

# Jackson Valley Rehabilitation

On State Route 88 in Amador County  
from the San Joaquin/Amador county line to State Route 124

10-AMA-88-PM 0.0/5.5

EA 10-264440

## Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration



Prepared by the  
State of California Department of Transportation

March 2008



## **General Information About This Document**

### ***What's in this document?***

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study with Mitigated Negative Declaration, which examines the potential environmental impacts of alternatives being considered for the proposed project located in Amador County, California. The document describes why the project is being proposed, alternatives for the project, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, potential impacts from each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

An Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration was circulated for public review and comment from June 29, 2007 to July 30, 2007. Public notices were published in the *Stockton Record* and *Amador Ledger-Dispatch*. Copies of the document were made available at the Caltrans district office in Stockton and at libraries in Ione and Jackson. The document was also viewable on the World Wide Web. Comments received and responses to comments made on the circulation of the Initial Study are located in Appendix F, which has been added. Elsewhere in the document, a vertical line in the margin indicates text that has been changed or added since the document was circulated, in response to comments received or consultation with resource agencies.

### ***What happens next?***

The proposed project has completed the environmental review process. When funding is approved, the California Department of Transportation can construct all or part of this project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document is available in Braille, large print, on audiocassette, or computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Caltrans, Attn: Gail Miller, Central Sierra Environmental Analysis Branch, 2015 E. Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno CA, 93726; (559) 243-8274 Voice, or use the California Relay Service TTY number, (800) 735-2929.

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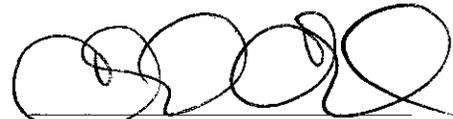
Rehabilitate State Route 88 in Amador County from the San Joaquin county line  
to the intersection with State Route 124

**INITIAL STUDY  
with Mitigated Negative Declaration**

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Transportation

3-4-08  
Date of Approval



Christine Cox-Kovacevich  
Environmental North Office Chief  
Central Region Environmental Planning  
California Department of Transportation



## Mitigated Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

### **Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to rehabilitate pavement and widen shoulders on State Route 88 in Amador County from the San Joaquin county line to State Route 124.

### **Determination**

This Mitigated Negative Declaration is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project. Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study and has determined from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

The proposed project would have no effect on air quality, land use, sensitive noise receptors, hydrology/floodplains, geological resources, hazardous waste, mineral resources, housing, or recreation.

In addition, the proposed project would have no significant effect on water quality, utility services, farmland, growth, visual resources, traffic patterns, or emergency services.

Also, the proposed project would have no significantly adverse effect on biological resources, cultural resources, or paleontology because the following mitigation measures would reduce potential effects to insignificance:

- Vernal pools and wetlands would be avoided and impacts minimized where possible. Offsite mitigation credits would be purchased for any unavoidable loss of vernal pools or wetlands.
- Oak trees would be avoided where possible. Onsite replacement planting or purchase of an offsite mitigation parcel would compensate for unavoidable loss of oak trees.
- An archaeological site eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be monitored during construction and the portion of the site containing intact deposits would be protected as an environmentally sensitive area.
- A qualified paleontologist would monitor construction and recover any fossils uncovered during construction.



Christine Cox-Kovacevich  
Environmental North Office Chief  
Central Region Environmental Planning  
California Department of Transportation

3-4-08  
Date



## Summary

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to rehabilitate pavement and bring a section of State Route 88 in Amador County to current design standards. The 5.5-mile project would begin at the San Joaquin/Amador county line and end where State Route 88 intersects with State Route 124.

Two alternatives are being considered: a build alternative and a no-build alternative. The build alternative would involve the following actions:

- Rehabilitate pavement, including digging out localized areas of pavement failure, sealing cracks, and overlaying the roadway with asphalt concrete.
- Widen shoulders from Bamert Road to State Route 124 to provide standard 8-foot shoulders.
- Upgrade the drainage system by replacing or extending culverts as needed.
- Widen Jackson Creek Bridge (#26-0019) and Jackson Creek Overflow Bridge (#26-0031) to provide standard 8-foot shoulders.
- Relocate utilities, as needed, where shoulder widening would interfere with maintenance of utilities by limiting access.
- Add turnouts between post miles 1.5 and 2.1.
- Pave local road connections and private driveways within state right-of-way.
- Relocate the existing driveway on the Gansberg property to approximately post mile 3.0 (between Jackson Creek Bridge and Jackson Creek Overflow Bridge).

### Summary of Major Potential Impacts from Alternatives

Potential Impact		Build Alternative	No-Build Alternative
<b>Farmlands</b>		Approximately 29 acres of farmland would be affected.	No impact
<b>Relocation</b>	<b>Business displacements</b>	None	No impact
	<b>Housing displacements</b>	None	No impact
	<b>Utility service relocation</b>	Utilities would require relocation.	No impact
<b>Visual/Aesthetics</b>		Visual impacts from new cut and fill slopes and removal of mature trees.	No impact
<b>Cultural Resources</b>		One archaeological site eligible for the National Register of Historic Places would be affected.	No impact
<b>Water Quality and Storm Water Runoff</b>		Provisions of Caltrans' storm water permit would be followed to minimize impacts from future storm water runoff.	No impact
<b>Paleontology</b>		Unique paleontological deposits may be found in the project area.	No impact
<b>Natural Communities</b>		Approximately 26 acres of oak woodlands would be affected.	No impact
<b>Wetlands and other Waters</b>		Approximately 0.40 acre of waters of the U.S. and 0.63 acre of vernal pools would be affected.	No impact
<b>Animal Species</b>		Habitat for California linderiella, midvalley fairy shrimp, western spadefoot toad, western pond turtle, burrowing owl, bat species, and migratory birds would be affected.	No impact
<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b>		Habitat for vernal pool fairy shrimp and California tiger salamander would be affected.	No impact
<b>Construction</b>		Short-term noise and air quality impacts. Traffic delays are anticipated.	No impact

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# **Chapter 1**      **Proposed Project**

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## **1.1 Introduction**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to rehabilitate pavement and bring a section of State Route 88 in Amador County to current design standards. State Route 88 runs west to east beginning at State Route 99 in Stockton in San Joaquin County, moves through the city of Jackson in Amador County, and continues through Woodfords in Alpine County and across the border into Nevada. The proposed project would repair deteriorated pavement beginning at the San Joaquin/Amador county line (post mile 0.0) and extending to the intersection with State Route 124 (post mile 5.5). Figures 1-1 and 1-2 show the project vicinity and location.

Small amounts of right-of-way would be acquired from several properties along State Route 88 and utilities would be relocated. The total amount of proposed new state right-of-way required for the proposed project is 29 acres. The project was programmed in the 2000 State Highway Operation and Protection Program as an HA-22 pavement rehabilitation project. Construction is scheduled to start in winter of 2010 and would be completed in spring of 2012. The current cost estimate for the proposed project (construction and right-of-way) is approximately \$16,840,000.

## **1.2 Purpose and Need**

### **1.2.1 Purpose**

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the operation of the roadway by repairing deteriorated pavement and widening shoulders to 8 feet.

### **1.2.2 Need**

Deteriorated pavement and cracking results in an uneven surface, which contributes to vehicle wear. Over time this also results in higher maintenance costs for patching small cracks and potholes in the pavement. The lack of shoulders leaves inadequate room for emergency maneuvers or parking for stalled vehicles.

## **1.3 Alternatives**

### **1.3.1 Build Alternative**

The build alternative would rehabilitate pavement and widen shoulders. The proposed project would involve the following actions:

- Rehabilitate pavement, including digging out localized areas of pavement failure, sealing cracks, and overlaying the roadway with asphalt concrete.
- Widen shoulders from Bamert Road to State Route 124 to provide standard 8-foot shoulders.
- Upgrade the drainage system by replacing or extending culverts as needed.
- Widen Jackson Creek Bridge (#26-0019) and Jackson Creek Overflow Bridge (#26-0031) to provide standard 8-foot shoulders.
- Relocate utilities, as needed, where shoulder widening would interfere with maintenance of utilities by limiting access.
- Add turnouts between post miles 1.5 and 2.1.
- Pave local road connections and private driveways within state right-of-way.
- Relocate the existing driveway on the Gansberg property to approximately post mile 3.0 (between Jackson Creek Bridge and Jackson Creek Overflow Bridge).

### **1.3.2 No-Build Alternative**

The no-build alternative would leave the existing roadway in its current condition. The pavement would continue to deteriorate and the narrow shoulders would remain.

### **1.3.3 Comparison of Alternatives**

The build alternative would repair the pavement for the entire length of the project and bring the shoulders to standard width from Bamert Road to State Route 124. The no-build alternative would not address the poor pavement conditions and would also leave the roadway with non-standard shoulders. The no-build alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the proposed project.

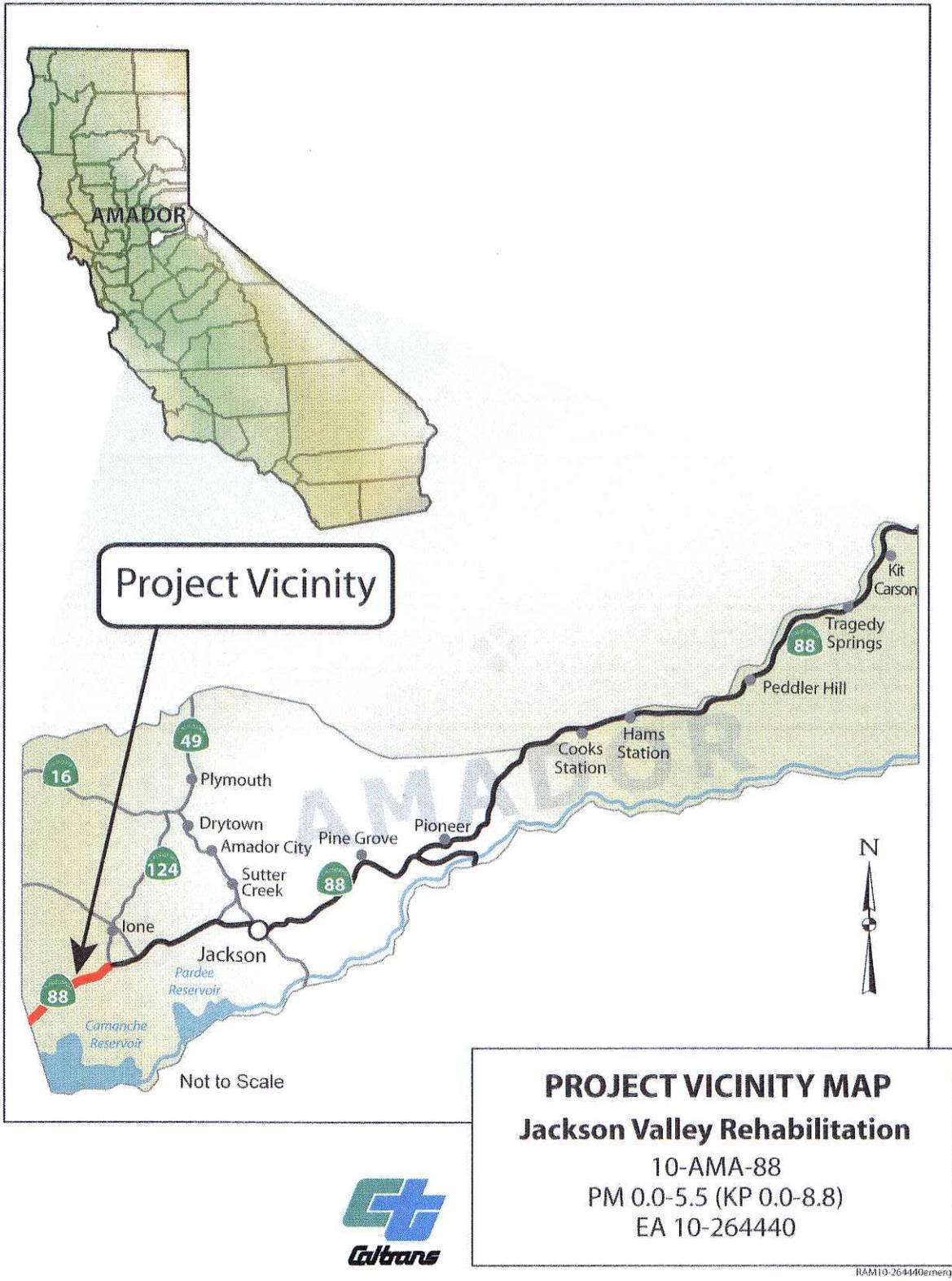


Figure 1-1 Project Vicinity Map



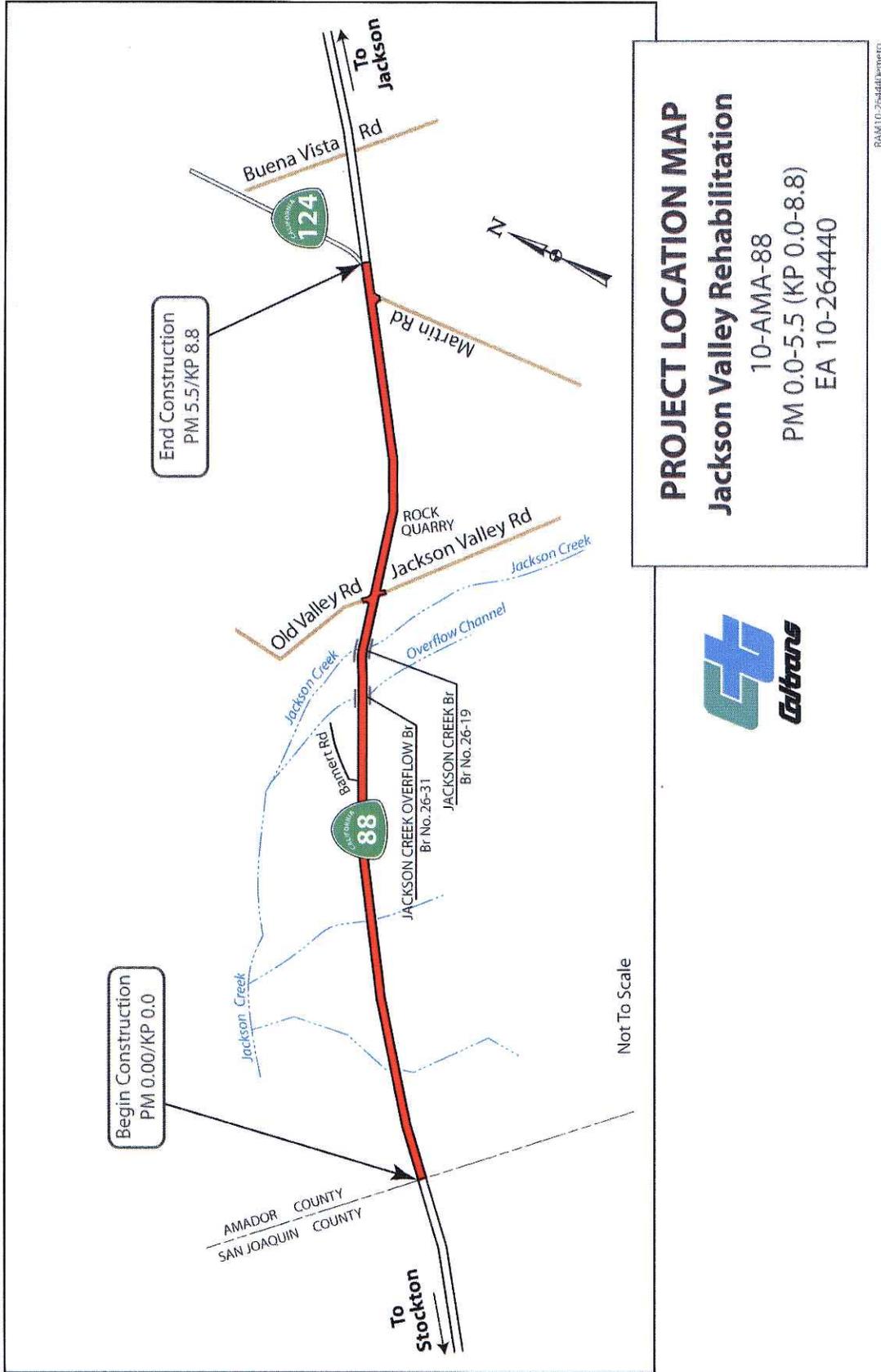


Figure 1-2 Project Location Map



## 1.4 Permits and Approvals Needed

**Table 1.1 Permits/Approvals Required**

Agency	Permit/Approval	Status
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 consultation for threatened and endangered species	Formal consultation for vernal pool fairy shrimp and California tiger salamander was completed and a Biological Opinion issued August 27, 2007.
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act Section 404 permit for filling or dredging waters of the United States	The 404 permit application will be submitted after project approval.
California Department of Fish and Game—a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act	Department of Fish and Game Code Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement	The streambed alteration agreement will be applied for after project approval.
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Clean Water Act Section 401 water discharge permit	The Section 401 permit application will be submitted after project approval.



## **Chapter 2**      **Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

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This chapter explains the impacts that the project would have on the human, physical, and biological environments in the project area. It describes the existing environment that could be affected by the project, potential impacts from each of the alternatives, and proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures. Any indirect impacts are included in the general impacts analysis and discussions that follow.

As part of the scoping and environmental analysis conducted for the project, the following environmental issues were considered, but no adverse impacts were identified. Consequently, there is no further discussion regarding these issues in this document.

- Land Use—No change in existing land use would occur as a result of the proposed project (review of project plans and field review, October 2005).
- Growth—No change in existing growth patterns would occur as a result of the proposed project (review of project plans and field review, October 2005).
- Community Impacts—The proposed project is in a rural area and would not have any impacts to a well-defined and established community (field review, October 2005).
- Relocations—This is a rural area and no homes or businesses would be relocated (review of project plans and field review, October 2005).
- Traffic and Transportation/Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities—There are no sidewalks or bike lanes in the project area (field review, October 2005). Widening the shoulders to standard width would benefit bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Geology/Soils/Seismic/Topography—No substantial seismic ground-shaking, landslides, or soil instabilities in the project area (e-mail from project engineer, January 2007).
- Air Quality—The proposed project is exempt from air quality conformity analysis per Section 40 Part 93.126 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Agnes Jenkins e-mail, December 2006).

- Noise and Vibration—The proposed project would not result in an increase in traffic-generated noise and is not subject to noise analysis per Caltrans' Traffic Noise Protocol (Noise Study Report, August 2006).

## **2.1 Human Environment**

### **2.1.1 Utilities/Emergency Services**

#### ***Affected Environment***

Three utilities are present within the limits of the proposed project: an underground natural gas line, an underground fiber optic line, and above ground and underground telephone lines.

#### ***Impacts***

Work to widen the shoulders would require the relocation of all three utilities at different points throughout the project area. PG&E agreed in a project meeting on July 18, 2007 to use Consent to Common Use Agreements as much as possible to avoid utility relocation by leaving their gas line within Caltrans' right of way where feasible. No disruption of utility service is anticipated.

#### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

Utility relocation would only take place where shoulder widening would not leave enough area for the utility companies to maintain their facilities.

### **2.1.2 Visual/Aesthetics**

#### ***Regulatory Setting***

The California Environmental Quality Act establishes that it is the policy of the state to take all action necessary to provide the people of the state "with...enjoyment of *aesthetic*, natural, scenic, and historic environmental qualities." [California Public Resources Code Section 21001(b)]

#### ***Affected Environment***

A Scenic Resource Evaluation was prepared in May 2006. The project area consists of rolling hills and valleys typical of the foothills of the San Joaquin Valley. In areas undisturbed by agriculture, blue oak and interior live oak are the dominant tree species. Annual grasslands are also present and are composed of grasses and forbs

(non-grass herbaceous species). During winter and spring, the oak-covered hillsides and grasslands are green and heavily vegetated with scrub and wildflowers. In summer and fall, they are golden and brown with dry grasses and trees.

### **Impacts**

The proposed project would remove vegetation and excavate hills, resulting in new cut and fill slopes. Approximately 26 acres of oak woodland would be affected.

### **Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

To mitigate for visual impacts, the following measures should be implemented during construction:

- Use native trees and shrubs to replant excavation slopes, embankment slopes, and other disturbed areas. The Caltrans landscape architect would consult with the Caltrans biologist on which species and seed sources to use.
- Include native grass species in the erosion control mix.
- Construct slopes flatter than 1:2 when possible to provide optimum conditions for the application of revegetation materials (all proposed fill slopes steeper than 1:4 would require consultation with Caltrans' Landscape Architecture and Maintenance divisions).
- Round slopes to blend the tops and bottoms of embankments with existing contours.
- Avoid large trees when possible.
- Avoid exposing roots of trees adjacent to the project area.
- Establish environmentally sensitive areas to protect vegetation.
- Treat exposed rock to give the surfaces a weathered effect.

Oak mitigation is described in detail in this chapter under Section 2.3.1 Natural Communities.

### **2.1.3 Farmland**

#### **Regulatory Setting**

The National Environmental Policy Act and the Farmland Protection Policy Act (United States Code 4201-4209; and its regulations, 7 Code of Federal Regulations Ch. VI Part 658) require federal agencies, such as the Federal Highway Administration, to coordinate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service if their activities may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to

nonagricultural use. For purposes of the Farmland Protection Policy Act, farmland includes prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. The California Environmental Quality Act requires the review of projects that would convert Williamson Act contract land to non-agricultural uses. The main purposes of the Williamson Act are to preserve agricultural land and to encourage open space preservation and efficient urban growth. The Williamson Act provides incentives to landowners through reduced property taxes to deter the early conversion of agricultural and open space lands to other uses.

### ***Affected Environment***

Land use in the project area consists of residential, agricultural, and industrial. The setting is rural with most residences far apart on large parcels. The average farm size in Amador County is 430 acres and 51.2 percent of the total land area of the county is devoted to agriculture. There is a winery and a rock quarry in the project area.

Ten parcels zoned as “agricultural” would be affected by the proposed project. The parcel numbers are: 005-230-005, 005-230-002, 005-220-002, 005-220-003, 005-230-011, 005-190-001, 005-190-002, 005-230-007, 005-190-005, and 005-190-017.

Most of the usable farmland on these parcels is flat grazing land with a small portion devoted to row crops. Four of the 10 affected parcels lie in areas of rocky and hilly terrain dominated by oak trees without any discernible agricultural activity. The types of farmland consist of rangeland and a vineyard. The vineyard is classified as prime farmland and is under Williamson Act contract. The rangeland parcels are classified as non-prime farmland.

### ***Impacts***

The proposed project would require the acquisition of linear “slivers” of property from 10 large parcels zoned as agricultural. The total amount of new state right-of-way to be acquired for the project is approximately 29 acres of farmland. Of the 29 acres to be converted, 1 acre is from a winery, 12.6 acres are grazing land pasture, and the remaining 15.4 acres are grassland/rocky oak woodland. The amount of land to be converted represents 0.015 percent of the total farmland acreage in Amador County (194,144 acres).

The Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (Form AD-1006) was used to evaluate effects to farmland from the proposed project (see Appendix E). The threshold for considering greater protection under the Farmland Protection Policy Act is 160

points. The total points for the proposed project was 152 out of 260 possible points. Therefore, it was determined that the proposed project would not trigger consideration for greater protection.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is necessary.

## **2.1.4 Cultural Resources**

### ***Regulatory Setting***

“Cultural resources” as used in this document refers to historic and archaeological resources.

Historical resources are considered under the California Environmental Quality Act, as well as California Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, which established the California Register of Historical Resources. Section 5024 of the Public Resources Code requires state agencies to identify and protect state-owned resources that meet California Register of Historic Places listing criteria. It further specifically requires Caltrans to inventory state-owned structures in its rights-of-way.

### ***Affected Environment***

A Historic Property Survey Report was prepared in March 2007 and includes the complete inventory of cultural resources in the project area. The project area was surveyed for cultural resources in 1999, 2000, and 2006. Records searches for previously identified cultural resources were requested in 1998 and 2005. The existing state right-of-way was surveyed and areas of proposed new right-of-way were surveyed where property owners granted access to Caltrans. The archaeological studies consisted of field surveys to identify potential sites and subsurface excavations to gather data from identified sites. A representative from the local Native American tribe (Ione Band of Miwok) monitored the excavations.

### ***Impacts***

Based on the data collected, it has been determined that one site in the project area has yielded (and remains likely to yield) data important to the understanding of prehistory and is, therefore, eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The site consists of two parts: the main site and a section that was cut out and exists within the right-of-way as a redeposit. Part of the main site within Caltrans’ right of way would be affected by bridge construction. This portion of the site

would require a data recovery excavation. The rest of the main site would be designated an environmentally sensitive area and would not be affected during construction. The redeposited portion of the site would be monitored during vegetation removal. It would then be capped by additional roadway fill to accommodate shoulder widening. No excavation would take place in the redeposit.

A Historic Property Survey Report was sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer March 9, 2007 for review and concurrence with Caltrans' findings. A concurrence letter was received from the State Historic Preservation Officer on May 22, 2007 (Appendix G). Because Caltrans was denied permission to enter on several properties, further evaluation for cultural resources would be required after areas of new right-of-way have been acquired for the proposed project.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The avoidance and minimization measures listed below would reduce project impacts to less than significant for the eligible site:

- The main site would be designated an environmentally sensitive area to protect it from disturbance during construction.
- An archaeologist who meets Caltrans' Professionally Qualified Staff criteria and representatives from the Ione Band of Miwok would monitor construction in the vicinity of the main site to ensure no disturbance takes place.

A Memorandum of Agreement was prepared for review and approval by the State Historic Preservation Officer to address the site and areas where Caltrans was denied permission to enter private property. These areas would be surveyed for cultural resources after the property is acquired for the proposed project and effects determinations would be made at that time. The Memorandum of Agreement was approved by the State Historic Preservation Officer on February 29, 2008.

If significant cultural resources were found in areas of new right-of-way that Caltrans did not have previous access to, then appropriate avoidance and/or mitigation measures would be implemented prior to construction. If cultural materials were discovered during construction, all earth-moving activity within and around the immediate discovery area would be diverted until a qualified archaeologist could assess the nature and significance of the find.

If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County Coroner contacted. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if the remains were thought to be Native American, the coroner would notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who would then notify the Most Likely Descendent. The person who discovered the remains would contact Caltrans Environmental Branch in District 10 (Stockton) so that they may work with the Most Likely Descendent on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

## **2.2 Physical Environment**

### **2.2.1 Hydrology and Floodplain**

#### ***Regulatory Setting***

Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management) directs all federal agencies to refrain from conducting, supporting, or allowing actions in floodplains unless it is the only practicable alternative. The Federal Highway Administration requirements for compliance are outlined in 23 Code of Federal Regulations 650 Subpart A.

To comply, the following must be analyzed:

- The practicability of alternatives to any longitudinal encroachments
- Risks of the action
- Impacts on natural and beneficial floodplain values
- Support of incompatible floodplain development
- Measures to minimize floodplain impacts and to preserve/restore any beneficial floodplain values affected by the project.

The 100-year floodplain is defined as “the area subject to flooding by the flood or tide having a one percent chance of being exceeded in any given year.” An encroachment is defined as “an action within the limits of the 100-year floodplain.”

#### ***Affected Environment***

Most of the project area is designated “Zone X,” which is defined as areas subject to flood events every 500 years. The area around Jackson Creek and Jackson Creek

Overflow is designated as “Zone A,” which is defined as an area subject to flood events every 100 years.

### ***Impacts***

Since the proposed project would not change the vertical profile of the roadway, there would not be a significant encroachment onto a floodplain.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

No mitigation is necessary.

## **2.2.2 Water Quality and Storm Water Runoff**

### ***Regulatory Setting***

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the primary federal law regulating water quality, requires water quality certification from the state board or regional board when a project: 1) requires a federal license or permit (a Section 404 permit is the most common federal permit for Caltrans projects), and 2) would result in a discharge to waters of the United States.

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit system for the discharge of any pollutant (except dredge or fill material) into waters of the United States. To ensure compliance with Section 402, the State Water Resources Control Board has developed and issued a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Statewide Storm Water Permit to regulate storm water discharges from all of Caltrans’ right-of-way, properties, and facilities. The permit regulates both storm water and non-storm water discharges during and after construction.

In addition, the State Water Resources Control Board issues the Statewide Permit for all of Caltrans’ construction activities of 1 acre or greater. This permit also applies to a number of smaller projects that are part of a common plan of development exceeding 1 acre or projects that have the potential to significantly impair water quality. Caltrans projects subject to the Statewide Storm Water Permit require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, while all other projects, smaller than 1 acre, require a Water Pollution Control Program.

The California Environmental Protection Agency has delegated administration of the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program to the State Water

Resources Control Board and nine regional boards. This project is located within the jurisdiction of the State Water Resources Control Board and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Subject to Caltrans' review and approval, the contractor prepares both the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and the Water Pollution Control Program. These identify construction activities that may cause pollutants in storm water and measures to control these pollutants. Since neither the Water Pollution Control Program nor the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan is prepared at this time, the following discussion focuses on anticipated pollution sources or activities that may cause pollutants in the storm water discharges.

Additional laws regulating water quality include the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Pollution Prevention Act. State water quality laws are codified in the California Water Code, Health and Safety Code, and Fish and Game Code, Section 5650-5656.

### ***Affected Environment***

A Water Quality Study was completed in March 2006. There are two waterways that would be affected during construction: Jackson Creek and Jackson Creek Overflow. Jackson Creek is a perennial stream while Jackson Creek Overflow contains water intermittently throughout the year. Both of these water bodies are subject to the water quality laws noted above.

### ***Impacts***

With the implementation of minimization measures, no long-term impacts to the water quality of Jackson Creek and Jackson Creek Overflow are anticipated. The contractor would be responsible for eliminating potential impacts during construction as stated in Caltrans' Standard Specifications Section 7-1.01G.

Short-term surface water quality impacts may occur during construction. The primary impacts would occur from surface water exposed to loose soil during excavation, grading, and filling activities. The suspended solids, dissolved solids, and organic pollutants in surface water runoff could increase while nearby soils are disturbed and dust is generated. These short-term water quality impacts are minor and would not cause or substantially contribute to the impairment of a designated beneficial use.

In accordance with Section 402 of the Federal Clean Water Act, this project would be covered by the Caltrans National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System storm water permit (Order No. 99-06-DWQ, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System No. CAS000003), issued by the State Water Resources Control Board. Under this permit, the statewide Storm Water Management Plan directs that potential impacts to water quality be addressed in the planning, design, and construction phases.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The use of standard Best Management Practices during construction and operation of the new roadway would maintain the existing water quality without causing significant impacts. Examples of Best Management Practices include, but are not limited to, the following measures:

- Physically protecting areas that provide important water quality benefits or are particularly susceptible to erosion or sediment loss.
- Limiting land disturbance such as clearing and grading to reduce erosion and sediment loss.
- Limiting disturbance of natural drainage features and vegetation.
- Preparing and implementing an approved storm water pollution prevention plan.
- Ensuring proper storage and disposal of toxic material.
- Incorporating pollution prevention into operation and maintenance procedures to reduce pollutants in road surface runoff.
- Developing and implementing runoff pollution controls for existing road systems to reduce pollutant concentrations and volumes.

## **2.2.3 Paleontology**

### ***Regulatory Setting***

Paleontology is the study of life in past geologic time based on fossil plants and animals. Although there is no federal law that specifically protects natural or paleontological resources, there are a number of laws that have been interpreted to do so—the primary law being the Antiquities Act of 1906, which protects historic or prehistoric ruins or monuments and objects of antiquity. This act has been amended to specifically allow funding for paleontological mitigation. Under California law, paleontological resources are protected by the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Administrative Code, Title 14, Section 4306 et seq., and Public Resources Code Section 5097.5.

### ***Affected Environment***

Paleontology studies were completed in November 2006. The proposed project area is located on the eastern edge of the Sacramento Valley near the westernmost foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The ground surface in the project area is rolling hills with relatively flat valley bottoms and a range in elevation of between 180 and 460 feet.

Important fossil deposits are known to exist in the project area in the sediments of the Ione Formation, Valley Springs Formation, Mehrten Formation, and North Merced Gravel. All of these formations have a high potential for producing rare and unique paleontological resources.

### ***Impacts***

Impacts to fossil deposits could result from vegetation clearing, grading, widening of road cuts, excavation, or any other earth-moving activity that disturbs or buries previously undisturbed fossiliferous sediments.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

Impacts to paleontological resources would be mitigated by the preparation of a monitoring and mitigation program prior to construction. A qualified paleontologist would produce the monitoring and mitigation program. Some of the key features of the program include the following:

- Preconstruction coordination with the contractor and resident engineer and worker training on proper identification and notification when fossils are uncovered.
- Construction monitoring
- Emergency discovery procedures
- Sampling and data recovery
- Preparation, identification, and analysis of any fossil specimens salvaged
- Museum storage of any specimens and data recovered
- A final paleontological mitigation report

## **2.2.4 Hazardous Waste Materials**

### ***Regulatory Setting***

Hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are regulated by many state laws. These include not only specific statutes governing hazardous waste, but also a variety of laws regulating air and water quality, human health, and land use.

Hazardous waste in California is regulated primarily under the authority of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 and the California Health and Safety Code. Other California laws that affect hazardous waste are specific to handling, storage, transportation, disposal, treatment, reduction, cleanup, and emergency planning.

Worker health and safety and public safety are key issues when dealing with hazardous materials that may affect human health and the environment. Proper disposal of hazardous material is vital if it is disturbed during project construction.

### ***Affected Environment***

A study was conducted for aerially deposited lead in June 2004. The findings indicated that lead levels in the soil fall below the threshold where remediation would be required. There are no restrictions on the reuse of soil during construction.

### ***Impacts***

The proposed project is not anticipated to create any significant hazardous waste impacts.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

Although lead levels in the project area fall below regulatory thresholds, a lead compliance plan would be required from the contractor to protect workers from the low levels of lead that exist in the soil.

## **2.3 Biological Environment**

The following discussion is based on the Natural Environment Study completed in January 2007. Study methods consisted of a review of resource agency databases and inventories of special-status species, agency coordination and professional contacts, protocol-level surveys, field reconnaissance, assessment of vegetation and habitat characteristics, and evaluation of impacts to identified resources. These studies were undertaken to meet state and federal environmental regulations. A complete list of special-status plants and animals with the potential to occur in the project area can be found in Appendix D.

### 2.3.1 Natural Communities

#### **Regulatory Setting**

This section of the document discusses natural communities of concern. The focus of this section is on biological communities, not individual plant or animal species. This section also includes information on wildlife corridors, fish passage, and habitat fragmentation. Wildlife corridors are areas of habitat used by wildlife for seasonal or daily migration. Habitat fragmentation involves the potential for dividing sensitive habitat and thereby lessening its biological value.

Wetlands and other waters are discussed in Section 2.3.2. Habitat areas that have been designated as critical habitat under the Federal Endangered Species Act are discussed in Threatened and Endangered Species, Section 2.3.5.

#### **Affected Environment**

Blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) woodland is the dominant community in the project area. Blue oak woodlands are usually found in well-drained soils in Mediterranean climates of California below 3,000 feet. Although dominated by blue oak, this community includes other oak species such as valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) and interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*) as well as foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*). The number of trees in an area can vary from open grasslands with few trees to fairly dense woodlands with shrubby understories.

“Oak woodland” is defined as tree habitat with five or more oak trees per acre, except for valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) that include one or more trees per acre. An “oak” refers to a native tree species in the genus *Quercus* that is five inches or greater in diameter at breast height. Oak woodlands containing blue oak, valley oak, Engelmann oak (*Quercus englemannii*), and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) are protected under Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17. This resolution directs all state agencies to preserve and protect native oak woodlands to the greatest extent possible. The California Department of Fish and Game regional offices enforce implementation of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 as a natural resources trustee agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. Senate Bill 1334 (approved September 24, 2004) directs counties to include mitigation for loss of oak woodlands in their land use planning.

Amador County was contacted in November 2006 regarding the local oak woodland management plan. The county stated that the plan is not complete but that project-level oak mitigation plans are required for proposed projects.

Jackson Creek provides access to potential spawning areas for Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*).

Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) herd movements have also been recorded year-round underneath the spans of the Jackson Creek Bridge.

### **Impacts**

A total of 26 acres of oak woodland would be affected by the proposed project due to cut and fill, grading, and trenching. The acreage is broken down as follows:

- 16 acres blue oak woodland
- 8.6 acres live oak woodland
- 0.5 acre valley oak woodland
- 0.9 acre riparian habitat, which contains valley oaks

Work associated with widening Jackson Creek Bridge may interfere with the movements of Central Valley steelhead, Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon, and mule deer.

### **Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

Oak trees within the project area that do not have to be removed as a direct result of construction activities would be protected during construction by protective fencing. Mitigation to compensate for the loss of oaks would be developed with concurrence from the California Department of Fish and Game. Mitigation would be achieved by onsite replacement planting and/or purchase and preservation of nearby oak woodland habitat (0.5 acre of riparian oak woodland is currently reserved at the Beach Lake Mitigation Bank).

A special provision for avoiding impacts to mule deer herd movements would be added to the construction contract. The special provision would keep the bridge spans clear of obstruction during non-working hours. This would act as a safety measure to keep deer from coming up to the road and potentially interfering with traffic.

See Section 2.3.5 Threatened and Endangered Species, for restrictions on work in Jackson Creek to protect the potential spawning movements of Central Valley steelhead and Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon.

## **2.3.2 Wetlands and Other Waters**

### ***Regulatory Setting***

Wetlands and other waters are protected under a number of laws and regulations. At the federal level, the Clean Water Act (33 United States Code 1344) is the primary law regulating wetlands and waters. The Clean Water Act regulates the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands. Waters of the United States include navigable waters, interstate waters, territorial seas, and other waters that may be used in interstate or foreign commerce. To classify wetlands for the purposes of the Clean Water Act, a three-parameter approach is used that includes the presence of hydrophytic (water-loving) vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils (soils subject to saturation/inundation). All three parameters must be present, under normal circumstances, for an area to be designated as a jurisdictional wetland under the Clean Water Act.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act establishes a regulatory program that provides that no discharge of dredged or fill material can be permitted if a practicable alternative exists that is less damaging to the aquatic environment or if the nation's waters would be significantly degraded. The Section 404 permit program is run by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with oversight by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The Executive Order for the Protection of Wetlands (Executive Order 11990) also regulates the activities of federal agencies with regard to wetlands. Essentially, this executive order states that a federal agency, such as the Federal Highway Administration, cannot undertake or provide assistance for new construction located in wetlands unless the head of the agency finds: 1) that there is no practicable alternative to the construction and 2) the proposed project includes all practicable measures to minimize harm.

At the state level, wetlands and waters are regulated primarily by the California Department of Fish and Game and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards. In certain circumstances, the Coastal Commission (or Bay Conservation and

Development Commission) may also be involved. Sections 1600-1607 of the Fish and Game Code require any agency that proposes a project that would substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of or substantially change the bed or bank of a river, stream, or lake to notify the California Department of Fish and Game before beginning construction. If the California Department of Fish and Game determines that the project may substantially and adversely affect fish or wildlife resources, a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement would be required. The California Department of Fish and Game's jurisdictional limits are usually defined by the tops of the stream or lake banks, or the outer edge of riparian vegetation, whichever is wider. Wetlands under jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers may or may not be included in the area covered by a Streambed Alteration Agreement obtained from the Department of Fish and Game.

The Regional Water Quality Control Boards were established under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act to oversee water quality. The Regional Water Quality Control Boards also issue water quality certifications in compliance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Please see the Water Quality section for additional details.

### ***Affected Environment***

The watershed of the project area consists of Jackson Creek, Jackson Creek Overflow, unnamed streams, seasonal drainages, and seasonal wetlands. Jackson Creek is the main water body in the project area. It receives year-round flow regulated by outflows from Lake Amador. Downstream, Jackson Creek flows into Dry Creek, which flows into the Mokelumne River, which drains into the San Joaquin River, eventually discharging into the San Joaquin Delta. Jackson Creek Overflow is just west of Jackson Creek and receives water from Jackson Creek during high flows in winter and spring. Jackson Creek Overflow supports year-round wetland habitat.

Southwest of Jackson Creek Overflow the watershed consists of seasonal drainages with seasonal pools (called "vernal pools") in depressed areas from post mile 0.0 to post mile 2.95. Seasonal drainages flow under State Route 88 through culverts that eventually connect to Jackson Creek west of the project area. Ponding exists on both sides of State Route 88 from postmile 0.0 to postmile 2.95 at existing culverts.

### ***Impacts***

An approximate estimation of waters of the U.S. and wetland impacts was calculated by using wetland delineation datasheets, aerial photography, geographic information

systems software, and onsite evaluation. Table 2.1 lists wetlands and other waters that would be affected by the proposed project.

**Table 2.1 Affected Wetlands and Other Waters**

Type of Impact	Vernal Pools/Swales	Wetlands	Other Waters	Total Acreage
Permanent (fill)	0.18 acre	0.14 acre	0.08 acre	0.4 acre
Temporary (construction)	0.45 acre	0.48 acre	0.15 acre	1.08 acre

Anticipated permanent fill is estimated to be 0.4 acre in waters of the U.S. This includes two perennial streams (Jackson Creek and Jackson Creek Overflow), unnamed streams, seasonal drainages, and seasonal wetlands that fall under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Game, Army Corps of Engineers, and Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Approximately 0.63 acre of vernal pools would be affected between post miles 2.25 and 2.95 (see Figure 2-1). These are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service due to the presence of federally listed species.

***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The proposed project has been designed to minimize and avoid impacts to wetlands and other waters. Caltrans would implement the following Best Management Practices to further avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and other waters of the U.S.:

- Vehicle staging would only occur on existing roadway and pullouts.
- Chemicals, lubricants, and petroleum products must be closely monitored and precautions would be used to prevent leakage or spills. Cleanup of spills would take place immediately.
- Wetlands or other waters adjacent to construction activities would be designated as Environmentally Sensitive Areas to prevent vehicle storage or staging of materials in wetlands.
- Habitat temporarily affected by project activities would be restored to its original condition by replanting and grading.
- Permanent impacts to wetlands would be mitigated through the purchase of wetland mitigation credits to comply with the Clean Water Act and 404(b)(1) standard of no net loss of wetlands. Some wetland credits have already been

purchased at the Beach Lake Mitigation Bank (0.015 acre seasonal and 0.020 acre perennial).

Vernal pool species would also be affected by the proposed project. The credits (or acres) purchased would compensate for loss of both wetlands and vernal pools. The total number of credits was provided in a Biological Opinion received from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service August 27, 2007.

A Nationwide 404 Permit would be required from the Army Corps of Engineers for permanent fill of wetlands and waters of the U.S. A Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement would be required from the California Department of Fish and Game for work in existing streams. A Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit would also be required for work in the waterways.



Figure 2-1 Affected Vernal Pool Habitat



### 2.3.3 Animal Species

#### **Regulatory Setting**

Many state and federal laws regulate impacts to wildlife. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, and the California Department of Fish and Game are responsible for implementing these laws. This section discusses potential impacts and permit requirements associated with wildlife not listed or proposed for listing under the state or federal Endangered Species Act. Species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered are discussed in Section 2.3.5. All other special-status animal species are discussed here, including California Department of Fish and Game fully protected species and species of special concern, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service candidate species.

Federal laws and regulations pertaining to wildlife include the following:

- National Environmental Policy Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

State laws and regulations pertaining to wildlife include the following:

- California Environmental Quality Act
- Sections 1601 – 1603 of the Fish and Game Code
- Section 4150 and 4152 of the Fish and Game Code

#### **Affected Environment**

The following special-status animal species have the potential to occur in the project area:

- Western spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus hammondi*), a state species of concern, has not been observed directly in the project area but is likely to occur based on recorded sightings nearby and the presence of suitable habitat.
- Western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*), a state species of concern, has been observed within the project watershed and may be found in the project area in Jackson Creek or Jackson Creek Overflow.

- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), a state species of concern, was not directly observed in the project area but may occur due to recorded sightings nearby and the presence of suitable habitat.
- Bat roosts are considered sensitive by Department of Fish and Game. Big Brown Bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*) have an established summer roost underneath Jackson Creek and Jackson Creek Overflow bridges.
- Bird species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act can be found year-round in the project area. Birds that could be found nesting in the project area include great blue heron, great egret, barn swallow, cliff swallow, red-tailed hawk, tri-colored blackbird, and loggerhead shrike. Migratory birds that could use the project area for roosting and foraging include bald eagle, golden eagle, ferruginous hawk, and prairie falcon.

### **Impacts**

Excavation or placement of fill in vernal pools could result in mortality of western spadefoot toads and/or their larvae and eggs. Filling of vernal pools may also destroy California linderiella or their eggs. Work in the channel of Jackson Creek or Jackson Creek Overflow could result in mortality of western pond turtle. Construction activities in upland areas could result in destruction of burrowing owls and/or their nesting habitat. Work on the bridges spanning Jackson Creek and Jackson Creek Overflow could disturb roosting bats. Removal or alteration of trees, shrubs, or man-made structures used by migratory birds may interfere with their nesting and reproduction.

### **Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

Measures to minimize impacts to wetlands and vernal pools would also apply to western spadefoot toad (see section 2.3.5 Threatened and Endangered Species).

The following measures would be implemented to minimize impacts to western pond turtle:

- Work in Jackson Creek would be restricted to between June 1 and September 15 (this is the same work window noted in Section 2.3.5 for steelhead and salmon).
- Habitat adjacent to the project area would be designated an environmentally sensitive area.
- Surveys would be conducted between 14 and 30 days before construction begins to determine if western pond turtles are within the project area. If found, they would be moved outside the project area in consultation with California

Department of Fish and Game. The Resident Engineer should notify a Caltrans biologist immediately if a western pond turtle is observed during construction.

- Habitat impacted by project activities would be restored to its original condition by grading and replanting the affected area.

Exclusionary measures would be placed on the bridges prior to construction to prevent bats from roosting in the hinge spaces. Exclusionary measures to prevent swallow nesting would also be required. These measures should be implemented prior to February 1 before swallows begin building nests for the breeding season and bats return to their summer roosts.

Preconstruction surveys would be required for burrowing owls and migratory birds. If nests are found and are being used during the breeding season (February 1 to September 1), a buffer zone would be established and the area around the nest would be fenced off until the young have fledged. Vegetation removal should take place before February 1 to prevent nesting activity and construction delays.

#### **2.3.4 Threatened and Endangered Species**

##### ***Regulatory Setting***

The primary federal law protecting threatened and endangered species is the Federal Endangered Species Act: 16 United States Code, Section 1531, et seq. Also, see 50 Code of Federal Regulations Part 402. This act and subsequent amendments provide for the conservation of endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems on which they depend. Under Section 7 of this act, federal agencies, such as the Federal Highway Administration, are required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service to ensure that they are not undertaking, funding, permitting, or authorizing actions likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat. Critical habitat is defined as geographic locations critical to the existence of a threatened or endangered species. The outcome of consultation under Section 7 is a Biological Opinion or an incidental take statement. Section 3 of the Federal Endangered Species Act defines take as “harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or any attempt at such conduct.”

California has enacted a similar law at the state level, the California Endangered Species Act, California Fish and Game Code, Section 2050, et seq. The California Endangered Species Act emphasizes early consultation to avoid potential impacts to rare, endangered, and threatened species and to develop appropriate planning to offset project-caused losses of listed species populations and their essential habitats. The California Department of Fish and Game is the agency responsible for implementing the California Endangered Species Act and is a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. Section 2081 of the Fish and Game Code prohibits “take” of any species determined to be an endangered species or a threatened species. 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 Endangered Species Act allows for take incidental to otherwise lawful development projects; for these actions an incidental take permit is issued by the California Department of Fish and Game. For projects requiring a Biological Opinion under Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act, the California Department of Fish and Game may also authorize impacts to the California Endangered Species Act species by issuing a Consistency Determination under Section 2080.1 of the Fish and Game Code.

### **Affected Environment**

Two federally listed animal species may be affected by the proposed project: vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*—listed as threatened) and California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*—listed as threatened). For these species, a “likely to adversely affect” determination has been made for the purposes of formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A “may effect, not likely to adversely affect” determination has been made for vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii* – listed as endangered).

Seasonal pools (called “vernal pools”) with a total area of 0.63 acre have been found in the project area between post mile 2.25 and post mile 2.95 (see Figure 2-1). These pools serve as habitat for the complete life cycle of the vernal pool fairy shrimp and tadpole shrimp. They are also breeding habitat for the California tiger salamander, which uses the pools in the winter to breed and nearby mammal burrows to hibernate during the summer. The area referred to in Figure 2-1 as “upland habitat” is the California tiger salamander hibernation area.

Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* – listed as threatened) and Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* – a candidate

for the threatened and endangered species list) may use Jackson Creek to reach upstream spawning habitat. A “not likely to adversely affect” determination has been made for these two fish species. The Federal Highway Administration received a concurrence letter from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service in August 2002 stating that the project would not adversely affect federally listed Central Valley steelhead and Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon with the avoidance and minimization measures proposed by Caltrans.

### **Impacts**

Excavation or placement of fill material within the vernal pools could result in direct mortality of vernal pool fairy shrimp and/or California tiger salamander. A total of 0.63 acre of vernal pools within the cut and fill limits would be directly affected. The total acreage impacts to upland habitat for California tiger salamander would be 2.37 acres of permanent direct impacts (cut and fill) and 8.16 acres of temporary direct impacts (construction activity only).

Work in the channel of Jackson Creek may interfere with the movements of Central Valley steelhead and Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon.

### **Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

The following measures would be implemented between post mile 0.0 and post mile 2.95 to minimize impacts to vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, and California tiger salamander:

- Vehicle staging would only occur on existing roadways and pullouts.
- Chemicals, lubricants, and petroleum products must be closely monitored to prevent spills and/or leakage. If spills occur, cleanup would take place immediately.
- Any sensitive habitat adjacent to the construction area would be designated an environmentally sensitive area and fenced off to prevent construction-related impacts.
- Habitat temporarily impacted by construction would be restored to its original condition by grading and replanting the affected area.

Permanent impacts to vernal pools would be compensated for through the purchase of mitigation credits at a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved mitigation bank. Permanent and temporary impacts to California tiger salamander upland habitat would also be compensated for at an approved mitigation bank.

Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was concluded with the issuance of a Biological Opinion August 27, 2007. In addition to the measures listed above, the Biological Opinion requires Caltrans to take the following actions:

- Impacts to vernal pool habitat will be compensated at a 3:1 ratio. Since the area affected equals 0.63 acre, Caltrans will purchase 1.89 acres at an approved conservation bank.
- Permanent impacts to California tiger salamander upland habitat will be compensated at a 3:1 ratio and temporary impacts at a 1.1:1 ratio. This equates to 7.11 acres for permanent impacts (to 2.37 acres) and 8.98 acres for temporary impacts (to 8.16 acres). Total upland habitat compensation will equal at least 16.09 acres.
- A worker education and training program will be conducted by someone qualified to provide instruction about vernal pools, vernal pool fairy shrimp and California tiger salamander biology, and legislative protection for threatened and endangered species. Protection measures for threatened and endangered species will also be part of the training. After the training is completed, workers will sign a form stating that they attended the training and that they understand all of the conservation and protection measures.
- To the extent possible, nighttime construction will be minimized and travel will be restricted to established roadbeds.
- Construction within 0.6-mile of potential California tiger salamander breeding habitat will be timed to occur during the dry season (June to October) when larvae and breeding adult salamanders are not present.

Work in the channel of Jackson Creek would be restricted to between June 1 to September 15 to avoid interference in the potential spawning movements of Central Valley steelhead and Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon. Best Management Practices to maintain water quality in Jackson Creek would also minimize impacts to steelhead and salmon (see Section 2.2.1 Water Quality).

## **2.4 Construction Impacts**

Temporary construction impacts would result from dust and noise. Traffic delays are also anticipated due to lane closures.

**Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

Caltrans Standard Specifications pertaining to dust control and dust palliative requirements are a required part of all construction contracts and should effectively reduce and control emission impacts during construction. The provisions of Caltrans Standard Specifications, Section 7-1/OF “Air Pollution Control” and Section 10 “Dust Control” require the contractor to comply with the Amador County Air Pollution Control District’s rules, ordinances, and regulations.

Standard Provision Section 7-1.01I of the Standard Specifications would be included in the construction contract to minimize noise impacts.

A Transportation Management Plan has been prepared that includes a public awareness campaign through the District 10 Public Information Office and Changeable Message Signs to keep the public informed of project construction and traffic delays.



## **Chapter 3**      **Comments and Coordination**

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Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and public participation for this project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including project development team meetings, interagency coordination meetings, and discussion and correspondence with property owners. This chapter summarizes the results of Caltrans' efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

- Concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer for a Finding of Effect to archaeological site CA-AMA-56 was received September 5, 2007.
- A Biological Opinion was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on August 27, 2007.
- Concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer for the identification and evaluation of cultural resources was received May 22, 2007.
- Concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer for the identification and evaluation of cultural resources was requested on March 9, 2007. (Consultation with the Office of Historic Preservation has been ongoing during preparation of the cultural studies.)
- California Department of Fish and Game was contacted December 2006 and January 2007 regarding movements of local deer herds through the project area. The presence of a local deer herd was confirmed and migration corridors were identified.
- Amador County was contacted November 2006 regarding the local oak woodland management plan. The county stated that the plan is not complete but that project-level oak mitigation plans are required for proposed projects.
- Caltrans met with the tribal council of the Ione Band of Miwok Indians in November 2006 to present current project plans and discuss potential concerns with effects to an archaeological site in the project area. No objections to the project were raised by any members of the council.
- Caltrans met with representatives from the Ione Band of Miwok Indians and the Anthropological Studies Center at Sonoma State University in March and April 2004 to discuss Extended Phase I and Phase II work at the CA-AMA-56

redeposit. Don Villa, Jr. of Ione monitored the Extended Phase I and Phase II work at the site.

- The Federal Highway Administration received a concurrence letter from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service in August 2002 stating that the project would not adversely affect federally listed Central Valley steelhead and Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon with the avoidance and minimization measures proposed by Caltrans.
- A Memorandum of Agreement was signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer February 29, 2008 for treatment of the Applegate archaeological site and phased identification for areas where permission to enter was denied.

### ***Public Comment Period***

The Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration was circulated for public review and comment from June 29, 2007 to July 30, 2007. Notices were published in the *Stockton Record* and *Amador Ledger-Dispatch* to inform the public that the document was available for comment and to offer the opportunity for a public hearing. All affected property owners, public agencies, and other interested parties were sent a letter notifying them of the availability of the document and opportunity to request a public hearing. Copies of the document were also sent to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to various agencies. The document was also available for review at county libraries in Ione and Jackson. Comments received and responses to comments made on the circulation of the Initial Study are located in Appendix F, which has been added.



## **Chapter 4**      **List of Preparers**

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The following Caltrans Central Region staff prepared this document:

Phillip Chick, Associate Environmental Planner (Archaeology). B.S. Anthropology, California State University, Fresno; 9 years experience in California archaeology. Contribution: Assisted in preparation of cultural studies.

Ken Doran, Engineering Geologist. M.S. Geology, California State University, Fresno; 6.5 years experience in environmental impact assessment. Contribution: Contract Manager for Paleontological Assessment and Mitigation Plan.

Robyn Fong, Associate Landscape Architect. B.S. Landscape Architecture, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; 8.5 years experience in visual impact assessment. Contribution: Prepared Scenic Resource Evaluation.

Brian R. Gassner, Associate Environmental Planner (Archaeology). B.A. Anthropology, Northern Arizona University. 10.5 years archaeological field studies experience, 8.5 years California archaeological experience. Contribution: Lead project archaeologist and prepared Historic Property Survey Report.

Kelly Hobbs, Associate Environmental Planner (Architectural History). B.A. History, California State University, Fresno. 9 years experience in central California history and preparation of cultural resource compliance reports. Contribution: conducted review of built environment resources in the project area.

Reagan O'Leary, Environmental Planner (Natural Sciences). B.S. Biology (Ecology), California State University, Fresno; 1.5 years experience in environmental impact assessment, 5 years experience in Endangered Species Management and Studies. Contribution: Prepared Natural Environment Study.

Michael Robinson, Associate Environmental Planner. M.A. Geography, California State University, Northridge; A.B.D. Geography, University of California, Berkeley. 22.5 years experience in environmental impact assessment. Contribution: Prepared and managed preparation of hazardous waste studies.

Charles Walbridge, Associate Environmental Planner. B.S. Biology (Ecology), California State University, Fresno. 7.5 years experience in environmental impact assessment. Contribution: Prepared the Initial Study.

## **Appendix A** California Environmental Quality Act Checklist

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The following checklist identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. The California Environmental Quality Act impact levels include “potentially significant impact,” “less than significant impact with mitigation,” “less than significant impact,” and “no impact.”

Supporting documentation of all California Environmental Quality Act checklist determinations is provided in Chapter 2 of this Initial Study. Documentation of “No Impact” determinations is provided at the beginning of Chapter 2. Discussion of all impacts, avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures is under the appropriate topic headings in Chapter 2.

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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**AESTHETICS** - Would the project:

- |   |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic building within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**AGRICULTURE RESOURCES** - In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:

- |  |                          |                          |                                     |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Involve other changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**AIR QUALITY** - Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

- |   |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions that exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentration?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:**

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

**CULTURAL RESOURCES** - Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

Archaeological resources are considered "historical resources" and are covered under Cultural Resources (a) above.

c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**GEOLOGY AND SOILS** - Would the project:

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

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

iv) Landslides?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -**  
Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous material, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

d) Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

**HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:**

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or off-site?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

e) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

j) Result in inundation by a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

**LAND USE AND PLANNING** - Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

a) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**MINERAL RESOURCES** - Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

**NOISE** - Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

**POPULATION AND HOUSING -** Would the project:

a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

**PUBLIC SERVICES -**

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Police protection?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

Schools?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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Parks?

Other public facilities?

**RECREATION -**

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

**TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -** Would the project:

a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?

b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?

c) Result in a change in air traffic patters, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?

d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

e) Result in inadequate emergency access?

f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?

g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?

**UTILITY AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -** Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
--------------------------------	--	------------------------------	-----------

- |  |                          |                          |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Result in determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE -**

- |  |                          |                                     |                          |                                     |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

# Appendix B Title VI Policy Statement

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA—BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
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*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

January 14, 2005

## TITLE VI POLICY STATEMENT

The California Department of Transportation under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes, ensures that no person in the State of California shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity it administers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Kempton".

WILL KEMPTON  
Director

*"Caltrans improves mobility across California"*



# Appendix C Minimization and/or Mitigation Summary

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## Biology

### *Oak Woodlands*

Oak trees within the project area that do not have to be removed as a direct result of construction activities would be protected during construction by protective fencing. Loss of oak woodlands would be mitigated onsite with replacement plantings and/or with the purchase and preservation of oak habitat nearby. Some riparian oak woodland credits have been reserved at Beach Lake Mitigation Bank (0.5 acre).

### *Migration Corridors*

A special provision for avoiding impacts to mule deer herd movements would be added to the construction contract. The special provision would keep the bridge spans clear of obstruction during non-working hours. This would act as a safety measure to keep deer from coming up to the road and potentially interfering with traffic. Work in the channel of Jackson Creek would be restricted to between June 1 to September 15 to avoid interference in the potential spawning movements of Central Valley steelhead and Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon. Best Management Practices to maintain water quality in Jackson Creek would also minimize impacts to steelhead and salmon (see Section 2.2.1 Water Quality).

### *Wetlands and Other Waters*

The proposed project has been designed to minimize and avoid impacts to wetlands and other waters. Caltrans would implement the following Best Management Practices to further avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and other waters of the U.S.:

- Vehicle staging would only occur on existing roadway and pullouts.
- Chemicals, lubricants, and petroleum products must be closely monitored and precautions would be used to prevent leakage or spills. Cleanup of spills would take place immediately.
- Wetlands or other waters adjacent to construction activities would be designated as Environmentally Sensitive Areas to prevent vehicle storage or staging of materials in wetlands.
- Habitat temporarily affected by project activities would be restored to its original condition through grading and replanting.

- Permanent impacts to wetlands would be mitigated through the purchase of wetland mitigation credits to comply with the Clean Water Act and 404(b)(1) standard of no net loss of wetlands. Some wetland credits have already been purchased at the Beach Lake Mitigation Bank (0.015 acre seasonal and 0.020 acre perennial).
- Vernal pool species would also be affected by the proposed project. The credits (or acres) purchased would compensate for loss of both wetlands and vernal pools. The total number of credits was provided in a Biological Opinion received from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service August 27, 2007 (see *Threatened and Endangered Species* below).

*Special-status animal species*

Measures to minimize impacts to wetlands and vernal pools would also apply to western spadefoot toad (see *Threatened and Endangered Species*).

The following measures would be implemented to minimize impacts to western pond turtle:

- Work in Jackson Creek would be restricted to between June 1 and September 15.
- Habitat adjacent to the project area would be designated an environmentally sensitive area.
- Surveys would be conducted between 14 and 30 days before construction begins to determine if western pond turtles are within the project area. If found, they would be moved outside the project area in consultation with California Department of Fish and Game. The Resident Engineer should notify a Caltrans biologist immediately if a western pond turtle is observed during construction.
- Habitat impacted by project activities would be restored to its original condition through grading and revegetation.

Exclusionary measures would be placed on the bridges prior to construction to prevent bats from roosting in the hinge spaces. Exclusionary measures to prevent swallow nesting would also be required. These measures should be implemented prior to February 1 before swallows begin building nests for the breeding season and bats return to their summer roosts.

Preconstruction surveys would be required for burrowing owls and migratory birds. If nests are found and are being used during the breeding season (February 1 to September 1), a buffer zone would be established and the area around the nest would

be fenced off until the young have fledged. Vegetation removal should take place before February 1 if feasible to prevent nesting activity and construction delays.

*Threatened and Endangered Species*

The following measures would be implemented between post mile 0.0 and post mile 2.95 to minimize impacts to vernal pool habitat:

- Vehicle staging would only occur on existing roadway and pullouts.
- Chemicals, lubricants, and petroleum products must be closely monitored to prevent spills and/or leakage. If spills occur, cleanup would take place immediately.
- Any sensitive habitat adjacent to the construction area would be designated an environmentally sensitive area and fenced off to prevent construction-related impacts.
- Habitat temporarily impacted by construction would be restored to its original condition through grading and revegetation.

Permanent impacts to vernal pools would be compensated for through the purchase of mitigation credits at a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approved mitigation bank. Permanent and temporary impacts to California tiger salamander upland habitat would also be compensated for at an approved mitigation bank.

Formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was concluded with the issuance of a Biological Opinion August 27, 2007. In addition to the measures listed above, the Biological Opinion requires Caltrans to take the following actions:

- Impacts to vernal pool habitat will be compensated at a 3:1 ratio. Since the area affected equals 0.63 acre, Caltrans will purchase 1.89 acres at an approved conservation bank.
- Permanent impacts to California tiger salamander upland habitat will be compensated at a 3:1 ratio and temporary impacts at a 1.1:1 ratio. This equates to 7.11 acres for permanent impacts (to 2.37 acres) and 8.98 acres for temporary impacts (to 8.16 acres). Total upland habitat compensation will equal at least 16.09 acres.
- A worker education and training program will be conducted by someone qualified to provide instruction about vernal pools, vernal pool fairy shrimp and California tiger salamander biology, and legislative protection for threatened and endangered species. Protection measures for threatened and endangered species will also be part of the training. After the training is completed, workers will sign a form stating that

they attended the training and that they understand all of the conservation and protection measures.

- To the extent possible, nighttime construction will be minimized and travel will be restricted to established roadbeds.
- Construction within 0.6-mile of potential California tiger salamander breeding habitat will be timed to occur during the dry season (June to October) when larvae and breeding adult salamanders are not present.

Work in the channel of Jackson Creek would be restricted to between June 1 to September 15 to avoid interference in the potential spawning movements of Central Valley steelhead and Central Valley fall/late fall-run Chinook salmon.

### **Cultural Resources**

To avoid impacts to site CA-AMA-56, the following measures would be implemented:

- The main site would be designated an environmentally sensitive area to protect it from disturbance during relocation of utilities and construction.
- An archaeologist who meets Caltrans' Professionally Qualified Staff criteria and representatives from the Ione Band of Miwok would monitor construction in the vicinity of the main site to ensure no disturbance takes place.

If significant cultural resources were found in areas of new right-of-way that Caltrans did not have previous access to, then appropriate avoidance and/or mitigation measures would be implemented prior to construction. If cultural materials were discovered during construction, all earth-moving activity within and around the immediate discovery area would be diverted until a qualified archaeologist could assess the nature and significance of the find.

If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County Coroner contacted. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if the remains were thought to be Native American, the coroner would notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who would then notify the Most Likely Descendent. At this time, the person who discovered the remains would contact Caltrans Environmental Branch in District 10 (Stockton) so that they may work with the Most Likely Descendent on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

### **Paleontology**

Impacts to paleontological resources would be mitigated by the preparation of a monitoring and mitigation program prior to construction. A qualified paleontologist would produce the monitoring and mitigation program. Some of the key features of the program include the following:

- Preconstruction coordination with the contractor and resident engineer and worker training on proper identification and notification when fossils are uncovered.
- Construction monitoring
- Emergency discovery procedures
- Sampling and data recovery
- Preparation, identification, and analysis of any fossil specimens salvaged
- Museum storage of any specimens and data recovered
- A final paleontological mitigation report

### **Visual**

To mitigate for visual impacts, the following measures should be implemented during construction:

- Use native trees and shrubs to replant excavation slopes, embankment slopes, and other disturbed areas. The Caltrans landscape architect would consult with the Caltrans biologists on which species seed sources to use.
- Include native grass species in the erosion control mix.
- Construct slopes flatter than 1:2 when possible to provide optimum conditions for the application of revegetation materials (all proposed fill slopes steeper than 1:4 would require consultation with Caltrans' Landscape Architecture and Maintenance divisions).
- Round slopes to blend the tops and bottoms of embankments with existing contours.
- Avoid large trees when possible.
- Avoid exposing roots of trees adjacent to the project area.
- Establish environmentally sensitive areas to protect vegetation.
- Treat exposed rock to give the surfaces a weathered effect.

### **Water Quality**

The use of standard Best Management Practices during construction and operation of the new roadway would maintain the existing water quality without causing

significant impacts. Examples of Best Management Practices include, but are not limited to, the following measures:

- Physically protecting areas that provide important water quality benefits or are particularly susceptible to erosion or sediment loss.
- Limiting land disturbance such as clearing and grading to reduce erosion and sediment loss.
- Limiting disturbance of natural drainage features and vegetation.
- Preparing and implementing an approved storm water pollution prevention plan.
- Ensuring proper storage and disposal of toxic material.
- Incorporating pollution prevention into operation and maintenance procedures to reduce pollutants in road surface runoff.
- Developing and implementing runoff pollution controls for existing road systems to reduce pollutant concentrations and volumes.

## Appendix D Special-Status Species List

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status**			HABITAT DESCRIPTION	SPECIES- Present (P) Absent (A)*	EFFECT DETERMINATION/ RATIONALE
		Federal	State	CNPS			
<b>PLANTS</b>							
<i>Agrostis hendersonii</i>	Henderson's bent grass			3	Vernal pools and foothill grasslands with mesic soils. Blooming period: Apr-May	A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat occurs within the Project Impact Area (PIA), although species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Arctostaphylos myrtifolia</i>	Ione manzanita	T		1B	Chaparral and cismontane woodland associated with Ione formation and micaceous schist. Blooming period: Nov-Feb	A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Ione soils not present within the project area. Species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Calycadenia hooveri</i>	Hoover's calycadenia			1B	Thin soils associated with rocky outcroppings in Ione sandstone cappings within valley/foothill communities. Blooming period: Jul-Sep	A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Ione sandstone cappings not present within the project area. Species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Castilleja campestris</i> ssp. <i>succulenta</i>	Succulent owl's clover	T	E	1B	Northern Claypan and Northern Hardpan vernal pools within annual grassland communities. Blooming period: Apr-May	A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat occurs within the PIA, although species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Downingia pusilla</i>	Dwarf downingia			2	Vernal pools and foothill grasslands with mesic soils. Blooming period: Mar-May	A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat occurs within the PIA, although species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Eriogonum apricum</i> var. <i>apricum</i>	Ione buckwheat	E	E	1B	Chaparral associated with Ione formation with exposed soils. Blooming period: Jul-Oct	A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Ione soils not present within the project area. Species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Eriogonum apricum</i> var. <i>prostratum</i>	Irish Hill buckwheat	E	E	1B	Chaparral associated with Ione formation with exposed soils. Blooming period: Jun-Jul	A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Ione soils not present within the PIA. Species was not observed during surveys.

Appendix D Special-Status Species List

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status**			HABITAT DESCRIPTION SPECIES- Present (P) Absent (A)*	EFFECT DETERMINATION/ RATIONALE
		Federal	State	CNPS		
<b>PLANTS CONTINUED</b>						
<i>Eryngium pinnatisectum</i>	Tuolumne button-celery			1B	Seasonal swales and vernal pools associated with cismontane woodland and lower montane coniferous forest. Blooming period: Jun-Aug <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat occurs within the PIA, although species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Gratiola heterosepala</i>	Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop		E	1B	Margins of vernal pools, marshes and swamps associated with annual grassland, and oak woodland. Blooming period: Apr-Aug <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat occurs within the PIA, although species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Helianthemum suffrutescens</i>	Bisbee Peak Rushrose			3	Chaparral communities often with serpentinite, gabbroic, or Ione soils. Blooming Period: Apr-Jun <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Ione soils not present within the project area. Species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Horkelia parryi</i>	Parry's horkelia			1B	Chaparral and cismontane woodland associated with Ione formation. Blooming Period: Apr-Jun <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Ione soils not present within the project area. Species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Legenere limosa</i>	Legenere			1B	Vernal pools, vernal marshes, artificial ponds, and floodplains within annual grassland and oak woodlands. Blooming period: Apr-Jun <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat occurs within the PIA, although species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Navarretia myersii</i> ssp. <i>myersii</i>	Pincushion navarretia			1B	Vernal pools within annual grasslands. Blooming period: May-Jun <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat occurs within the PIA, although species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Orcuttia viscida</i>	Sacramento orcutt grass	E	E	1B	Northern Hardpan and Northern Volcanic Mudflow vernal pools on high-terrace sites within oak woodland and annual grasslands. Blooming period: May-Jun <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat occurs within the PIA, although species was not observed during surveys.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status**			HABITAT DESCRIPTION	SPECIES- Present (P) Absent (A)*	EFFECT DETERMINATION/ RATIONALE
		Federal	State	CNPS			

**PLANTS CONTINUED**

<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	Sanford's arrowhead			1B	Marshes and swamps within shallow freshwater. Blooming period: May-Oct	A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Marshes or swamps not present within the project area. Species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Sphenopholis obtusata</i>	Prairie wedge grass			2	Meadows and seeps within cismontane woodland. Blooming period: Apr-Jul	A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Meadow adjacent to impact area would not be impacted. Species were not observed during surveys.

**ANIMALS**

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status**			HABITAT DESCRIPTION	SPECIES- Present (P) Absent (A)*	EFFECT DETERMINATION/ RATIONALE
		Federal	State				

**INVERTEBRATES**

<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	Conservancy fairy shrimp	E			Relatively large and turbid vernal pools associated with varying landforms, geological formations, and soil types.	A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> PIA not within species range.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	Vernal pool fairy shrimp	T			Vernal pool complexes as part of undulating landscapes, where soil mounds are interspersed with basins, swales, and drainages.	P	<b>LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Inferred presence due to presence of suitable habitat and closest known population within 4 miles.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status**		HABITAT DESCRIPTION SPECIES- Present (P) Absent (A)*	EFFECT DETERMINATION/ RATIONALE	
		Federal	State			
<b>INVERTEBRATES CONTINUED</b>						
<i>Branchinecta mesovallensis</i>	Midvalley fairy shrimp		SC	Small, short-lived vernal pools and grass-bottomed swales. May occupy habitats that are not inundated long enough for other species to inhabit. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>MAY EFFECT, NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Potentially suitable habitat present. Closest known population within 10.5 miles.	
<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	Valley elderberry longhorn beetle		T	Central Valley of California and surrounding foothills to approx. 3,000 feet; prefers riparian habitat. Exclusively reproduces in the stems of blue elderberry ( <i>Sambucus mexicana</i> ). <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> <i>Sambucus mexicana</i> not present within the PIA.	
<i>Lepidurus packardi</i>	Vernal pool tadpole shrimp		E	Vernal pools associated with varying geologic formations and soil types. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>MAY EFFECT, NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Potentially suitable habitat present. Closest known population within 5.5 miles.	
<i>Lindieriella occidentalis</i>	California fairy shrimp		SC	Most landforms, geologic formations, and soil types that support vernal pools of any size. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>MAY EFFECT, NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Potentially suitable habitat present. Closest known population within 5.5 miles.	
<b>FISH</b>						
<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	Delta smelt		T	T	Endemic to the upper San Francisco Estuary, principally the Delta and Suisun Bay. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> BSA not within species range. Suitable habitat does not exist within PIA.
<i>Lampetra hubbsi</i>	Kern brook lamprey			SC	Endemic to the east side of the San Joaquin Valley, primarily occur in silty backwaters of rivers emerging from the Sierra foothills. Spawn in gravel-bottomed areas; burrow and forage in muddy-bottomed areas. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does not exist within the PIA.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status**		HABITAT DESCRIPTION	EFFECT DETERMINATION/RATIONALE
		Federal	State		
				<b>SPECIES-</b> <b>Present (P)</b> <b>Absent (A)*</b>	
<b>FISH CONTINUED</b>					
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Central Valley steelhead	T		Anadromous species requiring clean rivers and tributaries with gravely substrates for spawning within the Central Valley having access to the Pacific Ocean for the adult phase of life cycle. <b>P</b>	<b>NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist at Jackson Creek. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to the reproductive cycle of the species
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Central Valley fall/late fall-run chinook salmon	C	SC	Anadromous species requiring clean rivers with gravely substrates for spawning. Found in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries. <b>P</b>	<b>NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist within Jackson Creek. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to the reproductive cycle of the species.
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon	T	T	Anadromous species requiring clean rivers with gravely substrates for spawning. Presently found only in the Sacramento River drainage. <b>A</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> PIA not within species range.
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Winter-run chinook salmon	E	E	Anadromous species requiring clean rivers with gravely substrates for spawning. Presently found only in the mainstream Sacramento River, below Keswick Dam. <b>A</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> PIA not within species range.
<i>Pogonichyhs macrolepidotus</i>	Sacramento splittail		SC	Endemic to California, mainly to sloughs, lakes, and rivers of the Central Valley. Have a high tolerance for brackish water; now largely confined to the Delta, Suisun Bay, Suisun Marsh, and the lower Napa River. <b>A</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does not exist within the PIA.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status**		HABITAT DESCRIPTION SPECIES- Present (P) Absent (A)*	EFFECT DETERMINATION/ RATIONALE
		Federal	State		
<b>FISH CONTINUED</b>					
<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i>	Longfin smelt		SC	Inhabits major bays and estuaries from San Francisco Bay northward; occurs in bay waters in the summer and moves into the lower reaches of the rivers that flow into these bays. <b>A</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does not exist within the PIA.
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>					
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i>	California tiger salamander	T	SC	Restricted to grasslands and low foothill (under 3200 feet) regions of Central and Northern California. Prefer natural ephemeral pools or ponds (that are allowed to go dry). Dry season refugia within small mammal burrows up to 1 mile away from breeding pools. <b>P</b>	<b>LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Inferred presence due to presence of suitable aestivation and breeding habitat. Closest known breeding pool within 2 miles.
<i>Rana boylei</i>	Foothill yellow-legged frog		SC	Shallow, flowing water, preferentially in small to moderate-sized streams with some cobble-sized present. <b>A</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does not exist within the PIA. Surveys provided negative findings.
<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	California red-legged frog	T	SC	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation. <b>A</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does not exist within the PIA. Surveys provided negative findings.
<i>Spea (=Scaphiopus) hammondi</i>	Western spadefoot toad		SC	Grassland habitats, Valley-foothill hardwood woodlands; Vernal pools essential for breeding and egg disposition. <b>P</b>	<b>LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat is present. Closest known population within 5.5 miles.
<b>REPTILES</b>					
<i>Emys (=Clemmys) marmorata</i>	Western pond turtle		SC	Ponds, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches that have a rocky or muddy bottom with cattail, mats, and mudbanks. <b>A</b>	<b>NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Possible habitat within Jackson Creek. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impact to species.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status <sup>1,2</sup>		HABITAT DESCRIPTION SPECIES- Present (P) Absent (A)*	EFFECT DETERMINATION/ RATIONALE
		Federal	State		
<b>REPTILES CONTINUED</b>					
<i>Phrynosoma coronatum</i>	California horned lizard (frontale population)		SC	Variable habitats ranging from areas of exposed gravelly-sandy substrate containing scattered shrubs, to clearings in riparian woodlands, to chaparral, to annual grassland with scattered shrubs and alkali flats. <b>A</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does not exist within the PIA. Species was not observed during surveys.
<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	Giant garter snake	T	T	Streams and sloughs with mud bottoms. Usually found in areas of freshwater marsh and low gradient streams, although it also frequents temporary water such and drainage canals and irrigation ditches. <b>A</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does not exist within the PIA.
<b>BIRDS</b>					
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Tri-colored blackbird		SC	Central Valley habitats associated with open water, tule marshes with protective vegetation for nesting. <b>A</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat for nesting colonies does not exist within the PIA.
<i>Amphispiza belli belli</i>	Bell's sage sparrow		SC	Dry brushy foothills, open chaparral, sagebrush plains, and deserts in the winter months. <b>A</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does not exist within the PIA.
<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Golden eagle		SC	Open mountains, foothills, canyons, and plains. Nests in open habitats, especially on cliffs 3 to 30 meters high on mountains and hills. <b>A</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist within PIA. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting.
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great egret			Rookery sites: nests in colonies on tops of secluded large snags or live trees usually among the tallest available near shallow water. Nesting colony must be isolated from human activities, or parents may abandon nests. <b>P</b>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable rookery habitat does exist within the study area. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting.

Appendix D Special-Status Species List

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status**		HABITAT DESCRIPTION	SPECIES- Present (P) Absent (A)*	EFFECT DETERMINATION/ RATIONALE
		Federal	State			
<b>BIRDS CONTINUED</b>						
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great blue heron			Rookery sites: nests in colonies on tops of secluded large snags or live trees usually among the tallest available. Prefers secluded groves dominated by a Fremont cottonwood near shallow water feeding areas. Nesting colony must be isolated from human activities, or parents may abandon nests. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">P</span>		<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Heron rookery historically located at Jackson Creek Bridge, although herons have not been observed for many years. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Burrowing owl		SC	Yearlong resident of open, dry grassland and desert habitats, as well as open shrub stages of pinyon-juniper and ponderosa pine habitats. Uses rodent or other burrows as roosting and nesting cover. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>		<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist within the study area. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to the species.
<i>Buteo regalis</i>	Ferruginous hawk		SC	Winter resident and migrant at lower elevations and open grasslands in the Central Valley. Open grasslands, sagebrush flats, desert scrub, low foothills surrounding valleys, and pinyon-juniper habitats. Nests from Oregon into Canada. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>		<b>NO EFFECT.</b> PIA on edge of species wintering range. Suitable foraging and wintering habitat does exist within PIA. Avoidance measures would offset potential effects.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Swainson's hawk		T	Nests in stands with scattered large trees occurring in various habitats in the Central Valley. Foraging habitat includes grasslands, suitable grain or alfalfa fields, and livestock pastures. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>		<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable nesting habitat does exist within PIA. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting.
<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Mountain plover		SC	Winter resident of the Central Valley that utilizes open grasslands, plowed fields, and foothill valleys. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>		<b>NO EFFECT.</b> PIA not within species range. Known wintering area within the Central Valley is south of Sacramento and approximately west of Highway 99.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status**		HABITAT DESCRIPTION SPECIES- Present (P) Absent (A)*	EFFECT DETERMINATION/ RATIONALE
		Federal	State		
<b>BIRDS CONTINUED</b>					
<i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>	Yellow Warbler		SC	Territory often includes tall trees in riparian woodlands from coastal to desert lowlands with a heavy brush understory for nesting. Arrives in California in April and leaves to Imperial and Colorado river valleys by October. <input type="checkbox"/> A	<b>NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist within PIA. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting.
<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	White-Tailed Kite		FP	Year-long resident of coastal and valley lowlands, inhabiting herbaceous and open stages of most habitats in cismontane California. Nests are built near top of dense oaks, willows, or other tree stands. <input type="checkbox"/> A	<b>NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist within PIA. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting.
<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Prairie falcon		SC	Mountainous grasslands, open hills, plains, and prairies. Requires sheltered cliff ledges for cover and nests on cliffs, bluffs, or rock outcrops. Wintering habitat within the Central Valley and surrounding foothills. <input type="checkbox"/> A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable foraging and wintering habitat does exist within the PIA. Avoidance measures would offset potential effects.
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald eagle	T	E	Foraging habitat includes large bodies of water or free-flowing rivers with abundant fish and, ideally, adjacent perching areas. Nests in large trees with open branch-work, prefers ponderosa pine. Nest usually located near a permanent water source. <input type="checkbox"/> A	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Possible suitable foraging habitat does exist within the PIA. Species is known to winter and nest at nearby Pardee and Comanche reservoirs. Avoidance measures would offset potential effects.
<i>Icteria virens</i>	Yellow-Breasted Chat		SC	Summer resident and migrant in coastal California and in Sierra Nevada foothills. Requires riparian thickets of willow and other brushy vegetation near watercourses for cover. Nests are typically 2 to 8 feet above ground in dense shrubs. <input type="checkbox"/> A	<b>NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY AFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist within PIA. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status**		HABITAT DESCRIPTION SPECIES- Present (P) Absent (A)*	EFFECT DETERMINATION/ RATIONALE
		Federal	State		
<b>BIRDS CONTINUED</b>					
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Loggerhead Shrike		SC	Resident and winter visitor in open habitats within lowlands and foothills with open-canopied woodlands. <span style="float: right;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable foraging and wintering habitat does exist within the PIA. Avoidance measures would offset potential effects.
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey		SC	Associated Resident associated strictly with large, fish-bearing waters, primarily in conifer habitats. <span style="float: right;">A</span> Requires clear, open waters for foraging. Uses large trees, snags, and dead-topped trees in open forest habitats for cover.	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable foraging habitat does not exist within the PIA.
<i>Riparia riparia</i>	Bank swallow (nesting)		T	Nests colonially in sand banks near marshes, streams, and lakes. Requires fine-textured or sandy banks or cliffs to dig horizontal nesting tunnels and burrows. <span style="float: right;">A</span>	<b>NOT LIKELY TO ADVERSELY EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist within PIA. Avoidance measures would be implemented to avoid impacts to nesting.
<b>MAMMALS</b>					
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Townsend's big eared bat		SC	Inhabits humid, coastal regions of northern and central California. Roosts in limestone caves, lava tubes, mines, and buildings. Will only roost in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Extremely sensitive to disturbances. <span style="float: right;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Preferred habitat not present within PIA. Species and habitat were not observed during surveys.
<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	Spotted bat		SC	Inhabits a wide variety of habitats from arid deserts and grasslands through mixed conifer forests. Prefers to roost in rock crevices, but occasionally found in caves and buildings. <span style="float: right;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Preferred habitat not present within PIA. Species and habitat were not observed during surveys.

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	Status**		HABITAT DESCRIPTION SPECIES- Present (P) Absent (A)*	EFFECT DETERMINATION/ RATIONALE
		Federal	State		
<b>MAMMALS CONTINUED</b>					
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	Greater western mastiff bat		SC	Inhabits many open, semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, grasslands, and chaparral. Roosts in rock crevices, hollow trees, and buildings. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Preferred habitat not present within PIA. Species and habitat were not observed during surveys.
<i>Myotis ciliolabrum</i>	Western small-footed myotis bat		SC	Found in chaparral, riparian areas with oak and juniper. Roosts in crevices and cavities of cliffs or rocks, and possibly within caves or mine shafts. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist within PIA. Avoidance measures would offset potential effects.
<i>Myotis evotis</i>	Long-eared myotis bat		SC	Found in all brush, woodland, and forest habitats up to 9,000 feet; prefers coniferous woodlands and forests; daytime roosts include buildings, hollow trees, caves, mines, and rocks. Night roosts include caves. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist within PIA. Avoidance measures would offset potential effects.
<i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Fringed myotis bat		SC	Inhabits a wide variety of habitats, but optimal habitats include pinyon-juniper woodland, valley-foothill hardwood, and hardwood-conifer. Caves, mines, buildings, and crevices are used for maternity colonies and roosts. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist within PIA. Avoidance measures would offset potential effects.
<i>Myotis volans</i>	Long-legged myotis bat		SC	Inhabits woodland and forest habitats above 3,900 feet; trees serve as day roosts, whereas caves and mines serve as night roosts. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Preferred habitat not present within PIA. Species and habitat were not observed during surveys.
<i>Myotis yumanensis</i>	Yuma myotis bat		SC	Inhabits open forests and wooded canyon bottoms with sources of water over which to feed. Roosts include caves, mines, buildings, and crevices. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">A</span>	<b>NO EFFECT.</b> Suitable habitat does exist within PIA. Avoidance measures would offset potential effects.

\***P/A**- P-Present (general habitat is present and species may be present), A- Absent (no further work needed)

**\*\*Status**

**State:** California Department of Fish and Game

E - Endangered; T - Threatened; SC - Species of Special Concern; FP - Fully Protected

**Federal:** United States Fish and Wildlife Service & National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service

E - Endangered; T - Threatened; C - Candidate to become a proposed species

**CNPS:** California Native Plant Society

1B - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

2 - Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but common elsewhere

3 - Plants about which more information is needed

# Appendix E AD 1006 Form

U.S. Department of Agriculture

## FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

<b>PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		Date Of Land Evaluation Request			
Name Of Project	Jackson Valley Rehabilitation	Federal Agency Involved FHWA			
Proposed Land Use	Transportation	County And State Amador, CA			
<b>PART II (To be completed by NRCS)</b>		Date Request Received By NRCS			
Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply -- do not complete additional parts of this form).		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated	Average Farm Size
Major Crop(s)	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: %	Amount Of Farmland As Defined In FPPA Acres: %			
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used	Name Of Local Site Assessment System	Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS			
<b>PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		Alternative Site Rating			
		Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly		29.0			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly		0.0			
C. Total Acres In Site		29.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information</b>					
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland					
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland					
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted					
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value					
<b>PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion</b>		Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)			
		100	0	0	0
<b>PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>		Maximum Points			
Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))					
1. Area In Nonurban Use	15	15			
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use	10	10			
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed	20	10			
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government	20	10			
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area	0	0			
6. Distance To Urban Support Services	0	0			
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average	10	0			
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland	25	0			
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services	5	2			
10. On-Farm Investments	20	5			
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services	25	0			
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10	0			
<b>TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS</b>		160	52	0	0
<b>PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)</b>					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)		100	100	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)		160	52	0	0
<b>TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)</b>		260	152	0	0

Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
----------------	-------------------	--	--

Reason For Selection:



## **Appendix F** Public Comments and Responses to Public Comments

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The Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration was circulated for public review and comment from June 29, 2007 to July 30, 2007. Copies of the document were sent to the State Clearinghouse for distribution to various agencies, and Caltrans mailed copies directly to other agencies and interested parties.

Public notices were published in the *Stockton Record* and *Amador Ledger-Dispatch* to inform the public that the document was available for comment and offer the opportunity to request a public hearing. All affected property owners, public agencies, and other interested parties were sent a letter notifying them of the availability of the document and the opportunity to request a public hearing. The document was also available for review at the county libraries in Ione and Jackson.

This appendix presents all of the written comments received on the document during the public review period. A Caltrans response to each comment is provided immediately following the comment.

## San Joaquin County Department of Public Works Letter, Page 1



**THOMAS R. FLINN**  
DIRECTOR

**THOMAS M. GAU**  
CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**MANUEL SOLORIO**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STEVEN WINKLER**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**ROGER JANES**  
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR



P. O. BOX 1810 - 1810 E. HAZELTON AVENUE  
STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA 95201  
(209) 468-3000 FAX (209) 468-2999  
[www.sjgov.org/pubworks](http://www.sjgov.org/pubworks)

July 30, 2007

Mr. Charles Walbridge  
Associate Environmental Planner  
Caltrans – District 6  
2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100  
Fresno, California 93726

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC REVIEW FOR JACKSON VALLEY REHABILITATION INITIAL STUDY  
WITH PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The San Joaquin County Department of Public Works has reviewed the above referenced document and our concerns, recommendations, and corrections are as follows:

Traffic Engineering:

1. Detour(s) within San Joaquin County should be identified in a Traffic Management Plan – Detour. Submit plan for review/approval to the Department of Public Works at a minimum of four weeks prior to commencing work.
2. Limit hours of operation outside of peak commute hours.

Transportation Planning:

1. This section of roadway is heavily used by commuter traffic and is a major truck route. Local traffic will move around this project, which will travel along Comanche Parkway North to Liberty Road to State Highway Route 88. What will prevent the trucks from using this route?
2. What is the estimated duration of this project?
3. What is the estimated duration of the bridge reconstructions (six months to one year)?
4. In order to proceed with the air quality demolition permit, please inform whether these bridges were tested for lead paint and asbestos components.
5. This project will have a short-term impact on all residents in Amador County, as this is a main artery for supplies to the area.

**San Joaquin County Department of Public Works Letter, Page 2**

Mr. Charles Walbridge  
JACKSON VALLEY REHABILITATION  
INITIAL STUDY

-2-

6. As this project crosses over a gas main in several places, will the gas main be affected?

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard. Should you have questions or need additional information regarding the above comments, please contact me at (209) 468-3085.

Sincerely,



MARK HOPKINS  
Environmental Coordinator

MH:to  
TP-7G114-T1

c: Thomas K. Okamoto, Senior Civil Engineer  
Dodie Vidad, Engineer IV

## Caltrans Response to San Joaquin County Department of Public Works

STATE OF CALIFORNIA — BUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND HOUSING AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

#### DISTRICT 6

2015 EAST SHIELDS AVENUE, SUITE A-100  
FRESNO, CA 93726-5428  
PHONE (559) 243-8167  
FAX (559) 243-8215  
TTY (559) 488-4066



*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

August 15, 2007

RE: Jackson Valley Rehabilitation Project  
Dist/EA: 10-26444  
Co/Rte/PM: AMA – 88 – PM 0.0/5.5

Mr. Mark Hopkins, Environmental Coordinator  
San Joaquin County Department of Public Works  
1810 E. Hazelton Avenue  
Stockton, CA 95201

Dear Mr. Hopkins:

Thank you for your letter dated July 30, 2007 regarding the proposed Jackson Valley Rehabilitation Project on State Highway 88 in Amador County. In consultation with our Project Development Team, I have restated your comment or question with a response:

#### Traffic Engineering

1. Detour(s) within San Joaquin County should be identified in a Traffic Management Plan – Detour. Submit plan for review/approval to the Department of Public Works at a minimum of four weeks prior to commencing work.

Response: The Traffic Management Plan will be fully developed during the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates phase of the project. The Traffic Management Plan will be submitted at least four weeks prior to the commencement of work.

2. Limit hours of operation outside of peak commuting hours.

Response: Current lane requirements will likely result in night work for this project.

#### Transportation Planning

1. This section of roadway is heavily used by commuter traffic and is a major truck route. Local traffic will move around this project, which will travel along Comanche Parkway North to Liberty Road to State Highway Route 88. What will prevent the trucks from using this route?

Response: Public outreach will occur as part of the Traffic Management Plan. One of the agencies notified will be the Trucking Association. If there are any restrictions identified, they can be relayed during the public notification process and with appropriate construction signs.

*"Caltrans improves mobility across California"*

**Caltrans Response to San Joaquin County Department of Public Works, Page 2**

Addressee: Mark Hopkins  
Date: August 15, 2007  
Page: 2

2. What is the estimated duration of this project?

Response: Two construction seasons

3. What is the estimated duration of the bridge reconstructions (six months to one year)?

Response: Bridge reconstruction is estimated to require 7- 10 months to complete. The environmental work window (late spring – summer) may stretch this into two seasons.

4. In order to proceed with the air quality demolition permit, please inform whether these bridges were tested for lead paint and asbestos components.

Response: Both the Jackson Creek Bridge and the Jackson Creek Overflow Bridge were tested for asbestos and lead paint. Neither constituent was identified in concentrations that would pose a risk to human health and safety.

5. This project will have a short-term impact on all residents in Amador County, as this is a main artery for supplies to the area.

Response: The importance of State Route 88 as a commuter route and supply route is well understood by the Department. The Department will make every effort to minimize inconvenience to affected residents during construction.

6. As this project crosses over a gas main in several places, will the gas main be affected?

Response: The Department has been meeting with PG&E to discuss how the underground gas line will be affected. Throughout most of the project area, the gas line will be unaffected and will remain in place. In some areas, however, impacts from cut and fill will require gas line relocation. The Department has a preliminary utility relocation plan. Final relocation plans will be completed during the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates phase of the project.

If you have any further questions, please contact me at (559) 243-8167.

Sincerely,

  
Charles Walbridge, Associate Environmental Planner  
California Department of Transportation

c: Gail Miller, Senior Environmental Planner  
Paul Elliott, Senior Transportation Engineer

## State Clearinghouse Letter, Page 1



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE of PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE AND PLANNING UNIT



CYNTHIA BRYANT  
DIRECTOR

July 19, 2007

Gail Miller  
California Department of Transportation, District 6  
2015 E. Shields Avenue, Suite 100  
Fresno, CA 93726

Subject: Jackson Valley Rehabilitation 10-AMA-88-PM 0.0/5.5  
SCH#: 2007062087

Dear Gail Miller:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on July 18, 2007, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

"A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Terry Roberts  
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures  
cc: Resources Agency

1400 10th Street P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, California 95812-3044  
(916) 445-0613 FAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov

State Clearinghouse Letter, Page 2

Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base

**SCH#** 2007062087  
**Project Title** Jackson Valley Rehabilitation 10-AMA-88-PM 0.0/5.5  
**Lead Agency** Caltrans #6

**Type** **Neg** Negative Declaration  
**Description** The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to improve a 5.5 mile segment of SR-88 in Amador County. The project would rehabilitate pavement throughout and widen shoulders from Bamert Road to the end of the project at SR-124.

**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Gail Miller  
**Agency** California Department of Transportation, District 6  
**Phone** (559) 243-8222 **Fax**  
**email**  
**Address** 2015 E. Shields Avenue, Suite 100  
**City** Fresno **State** CA **Zip** 93726

**Project Location**

**County** Amador  
**City** none, Jackson  
**Region**  
**Cross Streets** San Joaquin/Amador County line (project begins); SR-124 (project ends)  
**Parcel No.**  
**Township**

	Range	Section	Base

**Proximity to:**

**Highways** 104, 124  
**Airports**  
**Railways**  
**Waterways** Jackson Creek  
**Schools**  
**Land Use** Agriculture, Industrial, Low-Density Residential

**Project Issues** Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Flood Plain/Flooding; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife

**Reviewing Agencies** Air Resources Board, Transportation Projects; California Highway Patrol; Department of Conservation; Department of Water Resources; Department of Fish and Game, Region 2; Office of Historic Preservation; Native American Heritage Commission; Department of Parks and Recreation; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Sacramento); Resources Agency; Department of Toxic Substances Control

**Date Received** 06/19/2007 **Start of Review** 06/19/2007 **End of Review** 07/18/2007

**Caltrans' response to State Clearinghouse Letter**

Thank you for your cooperation in circulating the draft Initial Study to the appropriate state agencies for their review and comment.

## Ione Band of Miwok Indians Letter

	2007 JUN 29 PM 3:13	<b>Ione Band of Miwok Indians</b> 
Matthew Franklin Chairman	June 27, 2007	
Johnny "Gill" Jamerson Vice- Chairman	Department of Transportation 1976 East DR Martin Luther King, JR. BLVD P.O. Box 2048 Stockton, California 95205	
Tracy Tripp Secretary		
Barbara Sanchez Treasurer		
Ralph "Troy" Hatch Member at Large	Our Heritage Cultural Committee has reviewed your letter, and our research has determined that the proposed project site mentioned may possibly be within our Tribes Ancestral Territory.	
Pamela Baumgartner Tribal Administrator		
Billie Blue Elliston Heritage Cultural Committee Chairperson	The proposed project could be subject to Section 106 of the National Preservation Act (NHPA), and/or Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). Please keep the Tribe informed on this current project listed above.	
Sandy Waters Enrollment Committee Chairperson	Thank you for notifying the tribe and if you should have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at <a href="mailto:billie@ionemiwok.org">billie@ionemiwok.org</a> .	
	Sincerely,	
	Billie Blue Elliston Heritage Cultural Committee Chair	
	CC: Matthew Franklin Chairperson	
	<small>© IONE BAND OF MIWOK INDIANS - Heritage Cultural Committee 1997 - All Rights Reserved</small>	
	<b>14 West Main Street • PO Box 1190 • Phone: 209.274.6753 • Fax: 209.274.6636</b>	

**Caltrans' Response to Ione Band of Miwok Indians Letter**

Thank you for your review of the draft Initial Study. We look forward to continuing to work with the tribe to minimize impacts to ancestral lands and ensuring that the project complies with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Department of Conservation Letter, Page 1

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, RESOURCES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, GOVERNOR



**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION**

**DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION**

801 K STREET • MS 18-01 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

PHONE 916 / 324-0850 • FAX 916 / 327-3430 • TDD 916 / 324-2555 • WEBSITE [conservation.ca.gov](http://conservation.ca.gov)

July 16, 2007

**VIA FACSIMILE (559) 243-8215**

Gail Miller  
California Department of Transportation  
2015 E. Shields Avenue, Suite 100  
Fresno, CA 93726

Subject: Jackson Valley Rehabilitation (10-AMA-88-PM 0.0/0.5) Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) (Amador County) **SCH#: 2007062087**

Dear Ms. Miller:

The Department of Conservation's (Department) Division of Land Resource Protection (Division) has received notice that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is seeking to acquire approximately 29 acres of farmland for the Jackson Valley Rehabilitation project (Project). The purpose of the Project is to rehabilitate pavement and widen the shoulders on State Route 88 in Amador County (from the San Joaquin county line to State Route 124). Of the 29 acres to be converted, 1 acre is from a winery, 12.6 acres are grazing land pasture, and the remaining 15.4 acres are grassland/rocky oak woodland. The vineyard is classified as Prime Farmland and is under a Williamson Act contract. The rangeland parcels are classified as non-prime farmland. The Division monitors farmland conversion on a statewide basis and administers the California Land Conservation (Williamson) Act and other agricultural land conservation programs. We offer the following comments and recommendations with respect to the District's acquisition of the parcel and future development plans.

**Notice Requirements**

Public agencies must follow certain notification protocols both when they acquire Williamson Act lands and intend to use those acquired lands for a public use. Under Government Code Section 51291(b):

(b) [W]henver it appears that land within an agricultural preserve may be required by a public agency or person for a public use, the public agency or person shall advise the Director of Conservation and the local governing body responsible for the administration of the preserve of its intention to consider the location of a public improvement within the preserve. In accordance with Section 51290, the notice shall include an explanation of the preliminary consideration of

---

*The Department of Conservation's mission is to protect Californians and their environment by:  
Protecting lives and property from earthquakes and landslides; Ensuring safe mining and oil and gas drilling;  
Conserving California's farmland; and Saving energy and resources through recycling.*

## Department of Conservation Letter, Page 2

Gail Miller  
July 16, 2007  
Page 2 of 3

Section 51292, and give a general description, in text or by diagram, of the agricultural preserve land proposed for acquisition, and a copy of any applicable contract created under this chapter. The Director of Conservation shall forward to the Secretary of Food and Agriculture, a copy of any material received from the public agency or person relating to the proposed acquisition . . .

Additionally, Section 51291(b) requires that the public agency consider the Department's comments prior to action on a proposed acquisition. Under Section 51291(c), the public agency must notify the Department of the completed acquisition within 10 working days. The notifications from the public agency to the Department must contain findings pursuant to Section 51292. Under this Section, the public agency shall not locate a public improvement within an agricultural preserve unless:

(a) The location is not based primarily on a consideration of the lower cost of acquiring land in an agricultural preserve.

(b) If the land is agricultural land covered under a contract pursuant to this chapter for any public improvement, that there is no other land within or outside the preserve on which it is reasonably feasible to locate the public improvement.

In order for the Department to determine whether the required findings have been made, the Department requests that the City provide the information and documentation listed in the enclosed "Public Acquisition Notification Provisions." This should include a map of the proposed sites and an area of surrounding land large enough to help clarify the explanation that no other, non-contract land is reasonably feasible for the public improvement. Surrounding land should be identified according to contract/agricultural preserve status and current land use. In addition, the proposed sites should be identified as to whether the land is prime or nonprime agricultural land according to Section 51201, and the necessity to take such a large area should be explained. Finally, a copy of the Williamson Act contract(s) must be provided.

### Eminent Domain

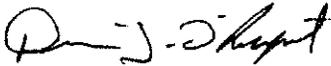
A Williamson Act contract is an enforceable restriction pursuant to Article 13, Section 8 of the California Constitution and Government Code Section 51252. Assuming other necessary requirements are met, acquisition of contracted land by a public agency must meet the requirements for eminent domain or in lieu of eminent domain in order to void the contract pursuant to Section 51295. In order for the Department to determine whether these requirements have been met, we request that the City provide documentation of eminent domain proceedings or an appraisal of the subject property and written offer letter pursuant to Sections 7267.1 and 7267.2 in lieu of eminent domain.

**Department of Conservation Letter, Page 3**

Gail Miller  
July 16, 2007  
Page 3 of 3

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on this MND. If you have questions on our comments, or require technical assistance or information on agricultural land conservation, please contact Elliott Lum, Environmental Planner, at 801 K Street, MS 18-01, Sacramento, California 95814; or, phone (916) 324-0869.

Sincerely,



Dennis J. O'Bryant  
Program Manager

cc: State Clearinghouse

**Caltrans' Response to Department of Conservation Letter**

Thank you for reviewing the draft Initial Study. We will continue to work with Amador County to ensure that the project is in compliance with the Williamson Act.

# Appendix G SHPO Concurrence Letter

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - THE RESOURCES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**  
P.O. BOX 942888  
SACRAMENTO CA 94296-0001  
(916) 653 8624 Fax: (916) 853 9824  
calshpo@ohp.parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



22 May 2007

In Reply Refer To  
FHWA070309C

Juan Torres, Chief  
Central Sierra Environmental Analysis Branch  
California Department of Transportation, District 6  
2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite A-100  
Fresno, CA 93726-5428

**SUBJECT: SECTION 106 CONSULTATION (RND.01) ON THE JACKSON VALLEY ROADWAY  
REHABILITATION AND WIDENING PROJECT ALONG STATE ROUTE 88,  
AMADOR COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Dear Mr. Torres,

This letter is a response to the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) submission, on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), of the 7 March 2007 *Historic Property Survey Report for the Proposed Road Rehabilitation and Widening on California State Highway 88 from Postmile 0.0 to Postmile 5.5 in Amador County, California* (HPSR). Caltrans' submission and my comment on it here are made pursuant to the 1 January 2004 *Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California Department of Transportation Regarding Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as it Pertains to the Administration of the Federal-aid Highway Program in California*.

Your letter of 8 March 2007 requests that I concur with Caltrans' determinations on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) eligibility of prehistoric archaeological site CA-AMA-761, and prehistoric archaeological site CA-AMA-56 and discontinuous, secondary deposits originating from that latter site.

On the basis of my review of the HPSR, I am able to concur with Caltrans' determination that

**CA-AMA-761**

is not eligible for inclusion in the National Register

I am further able to concur with Caltrans' determination that

**CA-AMA-56**

JUAN TORRES  
22 MAY 2007  
PAGE 2 of 2

FHWA070309C

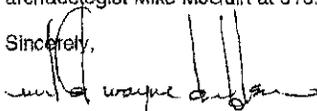
is eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion D, because the property has yielded and may be likely to yield further information important in the regional prehistory of the Early period through the Late period, phase II (4500-100 B.P.) of the lower Sacramento Valley

I further concur that the discontiguous, secondary deposits to the immediate east of Jackson Creek from CA-AMA-56, the "CA-AMA-56 Redeposit" (Redeposit) in the HPSR (page 10, figure 3) (Universal Transverse Mercator coordinates E 676948.40, N 4241888.02), deposits which originate from CA-AMA-56 and now form the base of the State Route 88 (SR 88) road prism that was built in 1939 to 1940, are an element of the subject historic property that contribute to the National Register eligibility of said property. I concur with Caltrans' assessment that the Redeposit retains a moderate degree of integrity of materials and a poor, though extant, degree of integrity of association (pp. 8-10 of the HPSR), but I do not concur that the element retains integrity of location. As the Redeposit appears to largely represent almost the entire Late period, phase II component for CA-AMA-56, the preservation of the material culture assemblage in the Redeposit and the secure knowledge that the Redeposit originates from the former top of the site where the present SR 88 roadway is now confirms the Redeposit's continuing ability to convey part of the significance of the broader site.

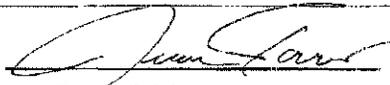
If you are able to agree to my above modification to the statement of the Redeposit's integrity, please sign the signature block below to so indicate, and return, at your earliest convenience, a copy of the signed block to me for my files.

Please direct any questions or concerns that you may have to Project Review Unit archaeologist Mike McGuirt at 916.653.8920 or at [mmcgu@parks.ca.gov](mailto:mmcgu@parks.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA  
State Historic Preservation Officer

 Date 5/22/07  
Juan Torres, Chief  
Central Sierra Environmental Analysis Branch  
California Department of Transportation, District 6

MWD:MDM:mdm

# Appendix H SHPO Approval Letter of Memorandum of Agreement

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

P.O. BOX 942898  
SACRAMENTO CA 94296-0001  
(916) 653-6624 Fax: (916) 653-9824  
calshpo@ohp.parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



February 29, 2008

In Reply Refer To: FHWA070309C

Gregory P. King  
Chief, Cultural and Community Studies Office  
Division of Environmental Analysis  
Department of Transportation  
1120 N. Street, P.O. Box 942874  
Sacramento, California 04274-0001

Re: Memorandum of Agreement and Archaeological Treatment and Data Recovery Plan for the Proposed Jackson Valley Rehabilitation Project on State Route 88 in Amador County, California – Section 106 Compliance/

Dear Mr. King:

Thank you for seeking my consultation regarding the proposed Jackson Valley Rehabilitation Project in accordance with the *Programmatic Agreement (PA) Among the Federal Highway Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California Department of Transportation Regarding Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as it Pertains to the Administration of the Federal-Aid Highway Program in California (PA)*. Previously in this consultation, I concurred that CA-AMA-56 was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion D (SHPO letter of May 22, 2007) and that the Jackson Valley Rehabilitation Project will have an adverse effect to CA-AMA-56 (SHPO letter of September 5, 2007).

At this time, in your letter of November 9, 2007, you are submitted for my review a draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the California Department of Transportation and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the proposed rehabilitation project on State Route 88 in Jackson Valley, Amador County, California (MOA), and a data recovery plan, formalized in the following document, that will be implemented by this MOA.

- *Archaeological Treatment and Data-Recovery Plan for the Applegate Site (CA-AMA-56), Jackson Valley, Amador County, California* (P. Kajankoski, M. D. Meyer, and S. Stewart; Anthropological Studies Center: October 2007) and *Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Action Plan Jackson Valley Rehabilitation Project State Route 88, Amador County California* (B. Gassner; Caltrans Central California Cultural Resources Branch: August 2007).

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After reviewing this document and the draft MOA, I concur that as proposed, this is an appropriate treatment pursuant to Stipulations XI and XII of the PA, and 36 CFR Part 800.6, regarding the resolution of adverse effects to CA-AMA-56 and the completion of the identification and evaluation of historic properties in the portions of the project Area of Potential Effects that have been to date, inaccessible to Caltrans. I have provided email comments on the MOA to Jill Hupp, Section 106, PA Coordination Branch, Caltrans.

If you require further information, please contact William Soule, Associate State Archeologist, at phone 916-654-4614 or email [wsoule@parks.ca.gov](mailto:wsoule@parks.ca.gov) or Natalie Lindquist, State Historian, at phone 916-6540631 or email [nlindquist@parks.ca.gov](mailto:nlindquist@parks.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY STEPHEN MIKESELL FOR:

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA  
State Historic Preservation Officer

cc:

Jill Hupp, Chief  
Section 106/PA Coordination Branch  
Cultural & Community Studies Office  
Division of Environmental Analysis  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street, P.O. Box 942874  
Sacramento, California 94274-0001

## **List of Technical Studies that are Bound Separately**

Water Quality Report  
Natural Environment Study  
Location Hydraulic Study  
Historic Property Survey Report  
Hazardous Waste Report  
Paleontology Study  
Scenic Resource Evaluation