activities must be performed to capture any debris that may fall into the water and soil below. All debris falling on the ground or into the water must be immediately cleaned up and work stopped until debris is removed.
- Caltrans will conduct all refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles at least 60 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies in a location where a spill would not drain towards aquatic habitat. Caltrans will ensure that contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Caltrans will ensure a spill response plan is in place prior to onset of work.

C. Habitat Connectivity (migration corridors)

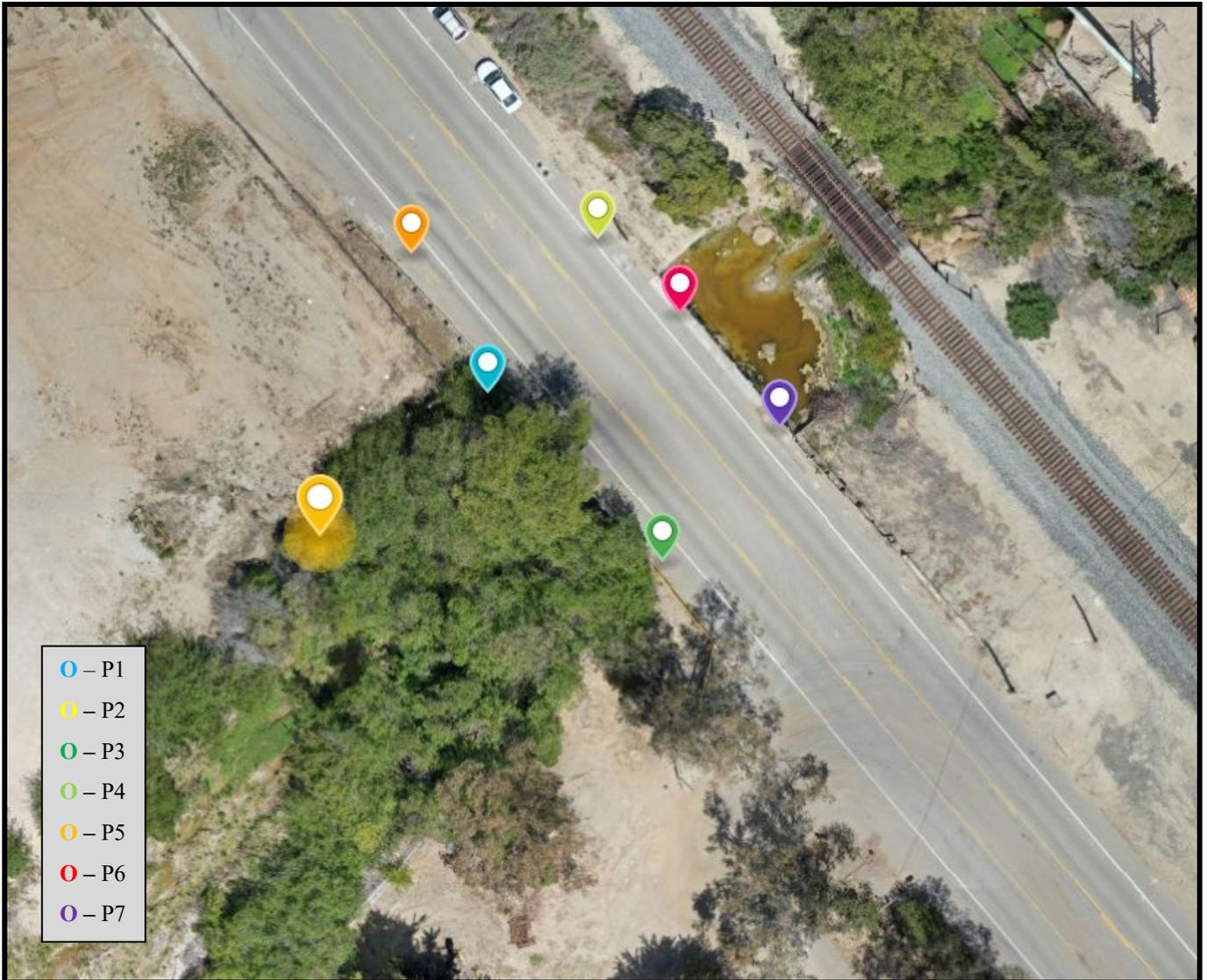
Project: N; Cumulative: N

The proposed project does not include permanent project features that would alter wildlife movement or connectivity. There will be no permanent features installed within Willow/ Los Sauces Creek and no permanent alterations to the flow of water beneath the creek. 0.02 acres of riparian habitat will be temporarily impacted during the construction of the bridge deck extension.

Section 5: Photos

The following photos were collected during a site visit between Paul Caron, Patrick Thompson, Nick Pisano, Noe Torres (Ventura County), Jennifer Welch (Ventura County) on December 16, 2020:

Figure 10: Photo Locations



Photos

Location
SA1
Map Key
P1
View Direction
Northeast
Description
Western portion of the bridge. Gas pipeline can be seen above bridge deck. Sparse vegetation viable. Nick is 2" from the bridge deck.



Location
SA1
Map Key
P1
View Direction
Northwest
Description
Mid-bridge view northward. Nick (6' tall) stands on the edge of the bank between the wooden bridge rail and utility gas pipe. The bridge extension will be between him and bridge rail.



Photos

Location
SA1
Map Key
P2
View Direction
Northeast
Description
Creek bed west of bridge. Utility pipe and bridge deck. Nick was 2'-3' from bridge. Willows can be seen west of the utility pipes.



Location
SA1
Map Key
P3
View Direction
Southeast
Description
West side of bridge. Utility pipe visible on right. Partial willow overhead SR-1. Deteriorated wooden bridge. Out-dated end treatments.



Photos

Location
SA1

Map Key
P4

View Direction
West

Description
Northwest corner of bridge. Utility pole with no MGS. Utilities on east side of bridge viable near UP-Railroad overcrossing.



Location
SA1

Map Key
P5

View Direction
West

Description
Bare/ cleared industrial lot immediately northeast of project location. Frequent access by industrial vehicles visible.



Photos

Location
SA1
Map Key
P5
View Direction
South
Description
Western portion of the bridge. MBGR connection to wooden rail. Willow dripline above highway. Neighboring lot's metering system past ROW.



Location
SA1
Map Key
P6
View Direction
East
Description
Stagnant pooling between UP-Railroad and SR-1. Utilities to be relocated visible by RR. Wooden railing appears weathered and deteriorated.



Photos

Location
SA1
Map Key
P7
View Direction
Northeast
Description
Southeast wingwall of SR-1. Pooled water. Deteriorated wooden rail.



Appendix One

Summary of Biological Resource Regulations

The Ventura County Planning Division, as “lead agency” under CEQA for issuing discretionary land use permits, uses the relationship of a potential environmental effect from a proposed project to an established regulatory standard to determine the significance of the potential environmental effect. This Appendix summarizes important biological resource regulations which are used by the Division’s biologists (consultants and staff) in making CEQA findings of significance:

- Sensitive Status Species Regulations
- Nesting Bird Regulations
- Plant Community Regulations
- Tree Regulations
- Waters and Wetlands Regulations
- Coastal Habitat Regulations
- Wildlife Migration Regulations
- Locally Important Species/Communities Regulations

Sensitive Status Species Regulations

Federally Protected Species

Ventura County is home to 29 federally listed endangered and threatened plant and wildlife species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulates the protection of federally listed endangered and threatened plant and wildlife species.

FE (Federally Endangered): A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

FT (Federally Threatened): A species that is likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

FC (Federal Candidate): A species for which USFWS has sufficient information on its biological status and threats to propose it as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but for which development of a proposed listing regulation is precluded by other higher priority listing activities.

FSC (Federal Species of Concern): A species under consideration for listing, for which there is insufficient information to support listing at this time. These species may or may not be listed in the future, and many of these species were formerly recognized as “Category-2 Candidate” species.

The USFWS requires permits for the “take” of any federally listed endangered or threatened species. “Take” is defined by the USFWS as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct; may include significant habitat modification or degradation if it kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns including breeding, feeding, or sheltering.”

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) does not provide statutory protection for candidate species or species of concern, but USFWS encourages conservation efforts to protect these species. USFWS can set up voluntary Candidate Conservation Agreements and Assurances, which provide non-Federal landowners (public and private) with the assurance that if they implement various conservation activities to protect a given candidate species, they will not be subject to additional restrictions if the species becomes listed under the ESA.

State Protected Species

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) regulates the protection of endangered, threatened, and fully protected species listed under the California Endangered Species Act. Some species may be jointly listed under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts.

SE (California Endangered): A native species or subspecies which is in serious danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes, including loss of habitat, change in habitat, overexploitation, predation, competition, or disease.

ST (California Threatened): A native species or subspecies that, although not presently threatened with extinction, is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future in the absence of the special protection and

management efforts required by this chapter. Any animal determined by the commission as "rare" on or before January 1, 1985, is a "threatened species."

SFP (California Fully Protected Species): This designation originated from the State's initial effort in the 1960's to identify and provide additional protection to those animals that were rare or faced possible extinction. Lists were created for fish, mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and birds. Most fully protected species have also been listed as threatened or endangered species under the more recent endangered species laws and regulations.

SR (California Rare): A species, subspecies, or variety of plant is rare under the Native Plant Protection Act when, although not presently threatened with extinction, it is in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become endangered if its present environment worsens. Animals are no longer listed as rare; all animals listed as rare before 1985 have been listed as threatened.

SSC (California Species of Special Concern): Animals that are not listed under the California Endangered Species Act, but which nonetheless 1) are declining at a rate that could result in listing, or 2) historically occurred in low numbers and known threats to their persistence currently exist.

The CDFG requires permits for the "take" of any State-listed endangered or threatened species. Section 2080 of the Fish and Game Code prohibits "take" of any species that the California Fish and Game Commission determines to be endangered or threatened. "Take" is defined in Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill."

The California Native Plant Protection Act protects endangered and rare plants of California. Section 1908, which regulates plants listed under this act, states: "no person shall import into this state, or take, possess, or sell within this state, except as incident to the possession or sale of the real property on which the plant is growing, any native plant, or any part or product thereof, that the commission determines to be an endangered native plant or rare native plant, except as otherwise provided in this chapter."

Unlike endangered, threatened, and rare species, for which a take permit may be issued, California Fully Protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no licenses or permits may be issued for their take except for collecting these species for necessary scientific research and relocation of the bird species for the protection of livestock.

The California Endangered Species Act does not provide statutory protection for California species of special concern, but they should be considered during the environmental review process.

California Rare Plant Ranks (RPR)

Plants with 1A, 1B, 2 or 4 should always be addressed in CEQA documents. Plants with a RPR 3 do not need to be addressed in CEQA documents unless there is sufficient information to demonstrate that a RPR 3 plant meets the criteria to be listed as a RPR 1, 2, or 4.

RPR 1A: Plants presumed to be extinct because they have not been seen or collected in the wild in California for many years. This list includes plants that are both presumed extinct in California, as well as those plants which are presumed extirpated in California. A plant is extinct in California if it no longer occurs in or outside of California. A plant that is extirpated from California has been eliminated from California, but may still occur elsewhere in its range.

RPR 1B: Plants that are rare throughout their range with the majority of them endemic to California. Most of the plants of List 1B have declined significantly over the last century.

RPR 2: Plants that are rare throughout their range in California, but are more common beyond the boundaries of California. List 2 recognizes the importance of protecting the geographic range of widespread species.

Plants identified as RPR 1A, 1B, and 2 meet the definitions of Sec. 1901, Chapter 10 (Native Plant Protection Act) or Secs. 2062 and 2067 (California Endangered Species Act) of the California Department of Fish and Game Code, and are eligible for state listing.

RPR 3: A review list for plants for which there is inadequate information to assign them to one of the other lists or to reject them.

RPR 4: A watch list for plants that are of limited distribution in California.

Global and Subnational Rankings

Though not associated directly with legal protections, species have been given a conservation status rank by NatureServe, an international non-profit conservation organization that is the leading source for information about

rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. The Ventura County Planning Division considers the following ranks as sensitive for the purposes of CEQA impact assessment (G = Global, S = Subnational or State):

- G1 or S1 - Critically Imperiled
- G2 or S2 – Imperiled
- G3 or S3 - Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction

Locally Important Species

Locally important species' protections are addressed below under "Locally Important Species/Communities Regulations."

For lists of some of the species in Ventura County that are protected by the above regulations, go to http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/ceqa/bio_resource_review.html.

Migratory Bird Regulations

The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Code (3503, 3503.5, 3511, 3513 and 3800) protect most native birds. In addition, the federal and state endangered species acts protect some bird species listed as threatened or endangered. Project-related impacts to birds protected by these regulations would normally occur during the breeding season, because unlike adult birds, eggs and chicks are unable to escape impacts.

The MBTA implements various treaties and conventions between the U.S. and Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Russia for the protection of migratory birds, which occur in two of these countries over the course of one year. The Act maintains that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill; attempt to take, capture or kill; possess, offer to or sell, barter, purchase, deliver or cause to be shipped, exported, imported, transported, carried or received any migratory bird, part, nest, egg or product, manufactured or not. Bird species protected under the provisions of the MBTA are identified by the List of Migratory Birds (Title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 10.13 as updated by the 1983 American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist and published supplements through 1995 by the USFWS).

CDFG Code 3513 upholds the MBTA by prohibiting any take or possession of birds that are designated by the MBTA as migratory nongame birds except as allowed by federal rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the MBTA. In addition, there are CDFG Codes (3503, 3503.5, 3511, and 3800) which further protect nesting birds and their parts, including passerine birds, raptors, and state "fully protected" birds.

NOTE: These regulations protect almost all *native nesting birds*, not just sensitive status birds.

Plant Community Regulations

Plant communities are provided legal protection when they provide habitat for protected species or when the community is in the coastal zone and qualifies as environmentally sensitive habitat area (ESHA).

Global and Subnational Rankings

Though not associated directly with legal protections, plant communities have been given a conservation status rank by NatureServe, an international non-profit conservation organization that is the leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. The Ventura County Planning Division considers the following ranks as sensitive for the purposes of CEQA impact assessment (G = Global, S = Subnational or State):

- G1 or S1 - Critically Imperiled
- G2 or S2 - Imperiled
- G3 or S3 - Vulnerable to extirpation or extinction

CDFG Rare

Rare natural communities are those communities that are of highly limited distribution. These communities may or may not contain rare, threatened, or endangered species. Though the Native Plant Protection Act and the California Endangered Species Act provide no legal protection to plant communities, CDFG considers plant communities that are ranked G1-G3 or S1-S3 (as defined above) to be rare or sensitive, and therefore these plant communities should be addressed during CEQA review.

Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas

The Coastal Act specifically calls for protection of “environmentally sensitive habitat areas” or ESHA, which it defines as: “Any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments” (Section 30107.5).

ESHA has been specifically defined in the Santa Monica Mountains. For ESHA identification in this location, the Coastal Commission, the agency charged with administering the Coastal Act, has described the habitats that are considered ESHA. A memo from a Coastal Commission biologist that describes ESHA in the Santa Monica Mountains can be found at: http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/ceqa/bio_resource_review.html.

Locally Important Communities

The Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines defines a locally important community as one that is considered by qualified biologists to be a quality example characteristic of or unique to the County or region, with this determination being made on a case-by-case basis. The County has not developed a list of locally important communities, but has deemed oak woodlands to be a locally important community through the County’s *Oak Woodland Management Plan*.

Tree Regulations

Selected trees are protected by the Ventura County Tree Protection Ordinance, found in Section 8107-25 of the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance. This ordinance, which applies in the unincorporated areas of the County outside the coastal zone, regulates—through a tree permit program—the removal, trimming of branches or roots, or grading or excavating within the root zone of a “protected tree.” Individual trees are the focus of the ordinance, while oak woodlands are additionally protected as “locally important communities.”

The ordinance allows removal of five protected trees (only three of which can be oaks or sycamores; none of which can be heritage or historical trees) through a ministerial permit process. Removal of more/other than this may trigger a discretionary tree permit.

If a proposed project cannot avoid impacts to protected trees, mitigation of these impacts (such as replacement of lost trees) is addressed through the tree permit process—**unless the impacts may affect biological resources beyond the tree itself**, such as to sensitive status species that may be using the tree, nesting birds, the tree’s role as part of a larger habitat, etc. These secondary impacts have not been addressed through the tree permit program and must be addressed by the biologist in the biological assessment in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

A tree permit does not, however, substitute as mitigation for impacts to oak woodlands. The Public Resources Code requires that when a county is determining the applicability of CEQA to a project, it must determine whether that project “may result in a conversion of oak woodlands that will have a significant effect on the environment.” If such effects (either individual impacts or cumulative) are identified, the law requires that they be mitigated. Acceptable mitigation measures include, but are not limited to, conservation of other oak woodlands through the use of conservation easements and planting replacement trees, which must be maintained for seven years. In addition, only 50% of the mitigation required for significant impacts to oak woodlands may be fulfilled by replanting oak trees.

The following trees are protected in the specified zones. Girth is measured at 4.5 feet from the midpoint between the uphill and downhill side of the root crown.

PROTECTED TREES			
Common Name/Botanical Name (Genus species)	Girth Standard (Circumference)	Applicable Zones	
		All Base Zones	SRP ₁
Alder (<i>Alnus</i> all species)	9.5 in.		X
Ash (<i>Fraxinus</i> all species)	9.5 in.		X
Bay (<i>Umbellularia californica</i>)	9.5 in.		X

Cottonwood (<i>Populus</i> all species)	9.5 in.		X
Elderberry (<i>Sambucus</i> all species)	9.5 in.		X
Big Cone Douglas Fir (<i>Pseudotsuga macrocarpa</i>)	9.5 in.		X
White Fir (<i>Abies concolor</i>)	9.5 in.		X
Juniper (<i>Juniperus californica</i>)	9.5 in.		X
Maple (<i>Acer macrophyllum</i>)	9.5 in.		X
Oak (Single) (<i>Quercus</i> all species)	9.5 in.	X	X
Oak (Multi) (<i>Quercus</i> all species)	6.25 in.	X	X
Pine (<i>Pinus</i> all species)	9.5 in.		X
Sycamore (<i>Platanus</i> all species)	9.5 in.	X	X
Walnut (<i>Juglans</i> all species)	9.5 in.		X
Historical Tree ³ (any species)	(any size)	X	X
Heritage Tree ⁴ (any species)	90.0 in.	X	X

X Indicates the zones in which the subject trees are considered protected trees.

1. SRP - Scenic Resource Protection Overlay Zone

2. SHP - Scenic Highway Protection Overlay Zone

3. Any tree or group of trees identified by the County or a city as a landmark, or identified on the Federal or California Historic Resources Inventory to be of historical or cultural significance, or identified as contributing to a site or structure of historical or cultural significance.

4. Any species of tree with a single trunk of 90 or more inches in girth or with multiple trunks, two of which collectively measure 72 inches in girth or more. Species with naturally thin trunks when full grown or naturally large trunks at an early age, or trees with unnaturally enlarged trunks due to injury or disease must be at least 60 feet tall or 75 years old.

Waters and Wetlands Regulations

Numerous agencies control what can and cannot be done in or around streams and wetlands. If a project affects an area where water flows, ponds or is present even part of the year, it is likely to be regulated by one or more agencies. Many wetland or stream projects will require three main permits or approvals (in addition to CEQA compliance). These are:

- 404 Permit (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- 401 Certification (California Regional Water Quality Control Board)
- Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Department of Fish and Game)

For a more thorough explanation of wetland permitting, see the Ventura County’s “Wetland Project Permitting Guide” at http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/ceqa/bio_resource_review.html.

404 Permit (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

Most projects that involve streams or wetlands will require a 404 Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act is the primary federal program regulating activities in wetlands. The Act regulates areas defined as “waters of the United States.” This includes streams, wetlands in or next to streams, areas influenced by tides, navigable waters, lakes, reservoirs and other impoundments. For nontidal waters, USACE jurisdiction extends up to what is referred to as the “ordinary high water mark” as well as to the landward limits of adjacent Corps-defined wetlands, if present. The ordinary high water mark is an identifiable natural line visible on the bank of a stream or water body that shows the upper limit of typical stream flow or water level. The mark is made from the action of water on the streambank over the course of years.

Permit Triggers: A USACE 404 Permit is triggered by moving (discharging) or placing materials—such as dirt, rock, geotextiles, concrete or culverts—into or within USACE jurisdictional areas. This type of activity is also referred to as a “discharge of dredged or fill material.”

401 Certification (Regional Water Quality Control Board)

If your project requires a USACE 404 Permit, then you will also need a Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) 401 Certification. The federal Clean Water Act, in Section 401, specifies that states must certify that any activity subject to a permit issued by a federal agency, such as the USACE, meets all state water quality standards. In California, the state and regional water boards are responsible for certification of activities subject to USACE Section 404 Permits.

Permit Trigger: A RWQCB 401 Certification is triggered whenever a USACE 404 Permit is required, or whenever an activity could cause a discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. or wetlands.

Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Department of Fish and Game)

If your project includes alteration of the bed, banks or channel of a stream, or the adjacent riparian vegetation, then you may need a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The California Fish and Game Code, Sections 1600-1616, regulates activities that would alter the flow, bed, banks, channel or associated riparian areas of a river, stream or lake. The law requires any person, state or local governmental agency or public utility to notify CDFG before beginning an activity that will substantially modify a river, stream or lake.

Permit Triggers: A Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) is triggered when a project involves altering a stream or disturbing riparian vegetation, including any of the following activities:

- Substantially obstructing or diverting the natural flow of a river, stream or lake
- Using any material from these areas
- Disposing of waste where it can move into these areas

Some projects that involve routine maintenance may qualify for long-term maintenance agreements from CDFG. Discuss this option with CDFG staff.

Ventura County General Plan

The Ventura County General Plan contains policies which also strongly protect wetland habitats.

Biological Resources Policy 1.5.2-3 states:

Discretionary development that is proposed to be located within 300 feet of a marsh, small wash, intermittent lake, intermittent stream, spring, or perennial stream (as identified on the latest USGS 7½ minute quad map), shall be evaluated by a County approved biologist for potential impacts on wetland habitats. Discretionary development that would have a significant impact on significant wetland habitats shall be prohibited, unless mitigation measures are adopted that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level; or for lands designated "Urban" or "Existing Community", a statement of overriding considerations is adopted by the decision-making body.

Biological Resources Policy 1.5.2-4 states:

Discretionary development shall be sited a minimum of 100 feet from significant wetland habitats to mitigate the potential impacts on said habitats. Buffer areas may be increased or decreased upon evaluation and recommendation by a qualified biologist and approval by the decision-making body. Factors to be used in determining adjustment of the 100 foot buffer include soil type, slope stability, drainage patterns, presence or absence of endangered, threatened or rare plants or animals, and compatibility of the proposed development with the wildlife use of the wetland habitat area. The requirement of a buffer (setback) shall not preclude the use of replacement as a mitigation when there is no other feasible alternative to allowing a permitted use, and if the replacement results in no net loss of wetland habitat. Such replacement shall be "in kind" (i.e. same type and acreage), and provide wetland habitat of comparable biological value. On-site replacement shall be preferred wherever possible. The replacement plan shall be developed in consultation with California Department of Fish and Game.

Coastal Habitat Regulations

Ventura County's Coastal Area Plan and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance, which constitute the "Local Coastal Program" (LCP) for the unincorporated portions of Ventura County's coastal zone, ensure that the County's land

use plans, zoning ordinances, zoning maps, and implemented actions meet the requirements of, and implement the provisions and polices of California's 1976 Coastal Act at the local level.

Environmentally Sensitive Habitats

The Coastal Act specifically calls for protection of "environmentally sensitive habitat areas" or ESHA, which it defines as: "Any area in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable because of their special nature or role in an ecosystem and which could be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities and developments" (Section 30107.5).

Section 30240 of the Coastal Act states:

- (a) **"Environmentally sensitive habitat areas shall be protected against any significant disruption of habitat values, and only uses dependent on such resources shall be allowed within such areas."**
- (b) **"Development in areas adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and parks and recreation areas shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade such areas, and shall be compatible with the continuance of such habitat areas."**

There are three important elements to the definition of ESHA. First, a geographic area can be designated ESHA either because of the presence of individual species of plants or animals or because of the presence of a particular habitat. Second, in order for an area to be designated as ESHA, the species or habitat must be either rare or it must be especially valuable. Finally, the area must be easily disturbed or degraded by human activities.

Protection of ESHA is of particular concern in the southeastern part of Ventura County, where the coastal zone extends inland (~5 miles) to include an extensive area of the Santa Monica Mountains. For ESHA identification in this location, the Coastal Commission, the agency charged with administering the Coastal Act, has described the habitats that are considered ESHA. A memo from a Coastal Commission biologist that describes ESHA in the Santa Monica Mountains can be found at: http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/ceqa/bio_resource_review.html.

The County's Local Coastal Program outlines other specific protections to environmentally sensitive habitats in the Coastal Zone, such as to wetlands, riparian habitats, dunes, and upland habitats within the Santa Monica Mountains (M Overlay Zone). Protections in some cases are different for different segments of the coastal zone.

Copies of the Coastal Area Plan and the Coastal Zoning Ordinance can be found at: <http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/Programs/local.html>.

Wildlife Migration Regulations

The Ventura County General Plan specifically includes wildlife migration corridors as an element of the region's significant biological resources. In addition, protecting habitat connectivity is critical to the success of special status species and other biological resource protections. Potential project impacts to wildlife migration are analyzed by biologists on a case-by-case basis. The issue involves both a macro-scale analysis—where routes used by large carnivores connecting very large core habitat areas may be impacted—as well as a micro-scale analysis—where a road or stream crossing may impact localized movement by many different animals.

Locally Important Species/Communities Regulations

Locally important species/communities are considered to be significant biological resources in the Ventura County General Plan.

Locally Important Species

The Ventura County General Plan defines a Locally Important Species as a plant or animal species that is not an endangered, threatened, or rare species, but is considered by qualified biologists to be a quality example or unique species within the County and region. The following criteria further define what local qualified biologists have determined to be Locally Important Species:

Locally Important Animal Species Criteria

Taxa for which habitat in Ventura County is crucial for their existence either globally or in Ventura County. This includes:

- Taxa for which the population(s) in Ventura County represents 10 percent or more of the known extant global distribution; or

- Taxa for which there are five or fewer *element occurrences*, or less than 1,000 individuals, or less than 2,000 acres of habitat that sustains populations in Ventura County; or,
- Native taxa that are generally declining throughout their range or are in danger of extirpation in Ventura County.

Locally Important Plant Species Criteria

- Taxa that are declining throughout the extent of their range AND have five (5) or fewer element occurrences in Ventura County.

The County maintains a list of locally important species, which can be found on the Planning Division website at: http://www.ventura.org/rma/planning/ceqa/bio_resource_review.html. *This list should not be considered comprehensive.* Any species that meets the criteria qualifies as locally important, whether or not it is included on this list.

Locally Important Communities

The Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines defines a locally important community as one that is considered by qualified biologists to be a quality example characteristic of or unique to the County or region, with this determination being made on a case-by-case basis. The County has not developed a list of locally important communities. Oak woodlands have however been deemed by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors to be a locally important community.

The state passed legislation in 2001, the Oak Woodland Conservation Act, to emphasize that oak woodlands are a vital and threatened statewide resource. In response, the County of Ventura prepared and adopted an Oak Woodland Management Plan that recommended, among other things, amending the County's Initial Study Assessment Guidelines to include an explicit reference to oak woodlands as part of its definition of locally important communities. The Board of Supervisors approved this management plan and its recommendations.

Appendix Two

Observed Species Tables

Species Observed			
Scientific Name (Species or Genus)	Common Name	Native (1)	Notes (2)
PLANTS			
<i>Salix lasiopepsis</i>	Arroyo Willow	X	
<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>	Scouringrush horsetail		
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black mustard		
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Poison Oak	X	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle		
<i>Kali tragus</i>	Russian Thistle		
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock		
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Sweet fennel		
<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed		
<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress		
<i>Ricinus communis</i>	Castor plant		
<i>Typha lantifolia</i>	Cattail	X	
ANIMALS			
Reptiles			
Western fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	X	
Birds			
<i>Mimus polyglottus</i>	Mockingbird	X	
<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	Bushtit	X	
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House sparrow		
<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	House finch	X	
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Raven	X	
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture	X	



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



Query Criteria: Quad IS (Pitas Point (3411934))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Anniella spp.</i> California legless lizard	ARACC01070	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	SSC
<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus var. lanosissimus</i> Ventura Marsh milk-vetch	PDFAB0F7B1	Endangered	Endangered	G2T1	S1	1B.1
<i>Centromadia parryi ssp. australis</i> southern tarplant	PDAST4R0P4	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1
<i>Coelus globosus</i> globose dune beetle	IICOL4A010	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	
<i>Horkelia cuneata var. puberula</i> mesa horkelia	PDROS0W045	None	None	G4T1	S1	1B.1
<i>Monardella hypoleuca ssp. hypoleuca</i> white-veined monardella	PDLAM180A5	None	None	G4T3	S3	1B.3
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat	AMAFF08041	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	SSC

Record Count: 7

Attachment A

Attachment B



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003-7726
Phone: (805) 644-1766 Fax: (805) 644-3958

In Reply Refer To:
Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2018-SLI-0078
Event Code: 08EVEN00-2021-E-01146
Project Name: EA# 29650/Route-1

April 27, 2021

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed list identifies species listed as threatened and endangered, species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, designated and proposed critical habitat, and species that are candidates for listing that may occur within the boundary of the area you have indicated using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information Planning and Conservation System (IPaC). The species list fulfills the requirements under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the species list should be verified after 90 days. We recommend that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists following the same process you used to receive the enclosed list. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any correspondence about the species list.

Due to staff shortages and excessive workload, we are unable to provide an official list more specific to your area. Numerous other sources of information are available for you to narrow the list to the habitats and conditions of the site in which you are interested. For example, we recommend conducting a biological site assessment or surveys for plants and animals that could help refine the list.

If a Federal agency is involved in the project, that agency has the responsibility to review its proposed activities and determine whether any listed species may be affected. If the project is a major construction project*, the Federal agency has the responsibility to prepare a biological assessment to make a determination of the effects of the action on the listed species or critical habitat. If the Federal agency determines that a listed species or critical habitat is likely to be adversely affected, it should request, in writing through our office, formal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve conflicts with respect to threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat prior to a

written request for formal consultation. During this review process, the Federal agency may engage in planning efforts but may not make any irreversible commitment of resources. Such a commitment could constitute a violation of section 7(d) of the Act.

Federal agencies are required to confer with the Service, pursuant to section 7(a)(4) of the Act, when an agency action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10(a)). A request for formal conference must be in writing and should include the same information that would be provided for a request for formal consultation. Conferences can also include discussions between the Service and the Federal agency to identify and resolve potential conflicts between an action and proposed species or proposed critical habitat early in the decision-making process. The Service recommends ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects of the action. These recommendations are advisory because the jeopardy prohibition of section 7(a)(2) of the Act does not apply until the species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated. The conference process fulfills the need to inform Federal agencies of possible steps that an agency might take at an early stage to adjust its actions to avoid jeopardizing a proposed species.

When a proposed species or proposed critical habitat may be affected by an action, the lead Federal agency may elect to enter into formal conference with the Service even if the action is not likely to jeopardize or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. If the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated after completion of the conference, the Federal agency may ask the Service, in writing, to confirm the conference as a formal consultation. If the Service reviews the proposed action and finds that no significant changes in the action as planned or in the information used during the conference have occurred, the Service will confirm the conference as a formal consultation on the project and no further section 7 consultation will be necessary. Use of the formal conference process in this manner can prevent delays in the event the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated during project development or implementation.

Candidate species are those species presently under review by the Service for consideration for Federal listing. Candidate species should be considered in the planning process because they may become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. Preparation of a biological assessment, as described in section 7(c) of the Act, is not required for candidate species. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to affect a candidate species, you may wish to request technical assistance from this office.

Only listed species receive protection under the Act. However, sensitive species should be considered in the planning process in the event they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. We recommend that you review information in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base. You can contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 324-3812 for information on other sensitive species that may occur in this area.

[*A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2))

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.]

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
-

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office

2493 Portola Road, Suite B

Ventura, CA 93003-7726

(805) 644-1766

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2018-SLI-0078

Event Code: 08EVEN00-2021-E-01146

Project Name: EA# 29650/Route-1

Project Type: BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

Project Description: Caltrans proposes to improve the existing bridge structures and bring them to standard. Currently the bridge railings are outdated and do not include a standard shoulder width across the shoulders. Three bridges will be upgraded. Route 1 at (PM) 28.15, and the other two are at Route 33 at (PM) 15.82 and (PM) 16.13 in the City of Ojai. All projects will take place within the County of Ventura.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@34.348866140315835,-119.42218056783945,14z>



Counties: Ventura County, California

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 14 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104	Endangered
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Marbled Murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i> Population: U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA) There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4467	Threatened
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered
Western Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i> Population: Pacific Coast population DPS-U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA), Mexico (within 50 miles of Pacific coast) There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8035	Threatened

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891	Threatened

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Tidewater Goby <i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/57	Endangered

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Riverside Fairy Shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8148	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
California Orcutt Grass <i>Orcuttia californica</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4923	Endangered
Gambel's Watercress <i>Rorippa gambellii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4201	Endangered
Marsh Sandwort <i>Arenaria paludicola</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2229	Endangered
Salt Marsh Bird's-beak <i>Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6447	Endangered
Spreading Navarretia <i>Navarretia fossalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1334	Threatened

Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

Attachment C

Quad Name **Pitas Point**

Quad Number **34119-C4**

ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) -

CCC Coho ESU (E) -

CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -

CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -

SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) -

NC Steelhead DPS (T) -

CCC Steelhead DPS (T) -

SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) -

SC Steelhead DPS (E) - **X**

CCV Steelhead DPS (T) -

Eulachon (T) -

sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) - **X**

ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat -

CCC Coho Critical Habitat -

CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -

CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -

SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -

NC Steelhead Critical Habitat -

CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -

SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -

SC Steelhead Critical Habitat - **X**

CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat -

Eulachon Critical Habitat -

sDPS Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat -

ESA Marine Invertebrates

Range Black Abalone (E) - **X**

Range White Abalone (E) - **X**

ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -

ESA Sea Turtles

- East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) - **X**
- Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) - **X**
- Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) - **X**
- North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) - **X**

ESA Whales

- Blue Whale (E) - **X**
- Fin Whale (E) - **X**
- Humpback Whale (E) - **X**
- Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) - **X**
- North Pacific Right Whale (E) - **X**
- Sei Whale (E) - **X**
- Sperm Whale (E) - **X**

ESA Pinnipeds

- Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) - **X**
- Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -

Essential Fish Habitat

- Coho EFH -
- Chinook Salmon EFH -
- Groundfish EFH - **X**
- Coastal Pelagics EFH - **X**
- Highly Migratory Species EFH - **X**

MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds

**See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office
562-980-4000**

- MMPA Cetaceans - **X**

MMPA Pinnipeds - **X**

Patrick Thompson, Associate District Biologist
Caltrans, Division of Environmental Planning
District 7

Patrick.Thompson@dot.ca.gov

Work (213) 897-0707

Cell (213) 266-6973

PLEASE CALL MY CELL # DURING THIS TIME

DIST	COUNTY	ROUTE	POST MILES TOTAL PROJECT	SHEET No	TOTAL SHEETS
7	VEN	1	R28.15	##	##

FUSUNG CHANG 10/02/20
REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER DATE

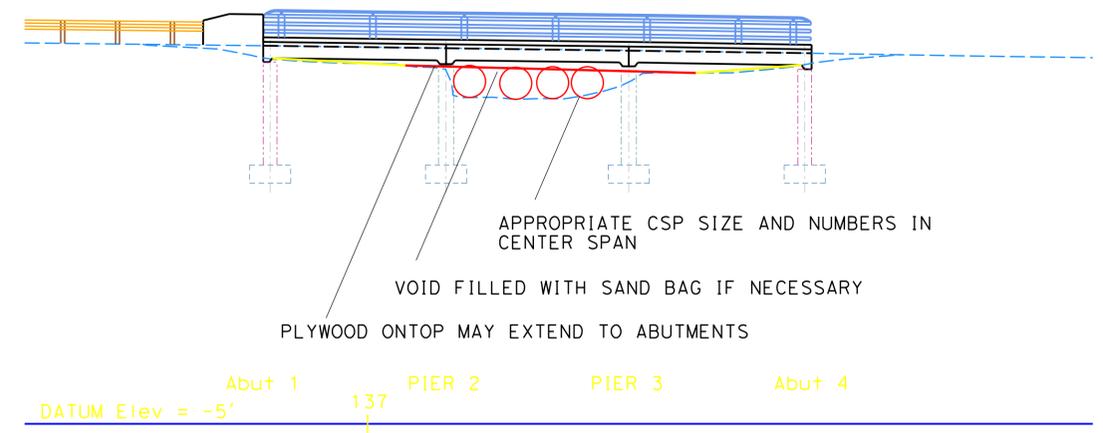
PLANS APPROVAL DATE

The State of California or its officers or agents shall not be responsible for the accuracy or completeness of electronic copies of this plan sheet.

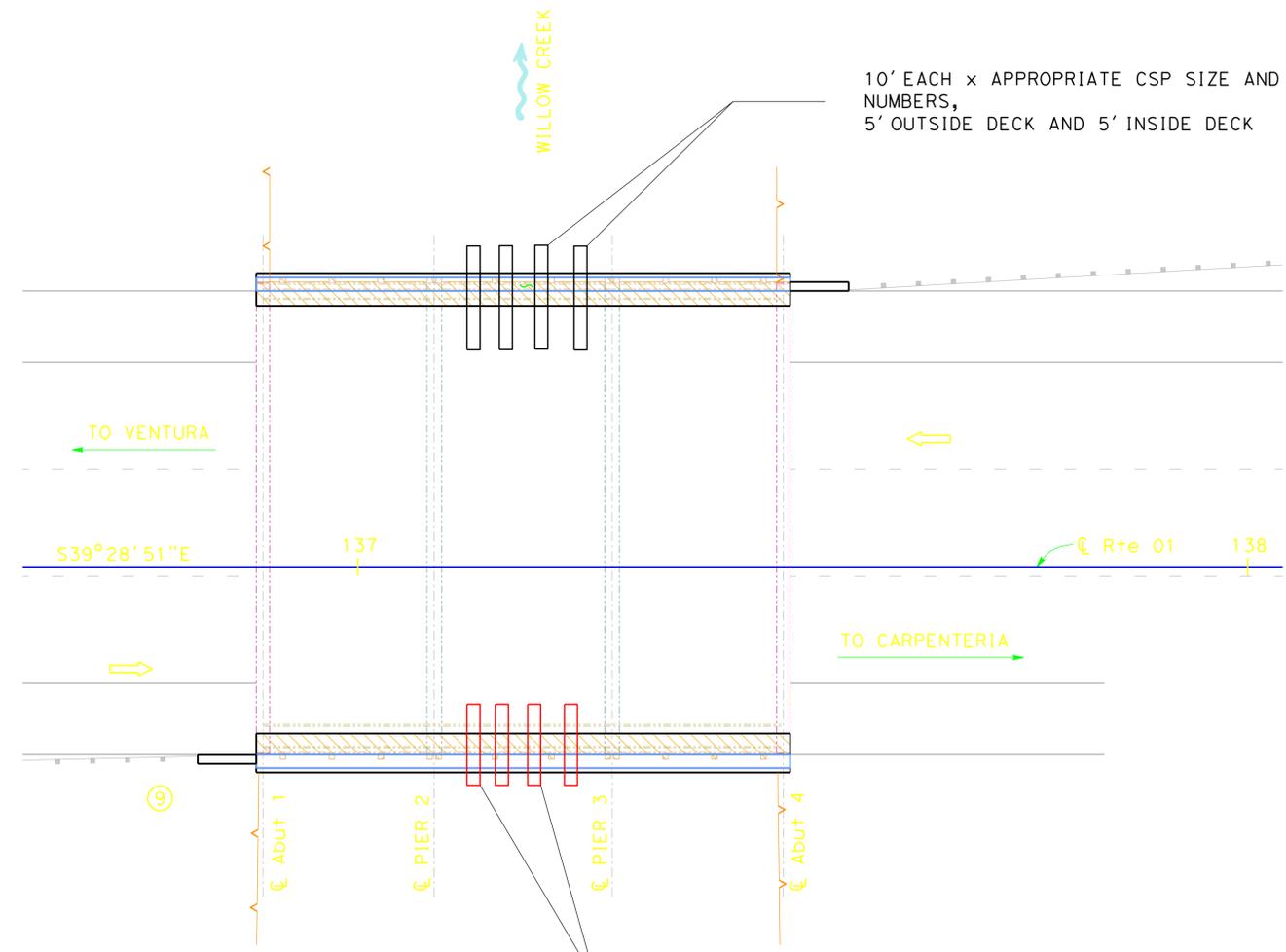
Caltrans District 7
100 S. Main St. Ste. 100
Los Angeles, CA 90012

AECOM
999 W. TOWN & COUNTRY RD.
ORANGE, CA 92868

NOTE:
THE CONTRACTOR MUST VERIFY ALL CONTROLLING FIELD DIMENSIONS BEFORE ORDERING OR FABRICATING ANY MATERIAL.



ELEVATION
1" = 10'



PLAN
1" = 10'

7' EACH x APPROPRIATE CSP SIZE AND NUMBERS, 2' OUTSIDE DECK AND 5' INSIDE DECK Typ

Attachment D

DESIGN OVERSIGHT -/-/- SIGN OFF DATE	DESIGN BY FUSUNG CHANG	CHECKED W. YING LEE	LOAD & RESISTANCE FACTOR DESIGN	LIVE LOADING: HL93 W/"LOW-BOY"; PERMIT DESIGN VEHICLE	PREPARED FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	MELAD HANNA PROJECT ENGINEER	BRIDGE NO. 52-0003	WILLOW CREEK BRIDGE (WIDEN) WATER DIVERSION PLAN
	DETAILS BY	CHECKED	LAYOUT BY	CHECKED		POST MILES R28.15		
	QUANTITIES BY	CHECKED	SPECIFICATIONS BY	PLANS AND SPECS COMPARED				
DESIGN GENERAL PLAN SHEET (ENGLISH) (REV.7/16/10)			ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES FOR REDUCED PLANS			UNIT: PROJECT NUMBER & PHASE:0713000099-0 CONTRACT NO.: 07-2965U1		DISREGARD PRINTS BEARING EARLIER REVISION DATES
							REVISION DATES	SHEET 1 OF 1

DATE PLOTTED => \$DATE USERNAME => \$USER TIME PLOTTED => \$TIME

Attachment E

Route 01 and SR-33, Bridge Rail Upgrade



Route-1 PM 28.15



Route-33 PM 15.82



Route-33 PM 16.13

NES

Natural Environment Study

Bridge Rail Upgrade
SR-1 PM 28.15, SR-33 PM 15.82 and 16.13,
Ventura County
District 7
EA: 29650 (EFIS: 0713000099)
October 2018



Natural Environment Study

Bridge Rail Upgrade

SR-1 PM 28.15, SR-33 PM 15.82 and 16.13,

Ventura County

District 7

EA: 29650 (EFIS: 0713000099)

July 2018

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

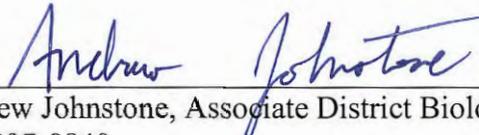
Prepared By: _____

Date: Oct/29/2018


Patrick Thompson, Environmental Planner (Natural Sciences)
213-897-0707
Division of Environmental Planning
District 7

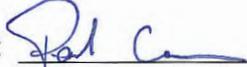
Recommended
for Approval By: _____

Date: 10/29/18


Andrew Johnstone, Associate District Biologist
213-897-0840
Division of Environmental Planning
District 7

Approved By: _____

Date: 10/23/18


Paul Caron, Senior District Biologist
213-897-0610
Division of Environmental Planning
District 7

Additional copies of this document and related technical studies are available for review at the district office: 100 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. This document may also be downloaded upon request. For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call (213) 897-0707, write to Department of Transportation, Attn: Patrick Thompson, Environmental Planning, 100 S. Main St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, or send an e-mail to Patrick.Thompson@dot.ca.gov. To use the California Relay Service call 1 (800) 735-2929 (TTY), 1 (800) 735-2922 (Voice), or District 7's Office of Equal Opportunity (213) 897-9797 (TTY).

Summary

The California Department of Transportation proposes to widen and upgrade the following bridges on State Routes 1 and 33:

- Route 01, PM 28.15 Willow Creek Bridge, No. 52-0003.
- Route 33, PM 15.82 North Fork Matilija, Bridge No. 52-0044
- Route 33, PM 16.13 North Fork Matilija, Bridge No. 52-0173.

The proposed Bridge Widening and Railing upgrade project will replace the non-standard bridge rails to meet full-scale crash criteria to prevent and mitigate crashes by redirecting a colliding vehicle. The State Route 1 (SR-1) (Bridge 52-0003) location at (PM) 28.15 will consist of upgrading the wooden railing and the bridge would be widened in the northbound direction. A scour monitoring device would also be installed. Route 33 (SR-33) (Bridge 52-0044) location at (PM) 15.82 will consist of wooden railing upgrades to concrete railing and the bridge would be widened on both sides. The work would include widening on both sides of the embankment with the construction of the new columns. State Route 33 (SR-33) (Bridge 52-0173) at (PM) 16.13 will consist of wooden bridge railing upgrades to concrete railing. Methacrylate would be applied on the bridge deck, joint seals would be replaced, and the bridge would be widened in both directions. Both sides of the embankments would have to be widened to accommodate the wider bridge structure. All aspects of the design are based on hydraulic engineering properties.

Permits from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (1602 agreement), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) (401 certification), California Coastal Commission, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) (404 nationwide permit) will be obtained during the project specifications phase. Copies will be submitted to the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Permit applications for the proposed project are expected to be submitted in 2018 or 2019.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1.	Introduction	10
	Project History.....	10
	Project Description	10
Chapter 2.	Study Method	19
2.1.	Regulatory Requirements	19
2.2.	Studies Required.....	21
2.3.	Personnel and Survey Dates	21
2.4.	Agency Coordination and Professional Contacts	23
2.5.	Limitations That May Influence Results	24
Chapter 3.	Results: Environmental Setting	25
3.1.	Description of Existing Biological and Physical Conditions.....	25
3.1.1.	Locations 1 and 2 Study Area - Route 33 (PM) 16.13 and (PM) 15.82 on North Fork Matilija creek	25
3.1.2.	Location 3 Study Area – Route 1 (PM) 28.15 on Willow Creek.....	25
3.1.3.	Physical Conditions of R-33 (PM) 15.82 and PM (16.13) at North Fork Matilija Creek - Locations 1 and 2.....	27
3.1.4.	Soil Types	27
3.1.5.	Biological Conditions of R-33 (PM) 15.82 and PM (16.13) at North Fork Matilija Creek- Locations 1 and 2	27
3.1.6.	Physical Conditions of Route 1 (PM) 28.15 at Willow Creek Bridge – Location 3	28
3.1.7.	Soil Types	28
3.1.8.	Biological Conditions of Route 1 (PM) 28.15 at Willow Creek –Location 3 ..	29
3.2.	Regional Species and Habitats of Concern.....	31
Chapter 4.	Results: Biological Resources, Discussion of Impacts and Bio Provisions	38
4.1.	Natural Communities of Special Concern	38
4.2.	Special Status Plant Species	39
4.2.1.	Discussion of Federal Listed Plant Species	39
4.2.2.	Discussion of CNPS Listed Species	40
4.2.2.1.	Survey Results	40
4.2.2.2.	Avoidance and Minimization	40
4.2.2.3.	Project Impacts	41
4.2.2.4.	Compensatory Mitigation	41
4.2.2.5.	Cumulative Effects	41
4.3.	Special Status Animal Species Occurrences.....	41
4.3.1.	Discussion of southwestern willow flycatcher (<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>) FE..	42
4.3.1.1.	Survey Results for southwestern willow flycatcher	42
4.3.1.2.	Critical Habitat for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	42
4.3.1.3.	Project Impacts	42
4.3.1.4.	Avoidance and Minimization Efforts	42
4.3.1.5.	Compensatory Mitigation	43
4.3.1.6.	Cumulative Effects (FESA)	43
4.3.2.	Discussion of California Red-Legged Frog (<i>Rana Draytonii</i>) FT.....	43

4.3.2.1.	Survey Results for Red-Legged Frog	44
4.3.2.2.	Critical Habitat for Red-Legged frog	44
4.3.2.3.	Project Impacts	45
4.3.2.4.	Avoidance and Minimization Efforts	45
4.3.2.5.	Compensatory Mitigation	45
4.3.2.6.	Cumulative Effects (FESA).....	46
4.3.3.	Discussion Of Least Bells Vireo (<i>Bellii pusillus</i>) FE	46
4.3.3.1.	Survey Results for Least Bell's Vireo	46
4.3.3.2.	Critical Habitat for Least Bell's Vireo.....	46
4.3.3.3.	Project Impacts	47
4.3.3.4.	Avoidance and Minimization Efforts	47
4.3.3.5.	Compensatory Mitigation	47
4.3.3.6.	Cumulative Effects	48
4.3.4.	Discussion of Two Striped Garter Snake (<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>) SSC	48
4.3.4.1.	Survey Results for Two-striped Garter Snake	48
4.3.4.2.	Critical Habitat for two striped garter snake.....	49
4.3.4.3.	Project Impacts	49
4.3.4.4.	Avoidance and Minimization Efforts	49
4.3.4.5.	Compensatory Mitigation	49
4.3.4.6.	Cumulative Effects	49
4.3.5.	Discussion of California Condor (<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>) FE/SE	50
4.3.5.1.	Survey Results For California Condor.....	50
4.3.5.2.	Critical Habitat for California Condor.....	50
4.3.5.3.	Project Impacts	50
4.3.5.4.	Avoidance and Minimization Efforts	50
4.3.5.5.	Compensatory Mitigation	51
4.3.5.6.	Cumulative Effects	51
4.3.6.	Discussion of Southern Steelhead Trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>) FE	51
4.3.6.1.	Survey Results for Southern Steelhead trout	52
4.3.6.2.	Critical Habitat for Southern Steelhead Trout	52
4.3.6.3.	Project Impacts	52
4.3.6.4.	Avoidance and minimization efforts.....	52
4.3.6.5.	Compensatory Mitigation	53
4.3.6.6.	Cumulative Effects	54
4.3.7.	Discussion of Western Pond Turtle (<i>Emys marmorata</i>) SSC.....	54
4.3.7.1.	Survey Results for Western Pond Turtle	55
4.3.7.2.	Critical Habitat for Western Pond Turtle.....	55
4.3.7.3.	Project Impacts	55
4.3.7.4.	Avoidance and Minimization Efforts	55
4.3.7.5.	Compensatory Mitigation	55
4.3.7.6.	Cumulative Effects	56
4.4.	Federal Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary	56
4.4.1.	Summary of Consultation to Date	56
4.4.2.	Conclusions	56
4.5.	Federal Fisheries and Essential Fish Habitat Consultation Summary	59
4.6.	California Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary	60
4.6.1.	Summary of Consultation to Date	60
4.6.2.	Conclusions	60
4.7.	Wetlands and Other Waters Coordination Summary	61
4.7.1.	Project Impacts for Jurisdictional Waters.....	61
4.7.2.	Compensatory Mitigation for Jurisdictional Waters.....	68

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

4.8.	Other	68
Chapter 5.	Conclusions and Regulatory Determinations.....	68
5.1.	Federal Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary	68
5.2.	Federal Fisheries and Essential Fish Habitat Consultation Summary	69
5.3.	California Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary	69
5.4.	Wetlands and Other Waters Coordination Summary	70
5.5.	Invasive Species	70
5.6.	Other	72
Chapter 6.	References.....	73
Appendix A	Summary of Recommended Biological Provisions	75
Appendix B	USFWS Species List, NMFS Species List, and CNDDDB List	80
Appendix C	Project Site Photographs.....	81

List of Figures

Figure 1. Regional Map of Bridge Locations 1-3	12
Figure 2. Regional Map of Locations 1 and 2 on Route 33 (PM) 15.82 and 16.13	13
Figure 3. Aerial Map of Project Locations 1 and 2 on Route 33 (PM) 15.82 and 16.13	14
Figure 4. Aerial Map of Location 3 on Route 1 (PM) 28.15	15
Figure 5. Design Concept Proposed for Location 1 on Route 33 (PM) 16.13 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge	16
Figure 6. Design Concept Proposed for Location 2 on Route 33 (PM) 15.82 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge	17
Figure 7. Design Concept Proposed for Location 3 on Route 1 (PM) 28.15 at Willow Cr..	18
Figure 8. Biological Study Area and Project Impact Area for Location 1 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 16.13	25
Figure 9. Biological Study Area and Project Impact Area for Location 2 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 15.82	26
Figure 10. Biological Study Area and Project Impact Area for Location 3 at Willow Creek (PM) 28.15	26
Figure 11. Map of Jurisdictional Features and Permanent Impact Area for Location 1 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 16.13.....	62
Figure 12. Map of Temporary Impacts for Location 1 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 16.13.....	63
Figure 13. Map of Jurisdictional Features and Permanent Impact Area for Location 2 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 15.82.....	64
Figure 14. Map of Temporary Impacts Area for Location 2 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 15.82.....	65
Figure 15. Map of Jurisdictional Features and Permanent Impact Area for Location 3 at Willow creek Bridge (PM) 28.15	66
Figure 16. Map of Temporary Impact Area for Location 3 at Willow Creek Bridge (PM) 28.15.....	67

List of Tables

Table 1: Survey Dates. pg. 23

Table 2: Agency Coordination, pg. 24

Table 3: Biological Survey Observations, pg. 3

Table 4: Listed, Proposed Species, and Critical Habitat Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Project Area, pg. 32

Table 5: Temporary and Permanent Impact Areas Due to the Project, pg. 69

List of Abbreviated Terms

USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
dbh	Diameter at breast height (~4 ft)
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
Ft	foot/feet
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
km	kilometer(s)
KP	kilometer post
M	meter(s)
Mi	mile(s)
NOAA Fisheries	National Oceanic And Atmospheric Administration
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
PM	post mile
USFWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
SWWFL	Southwestern Willow Flycatcher
CRLF	California Red-Legged Frog
LBV	Least Bell's Vireo
CC	California Condor
DCH	Designated Critical Habitat
BSA	Biological Study Area

Chapter 1. Introduction

Caltrans proposes to improve the existing bridge structures and bring them to standard specifications. Currently the bridge railings are outdated and do not include a standard shoulder width across the shoulders. Three bridges will be upgraded. Route 1 at (PM) 28.15, and the other two are at Route 33 at (PM) 15.82 and (PM) 16.13 in the City of Ojai. All projects will take place within the County of Ventura.

Project History

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to improve the existing bridge structures and bring them to standard specification. Currently the bridge railings are outdated and the bridges themselves are degraded.

Project Description

The proposed project would include work on three bridges in Ventura County, Route 1 and Route 33 at the following locations:

Location 1. At the North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge on SR-33 at postmile (PM) 16.13 (Bridge #52-0173), the bridge is currently twenty-nine feet and six inches wide. The project proposes to make the bridge a total of forty-two feet and ten inches wide. The two-lane highway would have twelve-foot lanes and two eight-foot shoulders. A barrier would also be placed on both sides of the bridge. These would be a width of one and a half feet, and the height would be two feet and eight inches high. The wooden bridge railing would be upgraded to a concrete railing. Methacrylate would be applied on the bridge deck; joint seals would be replaced. Both sides of the embankments would have to be widened to accommodate the wider bridge structure.

Location 2. At the North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge on SR-33 at PM 15.82 (Bridge #52-0044), the bridge is currently twenty-seven feet and seven inches wide. The project proposes to make the bridge a total of forty-two feet and ten inches wide. The two-lane highway would have twelve-foot lanes and eight-foot shoulders. A barrier would also be placed on both sides of the bridge. These would be a width of one and a half feet, and the height would be two feet and eight inches high. The wooden bridge railing would be upgraded to concrete railing. The work would include widening on both sides of the embankment with the construction of new columns.

Location 3. At Willow Creek Bridge on Route-1 at PM 28.15 (Bridge #52-0003), the bridge is currently fifty-one feet and seven inches wide. The project proposes to make the bridge a total of fifty-four feet and ten inches wide. The wooden railing would be upgraded and the bridge would be widened in the southbound direction. A scour monitoring device would also be installed at this location.

A water diversion plan will be implemented to de-water the construction zone at all three locations; this will include measures to divert stream water from upstream of the project site as well as remove any seepage throughout the project footprint. For a summary of the proposed Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures, please refer to Appendix A.

All staging and storage areas will be located in dirt pullouts or open shoulder space along Caltrans right-of-way at the three bridge locations.

Although the construction window for this project is set to start July 2020, applying for several permits and performing wildlife surveys in the spring will be necessary to comply with several environmental regulations. See Figures 1 and 2 for maps of the Regional Area of the Project and Specific Project Location.

Design Concept Proposed for Bridge 52-0173 Location 1 - Route 33 (PM) 16.13

Currently this bridge is a total of twenty-nine feet and six inches wide. The project proposes to make the bridge a total of forty-two feet and ten inches wide. The two-lane highway would have two twelve-foot lanes and two, eight-foot shoulders. A one foot and five-inch barrier would also be placed on both sides of the bridge.

Design Concept Proposed for Bridge 52-0044 Location 2 - Route 33 (PM) 15.82

Currently this bridge is a total of twenty-seven feet and ten inches wide. The project proposes to make the bridge a total of forty-two feet and ten inches wide. The two-lane highway would have two, twelve-foot lanes and two, eight-foot shoulders. A one foot and five-inch barrier would also be placed on both sides of the bridge. The work would also include construction of new columns.

Design Concept Proposed for Bridge 52-0003 Location 3 - Route 1 (PM) 28.15

Currently this bridge is a total fifty-four feet and ten inches wide. The wooden railing will be upgraded, and the bridge will be widened two feet and four inches in the northbound direction. A scour monitoring device would also be installed at this location.

Figure 1. Regional Map of Bridge Locations 1-3

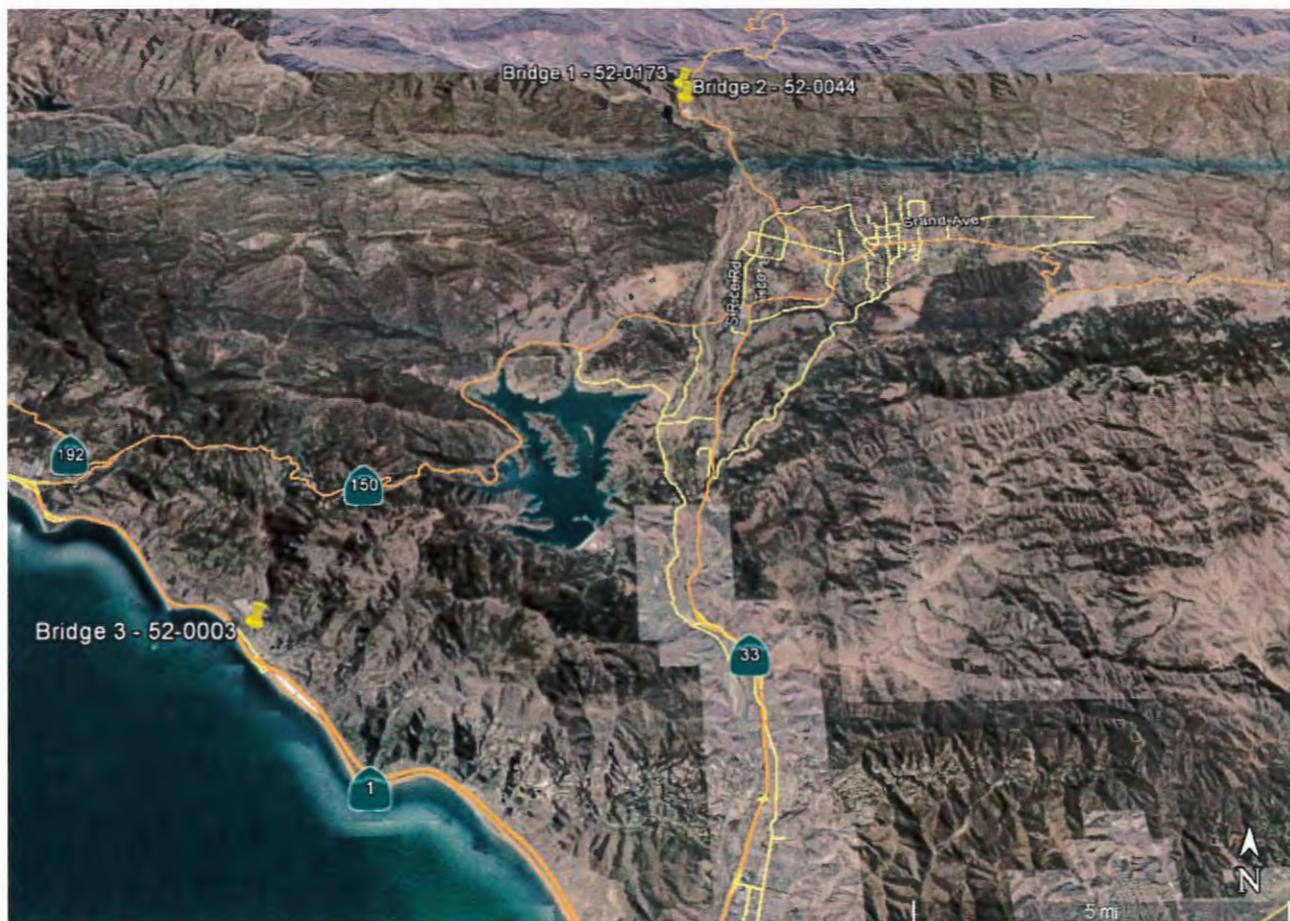


Figure 2. Regional Area map of Locations 1 and 2 on Route 33, PM 15.82 and 16.13

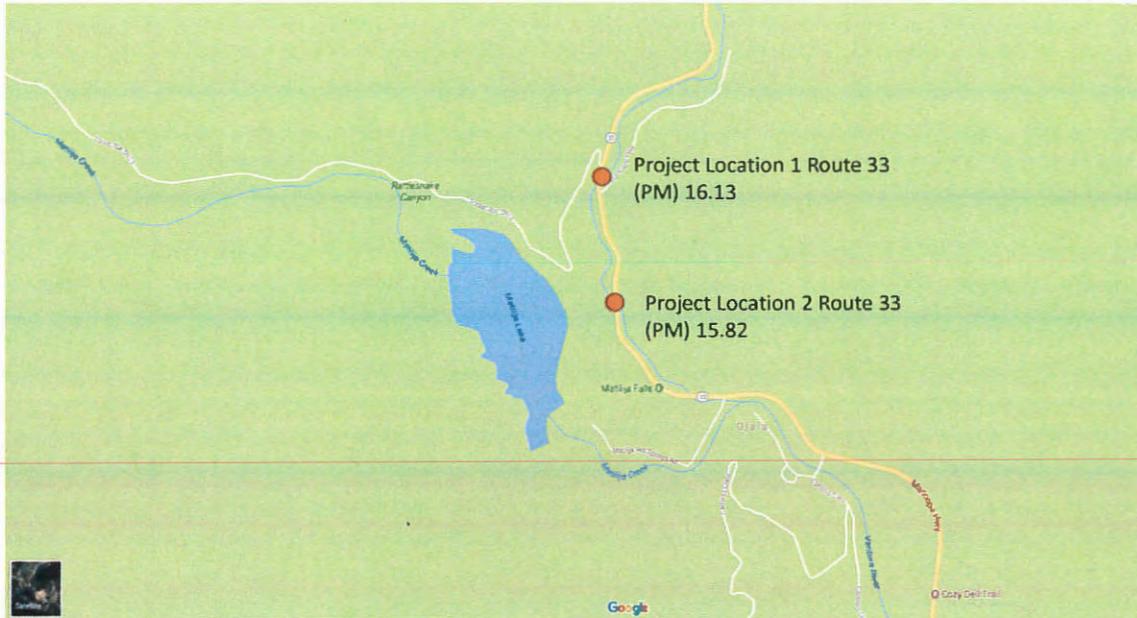


Figure 3. Aerial Map of Project Locations 1 and 2 Route 33 (PM) 15.82 and 16.13



Figure 4. Aerial Map of Location 3 on Route 1 (PM) 28.15

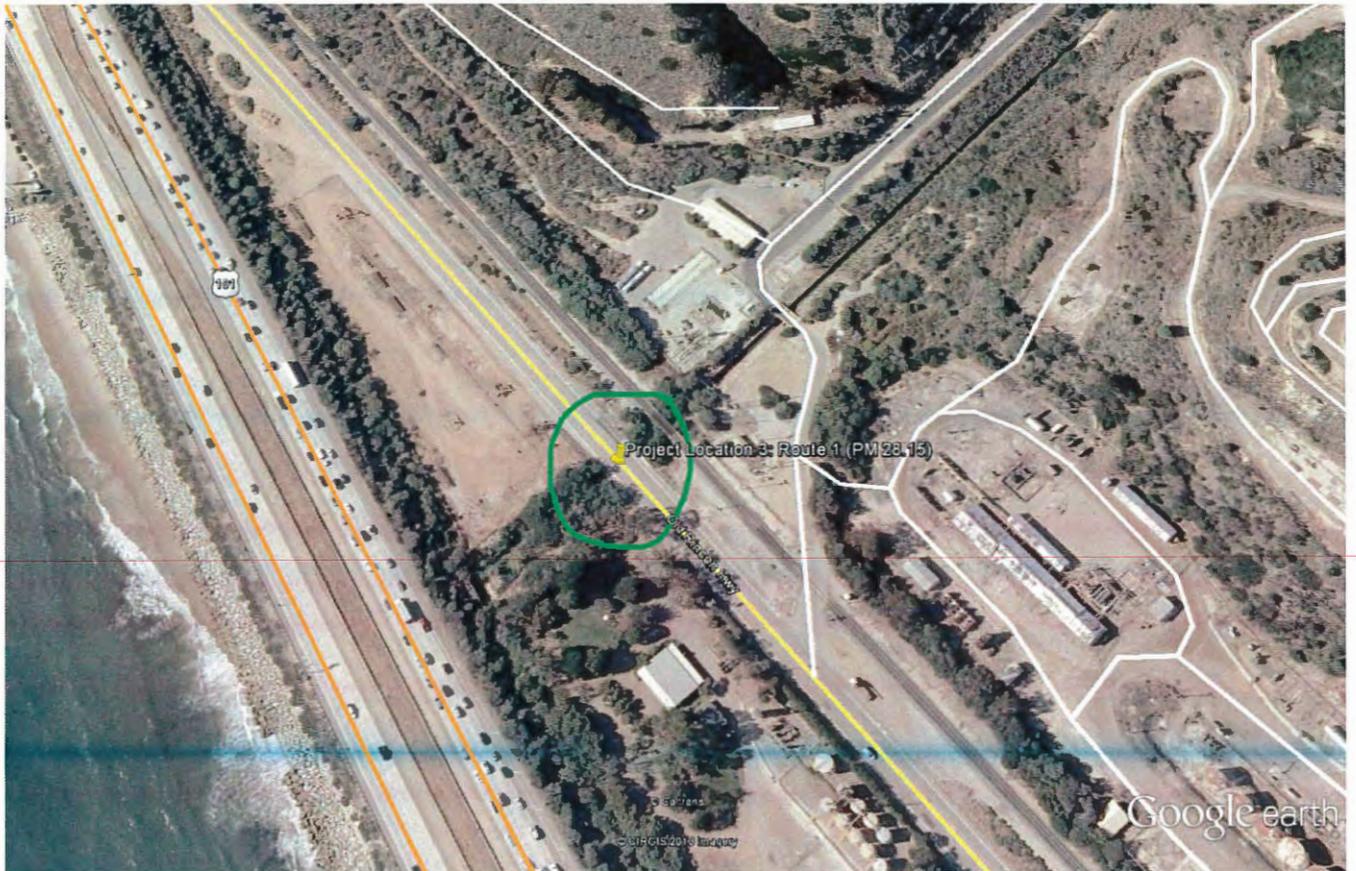


Figure 5. Design Concept proposed for Location 1 - Route 33 (PM) 16.13 at Matilija Bridge

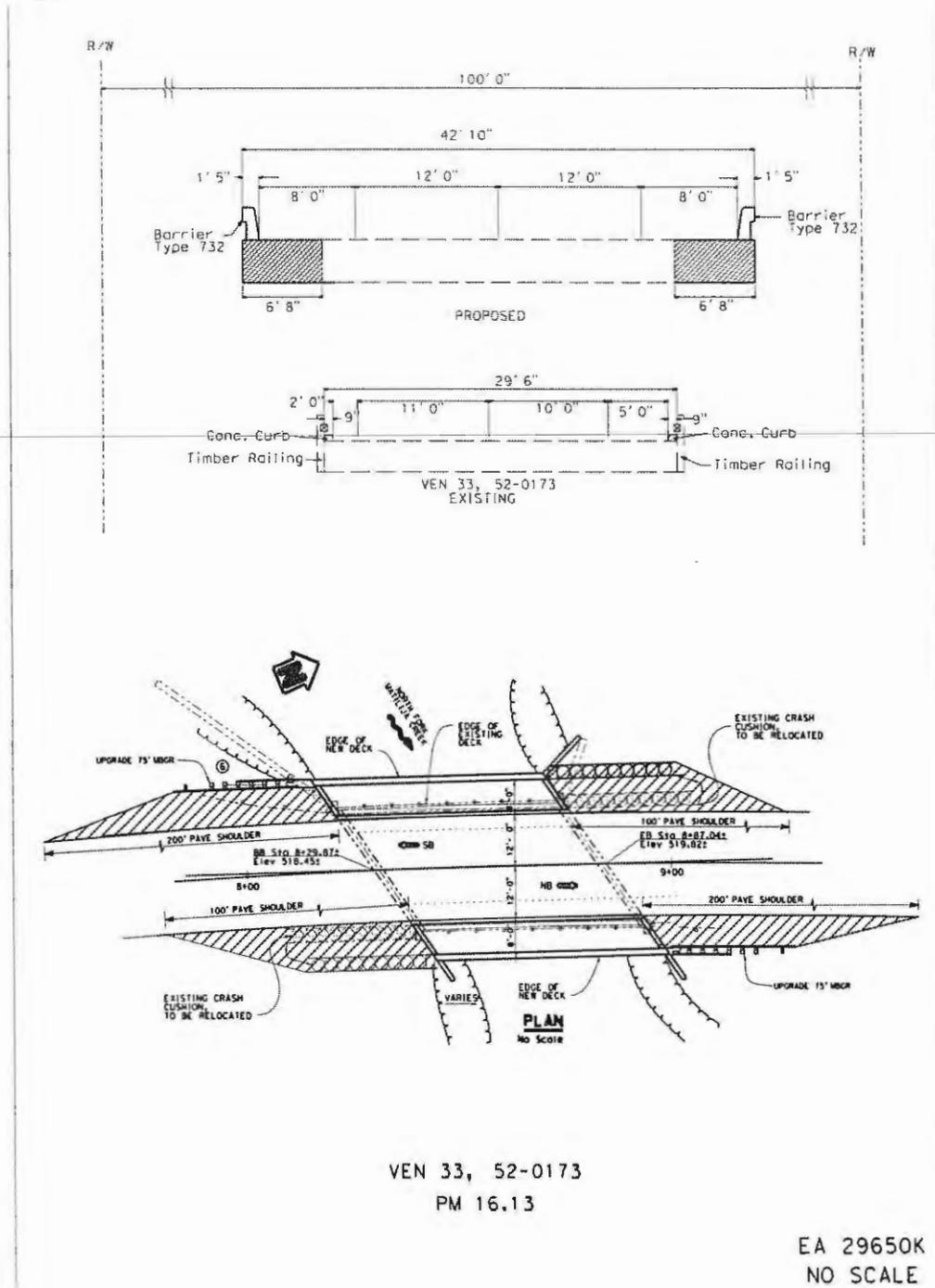


Figure 6. Design Concept proposed for Location 2 - Route 33 (PM) 15.82 at Matilija Bridge

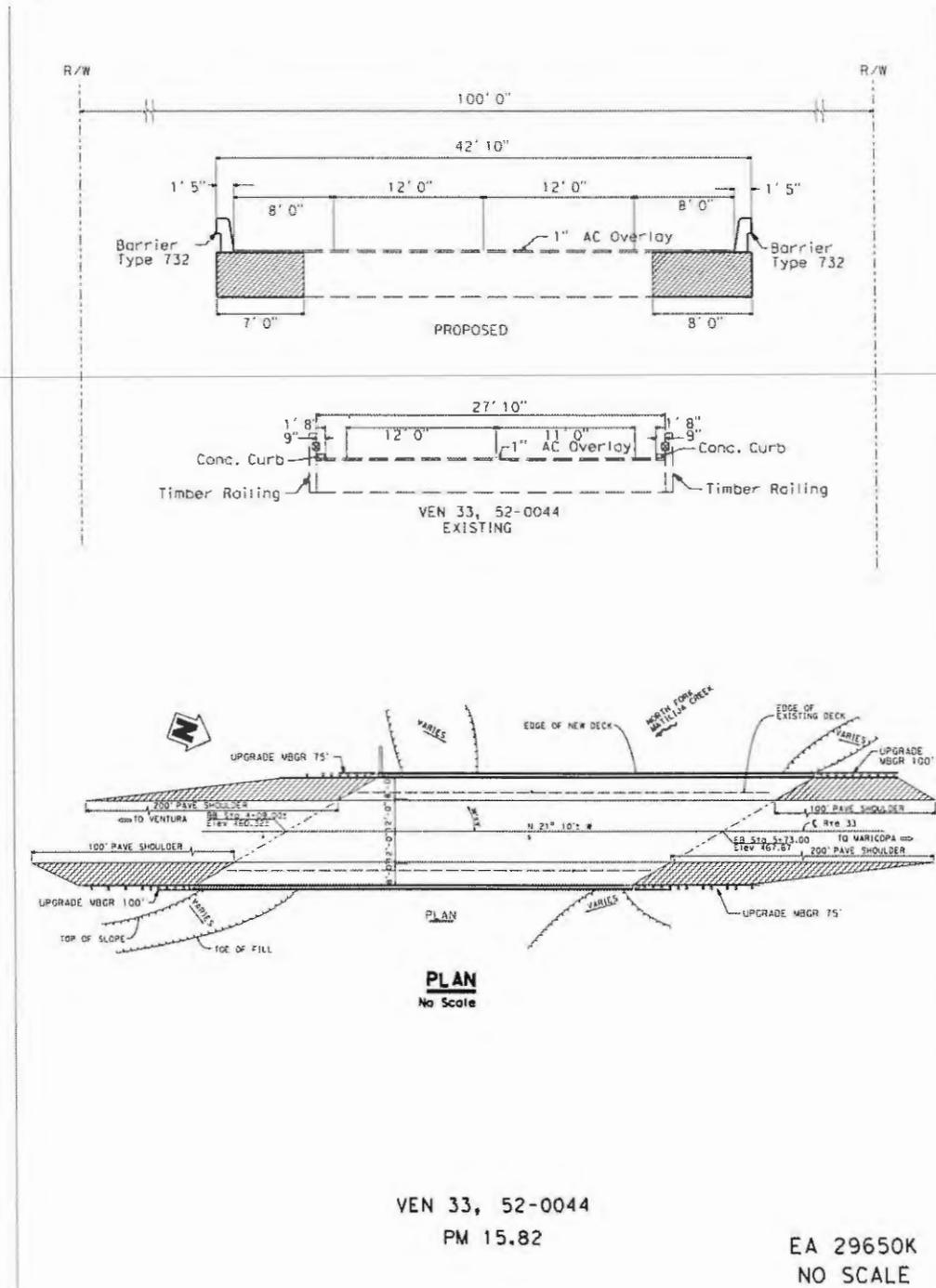
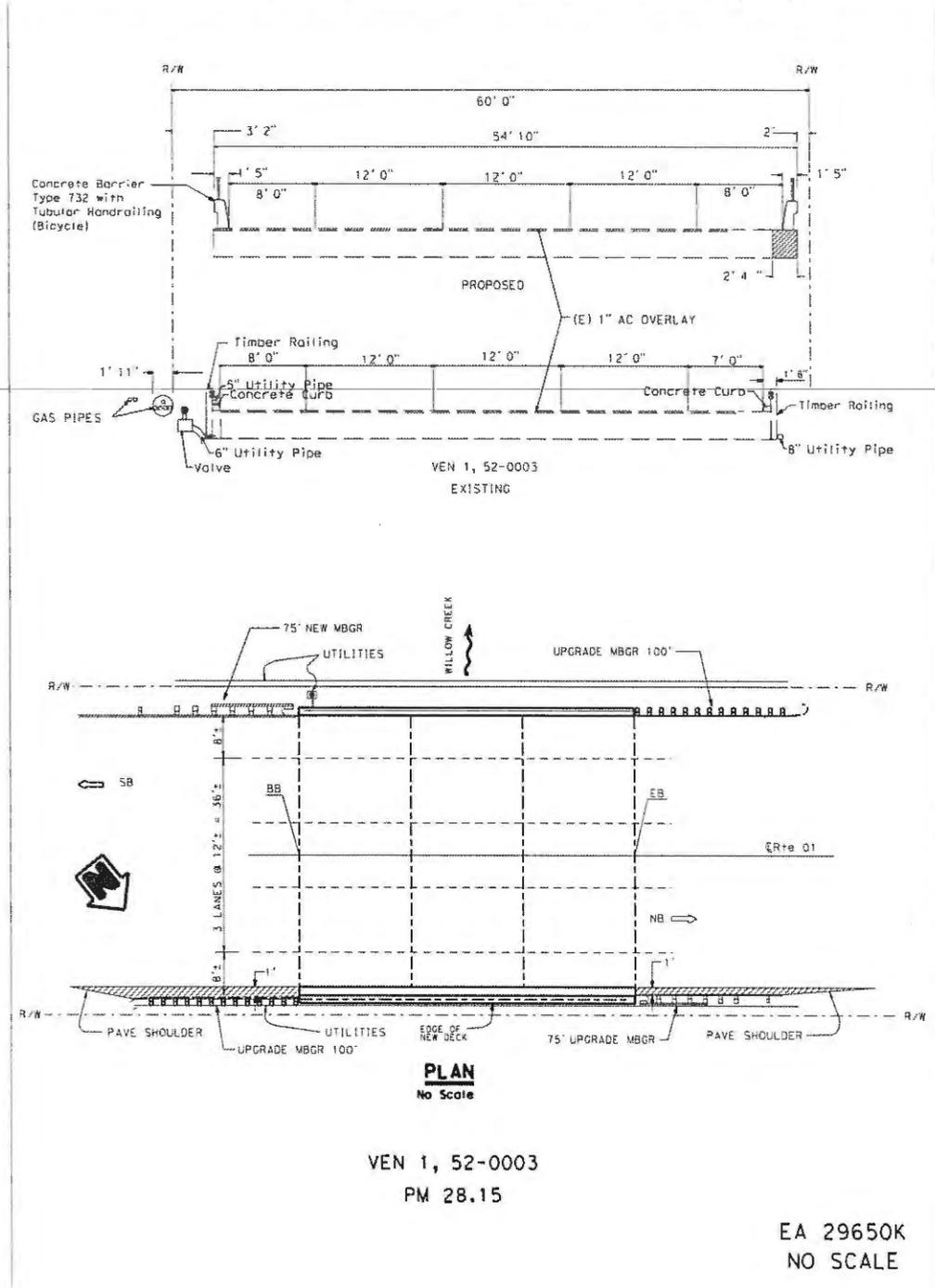


Figure 7. Design Concept Proposed for Location 3 - Route 1 (PM) 28.15



Chapter 2. Study Method

Project assessments include literature searches, consultation with colleagues, review of aerial photographs, and field reconnaissance to determine the important elements that could potentially be present in the habitats found in the vicinity of the project site. Other study methods include a review of the project description, project plans, Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) from USFWS, California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) from CDFW, and a National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) species list. To identify the potential occurrence of listed species within the Pitas Point and Matilija quadrangles, Caltrans used the CNDDDB, USFWS and the NMFS species list.

2.1. Regulatory Requirements

The proposed construction activities are subject to the following regulatory requirements:

- Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.): Under section 7(a)(1) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Federal agencies are directed to utilize their authority to carry out programs for the conservation of Threatened and Endangered species. Under section 7(a)(2) of the ESA, Federal agencies must consult NOAA Fisheries and USFWS on activities that may affect a listed species under their purview. These interagency, or Section 7, consultations are designed to assist Federal agencies in fulfilling their duty to ensure their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of a species or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.
- The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) is administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and prohibits the “take” of plant and animal species identified as either threatened or endangered in the State of California by the Fish and Game Commission. “Take” includes the pursuit, hunt, kill, or capture of a listed species, or any other action that results in adverse impacts. Sections 2080 and 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code (FGC) allow the CDFW to authorize exceptions to the “take” of the State-listed threatened or endangered plant and animal species for purposes such as public and private development. State lead agencies are required to consult with CDFW to ensure that any actions undertaken by the lead agency

are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any state-listed species or result in destruction or degradation of habitat.

- Streambed Alteration Agreement Program (F.G.C. 1600 et. Seq.): The Department of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for conserving, protecting, and managing California's fish, wildlife, and native plant resources. To meet this responsibility, the law requires any person, state or local governmental agency, or public utility to notify the Department before beginning an activity that will substantially modify a river, stream, or lake. If the Department determines that the activity could substantially, adversely affect an existing fish and wildlife resource, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement is required.
- Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes a program to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Activities in waters of the United States regulated under this program include fill for development, water resource projects, infrastructure development (such as highways and airports) and mining projects. Section 404 requires a permit before dredge or fill material may be discharged into waters of the United States, unless the activity is exempt from Section 404 regulation (e.g. certain farming and forestry activities).
- The State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) are the primary agencies responsible for protecting water quality in California. The SWRCB and the RWQCBs regulate discharge to surface waters under either Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) or the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Porter-Cologne).
- Under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, it is unlawful at any time, by any means or manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, or kill migratory birds. The law applies to the removal of nests occupied by migratory birds during the breeding season.
- Under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA), Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) must be designated in every fishery management plan. EFH includes "...those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity." The MSA requires consultation with the NMFS for projects that include a federal action or federal funding and may adversely modify EFH.
- Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), it is the "continuing responsibility of the Federal Government to use all practicable means [to] utilize a systematic,

interdisciplinary approach which will insure the integrated use of natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts in planning and in decision making which may have an impact on man's environment." NEPA is triggered by any Federal action that may influence the environment. Federal agencies "use the NEPA process to identify and assess the reasonable alternatives to proposed actions that will avoid or minimize adverse effects of these actions upon the quality of the human environment." (CFR 40, Parts 1500-1508)

- The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that the significant environmental impacts of proposed projects or actions undertaken, funded, or requiring an issuance of a permit by a state or local agency are identified. Government decision makers and the public must be informed about the effects of those actions, and steps must be taken in order to avoid or mitigate the identified environmental impacts, if feasible.

2.2. Studies Required

A review of the CNDDDB, USFWS, and NMFS species list was used to determine sensitive plant and wildlife species having the potential to occur in the project vicinity. Species with recorded occurrences in the vicinity were considered for further study. These studies include a review of listed species and an assessment of suitable habitat. Additional follow-up surveys are required prior to construction to evaluate new project information that becomes available through project development, as well as any new biological information that becomes available as a result of other studies.

Protocol-level surveys were conducted at location 1 and 2 to determine presence of California red-legged frog, least Bell's vireo, and southwestern willow flycatcher.

A study of the surrounding soils was also conducted through the USDA National Resources Conservation Service for the Los Padres National Forest Area and the Ventura Area.

2.3. Personnel and Survey Dates

Personnel survey dates are the same for both project locations. General habitat assessments began on November 30th, 2017 by Patrick Thompson, Environmental Planner (Natural

Sciences), Tania Asef, (Associate Biologist Environmental Planner) and Christopher Laurel, Environmental Planner (Generalist). The BSA buffer zone extended about 250 feet and included riparian and upland habitat. A protocol survey was conducted by ICF from May-July 2017 on focused species California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). Additional surveys were conducted throughout 2017 and 2018 to focus on listed species in the project vicinity. Please see the table below for surveys and dates they were conducted.

Table 1: Survey Dates

Survey#	dates	time	temp (°F)	wind (mph)	cloud (%)	surveyors
1	11/30/17	9:15 am- 10:45 am	75°F	10mph	10%	Tania Asef, Patrick Thompson, Christopher Laurel
2	12/28/17	8:30 am- 11:00 am	70°F	5mph	15%	Michael Klima, Christopher Laurel, Patrick Thompson
3	1/4/18	8:45 am- 11:40 am	80°F	10mph	5%	Patrick Thompson, Andrew Johnstone, Christopher Laurel
4	1/31/18	10:00 am- 11:30 am	80°F	5mph	5%	Patrick Thompson, Michael Klima
5	4/19/18	8:00 am- 12:30 pm	75°F	15mph	15%	Patrick Thompson, Alyssa Velloze, Chris Laurel, Ben Siemens, Joshua Miller, Paul Caron
6	6/20/18	10:00 am- 2:00 pm	80°F	5mph	5%	Patrick Thompson, Chris Laurel, Andrew Johnstone, Peter Champion
7	SWFL Focused Survey 5/15/17- 7/17/18	Around 5:30 am- 9:45 am	Around 52°-75°	0-3 mph	0-100%	Jason Berkley (ICF Consultant)
8	CRLF Focused Survey 5/30/17- 7/10/17	Around 10:05 am- 10:55 pm	Around 80°-53°	0-3 mph	0-100%	Jason Berkley and Joel Mulder (ICF Consultant)

2.4. Agency Coordination and Professional Contacts

- A protocol survey was conducted by ICF from May-July 2017 on focused species California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*).
- On November 28th, 2017, Associate Environmental Planner Tania Asef emailed Lena Chang of USFWS to discuss the proposed project and schedule of work. Caltrans consulted informally with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and obtained a species list to determine the potential effects to the federally listed species within the project area. Additional coordination with Lena Chang was conducted on January 29, 2018. On April 5, 2018, Environmental Planner Patrick Thompson emailed Chris Dellith to discuss the proposed project and the threatened/endangered listed species in the vicinity.
- Coordination with NMFS was initiated January 25, 2018 via email, addressed to Jay Ogawa. The following day, a species request list was sent out and Fish Biologist, Jess Adams responded (January 26).
- Coordination with California Department of Fish and Wildlife was initiated April 17, 2018 via telephone, with Matt Chirdon to discuss the proposed project and the CDFW listed species that have potential to be in the biological study area.

Table 2: Agency Coordination

Name:	Agency:	Date(s):	Topic:
Matt Chirdon	California Department of Fish and Wildlife	April 17, 2018	Early Coordination/Informal Consultation
Chris Dellith	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	April 6, 2018	Early Coordination
Lena Chang	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	January 29, 2018	Early Coordination

Jess Adams	National Marine Fisheries Service	Jan 26 th , 2018- Ongoing	Early Coordination/informal consultation
Jay Ogawa	National Marine Fisheries Service	Jan 25, 2018	Early Coordination
Lena Chang	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	November 28, 2017	Early Coordination
Joel Mulder and Jason Berkley	ICF	August 2017	Protocol Survey

2.5. Limitations That May Influence Results

General surveys were performed over an extended period of time in order to capture a thorough representation of plant and wildlife species present. However, seasonal variations in the presence of plant and wildlife species may influence the species that were identified, or not identified, during field surveys.

Recent construction beneath Bridge 2 has damaged vegetative cover, and the stream has been dewatered and re-routed, which limits the representation of the site to conditions present during construction. However, much of the survey data present in this report has also been sourced from surveys prior to construction to more accurately represent flora and fauna in the area.

Chapter 3. Results: Environmental Setting

3.1. Description of Existing Biological and Physical Conditions

3.1.1. Locations 1 and 2 Study Area - Route 33 (PM) 16.13 and (PM) 15.82 on North Fork Matilija creek

The vegetation on site is predominately native, with an adjacent natural stream system. It is in a forest setting with little adjacent agriculture use and very scattered residential areas being the most prevalent land uses outside of the forest. Most of the area is covered with native vegetation, consisting of coastal scrub and oak woodlands. North Fork Matilija Creek is a healthy riparian habitat.

3.1.2. Location 3 Study Area – Route 1 (PM) 28.15 on Willow Creek

The biological study area is located in a rural, mountainous/coastal portion of Ventura County. The vegetation on site is a mix of disturbed native and non-native plant and tree species. The surrounding area is owned and operated by Dos Cuadras Offshore Drilling.

Figure 8: Biological Study Area and Project Impact Area for Location 1 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 16.13



Figure 9: Biological Study Area and Project Impact Area for Location 2 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 15.82



Figure 10: Biological Study Area and Project Impact Area for Location 3 at Willow Creek (PM) 28.15



3.1.3. Physical Conditions of R-33 (PM) 15.82 and PM (16.13) at North Fork Matilija Creek - Locations 1 and 2

The project sites for Matilija Bridge on Route 33 at (PM) 15.82 and (PM) 16.13, are located above the North Fork Matilija Creek in Ojai, Ventura County. This is a riparian habitat surrounded by mountainous terrain, on the western side of the Matilija Wilderness just outside the Los Padres National Forest. The site is in a southern sycamore alder riparian woodland. About 0.15 miles west of the project is Matilija Lake. These sites are about fourteen (14) miles from the ocean and approximately eighty (80) miles northwest of Los Angeles.

3.1.4. Soil Types

Three soil types were observed within the BSA and descriptions of these soil types are below.

Inks Family

Inks family soil type is found in mountain landforms. Its parent material is the residuum from weathered siltstone. The typical profile consists of gravelly sandy loam, very gravelly sandy clay loam, and extremely gravelly sandy clay loam. The natural drainage class is classified as somewhat excessively drained.

Lodo Family

Lodo family soil type is found in mountain landforms. Its parent material is the residuum from weathered sandstone. The typical profile consists of clay loam and unweathered bedrock. The natural drainage class is classified as somewhat excessively drained.

Agua Dulce Family

Agua Dulce family soil type is found in mountain landforms. Its parent material is the residuum of weathered siltstone. The typical profile consists of very gravelly sandy clay loam, very gravelly loam, and unweathered bedrock. The natural drainage class is classified as well drained.

3.1.5. Biological Conditions of R-33 (PM) 15.82 and PM (16.13) at North Fork Matilija Creek- Locations 1 and 2

The BSA predominantly consists of native vegetation, including white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), arroyo willow (*Salix R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County*

lasiopepsis), California laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), trailing blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), California maidenhair fern (*Adiantum jordanii*), cattail (*Typha latifolia*), and mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). Other species that were observed surrounding the project limits were sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*).

Wildlife that was identified were western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), yellow-rump warbler (*Dendroica coronate*), canyon wren (*Catherpes mexicanus*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*) and western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*). Common animals known to be in the area include small and medium sized mammals such as California mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus californicus*) and American black bear (*Ursus americanus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) and mountain lion (*Puma concolor*). Under bridge #52-0044 (location #2), there are existing cliff swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) nests. **See Table 1 for complete wildlife and plant list.**

3.1.6. Physical Conditions of Route 1 (PM) 28.15 at Willow Creek Bridge – Location 3

The project site for Willow Creek Bridge 52-003 on Route 1 at (PM) 28.15 is located above Willow Creek in Pitas Point quadrangle, Ventura County. The Pacific Ocean lies about 100 yards to the west of the site. To the northeast of the project lies the Los Padres National Forest. It is in a coastal setting with heavy oil drilling use. The surrounding area is owned and operated by Dos Cuadras Offshore Oil Field (DCOR LLC). This site is about 70 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles.

3.1.7. Soil Types

Two soil types were observed within the BSA and descriptions of these soil types are below.

CnB-Coastal Beaches

Coastal Beaches family soil type is found in beaches landform. Its parent material is beach sand. The typical profile consists of fine sand and coarse sand. The natural drainage class is classified as poorly drained.

PcB-Pico sandy loam

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

Pico sandy loam family soil type is found in alluvial fans landform. Its parent material is alluvium derived from sedimentary rock. The typical profile consists of sandy loam, stratified sandy loam, and stratified gravelly sand to gravelly loamy coarse sand. The natural drainage class is classified as well drained.

3.1.8. Biological Conditions of Route 1 (PM) 28.15 at Willow Creek – Location 3

Most of the area is a mix of invasive vegetation along with native trees and shrubs. Vegetation along the stream corridor was composed of an overstory of willow (*Salix sp.*) and an understory of giant reed (*Arundo donax*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and horsetail (*Equisetum sp.*). Emergent vegetation was present consisting of cattails, (*Typha sp.*) castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), and watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*).

Wildlife that was identified were California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). See Table 3 for complete wildlife and plant species list.

Table 3: Biological Survey observations

The following table contains a list of species observed during biological surveys.

Bird Species Observed	
Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Mimus polyglottus</i>	Mockingbird
<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	Wrentit
<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	Bushtit
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>	California towhee
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Raven
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Cliff swallow
<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	Scrub jay
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Spotted towhee
Animal Species Observed	
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	Western fence lizard
<i>Pseudacris hypochondriaca</i>	Baja California tree frog
<i>Pseudacris cadaverina</i>	California tree frog
Plants Identified	
<i>Acmispon glaber</i>	Deerweed
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	Chamise
<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	White alder

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	California mugwort
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote brush
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mule fat
<i>Brassica nigra</i> *	Black mustard*
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	Ripgut brome*
<i>Bromus tectorum</i> *	Cheatgrass*
<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	Island morning glory
<i>Ceanothus crassifolius</i>	Hoary leaved ceanothus
<i>Clarkia unguiculata</i>	Elegant clarkia
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i> *	Scotchbroom*
<i>Deinandra fasciculata</i>	Clustered tarweed
<i>Eriodictyon crassifolium</i>	Felt leaved yerba santa
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	Golden yarrow
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> *	Red stemmed filaree*
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> *	Sweet fennel*
<i>Frangula californica</i> subsp. <i>Californica</i>	California coffee berry
<i>Fraxinus dipetala</i>	California ash
<i>Galium parisiense</i> *	Wall bedstraw
<i>Hesperoyucca whipplei</i>	Chapparal yucca
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	Toyon
<i>Keckiella cordifolia</i>	Heart leaved keckiella
<i>Lonicera subspicata</i>	Southern honeysuckle
<i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	Silver bush lupine
<i>Malosma laurina</i>	Laurel sumac
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i> *	White horehound*
<i>Melica imperfecta</i>	California melica
<i>Melilotus indicus</i> *	Annual yellow sweetclover*
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	Bush monkey flower
<i>Phacelia distans</i>	Common phacelia
<i>Phoradendron leucarpum</i>	Big leaf mistletoe
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California sycamore
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak
<i>Quercus berberidifolia</i>	Scrub oak
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	Sugar bush
<i>Ribes californicum</i>	California gooseberry
<i>Salvia apiana</i>	White sage
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Black sage
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> ssp. <i>Caerulea</i>	Blue elderberry
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Poison oak
<i>Verbena lasiostachys</i>	Common verbena

Species marked with an asterisk () are non-native species.*

3.2. Regional Species and Habitats of Concern

Regional species and habitats of concern were obtained from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). A NMFS list was also obtained concerning the Pitas Point quadrangle and Matilija quadrangle. The CNDDDB List and the USFWS species list were accessed on November 07, 2017 and the NMFS species list was obtained January 26th, 2018. These lists were used to determine which species may have the potential to occur within the project area. The lists of species as well as their potential to occur in the project is discussed in Table 2, below.

Table 2: Listed, Proposed Species, and Critical Habitat Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Project Area.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Rare Plant Rank	Habitats	Habitat Present/Absent	Rationale
Plants						
<i>Arenaria paludicola</i>	marsh sandwort	FE, SE	1B.1	Marshes and swamps (freshwater or brackish)	A	Species extirpated from the area
<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> var. <i>milesianus</i>	Miles' milk-vetch	None	1B.2	Coastal scrub, Clay soils. 50-385 m.	A	NH
<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i>	Ventura Marsh milk-vetch	FE, SE	1B.1	Wetland, Within reach of high tide or protected by barrier beaches, more rarely near seeps on sandy bluffs. 1-35 m.	A	NH
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i> davidsonii</i>	Davidson's saltscale	None	1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub Coastal scrub, Alkaline soil. 0-460 m.	A	NH
<i>Calochortus fimbriatus</i>	late-flowered mariposa-lily	None	1B.3	Dry, open coastal woodland, chaparral; on serpentine. 270-1435 m.	A	NH

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Rare Plant Rank	Habitats	Habitat Present/Absent	Rationale
<i>brewe</i>	southern tarplant	None	1B.1	Often in disturbed sites near the coast at marsh edges; also in alkaline soils sometimes with saltgrass. Sometimes on vernal pool margins. 0-975 m.	A	NH
<i>Chloropyron maritimum ssp. maritimum</i>	salt marsh bird's-beak	FE, SE	1B.2	Coastal dunes, Marshes and swamps (coastal salt)	A	Species extirpated from the area
<i>Fritillaria ojaiensis</i>	Ojai fritillary	None	1B.2	Usually loamy soil. Sometimes on serpentine; sometimes along roadsides. 225-1000 m.	A	NH
<i>Horkelia cuneata var. puberula</i>	mesa horkelia	None	1B.1	Chaparral Coastal scrub, Sandy or gravelly sites. 15-1645 m.	A	NH
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i>	California satintail	None	2B.1	Chaparral Coastal scrub desert scrub Riparian scrub Wetland, Mesic sites, alkali seeps, riparian areas. 3-1495 m.	A	NH
<i>Juglans californica</i>	Southern California black walnut	None	4.2	Southern oak woodland, wetland-riparian	A	NH
<i>Layia heterotricha</i>	pale-yellow layia	None	1B.1	Cismontane woodland Coastal scrub Alkaline or clay soils; open areas. 90-1800 m.	A	NH
<i>Calochortus clavatus var. clavatus</i>	Club-haired mariposa lily	None	4.3	Chaparral, foothill woodland	A	NH

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Rare Plant Rank	Habitats	Habitat Present/Absent	Rationale
<i>Calandrinia breweri</i>	Brewer's calandrinia	None	4.2	Chaparral, northern coastal scrub, coastal sage scrub	A	NH
<i>Monardella hypoleuca ssp. hypoleuca</i>	white-veined monardella	None	1B.3	Chaparral Cismontane woodland, Dry slopes. 50-1280 m.	A	NH
<i>Convolvulus simulans</i>	Small-flowered morning glory	None	4.2	Valley grassland, northern coastal scrub, coastal sage scrub	A	NH
<i>Phacelia hubbyi</i>	Hubby's phacelia	None	4.2	Chaparral, coastal sage scrub	A	NH
<i>Nasturtium gambelii</i>	Gambel's water cress	FE, ST	1B.1	Marshes and swamps (freshwater or brackish)	A	Species extirpated from the area
<i>Calochortus catalinae</i>	Catalina Mariposa lily	None	4.2	Chaparral, valley grassland, foothill woodland, coastal sage scrub	A	NH
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	spreading navarretia	FT	1B.1	Chenopod scrub, Marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater), Playas, Vernal pools	A	NH
<i>Navarretia ojaisensis</i>	Ojai navarretia	None	1B.1	Chaparral Coastal scrub Valley & foothill grassland, Openings in shrublands or grasslands. 275-620 m.	A	NH
<i>Navarretia peninsularis</i>	Baja navarretia	None	1B.2	Chaparral Lower montane coniferous forest Meadow & seep Pinon & juniper woodlands, Wet areas in open forest. 1150-2365 m.	A	NH

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Rare Plant Rank	Habitats	Habitat Present/Absent	Rationale
<i>Nolina cismontana</i>	chaparral nolina	None	1B.2	Chaparral Coastal scrub Ultramafic, Primarily on sandstone and shale substrates.	A	NH
<i>Orcuttia californica</i>	California Orcutt grass	FE, SE	1B.1	Vernal pools	A	NH
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	Sanford's arrowhead	None	1B.2	Marsh & swamp Wetland	A	NH
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i>	salt spring checkerbloom	None	2B.2	Alkali playa Chaparral Coastal scrub Lower montane coniferous forest Mojavean desert scrub Wetland, In standing or slow-moving freshwater ponds and marshes.	A	NH
Wildlife						
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	burrowing owl	SSC		Coastal prairie Coastal scrub desert scrub Valley & foothill grassland	A	NH
<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	Crotch bumble bee	None		Coastal California east to the Sierra-Cascade crest and south into Mexico.	A	NH
<i>Neotoma lepida</i>	San Diego desert woodrat	SSC		Chaparral, sagebrush, rocky slopes	A	
<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	marbled murrelet	FT, SE		Feeds near-shore; nests on coastal islands or inland along coast from Eureka to Oregon border & from Half Moon Bay to Santa Cruz.	A	NH, no coastal habitat at project site (bridge 3)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Rare Plant Rank	Habitats	Habitat Present/Absent	Rationale
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT		Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mtns, and South Coast mtns. Found in astatic rain-filled pools, ephemeral basins, and vernal pools.	A	NH
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	western snowy plover	FT, SSC		Sandy beaches, lagoons, river bars, salt pond levees, and shores of large alkali lakes.	A	NH, no coastal habitat at project site (bridge 3)
<i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>	Dulzura pocket mouse	SSC		Chaparral Coastal scrub Valley & foothill grassland	A	NH
<i>Coelus globosus</i>	globose dune beetle	SSC		Coastal dunes	A	NH
<i>Emys marmorata</i>	western pond turtle	SSC		Aquatic Marsh & swamp South coast standing waters Wetland	P	NH
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	tidewater goby	FE, SSC		Brackish water habitats along the Calif coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego Co. to the mouth of the Smith River.	A	NH, no brackish habitat at project site (bridge 3)
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	hoary bat	None		Forest	A	NH
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 10</i>	steelhead - southern California DPS	FE		Aquatic South coast flowing waters	P	H
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	coast horned lizard	SSC		Chaparral Cismontane woodland Coastal bluff scrub Coastal scrub Desert wash Pinon & juniper woodlands Riparian scrub Riparian	A	NH

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Rare Plant Rank	Habitats	Habitat Present/Absent	Rationale
				woodland Valley & foothill grassland		
<i>Rana draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	FT		Aquatic Freshwater marsh Marsh & swamp Riparian forest Riparian scrub Riparian woodland Wetland	P	NH
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i>	coast patch-nosed snake	SSC		Coastal scrub	A	NH
<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>	California least tern	FE, SE, FP		Tidal flats, sea coasts, and bays. Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California.	A	NH, no coastal habitat at project site (bridge 3)
<i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	Riverside fairy shrimp	FE		Endemic to W RIV, ORA & SDG counties. Tectonic swales/earth slump basins in grassland & coastal sage scrub, ephemeral basins, clay bottom vernal pools.	A	NH
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	two-striped gartersnake	SSC		Marsh & swamp Riparian scrub Riparian woodland Wetland	P	H
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	least Bell's vireo	FE, SE		Riparian forest Riparian scrub Riparian woodland	P	H

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status	Rare Plant Rank	Habitats	Habitat Present/Absent	Rationale
<i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Southwestern willow flycatcher	FE,SE		Riparian woodland, Riparian scrub	P	H
<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	California Condor	FE,SE		Oak woodland, coniferous forest	P	NH
Habitats of Concern						
Southern California Steelhead Stream	Southern California Steelhead Stream			Stream	P	H
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest			Riparian forest	P	H
Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland	Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland			Riparian woodland	P	H
<p>California Rare Plant Rank 1A: Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and Either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere. 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere. 2A: Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But Common Elsewhere. 2B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere. 3: Plants About Which More Information is Needed. California Rare Plant Rank Threat Ranks: 0.1-Seriously threatened in California, 0.2-Moderately threatened in California, 0.3-Not very threatened in California</p>						
<p>Habitat: Absent [A] - no habitat present and no further work needed. Habitat Present [HP] -habitat is, or may be present. The species may be present. Present [P] - the species is present. Critical Habitat [CH] - project footprint is located within a designated critical habitat unit, but does not necessarily mean that appropriate habitat is present.</p>						
<p>Status: Federal Endangered (FE); Federal Threatened (FT); Federal Proposed (FP, FPE, FPT); Federal Candidate (FC), Federal Species of Concern (FSC); State Endangered (SE); State Threatened (ST); Fully Protected (FP); State Rare (SR); State Species of Special Concern (SSC); California Native Plant Society (CNPS), etc.</p>						
<p>Rationale: NH: The habitat associated with this species does not occur within the project area and as a result the presence of this species is not anticipated in the project area. H: Suitable habitat is present near the project area; further details discussed in Chapter 4.</p>						

Chapter 4. Results: Biological Resources, Discussion of Impacts and Biological Provisions

The biological resources, and biological provisions of this project are discussed in this section. To identify the potential effects of the project, Caltrans reviewed the proposed action and ecological literature concerning the effects of habitat changes on aquatic habitat and upland habitat, and carefully considered the type, amount, and extent of habitat changes that are expected to result from the proposed action. A general knowledge of physical and biological processes, population dynamics, life history, and habitat requirements of the species discussed below supplemented the literature review, particularly where there was little or no information concerning effects of an impact on those species.

4.1. Natural Communities of Special Concern

There are three habitats identified near the project area (CNDDDB, 2017) within the Pitas Point and Matilija Quadrangles. They are Southern California Steelhead Stream, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, and Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland.

Discussion of Southern California Steelhead Stream, Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest, and Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland.

Southern California Steelhead Stream

Southern steelhead trout streams tend to be drier than those that occur in Northern California. Steelhead trout have adapted to these drier conditions by spending less time in the streams and use the opportunity when streams are accessible to swim upstream to spawn or out to the open ocean. These windows for swimming up or downstream occur during the winter time when the water flows are strongest.

Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest

The southern coast live oak riparian forest community is dominated by dense stands of coast live oak trees. These trees are often growing in very steep; raised stream banks and terraces. Other tree species in this community include western sycamore, willow,

and Mexican elderberry. The understory includes toyon, laurel sumac, California wild rose, poison oak, and currants.

Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland

Southern sycamore alder riparian woodland is a streamside woodland dominated by western sycamore and white alder. The alder trees favor higher elevations along perennial streams, whereas sycamore favors more intermittent stream flow.

Sycamores tend to grow well with open canopy space, as they appear as scattered clumps in a shrubby thicket of evergreen and deciduous species. Southern sycamore alder riparian woodlands are commonly found along rocky stream beds that are subject to seasonal high-intensity flooding. Other vegetation associated with this woodland is Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), Douglas mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), poison oak, California black elderberry, tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), black mustard, and a host of non-native annual grasses.

4.2. Special Status Plant Species

Special status plant species that were listed in the CNDDDB, CNPS or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list and which had the potential to occur within the project area, included marsh sandwort, Miles's milk-vetch, Ventura Marsh-milk vetch, Davidson's saltscale, late-flowered mariposa-lily, southern tarplant, salt marsh birds beak, Ojai fritillary, mesa horkelia, Brewer's calandrinia, Catalina mariposa lily, club-haired mariposa lily, small flowered morning glory, California satintail, pale-yellow layia, white-veined monardella, Gambell's watercress, spreading navarretia, woolly seablite, Baja navarretia, chaparral nolina, California orcutt grass, Sanford's arrowhead, and salt spring checkerbloom. These species were further studied to determine the potential impacts that the project may have. The proposed project is currently not expected to affect or impact these special status plant species because they were not found within or adjacent to the project site.

4.2.1. Discussion of Federal Listed Plant Species

Location 1 (Bridge #52-0173) and Location 2 (Bridge #52-0044) - The project area does not support suitable habitat for Federally Threatened species spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*), Ventura marsh milk-vetch (*Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *milesianus*), Gambel's watercress (*Nasturtium gambelii*) and California Orcutt Grass (*Orcuttia californica*). None of these plants were identified by Caltrans biologist within the project limits.

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

Location 3 (Bridge #52-0003) - The project area does not support suitable habitat for Federally Threatened species spreading navarretia (*Navarretia fossalis*), marsh sandwort (*Arenaria paludicola*), Ventura marsh milk-vetch (*Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *milesianus*), salt marsh bird's beak (*Chloropyron maritimum* ssp. *Maritimum*), Gambel's watercress (*Nasturtium gambelii*) and California Orcutt Grass (*Orcuttia californica*). None of these plants were identified by Caltrans biologists within the project limits.

4.2.2. Discussion of CNPS Listed Species

Location 1 (Bridge #52-0173) and Location 2 (Bridge #52-0044) – The project area does not support suitable habitat for CNPS listed species Miles milk-vetch, Davidson's saltscale, late-flowered mariposa lily, Ojai fritillary, mesa horkelia, California satintail, Brewer's calandrinia, Catalina mariposa lily, club-haired mariposa lily, small flowered morning glory, Hubby's phacelia, southern California black walnut, pale-yellow layia, white-veined monardella, Ojai navarretia, Baja navarretia, chaparral nolina, Sanford's arrowhead and salt spring checkerbloom. These species are ranked by the CNPS as shown in Table 2 and are found in various habitats such as marshes, chaparral, woodland, and grassland. The project locations were surveyed and none of these plants were observed within the limits of impact.

Location 3 (Bridge #52-0003) – The project area does not support suitable habitat for CNPS listed species southern tar plant, white-veined monardella, and wooly seablite. These species are ranked by CNPS as shown in Table 2 and are found in saltmarshes, wetland, and chaparral. The project location was surveyed and none of these plants were observed within the limits of impact.

4.2.2.1. SURVEY RESULTS

Federally listed plants under ESA and CNPS plants listed above (4.2.1. and 4.2.2.) occur at the Pitas Point and Matilija quadrangles on the IPaC, CNPS, and CNDDDB websites. Field surveys were conducted during the months of November 2017 and April 2018. None of the above-listed species were observed within the BSA.

4.2.2.2. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION

Avoidance and minimization efforts are not proposed at this time due to the anticipated absence of these species from the project impact area. Future re-evaluations of the project should consider any new occurrence information that may be available for this species. Additional field surveys will be conducted prior to construction.

4.2.2.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

Since the listed plant species were absent during field surveys, the proposed project is not expected to affect these species within the BSA.

4.2.2.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Compensatory mitigation is not proposed for these species because the proposed project will not affect these species.

4.2.2.5. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Future capacity increasing projects are not proposed at this time. The only reasonably foreseeable projects are maintenance related, with no long-term impacts to any known sensitive species.

4.3. Special Status Animal Species Occurrences

Special status animal species that were listed in the CNDDDB or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list which have the potential to occur in Pitas Point and Matilija quadrangle, include southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli extimus*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), two striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*), California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), southern steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), were further studied to determine the potential impacts that the project may have and are discussed below.

4.3.1. DISCUSSION OF SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER (EMPIDONAX TRAILLI EXTIMUS) FE

The southwestern willow flycatcher was federally listed as endangered on February 27, 1995. The breeding range of the southwestern willow flycatcher includes Arizona, New Mexico, the southern portions of California, Nevada, and Utah, western Texas, southwestern Colorado, and extreme northwestern Mexico. Loss and modification of riparian habitats and brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds were the primary reasons for listing the southwestern willow flycatcher. This species occurs in riparian habitats along rivers, streams, or other wetlands where dense growths of willows, coyote brush, arrowweed (*Pluchea* sp.), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus* sp.), tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.), Russian olive (*Eleagnus* sp.) or other plants are present, often with a scattered over story of cottonwoods. In the coastal portions of its range, southwestern willow flycatchers use willow dominated riparian areas intermixed with cottonwoods, coyote brush and mule fat.

4.3.1.1. SURVEY RESULTS FOR SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER

No southwestern willow flycatchers (SWWFL) were detected. In 2017, ICF was consulted to conduct focused surveys in the project area, including SWWFL. These surveys were conducted during the months of May-July. SWWFL were not observed during these studies. Caltrans also conducted surveys at the project sites in November and December 2017, as well as April and June of 2018, and no individuals were observed.

The proposed project occurs in only marginal habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher. Willow flycatchers are generally found in much greater numbers at lower elevations in low gradient streams and rivers that have wide floodplains and dense riparian zones. The Project area is immediately surrounded by a steep and high gradient woodland zone, which is not favorable habitat for SWWFL.

4.3.1.2. CRITICAL HABITAT FOR SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER

The riparian habitat within the BSA only provides upper canopy structure while lacking sufficient understory, mid-story, and vertical vegetative structure; the same structure appears to occur both upstream and downstream of the BSA as well. As such, white alder groves provide low to moderate suitable foraging and nesting habitat for flycatchers within the BSA. SWWFL favor a habitat that typically consists of a dense mid-story and understory and can also include a dense canopy (USFWS 1995). However, suitable vegetation is not uniformly dense and typically includes interspersed patches of open habitat. Again, these sites do not provide potential for highly suitable habitat for SWWFL.

4.3.1.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

Although potential habitat is present for southwestern willow flycatcher, the proposed project it not expected to impact individuals of this species.

4.3.1.4. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

BIO-11 Caltrans will schedule construction outside of the bird nesting season (February 1st - September 1st) to avoid impacts to southwestern willow flycatcher. Any sighting of a SWWFL in the construction limits or directly adjacent will result in a work stoppage to re-initiate consultation with USFWS and determine the next plan of action.

BIO-12 If work is conducted during southwestern willow flycatcher survey season, then focused pre-construction surveys will be performed following the appropriate USFWS protocols for locating and identifying SWWFL. Surveys will be performed *R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County*

by a qualified ornithologist, approved by USFWS prior to initiation of work. If SWWFL is found within 500 ft. of the construction site, work will stop until the nesting has been completed and the birds have left the area. If SWWFL is found adjacent to construction, formal consultation for Section 7 of ESA will initiate and would cause a suspension of work until consultation is completed.

BIO-13 Construction limits will be marked in the field and indicated by flagging, stakes and ESA fencing. Construction personnel would be instructed on the ecological sensitivity of the area and habitat.

4.3.1.5. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Revegetation will be done on-site after construction with the landscaping plan approved by the Division of Environmental Planning, Office of Biological Services.

Off-site biological provisions are proposed in anticipation of permit conditions from USACE, RWQCB, USFWS, NMFS, and CDFW. At a minimum, Caltrans will replace all riparian habitat impacted by the project at a 5:1 ratio for permanent impacts and a 2:1 ratio for temporary impacts, or hydro seed in appropriate areas. Off-site biological provisions will be negotiated with all appropriate agencies to fully restore, create, and/or enhance riparian and upland habitat. Potential avenues for off-site mitigation include efforts with USFS and/or Ojai Valley Lands Conservancy due to their proximity and like habitat.

4.3.1.6. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (FESA)

Cumulative effects are not expected for these species after successful implementation of the biological provisions listed in Appendix A, Summary of Recommended Biological Provisions. Future capacity increasing projects are not proposed now within the general vicinity. The only reasonable foreseeable projects are maintenance related, with no long-term impacts to this species.

4.3.2. Discussion of California Red-Legged Frog (*Rana Draytonii*) FT

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the California red-legged frog as Threatened on May 23, 1996 (61 Federal Register (FR) 25813). The California red-legged frog is one of two subspecies of the red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*) found on the Pacific coast. It has been extirpated from 70 percent of its former range and now is found primarily in coastal drainages of central California, from Marin County, California, south to northern Baja California, Mexico. It is found from sea level to elevations of approximately 5,200 feet. Nearly all sightings have occurred below 3,500 feet elevation.

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

California red-legged frogs have a complex requirement of habitat conditions. They need deep slow-moving aquatic breeding sites that typically contain emergent vegetation, within a larger riparian system that is connected to upland dispersal habitat. Breeding sites of the California red-legged frog include pools and backwaters within streams and creeks, ponds, marshes, springs, sag ponds, dune ponds and lagoons. Additionally, California red-legged frogs frequently breed in artificial impoundments such as stock ponds.

California red-legged frogs tend to breed from November through April. Typically, most adult frogs lay their eggs in March. Eggs require approximately 20-22 days to develop into tadpoles, and tadpoles require 11 to 20 weeks to develop into terrestrial frogs.

4.3.2.1. SURVEY RESULTS FOR RED-LEGGED FROG

No California red-legged frogs were detected. In 2017, ICF was consulted to do surveys for the numerous species in the project area, including CRLF. Protocol level surveys were conducted during the months of May-July. CRLF were not observed during these studies. Amphibian species encountered included Baja California treefrog (*Pseudacris hypochondriaca*) and California tree-frog (*Pseudacris cadaverina*) at all life stages.

At the Matilija Creek sites, habitat generally looked excellent for CRLF, with complex instream habitat and numerous pools of suitable depth for CRLF breeding. However, potential threats or limiting factors to CRLF presence observed included non-native crayfish, heavy recreational use, and trash associated with recreation.

At the Willow Creek site, habitat appeared to be of low quality for CRLF. The only pool with sufficient depth for CRLF breeding was the large pool at the adjacent SR-101 culverts, which likely had high salinity from frequent ocean wave over wash. Other threats noted included surrounding oilfield land use, and prickly sculpin which may predate on amphibian larvae.

4.3.2.2. CRITICAL HABITAT FOR RED-LEGGED FROG

According to IPAC, this area lies within designated Critical Habitat (CH) for the California red-legged frog. At the Matilija Creek sites, habitat generally looked excellent for CRLF, with complex instream habitat and numerous pools of suitable depth for CRLF breeding. However, potential threats or limiting factors to CRLF presence observed included non-native crayfish, heavy recreational use, and trash associated with recreation.

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

At the Willow Creek site, habitat appeared to be of low quality for CRLF. The only pool with sufficient depth for CRLF breeding was the large pool at the SR 101 culverts, which likely had high salinity from frequent ocean wave over wash. Other threats noted included surrounding oilfield land use, and prickly sculpin which may predate on amphibian larvae.

4.3.2.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposed project may affect and is likely to adversely affect California red-legged frog critical habitat. The proposed project occurs in designated critical habitat for CRLF and includes water diversion and de-watering activities that will require any individuals present within the construction footprint to be captured and removed from the project area. The project also involves the extended de-watering of this stretch of creek for an extended period of time.

4.3.2.4. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

BIO-13 Construction limits will be marked in the field and indicated by flagging, stakes and ESA fencing. Construction personnel would be instructed on the ecological sensitivity of the area and habitat.

BIO-15 Pre-Construction surveys will be done by a qualified herpetologist with experience in locating and identifying California red-legged frog. If any CRLF are located, work will not commence until coordination with USFWS has occurred.

BIO-25 Caltrans will have a biological monitor with experience in locating and identifying CRLF on-site at all times throughout the duration of construction activities within the riparian zone. If any CRLF are observed during construction work, all work will halt until a permitted herpetologist can be present to help relocate any individuals found to a safe location.

BIO-03 All applicable construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality shall be implemented to minimize affects to downstream areas.

4.3.2.5. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Revegetation will be done on-site after construction with the landscaping plan approved by the Division of Environmental Planning, Office of Biological Services.

Off-site biological provisions are proposed in anticipation of permit conditions from USACE, RWQCB, USFWS, NMFS, and CDFW. At a minimum, all vegetation within the project limits will be replaced at a 5:1 or 2:1, respectively, or hydro seed in

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

appropriate areas. Off-site biological provisions will be negotiated with all appropriate agencies to fully restore, create, and/or enhance riparian and upland habitat. Potential avenues for off-site mitigation include efforts with USFS and/or Ojai Valley Lands Conservancy.

4.3.2.6. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS (FESA)

Cumulative effects are not expected for these species after successful implementation of the biological provisions listed in Appendix A, Summary of Recommended Biological Provisions of this document. Future capacity increasing projects are not proposed at this time within the general vicinity. The only reasonable foreseeable projects are maintenance related, with no long-term impacts to this species.

4.3.3. DISCUSSION OF LEAST BELLS VIREO (BELLII PUSILLUS) FE

The least Bell's vireo is a small migratory song bird that winters in Baja California and returns to Southern California during spring and summer to breed. The preferred habitat for breeding is a dense canopy of willow thickets along drainages. Breeding habitat for least Bell's vireo consists primarily of lowland riparian habitats near sea level on the coast to about 4,000 feet above sea level in the interior regions. The most critical component to this bird species is the dense shrub layer above level. This is where nest are located in the forks of willow (*Salix spp.*), rose (*Rosa spp.*), and mulefat (*Bacharris salicifolia*).

There has been a dramatic decline to least Bell's vireo population due to habitat loss and the invasive non-native brown headed cow bird (*Molothrus ater*), have brought least Bell's vireo populations down historically. However, recent measures to protect breeding habitats have brought their numbers up and least Bell's vireo are now returning to their historic range.

4.3.3.1. SURVEY RESULTS FOR LEAST BELL'S VIREO

No least Bell's vireo were detected. The proposed project occurs in only marginal habitat for least Bell's vireo. Least Bell's vireo are generally found in much greater numbers at lower elevations in low gradient streams and rivers that have wide floodplains and dense riparian zones. The riparian zone within the project footprint is a steep high gradient creek with very narrow, approximately 50 feet wide, and sparse riparian woodland habitat present.

4.3.3.2. CRITICAL HABITAT FOR LEAST BELL'S VIREO

This project is not within the Designated Critical Habitat for least Bell's vireo.

4.3.3.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

Although potential habitat is present for least Bell's vireo the proposed project it not likely to adversely affect individuals of this species or its habitat.

4.3.3.4. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

BIO-11 Caltrans will schedule construction outside of the bird nesting season (February 1st -September 1st) in order to avoid impacts to southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and California condor. Any sighting of a SWWFL, LBV, or CC in the construction limits or directly adjacent will trigger a notification to USFWS, for purposes of additional guidance and consultation.

BIO-12 If work is conducted during southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, or California condor survey season, then focused pre-construction surveys will be performed following the appropriate USFWS protocols for locating and identifying SWWFL, LBV and CC. Surveys will be performed by a qualified ornithologist, approved by USFWS prior to initiation of work. If SWWFL, LBV and CC is found within 500 ft. of the construction site, work will stop until the nesting has been completed and the birds have left the area. If SWWFL, LBV, and CC is found adjacent to construction, formal consultation for Section 7 of FESA will initiate and would cause a suspension of work until consultation is completed.

BIO-13 Construction limits will be marked in the field and indicated by flagging, stakes and ESA fencing. Construction personnel would be instructed on the ecological sensitivity of the area and habitat.

4.3.3.5. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Revegetation will be done on-site after construction with the landscaping plan approved by the Division of Environmental Planning, Office of Biological Services.

Off-site biological provisions are proposed in anticipation of permit conditions from USACE, RWQCB, USFWS, NMFS, and CDFW. At a minimum, all vegetation within the project limits will be replaced at a 5:1 or 2:1, respectively, or hydro seed in appropriate areas. Off-site biological provisions will be negotiated with all appropriate agencies to fully restore, create, and/or enhance riparian and upland habitat. Potential avenues for off-site mitigation include efforts with USFS and/or Ojai Valley Lands Conservancy.

4.3.3.6. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects are not expected for these species after successful implementation of the biological provisions listed in Appendix A, Summary of Recommended Biological Provisions. Future capacity increasing projects are not proposed at this time within the general vicinity. The only reasonable foreseeable projects are maintenance related, with no long-term impacts to this species.

4.3.4. DISCUSSION OF TWO STRIPED GARTER SNAKE (THAMNOPHIS HAMMONDI) SSC

The California Department of Fish & Wildlife has classified the two striped garter snake as a “Species of Special Concern”. Historically common, it is associated with permanent or semi-permanent bodies of water in a variety of habitats from sea level to 8000 ft. The two-striped garter snake has disappeared from many historic locations in the coastal basins. Much of the remaining populations occur adjacent to the Los Padres National Forest, so it is important to protect riparian vegetation and upland aestivation sites in the forest so that the species can continue to survive. Currently this snake’s range extends from northern Monterey County to Baja California.

Two-striped garter snakes have disappeared from more than forty percent of their historic range, primarily because the snakes’ aquatic and riparian habitat is disappearing. Factors leading to population decline is elimination of natural sloughs and marshy areas, loss of riparian habitat through agricultural practices, construction of reservoirs, cement-lining of stream channels, livestock grazing, predation by introduced fish and bullfrogs, and depletion of prey base. Increased outdoor recreation has also disturbed garter snakes ability to thrive.

This primarily aquatic snake inhabits streams and ponds in chaparral, oak woodland, and forest habitats up to 8,000 feet elevation. Two-striped garter snake habitat is in aquatic areas that are bordered by riparian vegetation with open spaces for basking. They feed upon small fishes and their eggs, and amphibians and their larvae. Small mammals and invertebrate such as leeches and earthworms are also consumed. While the two-striped garter snake is nonvenomous, its saliva contains a toxin that it uses to capture prey. Locations 1 and 2 on Route 33, have breeding and foraging habitat for two-striped garter snake.

4.3.4.1. SURVEY RESULTS FOR TWO-STRIPED GARTER SNAKE

According to CNDDDB, there have been two sightings near the project sites. Both sightings occurred on May 23, 2013. One occurrence was about 0.3 miles ENE of Matilija Dam, the other was about 0.9 NNE of Matilija Dam near Berry Flat.

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

The project location does offer suitable habitat for two-sided garter snakes to thrive. Two-striped garter snake habitat is in aquatic areas that are bordered by riparian vegetation with open spaces for basking. They feed upon small fishes and their eggs, and amphibians and their larvae. These benefits are present within the project site.

4.3.4.2. CRITICAL HABITAT FOR TWO STRIPED GARTER SNAKE

This species is not listed under ESA and therefore no designated critical habitat exists.

4.3.4.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

Although potential habitat is present for two-striped garter snake the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect these species.

4.3.4.4. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

BIO-13 Construction limits will be marked in the field and indicated by flagging, stakes and ESA fencing. Construction personnel would be instructed on the ecological sensitivity of the area and habitat.

BIO-18 All applicable construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality shall be implemented to minimize affects to downstream areas.

4.3.4.5. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Revegetation will be done on-site after construction with the landscaping plan approved by the Division of Environmental Planning, Office of Biological Services.

Off-site biological provisions are proposed in anticipation of permit conditions from USACE, RWQCB, USFWS, NMFS, and CDFW. At a minimum, all vegetation within the project limits will be replaced at a 5:1 or 2:1, respectively, or hydro seed in appropriate areas. Off-site biological provisions will be negotiated with all appropriate agencies to fully restore, create, and/or enhance riparian and upland habitat. Potential avenues for off-site mitigation include efforts with USFS and/or Ojai Valley Lands Conservancy.

4.3.4.6. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects are not expected for these species after successful implementation of the biological provisions listed in Appendix A, Summary of Recommended Biological Provisions of this document. Future capacity increasing projects are not proposed at this time within the general vicinity. The only reasonable foreseeable projects are maintenance related, with no long-term impacts to this species.

4.3.5. DISCUSSION OF CALIFORNIA CONDOR (*GYMNOGYPS CALIFORNIANUS*) FE/SE

The California condor is listed under both CESA and ESA as endangered. Known breeding sites for this species occur adjacent to the proposed project limits within the Los Padres National Forest and individuals have been known to fly over the BSA.

California condor require wide areas of open range land for foraging. This species typically nests in caves, large crevices, behind rock slabs, or on large ledges on high sandstone cliffs. Nests are often surrounded by dense brush and occur within the Coastal and Transverse Ranges of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The proposed project area does not contain breeding habitat for the California condor, however the BSA does contains potential foraging habitat for this species.

4.3.5.1. SURVEY RESULTS FOR CALIFORNIA CONDOR

Suitable foraging for California Condor (CC) habitat does occur within Locations 1 and 2. Raptor surveys were conducted by Caltrans biologists, Tania Asef and Patrick Thompson, including during known breeding periods. California condors were not observed flying over the BSA during raptor surveys.

4.3.5.2. CRITICAL HABITAT FOR CALIFORNIA CONDOR

The project is not within designated critical habitat. Known breeding sites for this species occur adjacent to the proposed project limits within the Los Padres National Forest and individuals have been known to fly over the BSA.

4.3.5.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

Although potential habitat is present for California condor the proposed project it not likely to adversely affect this species.

4.3.5.4. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

BIO-11 Caltrans will schedule construction outside of the bird nesting season (February 1-September 31) to avoid impacts to southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and California condor. Any sighting of a SWWFL, LBV, or CC in the construction limits or directly adjacent will trigger a notification to USFWS, for purposes of additional guidance and consultation.

BIO-12 If work is conducted during southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, or California condor survey season, then focused pre-construction surveys will be performed following the appropriate USFWS protocols for locating and identifying SWWFL, LBV and CC. Surveys will be performed by a qualified ornithologist, approved by USFWS prior to initiation of work. If SWWFL, LBV and CC is found

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

within 500 ft. of the construction site, work will stop until the nesting has been completed and the birds have left the area. If SWWFL, LBV, and CC is found adjacent to construction, formal consultation for Section 7 of FESA will initiate and would cause a suspension of work until consultation is completed.

BIO-13 Construction limits will be marked in the field and indicated by flagging, stakes and ESA fencing. Construction personnel would be instructed on the ecological sensitivity of the area and habitat.

4.3.5.5. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Revegetation will be done on-site after construction with the landscaping plan approved by the Division of Environmental Planning, Office of Biological Services.

Off-site biological provisions are proposed in anticipation of permit conditions from USACE, RWQCB, USFWS, NMFS, and CDFW. At a minimum, all vegetation within the project limits will be replaced at a 5:1 or 2:1, respectively, or hydro seed in appropriate areas. Off-site biological provisions will be negotiated with all appropriate agencies to fully restore, create, and/or enhance riparian and upland habitat. Potential avenues for off-site mitigation include efforts with USFS and/or Ojai Valley Lands Conservancy.

4.3.5.6. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects are not expected for these species after successful implementation of the biological provisions listed in Appendix A, Summary of Recommended Biological Provisions of this document. Future capacity increasing projects are not proposed at this time within the general vicinity. The only reasonable foreseeable projects are maintenance related, with no long-term impacts to this species.

4.3.6. DISCUSSION OF SOUTHERN STEELHEAD TROUT (ONCORHYNCHUS MYKISS) FE

Steelhead trout were listed as Endangered within the Southern California Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) on October 17th, 1997. The Southern California ESU extends from the Santa Maria River in San Luis Obispo County south to the southern extent of their range. Fish within the Southern California ESU are considered “winter-run” or ocean-maturing steelhead. These anadromous fish are born in fresh water, where they typically spend one to three years before migrating to the ocean. After spending one to four years in the ocean, they return to their natal stream to spawn as four or five year-olds. Migration within this ESU generally occurs from November through March (NOAA, 2012). Spawning takes place from December through June, with a peak during the months of February and March.

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

4.3.6.1. SURVEY RESULTS FOR SOUTHERN STEELHEAD TROUT

Steelhead were detected in the spring and summer of 2017 at location 2. The Lower North Fork of the Matilija appeared to contain some of the best habitat for steelhead spawning and rearing within the Matilija basin. Spawning gravels are abundant and in good condition, although there is some mineral cementation in areas, this is especially obvious upstream of the project site.

4.3.6.2. CRITICAL HABITAT FOR SOUTHERN STEELHEAD TROUT

The proposed project is located within DCH for southern steelhead trout. DCH is defined as those areas both inside and outside of the geographical area occupied by the species in which the physical or biological features are found that are essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection. CH was designated for the Southern California ESU on Feb. 16th, 2000 (NMFS, 2000), and includes those river reaches and estuarine areas accessible to steelhead in coastal river basins.

4.3.6.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposed project is likely to adversely affect southern steelhead trout and its designated critical habitat.

As the proposed project occurs in designated critical habitat and includes water diversion activities that will require any individuals present to be captured and removed from the project area, adverse impacts to this species cannot be avoided. Some mortality during removal and relocation may occur.

Sediment blooms will be discharged into the downstream waters during the installation and removal of the water diversion; however, they are not anticipated to be severe enough to result in steelhead mortality.

Changes to the morphology of the stream could have a negative effect on the ability of individuals to migrate through the project area until such time as large storm flows have returned the creek to a more natural morphology.

4.3.6.4. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

BIO-19 Pre-construction surveys done by a NOAA approved, qualified ichthyologist with experience in locating and identifying southern steelhead trout will be done prior to initiation of work. If any southern steelhead trout are located work will not commence until coordination with NOAA has occurred.

BIO-20 Exclusionary nets will be setup to exclude fish from the project site prior to installation of the water diversion. Any fish found within the project site will be moved upstream of the project site and released. All exclusionary and removal activities will be conducted by a NOAA approved ichthyologist with experience in identifying southern steelhead trout.

BIO-21 A Water Diversion Plan shall be developed and implemented in consultation with NOAA, CDFW, USFWS, ACOE, and RWQCB to divert water through the project site to reduce turbidity and prevent sediments from entering the stream course.

BIO-22 All work shall be conducted outside of the upstream migration season for winter-run southern steelhead trout. Southern steelhead trout generally begin migrating upstream during November and continuing migrating through winter generally till the end of March. Work shall be conducted from April 15th, through November 1st.

BIO-10 Ground water seepage within the project area will be containerized and taken offsite to prevent sediments from entering the lagoon downstream.

BIO--23 Caltrans will restore the creek to pre-construction conditions by replacing any boulders moved back to their original locations and blending the widened portion of the creek into the existing creek bed. This includes placing fines, gravel, rock, and boulders within the widened portion of the creek to simulate a natural stream environment as well as replanting removed riparian vegetation to provide shade for the creek. A Stream Restoration Plan will be developed by Caltrans in-conjunction with a qualified hydraulics engineer to ensure that the morphology of the stream will not be affected in such a way as to prevent fish migration and passage through the project area.

BIO-18 All applicable construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality shall be implemented to minimize affects to downstream areas.

BIO--24 A Final Project Report will be submitted to USFWS, NOAA, CDFW, ACOE, and RWQCB once the project and all monitoring has been completed.

4.3.6.5. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

BIO-20 Exclusionary nets will be setup to exclude fish from the project site prior to installation of the water diversion. Any fish found within the project site will be moved upstream of the project site and released. All exclusionary and removal activities will be conducted by a NOAA approved ichthyologist with experience in identifying and handling southern steelhead trout.

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

BIO-23 Caltrans will restore the creek to pre-construction conditions by replacing any boulders moved back to their original locations and blending the widened portion of the creek into the existing creek bed. This includes placing fines, gravel, rock, and boulders within the widened portion of the creek to simulate a natural stream environment as well as replanting removed riparian vegetation to provide shade for the creek. A Stream Restoration Plan will be developed by Caltrans in-conjunction with a qualified hydraulics engineer to ensure that the morphology of the stream will not be affected in such a way as to prevent fish migration and passage through the project area.

Off-site biological provisions are proposed in anticipation of permit conditions from USACE, RWQCB, USFWS, NMFS, and CDFW. At a minimum, all vegetation within the project limits will be replaced at a 5:1 or 2:1, respectively, or hydro seed in appropriate areas. Off-site biological provisions will be negotiated with all appropriate agencies to fully restore, create, and/or enhance riparian and upland habitat. Potential avenues for off-site mitigation include efforts with USFS and/or Ojai Valley Lands Conservancy.

4.3.6.6. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

The southern steelhead populations in Ventura and Los Angeles counties have had substantial cumulative impacts throughout the last 50 years due to discharge of sediment and debris within waterways and artificial barriers such as dams and culverts which prevent steelhead from moving upstream. Many of the streams south of the San Francisco bay known to have historic populations of southern steelhead trout have been reduced drastically or altogether extirpated.

Cumulative effects are not expected for these species after successful implementation of the biological provisions listed in Appendix A, Summary of Recommended Biological Provisions. Future capacity increasing projects are not proposed at this time within the general vicinity. The only reasonable foreseeable projects are maintenance related, with no long-term impacts to this species.

4.3.7. DISCUSSION OF WESTERN POND TURTLE (EMYS MARMORATA) SSC

Western pond turtle is a Species of Special Concern according to California Fish and Wildlife. They are uncommon to commonly seen in suitable habitat ranging west of the Sierra-Cascade crest and absent in the desert regions, except along the Mojave River and its tributaries. Western pond turtle are often seen basking in the sun on rocks, partially submerged logs, or open mud banks. The preferred habitat is

permanent ponds, lakes, and streams. They are also found in pools along intermittent streams. Their diet consists of aquatic plant materials, beetles, frogs, and fish.

4.3.7.1. SURVEY RESULTS FOR WESTERN POND TURTLE

This location contains suitable western pond turtle habitat. Matilija creek does provide numerous pools for western pond turtle to live. However, numerous field surveys have been conducted and western pond turtles have not been found. Future surveys will be conducted prior to construction.

4.3.7.2. CRITICAL HABITAT FOR WESTERN POND TURTLE

This species is not listed under ESA and therefore no DCH exists.

4.3.7.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

Although potential habitat is present for western pond turtle the proposed project is not likely to affect this species.

4.3.7.4. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

BIO-13 Construction limits will be marked in the field and indicated by flagging, stakes and ESA fencing. Construction personnel would be instructed on the ecological sensitivity of the area and habitat.

BIO-15 Pre-construction surveys will be done by a qualified herpetologist with experience in locating and identifying California red-legged frog will be done prior to initiations of work. If any CRLF are located, work will not commence until coordination with USFWS has occurred.

BIO-18 All applicable construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality shall be implemented to minimize affects to downstream areas.

4.3.7.5. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Revegetation will be done on-site after construction with the landscaping plan approved by the Division of Environmental Planning, Office of Biological Services.

Off-site biological provisions are proposed in anticipation of permit conditions from USACE, RWQCB, USFWS, NMFS, and CDFW. At a minimum, all vegetation within the project limits will be replaced at a 5:1 or 2:1, respectively, or hydro seed in appropriate areas. Off-site biological provisions will be negotiated with all appropriate agencies to fully restore, create, and/or enhance riparian and upland habitat. Potential avenues for off-site mitigation include efforts with USFS and/or Ojai Valley Lands Conservancy.

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

4.3.7.6. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects are not expected for these species after successful implementation of the biological provisions listed in Appendix A, Summary of Recommended Biological Provisions. Cumulative effects are not expected for these species after successful implementation of the biological provisions listed in Appendix A, Summary of Recommended Biological Provisions. Future capacity increasing projects are not proposed at this time within the general vicinity. The only reasonable foreseeable projects are maintenance related, with no long-term impacts to this species.

4.4. Federal Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary

Activities associated with this project may affect, but are not likely to adversely affect federally endangered California red-legged frog, southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and least Bells's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). This project will have no effect to California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) because of the strict adherence to biological provisions that will be implemented during construction. This project is likely to adversely affect California steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and its designated critical habitat. This project may affect and is likely to adversely affect California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) critical habitat.

4.4.1. Summary of Consultation to Date

Agency Coordination with USFWS: November 7th, 2017 Caltrans requested official species lists for information on any listed, proposed, or candidate species for which USFWS is responsible. Please refer to Appendix C of this document.

Agency Coordination with NMFS: November 16th, 2017 Caltrans requested an official species list for species protected by NMFS and NOAA. Please refer to Appendix C for this document

Agency Coordination with ICF: In August 2017, Caltrans received the survey results for necessary protocol surveys for California red-legged frog and southwestern willow flycatcher.

4.4.2. Conclusions

Activities associated with the project may affect, but are not likely to affect the federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)
R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), and least Bells's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). This project will have no effect to California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*). This project may affect and is likely to adversely affect designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog. Proper biological provisions will be implemented during construction in order to keep impacts to a minimum. Safeguard measures are in place in case there are other project changes. **There is potential to impact southern steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) because of the proximity to steelhead trout critical habitat and steelhead trout individuals present at Locations 1 and 2.**

Determination for Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)

Caltrans has determined that the activities associated with the project may affect, but not likely to adversely affect the Federally Endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). The ICF protocol surveys conducted in 2017 concluded that no southwestern willow fly catcher were found due to lack of suitable habitat. Caltrans will schedule construction outside of the bird nesting season (February 1st through September 30th) - as recommended by the USFWS - in order to avoid impacts to SWWFL. Any sighting of a SWWFL in the construction limits or directly adjacent will trigger a notification to USFWS by Caltrans, for purposes of additional guidance. Pre-construction surveys following the appropriate protocols for locating and identifying SWWFL will be done by a qualified ornithologist, approved by USFWS prior to initiation of work. If SWWFL nests are found within 500 feet of the construction site, work will stop until the nesting has been completed and the birds have left the area. Construction limits will be marked in the field and indicated by flagging, stakes, and construction fencing. Construction personnel would be instructed on the ecological sensitivity of the area. Pre-construction surveys will be done to make a final determination of whether southwestern willow flycatcher are present.

Determination for California Red Legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*)

Caltrans has determined that the activities associated with the project may affect and is likely to adversely affect California red-legged frog critical habitat. This project may affect, but is not likely to affect California red-legged frog individuals due to lack of presence.

The ICF protocol surveys conducted in 2017 concluded no California red-legged frog were found. This was most likely due to potential threats and limiting factors such as; non-native crayfish, heavy recreation use, and trash associated with recreation.

At the Willow Creek site, habitat appeared to be of low quality for CRLF. The only pool with sufficient depth for CRLF breeding was the large pool at the SR-101 culverts, which likely had high salinity from frequent ocean wave over wash. Other threats noted included surrounding oilfield land use, and prickly sculpin which may predate on amphibian larvae.

Determination for Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)

Caltrans has determined that the activities associated with the project may affect, but is not likely to effect the federally endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) because Caltrans will schedule construction outside of the bird nesting season (February 1st through September 1st) - as recommended by the USFWS - in order to avoid impacts to LBV. Any sighting of a LBV in the construction limits or directly adjacent will trigger a notification to USFWS by Caltrans, for purposes of additional guidance. Pre-construction surveys following the appropriate protocols for locating and identifying LBV will be done by a qualified ornithologist, approved by USFWS prior to initiation of work. If LBV nests are found within 500 feet of the construction site, work will stop until the nesting has been completed and the birds have left the area. Construction limits will be marked in the field and indicated by flagging, stakes, and construction fencing. Construction personnel would be instructed on the ecological sensitivity of the area. Pre-construction surveys will be done to make a final determination of whether least Bell's vireo is present.

Determination for California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*)

Caltrans has determined that the activities associated with the project will have no effect on the Federally Endangered California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*). The proposed project area does not contain breeding habitat for the California condor, however the BSA does contain potential foraging habitat for this species. Pre-construction surveys will be done to make a final determination of whether California condors are present.

Determination for Southern Steelhead Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

The proposed project will likely adversely affect southern steelhead trout and its Designated Critical Habitat.

As the proposed project occurs in designated critical habitat and includes water diversion activities that will require any individuals present to be captured and removed from the project area as well as prevent any upstream fish migration through the project site for approximately six (6) months, adverse impacts to this species cannot be avoided.

The proposed project will likely result in the incidental take of individual steelhead trout, due to the water diversion and relocation of steelhead. Steelhead mortality is expected during water diversion and other construction activities. The proposed action may impact individuals or habitat, but is not likely to contribute to a trend toward federal listing or loss of viability to the population or species.

4.5. Federal Fisheries and Essential Fish Habitat Consultation Summary

Essential fish habitat (EFH) - those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity (MSA § 3(10)). For the purpose of interpreting the definition of essential fish habitat: "Waters" include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish where appropriate; "substrate" includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities; "necessary" means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem; and "spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity" covers a species' full life cycle. EFH is described by the Councils in amendments to Fishery Management Plans, and is approved by the Secretary of Commerce acting through NOAA Fisheries. (50 CFR 600.10) EFH includes Pacific Coast salmon EFH, groundfish EFH, and coastal pelagic EFH.

An Essential Fish Habitat Assessment report is not required for this project due to the absence of estuaries and ocean habitats for assessment. Location 3 at Willow Creek is in close proximity to the Pacific Ocean. However, the project activities will be far enough away from any Essential Fish Habitat. Proper BMPs will be placed to prevent any debris from entering the ocean.

4.6. California Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary

The California Endangered Species Act requires state lead agencies to consult with CDFW during the CEQA process to avoid jeopardy to Threatened or Endangered species.

4.6.1. Summary of Consultation to Date

Agency Coordination with CDFW: November 7th, 2017 Caltrans requested an official species lists for information on any listed, proposed, or candidate species for which CDFW is responsible. Please refer to Appendix C of this document.

Direct impacts to state-listed species from proposed project activities are not anticipated.

4.6.2. Conclusions

Activities associated with the project will not impact California State Species of Concern, two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*) and western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*) because of the biological provisions that will be implemented during construction. Safeguard measures are in place in case there are other project changes.

Determination for Two-Striped Garter Snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*)

Caltrans has determined that the activities associated with the project will have no effect on the Species of Special Concern two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*). Although suitable habitat is present in the BSA, habitat conversion and degradation resulting from urbanization, construction of reservoirs, cement-lining of stream channels, increased outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, predation of fish and bullfrogs, and depletion of prey base have diminished populations at locations such as Bridge # 1 and 2. Pre-construction surveys will be done to determine presence of two-striped garter snake and if necessary, translocate them from the site with an approved biologist.

Determination for Western Pond Turtle (*Emys marmorata*)

Caltrans has determined that the activities associated with the project will have no effect on the Species of Special Concern western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*). Although suitable habitat is present in the BSA, numerous field surveys have been

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

conducted with no sightings. Pre-construction surveys will be done to determine presence of western pond turtle and if necessary, translocate them from the site with an approved biologist.

4.7. Wetlands and Other Waters Coordination Summary

A Section 404 Nationwide Permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Section 401 Certification from the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB), and 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW will be obtained prior to any impacts to jurisdictional resources. Coordination with Army Corps of Engineers and Regional Water Board is required and all appropriate Caltrans Construction Best Management Practices (BMP's) shall be implemented.

4.7.1. Project Impacts for Jurisdictional Waters

An analysis of the JD and project plans indicate reduced permanent impacts to jurisdictional features with the implementation of avoidance and minimization efforts. Figures 11-16 reference the jurisdictional areas and temporary/permanent impacts for all three locations. The following avoidance and minimization measures will take place:

- Any work within the jurisdictional features shall be conducted when there is no flow during the dry season (April 15-October 31).
- Temporary construction staging areas and access roads shall be strategically placed to avoid and/or minimize impacts to all jurisdictional features to the extent feasible and are expected to be enhanced to pre-project conditions.

Table 3. Temporary and Permanent Impact Areas due to the Proposed Project

Feature Name	Potential Temporary Impacts in Project Area	Permanent Impacts to Jurisdictional Waters
Location 1: (Bridge #52-0173)	0.3168 acres	Bridge Widening: CDFW=0.0119 Acres ACOE=0.0075 Acres
Location 2: (Bridge #52-0044)	0.5852 acres	Bridge Widening: CDFW=0.0253 Acres ACOE=0.0217 Acres
Location 3: (Bridge #52-0003)	(0.2387 acres)	Bridge Widening: CDFW=0.00034 Acres ACOE=0.0025 Acres

Figure 11. Map of Jurisdictional Features and Permanent Impact Area for Location 1 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 16.13

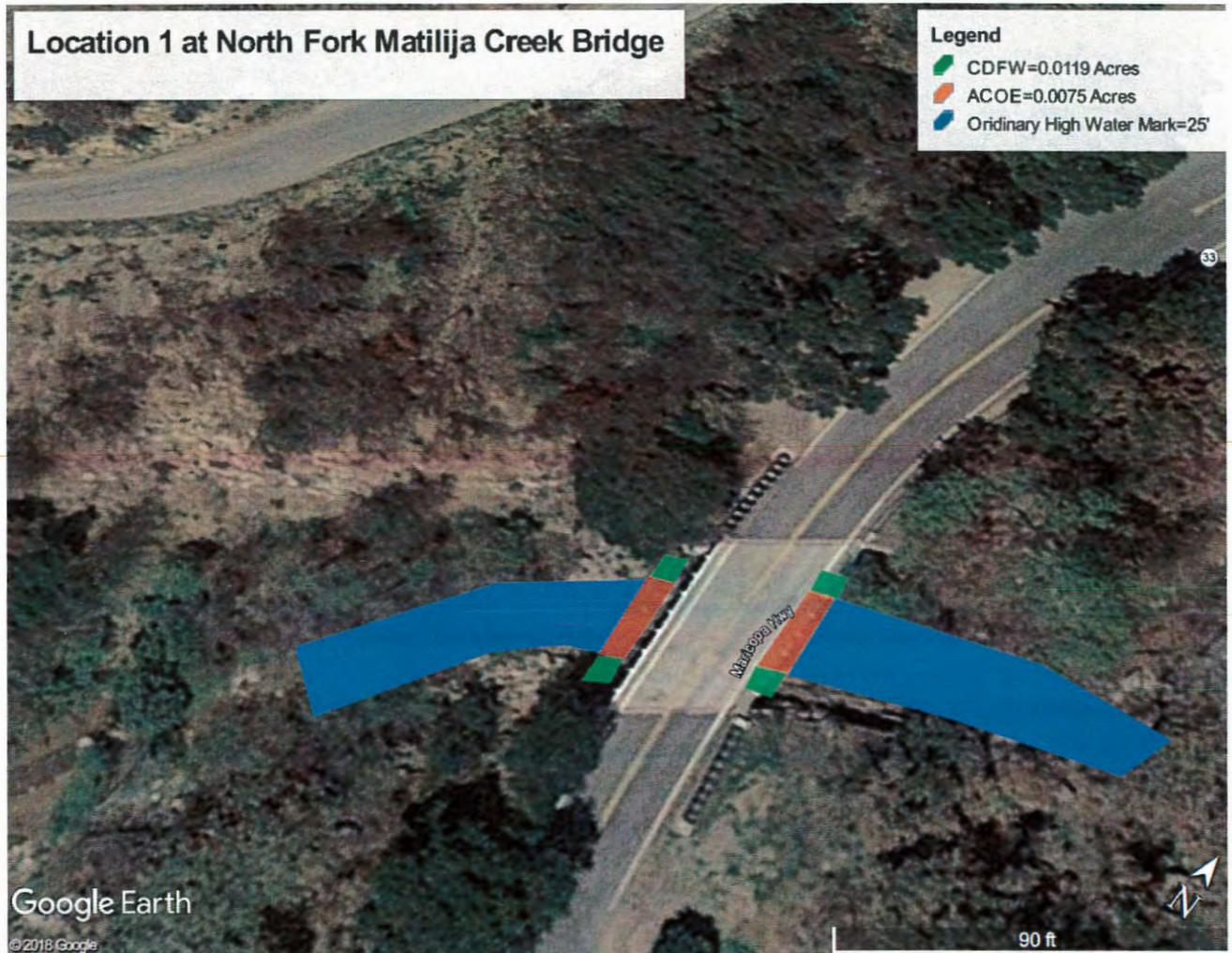


Figure 12. Map of Temporary Impact Area for Location 1 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 16.13

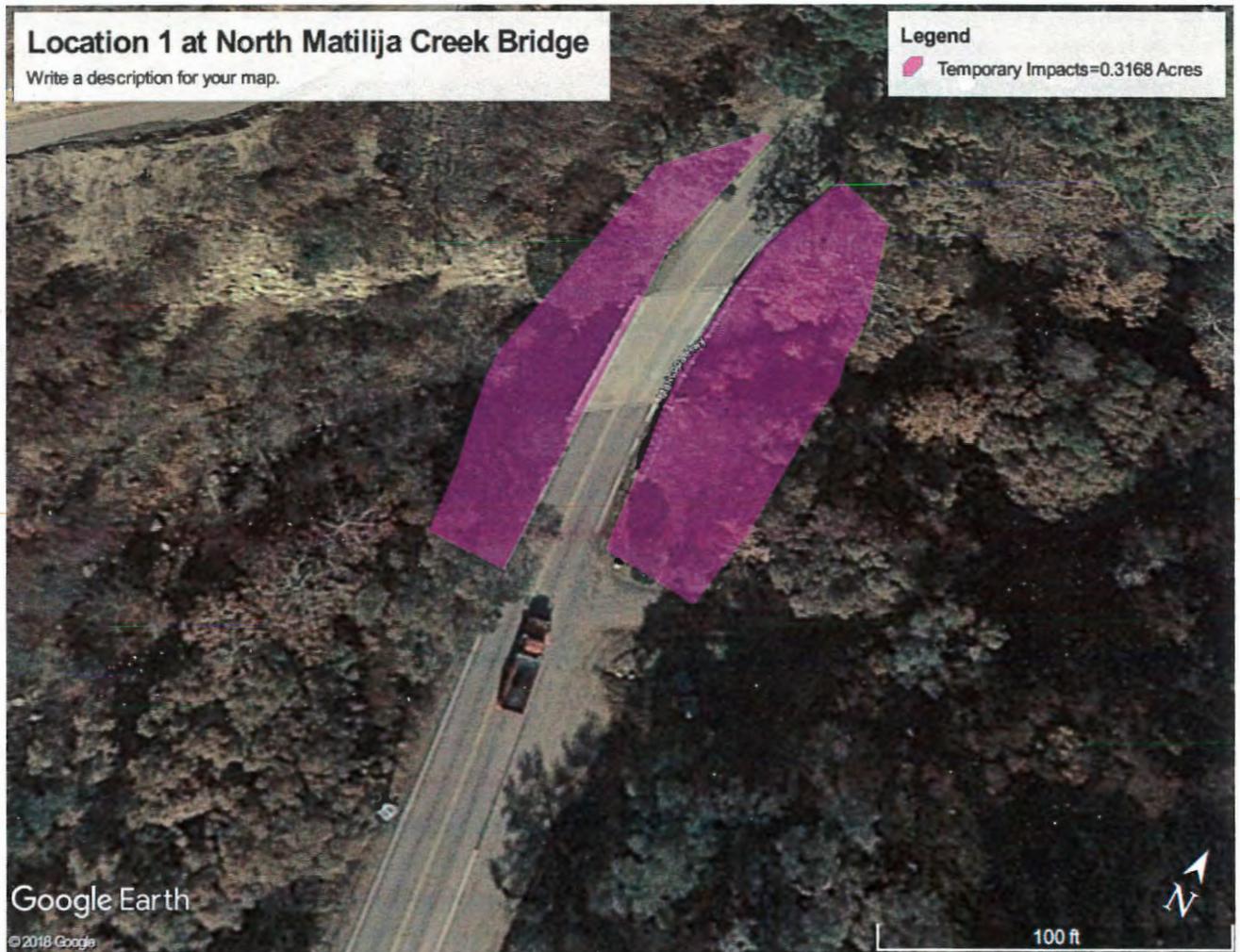


Figure 13. Map of Jurisdictional Features and Permanent Impact Area for Location 2 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 15.82

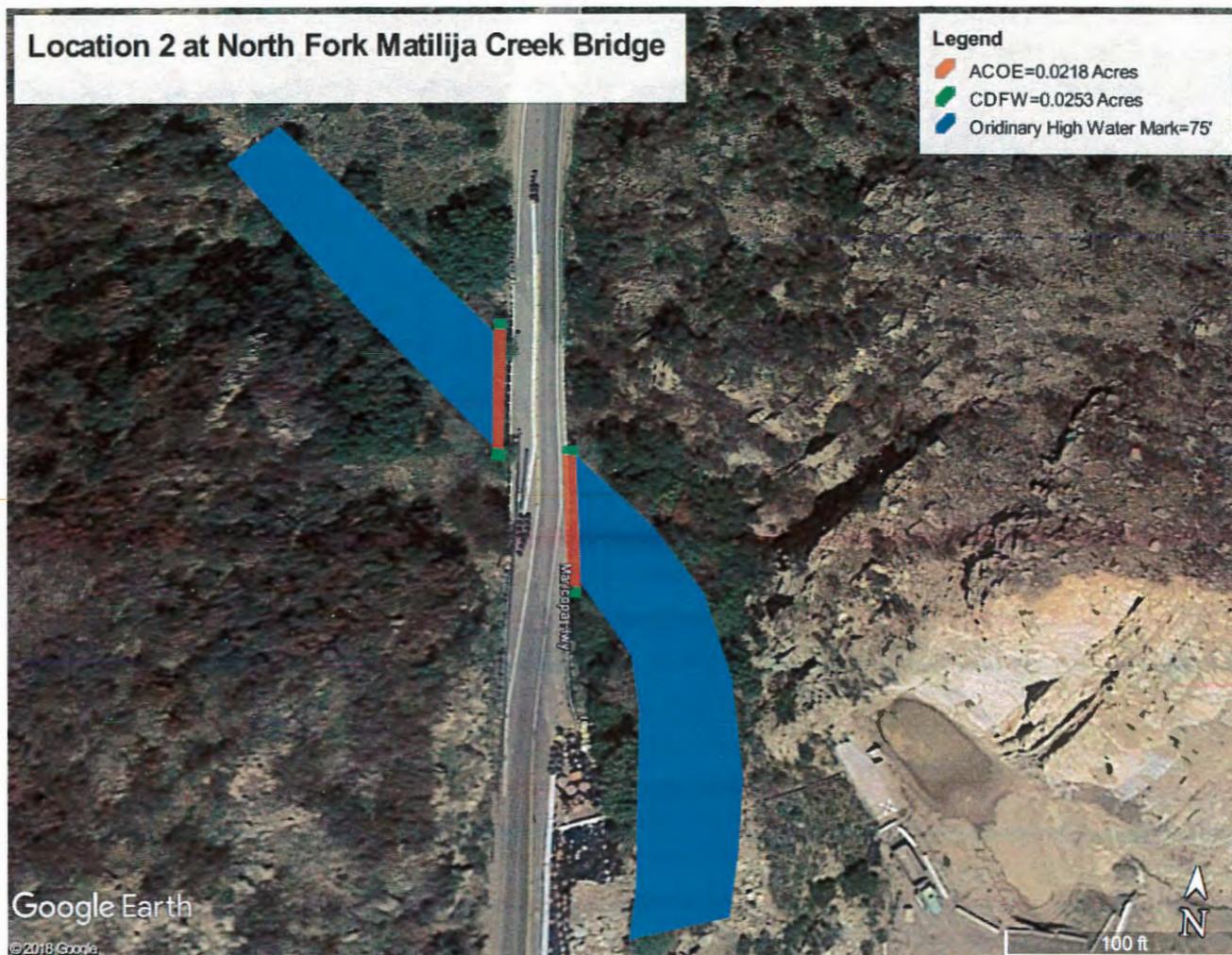


Figure 14. Map of Temporary Impact Area for Location 2 at North Fork Matilija Creek Bridge (PM) 15.82



Figure 15: Map of Jurisdictional Features and Permanent Impact Area for Location 3 at Willow Creek Bridge (PM) 28.15



Figure 16. Map of Temporary Impact Area for Location 3 at Willow Creek Bridge (PM) 28.15



4.7.2. Compensatory Mitigation for Jurisdictional Waters

Coordination with USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW will occur to determine the level of on-site restoration and off-site mitigation within the appropriate watershed. Since this project has minimal permanent impacts within North Matilija Creek and Willow Creek, it is not expected for this project to have extensive off-site mitigation.

4.8. Other

Under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, it is unlawful at any time, by any means or manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, or kill migratory birds. The law applies to the removal of nests occupied by migratory birds during the breeding season.

To avoid and/or minimize the impacts to listed species and their critical habitats, Standard Specifications are provided in the Project Specifications and Expenditures Package for review and comments.

Chapter 5. Conclusions and Regulatory Determinations

5.1. Federal Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary

The USFWS authorizes take of listed species and the destruction of critical habitat through Section 7(a)(2) of the FESA (16 USC 1531-1544). The proposed project may affect and likely to adversely affect California red-legged frog critical habitat. The proposed project may affect, but is not likely to affect least Bell's vireo, and southwestern willow flycatcher. The proposed project is likely to adversely affect Southern California steelhead trout and its designated critical habitat. There will be no effect to California condor. Caltrans will minimize impacts by implementing avoidance measures discussed in Section 4.3.

Activities associated with the project will result in permanent habitat modification at these locations. Project Locations 1 and 2 along North Fork Matilija Creek fall within Critical Habitat for southern steelhead trout and California red-legged frog and also has potential habitat for least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher. Impacts to all of these species should be minimal if the Biological Provisions spelled out in this document are implemented.

Activities associated with this project at Location 3 has low potential for impact to any listed species.

Caltrans has been coordinating with Lena Chang and Chris Dellith at USFWS throughout the project scoping and document preparation phase of the proposed project. Caltrans will submit a Biological Assessment to USFWS for California red-legged frog critical habitat, California red-legged frog, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and a Biological Assessment for steelhead trout and its critical habitat to NMFS. A NMFS species list was requested on November 16th, 2017. A USFWS species list via IPaC was requested on November 7th, 2017.

5.2. Federal Fisheries and Essential Fish Habitat Consultation Summary

Essential fish habitat (EFH) - those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity (MSA § 3(10)). For the purpose of interpreting the definition of essential fish habitat: "Waters" include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish where appropriate; "substrate" includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities; "necessary" means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem; and "spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity" covers a species' full life cycle. EFH is described by the Councils in amendments to Fishery Management Plans, and is approved by the Secretary of Commerce acting through NOAA Fisheries. (50 CFR 600.10) EFH includes Pacific Coast salmon EFH, groundfish EFH, and coastal pelagic EFH.

An Essential Fish Habitat Assessment report is not required for this project due to the absence of estuaries and ocean habitats for assessment. Location 3 at Willow Creek is near the Pacific Ocean. However, the project activities will be far enough away from any Essential Fish Habitat. Proper BMPs will be placed to prevent any debris from entering the ocean.

5.3. California Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary

The proposed project is not likely to impact any species listed under CESA. There will be no effects to Species of Special Concern two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*) and western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*) due to lack of suitable habitat.

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

In the situation where any listed species may occur, CDFW authorizes take of endangered, threatened or candidate species through the provisions of FGC Section 2081 and 2080.1. A take permit from the CDFW may be required prior to construction of the proposed project depending on findings of pre-construction surveys. If a take permit is required, Caltrans expects to finalize the 2081 process prior to the ready-to-list date of the project. Caltrans has been in coordination with Matt Chirdon at CDFW throughout the project scoping and document preparation phase of the proposed project.

5.4. Wetlands and Other Waters Coordination Summary

Preliminary findings and conclusions regarding the locations and extent of waters subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE, CDFW and SWRCB are discussed in Section 4.7.1. (Project Impacts for Jurisdictional Waters) This information was analyzed by Caltrans biologists and is presented, but should not be considered final until concurrence is obtained by USACE, CDFW, and the SWRCB. Clean Water Act Section 401 and Section 404 Nationwide permits will be filed, and a Lake Streambed Alteration Agreement (1602) with CDFW will be obtained, with the understanding that impacts will be mitigated at Ojai Lands Conservancy or other appropriate organizations agreed upon with USACE, CDFW, RWQCB, and USFS.

5.5. Invasive Species

In February 1999, Executive Order 13112 was signed, requiring Federal agencies to work on preventing and controlling the introduction and spread of invasive species. Highway corridors provide opportunities for the movement of invasive species through the landscape. Invasive species can move on vehicles and in the loads they carry. Invasive plants can be moved from site to site during spraying and mowing operations. Weed seed can be inadvertently introduced into the corridor on equipment during construction and using mulch, imported soil or gravel, and sod. Some invasive plant species might be deliberately planted in erosion control, landscape, or wildflower projects. Highway rights-of-way provide ample opportunity for weeds in adjacent land to spread along corridors that, on a national scale, span millions of miles of highway.

The project has the potential to spread invasive species to adjacent native habitats in the BSA by the entering and exiting of construction equipment contaminated by invasive species, the inclusion of invasive species in seed mixtures and mulch, and by

the improper removal and disposal of invasive species so that seed is spread along the highway.

In compliance with EO 13112, a weed abatement program will be developed to minimize the importation of nonnative plant material during and after construction. Eradication strategies would be employed should an invasion occur. At a minimum, this program will include the following measures:

- During construction, the construction contractor shall inspect and clean construction equipment at the beginning and end of each day and prior to transporting equipment from one project location to another.
- During construction, soil and vegetation disturbance will be minimized to the greatest extent feasible.
- During construction, the contractor shall ensure that all active portions of the construction site are watered a minimum of twice daily or more often when needed due to dry or windy conditions to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- During construction, the contractor shall ensure that all material stockpiled is sufficiently watered or covered to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- During construction, soil/gravel/rock will be obtained from weed-free sources.
- Only certified weed-free straw, mulch, and/or fiber rolls will be used for erosion control.
- After construction, affected areas adjacent to native vegetation will be revegetated with plant species approved by the District Biologist that are native to the vicinity.
- After construction, all revegetated areas will avoid the use of species listed on Cal-IPC's California Invasive Plant Inventory
- Erosion control and revegetation sites will be monitored for 2 to 3 years after construction to detect and control the introduction/invasion of nonnative species.
- Eradication procedures (e.g., spraying and/or hand weeding) will be outlined should an infestation occur; the use of herbicides will be prohibited within and adjacent to native vegetation, except as specifically authorized and monitored by the District Biologist and Landscape Architect.

5.6. Other

5.6.1. Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Code § 3503, 3503.5, 3513, 3700- 3705 and § 3800

The project has the potential to impact breeding/nesting birds protected by MBTA. The removal and/or trimming of trees and vegetation as a result of project activities may impact nesting birds within the project impact areas. At a minimum, this program will include the following measures:

- The removal and/or disturbance of trees or suitable roosting shrubbery would be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
- Wherever possible, vegetation would be trimmed and/or removed outside of core nesting period (February 15-September 1).
- If avoidance of these activities during this period is not possible, preconstruction surveys by a qualified biologist would be conducted to identify any existing nests or breeding birds within the area scheduled for construction. The survey should be completed no more than 48 hours prior to the start of project activities. Additional surveys would be conducted if more than 72 hours pass between preconstruction nesting bird surveys and the start of construction.
- If breeding/nesting birds are located within 150 ft. of the limits of disturbance, a buffer shall be flagged around the nest and ESA signs posted. Any work within 150 ft. of the flagged area would require a biologist to monitor the birds and ensure that the construction activities do not negatively impact the birds.
- If the biologist identifies signs of stress, the biologist will inform the Engineer that activities within the immediate area cannot resume until the birds resume their normal behavior or until the nest has been determined to be no longer active.
- Should breeding/nesting of raptors be located within the area scheduled for construction, the buffer shall be extended to 500 ft. as raptors are more sensitive to disturbance.

Chapter 6. References

1. Bobzien, S., J.E. DiDonato, P.J. Alexander. 2000. *Status of the California Red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii) in the East Bay Regional Park District, California*. Oakland, California.
2. California Department of Fish and Game. 2017. *California Natural Diversity Database*.
3. Jennings, Mark R. 1994 *Amphibians and Reptile Species of Special Concern in California*. California Department of Fish and Game, Non-game Wildlife Program.
4. California Herps: A Guide to the Amphibians and Reptiles of California. Accessed April, 2018 from <http://www.californiaherps.com/>.
5. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2005. *Biological and Conference Opinions on the Revised Land and Resource Management Plans for the Four Southern California National Parks*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Office, Carlsbad, California.
6. U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002 *Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Portland, Oregon.
7. Wright, A. H. and A. A. Wright. 1949. *Handbook of frogs and toads of the United States and Canada (third edition)* 640p. Ithaca, NY: Comstock Publishing Company.
8. Jennings, Mark R. 1994 *Amphibians and Reptile Species of Special Concern in California*. California Department of Fish and Game, Non-game Wildlife Program.
9. Allen, M, Riley, S, and Thobaben, S. 2007. *Steelhead Population and Habitat Assessment in Ventura River/Matilija Creek Basin Final Report*. Ventura County Flood Control District, Ventura, California.
10. California Department of Fish and Game. 2017. *California Natural Diversity Database*.

11. IPAC System. United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Retrieved 2017
12. Feeney, Richard F. and Swift, Camm C., 2008 *Description and ecology of larvae and juveniles of three native cypriniforms of coastal southern California*. The Ichthyological Society of Japan, 2008.
13. McEwan D. and T. A. Jackson, 1996. Steelhead restoration and management plan for California. State of California, The Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game.
14. National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. *Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan*. Southwest Region, Protected Resources Division, Long Beach, California.
15. Swift, C. and Mulder, J. 2008. *Fish Rescue and Construction Monitoring, Emergency Road Repair Project on State Highway 33*. Entrix, Inc. Ventura, California.
16. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2005. *Biological and Conference Opinions on the Revised Land and Resource Management Plans for the Four Southern California National Parks*. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Office, Carlsbad, California.
17. Kus, B. 2002. Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). In *The Riparian Bird Conservation Plan: a strategy for reversing the decline of riparian-associated birds in California*. California Partners in Flight.
http://www.prbo.org/calpif/htmldocs/riparian_v-2.html
18. Calflora: Information on wild California plants for conservation, education, and appreciation. Accessed throughout 2017-2018 from www.calflora.org.
19. CNPS: California Native Plant Society, Accessed throughout 2017-2018 from <https://www.cnps.org>.
20. California Wildlife Habitat Relationships: Life History Accounts and Range Maps. Accessed throughout 2017-2018 from <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/data/cwhr>
21. GPA Consulting. 2017 California Red-Legged Frog Survey and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Survey. Ventura County, California.

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

Appendix A Summary of Recommended Biological Provisions

Biological Provisions	Description
BIO-01	<p>Pre-Construction Surveys: Biological surveys of the project area shall be performed in locations having increased biological sensitivity as determined by the District Biologist. Surveys shall be conducted at most two weeks prior to the clearing and grubbing of vegetation.</p>
BIO-02	<p>Nesting Bird Surveys: Surveys for nesting birds shall be conducted when clearing and grubbing of vegetation occurs, having the potential to support least Bell's vireo.</p>
BIO-03	<p>Water Quality BMPs: All applicable Construction Best Management Practices for water quality shall be implemented to minimize project affects to jurisdictional drainages. All Federal and State litter laws shall be followed by the contractors.</p>
BIO-04	<p>Native Riparian Habitat Replacement: Riparian habitat shall be replaced at a ratio of 5:1 for permanent impacts and 2:1 ratio for temporary impacts. Additional biological provisions shall be replaced at a negotiated rate with jurisdictional agencies.</p>
BIO-05	<p>Access Path: Access will be limited to one pathway only. The designed pathway will have the least impact to the native plants and riparian habitat. Access limit will be flagged or marked out. Access path will be blocked so as not to allow public access upon project completion.</p>

BIO-06	Construction Window: Work will be conducted during September 1 st to October 31 st . This is a biological provision for Least Bell's Vireo and includes only the dry season to prevent aquatic species impact. Work will occur during daylight hours only, to minimize impacts on nocturnal wildlife activity.
BIO-07	Staging Area: Vehicle maintenance will not be conducted in the streambed, herein defined as the channel through which a natural stream of water runs or used to run.
BIO-08	Environmental Sensitive Area: An environmental sensitive area (ESA) shall consist of an area within and near the limits of construction where access is prohibited or limited for the preservation of archeological site or existing vegetation, or protection of biological habitat as shown on the plans.
BIO-09	Riparian Habitat/ Waters of the U.S. Impacts: Regulatory permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Game shall be obtained for project impacts to jurisdictional drainages. Impacts to riparian habitat will be mitigated in consultation with the regulatory agencies once drainages design details are finalized.
BIO-10	Ground Water: Ground water seepage within the project area will be containerized and taken offsite to prevent sediments from traveling downstream.
BIO-11	LBV and SWWFL– Work Outside Bird Nesting Season: Caltrans will schedule construction outside of the bird nesting season (September 1 st through February 1 st) in order to avoid impacts to LBV and SWWFL. Any sighting of an LBV or SWWFL in the construction limits or directly adjacent will trigger a notification to USFWS, for purposes of additional guidance.

BIO-12	<p>LBV and SWWFL-Pre-Construction Protocol Level Surveys: Pre-construction surveys following the appropriate protocols for locating and identifying LBV and SWWFL will be done by a qualified ornithologist, approved by USFWS prior to initiation of work. If least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow catchers is found within 500 ft of the construction site, work will stop until the nesting has been completed and the birds have left the area.</p>
BIO-13	<p>ESA Fencing: Construction limits will be marked in the field and indicated by flagging, stakes and construction ESA fencing. Construction personnel would be instructed on the ecological sensitivity of the area.</p>
Bio-14	<p>ESA Fencing: The ESA fencing will be checked for integrity weekly, and animals will be excluded from the construction area weekly by a qualified biologist.</p>
BIO-15	<p>Preconstruction Surveys: Pre-Construction surveys will be done by a qualified herpetologist with experience in locating and identifying California red-legged frog will be done prior to initiations of work. If any CRLF are located, work will not commence until coordination with USFWS has occurred.</p>
BIO-16	<p>Do Not Work In Flowing Water: All work will take place during the dry season (April 15th-Oct 31st) and a water diversion method will ensure the work area is free from moisture.</p>
BIO-17	<p>Sedimentation Control Measures: Typical sediment control devices include siltation curtains, sandbags, hay bales, filter fabrics, and fiber rolls. Caltrans and CDFW manuals provide instruction and appropriate methodologies for deployment of sediment control devices.</p>
BIO-18	<p>Prevent Spills and Leakage from Heavy Equipment: Any heavy equipment used in the project area will be removed at the end of each workday. All heavy equipment will be checked for oil leaks, gas, hydraulic fluid and any other pollutant which could impact water quality and instream habitat</p>

R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

	each workday prior to being deployed into the project area. Drip pans should be installed on all equipment working in the project area to control leaks and for the purpose of avoiding water-quality impacts to surface waters.
BIO-19	Pre-Construction Surveys Done by NOAA: Pre-construction surveys done by a NOAA approved, qualified ichthyologist with experience in locating and identifying Southern steelhead trout will be done prior to initiation of work. If any Southern steelhead trout are located work will not commence until coordination with NOAA has occurred.
BIO-20	Exclusionary Nets for NOAA: Exclusionary nets will be setup to exclude fish from the project site prior to installation of the water diversion. Any fish found within the project site will be moved upstream of the project site and released. All exclusionary and removal activities will be conducted by a NOAA approved ichthyologist with experience in identifying southern steelhead trout.
BIO-21	Water Diversion Plan: A Water Diversion Plan shall be developed and implemented in consultation with NOAA, CDFW, USFWS, ACOE, and RWQCB to divert water through the project site to reduce turbidity and prevent sediments from entering the stream course.
BIO-22	Work to be Conducted Outside Upstream Migration Season: All work shall be conducted outside of the upstream migration season for winter-run southern steelhead trout. Southern steelhead trout generally begin migrating upstream during November and continuing migrating through winter generally till the end of March. Work shall be conducted from June 1 st , through November 1 st .
BIO-23	Creek Restoration: Caltrans will restore the creek to pre-construction conditions by replacing any boulders moved back to their original locations and blending the widened portion of the creek into the existing creek bed. This includes placing fines, gravel, rock, and boulders within the widened portion of the creek to simulate a

	natural stream environment as well as replanting removed riparian vegetation to provide shade for the creek.
BIO-24	Final Project Report: A Final Project Report will be submitted to USFWS, NOAA, CDFW, ACOE, and RWQCB once the project and all monitoring has been completed.
BIO-25	Pre-construction Surveys for CRLF: Caltrans will conduct pre-construction surveys done by a qualified herpetologist with experience in locating and identifying CRLF and approved by USFWS, prior to initiation of work. If any CRLF are located within the project footprint they will be re-located to a safe location as deemed by the herpetologist in coordination with USFWS.
BIO-26	Biological Monitor For CRLF: Caltrans will have a biological monitor with experience in locating and identifying CRLF on-site at all times throughout the duration of construction activities within the riparian zone. If any CRLF are observed during construction work, all work will halt until a permitted herpetologist can be present to help relocate any individuals found to a safe location.
BIO-27	Incorporate all Applicable Avoidance and Minimization Measures: Caltrans will incorporate all applicable Avoidance and Minimization Measures as identified in the Programmatic Biological Opinion issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Federal Highways Administration (1-8-02-F-68).



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



Query Criteria: Quad IS (Pitas Point (3411934) OR Matilija (3411943))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> var. <i>milesianus</i> Miles' milk-vetch	PDFAB0F2X3	None	None	G5T2	S2	1B.2
<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i> Ventura Marsh milk-vetch	PDFAB0F7B1	Endangered	Endangered	G2T1	S1	1B.1
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> burrowing owl	ABNSB10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
<i>Bombus crotchii</i> Crotch bumble bee	IIHYM24480	None	None	G3G4	S1S2	
<i>Calochortus fimbriatus</i> late-flowered mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D1J2	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i> southern tarplant	PDAST4R0P4	None	None	G3T2	S2	1B.1
<i>Chaetodipus californicus</i> <i>femoralis</i> Dulzura pocket mouse	AMAFD05021	None	None	G5T3	S3	SSC
<i>Coelus globosus</i> globose dune beetle	IICOL4A010	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	
<i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle	ARAAD02030	None	None	G3G4	S3	SSC
<i>Fritillaria ojaiensis</i> Ojai fritillary	PMLILOV0N0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i> mesa horkelia	PDROS0W045	None	None	G4T1	S1	1B.1
<i>Imperata brevifolia</i> California satintail	PMPOA3D020	None	None	G4	S3	2B.1
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i> hoary bat	AMACC05030	None	None	G5	S4	
<i>Laylia heterotricha</i> pale-yellow laylia	PDAST5N070	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
<i>Monardella hypoleuca</i> ssp. <i>hypoleuca</i> white-veined monardella	PDLAM180A3	None	None	G4T3	S3	1B.3
<i>Navarretia ojaiensis</i> Ojai navarretia	PDPLM0C130	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
<i>Navarretia peninsularis</i> Baja navarretia	PDPLM0C0L0	None	None	G3	S2	1B.2
<i>Neotoma lepida</i> <i>intermedia</i> San Diego desert woodrat	AMAFF08041	None	None	G5T3T4	S3S4	SSC
<i>Nolina cismontana</i> chaparral nolina	PMAGA080E0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> <i>irideus</i> pop. 10 steelhead - southern California DPS	AFCHA0209J	Endangered	None	G5T1Q	S1	



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



Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> coast horned lizard	ARACF12100	None	None	G3G4	S3S4	SSC
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i> Sanford's arrowhead	PMALI040Q0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i> coast patch-nosed snake	ARADB30033	None	None	G5T4	S2S3	SSC
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i> salt spring checkerbloom	PDMAL110J0	None	None	G4	S2	2B.2
<i>Southern California Steelhead Stream</i> Southern California Steelhead Stream	CARE2310CA	None	None	GNR	SNR	
<i>Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest</i> Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	CTT61310CA	None	None	G4	S4	
<i>Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland</i> Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland	CTT62400CA	None	None	G4	S4	
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i> two-striped gartersnake	ARADB36160	None	None	G4	S3S4	SSC
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> least Bell's vireo	ABPBW01114	Endangered	Endangered	G5T2	S2	

Record Count: 30

Quad Name **Pitas Point**

Quad Number **34119-C4**

ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) -

CCC Coho ESU (E) -

CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -

CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -

SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) -

NC Steelhead DPS (T) -

CCC Steelhead DPS (T) -

SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) -

SC Steelhead DPS (E) - **X**

CCV Steelhead DPS (T) -

Eulachon (T) -

sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) - **X**

ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat -

CCC Coho Critical Habitat -

CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -

CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -

SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -

NC Steelhead Critical Habitat -

CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -

SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -

SC Steelhead Critical Habitat - **X**

CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat -

Eulachon Critical Habitat -

sDPS Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat -

ESA Marine Invertebrates

Range Black Abalone (E) - **X**

Range White Abalone (E) - **X**

ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -

ESA Sea Turtles

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) - **X**
Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) - **X**
Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) - **X**
North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) - **X**

ESA Whales

Blue Whale (E) - **X**
Fin Whale (E) - **X**
Humpback Whale (E) - **X**
Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) - **X**
North Pacific Right Whale (E) - **X**
Sei Whale (E) - **X**
Sperm Whale (E) - **X**

ESA Pinnipeds

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) - **X**
Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -

Essential Fish Habitat

Coho EFH -
Chinook Salmon EFH -
Groundfish EFH - **X**
Coastal Pelagics EFH - **X**
Highly Migratory Species EFH - **X**

MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds

**See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office
562-980-4000**

MMPA Cetaceans - **X**

MMPA Pinnipeds - **X**

Quad Name **Matilija**

Quad Number **34119-D3**

ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) -

CCC Coho ESU (E) -

CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -

CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -

SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) -

NC Steelhead DPS (T) -

CCC Steelhead DPS (T) -

SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) -

SC Steelhead DPS (E) - **X**

CCV Steelhead DPS (T) -

Eulachon (T) -

sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) -

ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat -

CCC Coho Critical Habitat -

CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -

CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -

SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -

NC Steelhead Critical Habitat -

CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -

SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -

SC Steelhead Critical Habitat -



CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat -

Eulachon Critical Habitat -

sDPS Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat -

ESA Marine Invertebrates

Range Black Abalone (E) -

Range White Abalone (E) -

ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -

ESA Sea Turtles

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) -

Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) -

Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) -

North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) -

ESA Whales

Blue Whale (E) -

Fin Whale (E) -

Humpback Whale (E) -

Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) -

North Pacific Right Whale (E) -

Sei Whale (E) -

Sperm Whale (E) -

ESA Pinnipeds

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) -

Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat -

Essential Fish Habitat

Coho EFH -

Chinook Salmon EFH -

Groundfish EFH -

Coastal Pelagics EFH -

Highly Migratory Species EFH -

MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds

**See list at left and consult the NMFS Long Beach office
562-980-4000**

MMPA Cetaceans -

MMPA Pinnipeds -



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003-7726
Phone: (805) 644-1766 Fax: (805) 644-3958

In Reply Refer To:
Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2018-SLI-0076
Event Code: 08EVEN00-2019-E-00074
Project Name: EA#29650/Ven-33 Bridge widening

October 08, 2018

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed list identifies species listed as threatened and endangered, species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, designated and proposed critical habitat, and species that are candidates for listing that may occur within the boundary of the area you have indicated using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information Planning and Conservation System (IPaC). The species list fulfills the requirements under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the species list should be verified after 90 days. We recommend that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists following the same process you used to receive the enclosed list. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any correspondence about the species list.

Due to staff shortages and excessive workload, we are unable to provide an official list more specific to your area. Numerous other sources of information are available for you to narrow the list to the habitats and conditions of the site in which you are interested. For example, we recommend conducting a biological site assessment or surveys for plants and animals that could help refine the list.

If a Federal agency is involved in the project, that agency has the responsibility to review its proposed activities and determine whether any listed species may be affected. If the project is a major construction project*, the Federal agency has the responsibility to prepare a biological assessment to make a determination of the effects of the action on the listed species or critical habitat. If the Federal agency determines that a listed species or critical habitat is likely to be adversely affected, it should request, in writing through our office, formal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve conflicts with respect to threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat prior to a

written request for formal consultation. During this review process, the Federal agency may engage in planning efforts but may not make any irreversible commitment of resources. Such a commitment could constitute a violation of section 7(d) of the Act.

Federal agencies are required to confer with the Service, pursuant to section 7(a)(4) of the Act, when an agency action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10(a)). A request for formal conference must be in writing and should include the same information that would be provided for a request for formal consultation. Conferences can also include discussions between the Service and the Federal agency to identify and resolve potential conflicts between an action and proposed species or proposed critical habitat early in the decision-making process. The Service recommends ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects of the action. These recommendations are advisory because the jeopardy prohibition of section 7(a)(2) of the Act does not apply until the species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated. The conference process fulfills the need to inform Federal agencies of possible steps that an agency might take at an early stage to adjust its actions to avoid jeopardizing a proposed species.

When a proposed species or proposed critical habitat may be affected by an action, the lead Federal agency may elect to enter into formal conference with the Service even if the action is not likely to jeopardize or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. If the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated after completion of the conference, the Federal agency may ask the Service, in writing, to confirm the conference as a formal consultation. If the Service reviews the proposed action and finds that no significant changes in the action as planned or in the information used during the conference have occurred, the Service will confirm the conference as a formal consultation on the project and no further section 7 consultation will be necessary. Use of the formal conference process in this manner can prevent delays in the event the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated during project development or implementation.

Candidate species are those species presently under review by the Service for consideration for Federal listing. Candidate species should be considered in the planning process because they may become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. Preparation of a biological assessment, as described in section 7(c) of the Act, is not required for candidate species. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to affect a candidate species, you may wish to request technical assistance from this office.

Only listed species receive protection under the Act. However, sensitive species should be considered in the planning process in the event they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. We recommend that you review information in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base. You can contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 324-3812 for information on other sensitive species that may occur in this area.

[*A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.]

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office

2493 Portola Road, Suite B

Ventura, CA 93003-7726

(805) 644-1766

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2018-SLI-0076

Event Code: 08EVEN00-2019-E-00074

Project Name: EA#29650/Ven-33 Bridge widening

Project Type: RECREATION CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

Project Description: bridge widening/railing will be upgraded

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/34.49012794903881N119.30578351020813W>



Counties: Ventura, CA

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 10 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> Population: U.S.A. only, except where listed as an experimental population There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8193	Endangered
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891	Threatened

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Riverside Fairy Shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8148	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
California Orcutt Grass <i>Orcuttia californica</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4923	Endangered
Gambel's Watercress <i>Rorippa gambellii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4201	Endangered
Marsh Sandwort <i>Arenaria paludicola</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2229	Endangered
Spreading Navarretia <i>Navarretia fossalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1334	Threatened

Critical habitats

There is 1 critical habitat wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891#crithab	Final



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003-7726
Phone: (805) 644-1766 Fax: (805) 644-3958



In Reply Refer To:

July 17, 2018

Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2018-SLI-0078

Event Code: 08EVEN00-2018-E-01885

Project Name: EA# 29650/Route-1

Subject: Updated list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed list identifies species listed as threatened and endangered, species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, designated and proposed critical habitat, and species that are candidates for listing that may occur within the boundary of the area you have indicated using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information Planning and Conservation System (IPaC). The species list fulfills the requirements under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the species list should be verified after 90 days. We recommend that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists following the same process you used to receive the enclosed list. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any correspondence about the species list.

Due to staff shortages and excessive workload, we are unable to provide an official list more specific to your area. Numerous other sources of information are available for you to narrow the list to the habitats and conditions of the site in which you are interested. For example, we recommend conducting a biological site assessment or surveys for plants and animals that could help refine the list.

If a Federal agency is involved in the project, that agency has the responsibility to review its proposed activities and determine whether any listed species may be affected. If the project is a major construction project*, the Federal agency has the responsibility to prepare a biological assessment to make a determination of the effects of the action on the listed species or critical habitat. If the Federal agency determines that a listed species or critical habitat is likely to be adversely affected, it should request, in writing through our office, formal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve conflicts with respect to threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat prior to a

written request for formal consultation. During this review process, the Federal agency may engage in planning efforts but may not make any irreversible commitment of resources. Such a commitment could constitute a violation of section 7(d) of the Act.

Federal agencies are required to confer with the Service, pursuant to section 7(a)(4) of the Act, when an agency action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10(a)). A request for formal conference must be in writing and should include the same information that would be provided for a request for formal consultation. Conferences can also include discussions between the Service and the Federal agency to identify and resolve potential conflicts between an action and proposed species or proposed critical habitat early in the decision-making process. The Service recommends ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects of the action. These recommendations are advisory because the jeopardy prohibition of section 7(a)(2) of the Act does not apply until the species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated. The conference process fulfills the need to inform Federal agencies of possible steps that an agency might take at an early stage to adjust its actions to avoid jeopardizing a proposed species.

When a proposed species or proposed critical habitat may be affected by an action, the lead Federal agency may elect to enter into formal conference with the Service even if the action is not likely to jeopardize or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. If the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated after completion of the conference, the Federal agency may ask the Service, in writing, to confirm the conference as a formal consultation. If the Service reviews the proposed action and finds that no significant changes in the action as planned or in the information used during the conference have occurred, the Service will confirm the conference as a formal consultation on the project and no further section 7 consultation will be necessary. Use of the formal conference process in this manner can prevent delays in the event the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated during project development or implementation.

Candidate species are those species presently under review by the Service for consideration for Federal listing. Candidate species should be considered in the planning process because they may become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. Preparation of a biological assessment, as described in section 7(c) of the Act, is not required for candidate species. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to affect a candidate species, you may wish to request technical assistance from this office.

Only listed species receive protection under the Act. However, sensitive species should be considered in the planning process in the event they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. We recommend that you review information in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base. You can contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 324-3812 for information on other sensitive species that may occur in this area.

[*A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.]

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office

2493 Portola Road, Suite B

Ventura, CA 93003-7726

(805) 644-1766

Project Summary

Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2018-SLI-0078

Event Code: 08EVEN00-2018-E-01885

Project Name: EA# 29650/Route-1

Project Type: BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

Project Description: Caltrans proposes to improve the existing bridge structures and bring them to standard. Currently the bridge railings are outdated and do not include a standard shoulder width across the shoulders. Three bridges will be upgraded. Route 1 at (PM) 28.15, and the other two are at Route 33 at (PM) 15.82 and (PM) 16.13 in the City of Ojai. All projects will take place within the County of Ventura.

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/34.348866140315835N119.42218056783945W>



Counties: Ventura, CA

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 14 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8104	Endangered
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Marbled Murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i> Population: U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA) There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4467	Threatened
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered
Western Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> Population: Pacific Coast population DPS-U.S.A. (CA, OR, WA), Mexico (within 50 miles of Pacific coast) There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8035	Threatened

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891	Threatened

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Tidewater Goby <i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/57	Endangered

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Riverside Fairy Shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8148	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
California Orcutt Grass <i>Orcuttia californica</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4923	Endangered
Gambel's Watercress <i>Rorippa gambellii</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4201	Endangered
Marsh Sandwort <i>Arenaria paludicola</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2229	Endangered
Salt Marsh Bird's-beak <i>Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6447	Endangered
Spreading Navarretia <i>Navarretia fossalis</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location is outside the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1334	Threatened

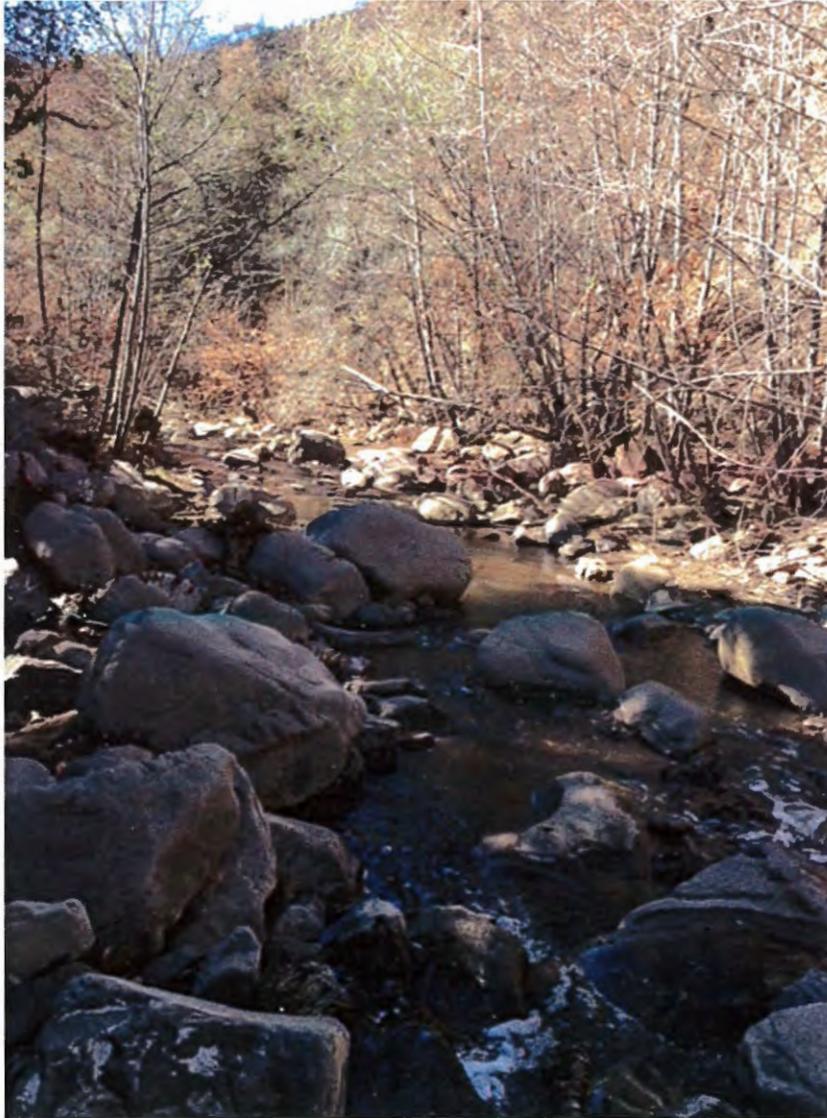
Critical habitats

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

Appendix B *USFWS Species List, NMFS Species List and
CNDDDB List*

Appendix C Project Site Photographs

North Matilija Creek looking south from bridge 52-0173 (PM) 16.13



North Matilija Creek looking north from bridge 52-0173 (PM) 16.13



R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

North Matilija Creek looking south from bridge 52-0044 (PM) 15.82



R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

North Matilija Creek looking north from bridge 52-0044 (PM) 15.82



R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

Willow Creek Bridge 52-0003 (PM) 28.15 looking southeast



R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

Willow Creek Bridge 52-0003 (PM) 28.15 looking northwest



R-1 PM 28.15 and R-33 PM 15.82/PM 16.13, Bridge Rail Upgrade, Within Ventura County

Attachment F

[Home](#)

[About the Inventory](#)

[CNPS Home](#)

[Join CNPS](#)

[Simple Search](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

*The database used to provide updates to the Online Inventory is under construction. [View updates and changes made since May 2019 here.](#)

Plant List

2 matches found. [Click on scientific name for details](#)

Search Criteria

Found in Quad 3411934

[Modify Search Criteria](#) [Export to Excel](#) [Modify Columns](#) [Modify Sort](#) [Display Photos](#)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family	Lifeform	Blooming Period	CA Rare Plant Rank	State Rank	Global Rank
Centromadia parryi ssp. australis	southern tarplant	Asteraceae	annual herb	May-Nov	1B.1	S2	G3T2
Suaeda taxifolia	woolly seablite	Chenopodiaceae	perennial evergreen shrub	Jan-Dec	4.2	S4	G4

Suggested Citation

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2021. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (online edition, v8-03 0.39). Website <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org> [accessed 28 April 2021].

- Search the Inventory
- [Simple Search](#)
- [Advanced Search](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- Information
- [About the Inventory](#)
- [About the Rare Plant Program](#)
- [CNPS Home Page](#)
- [About CNPS](#)
- [Join CNPS](#)
- Contributors
- [The Calflora Database](#)
- [The California Lichen Society](#)
- [California Natural Diversity Database](#)
- [The Jepson Flora Project](#)
- [The Consortium of California Herbaria](#)
- [CalPhotos](#)