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# FINDINGS

## CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FINDINGS FOR OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 101 IN THE CITY OF CARPINTERIA

The following information is presented to comply with State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3, Section 15901) and the Department of Transportation and California Transportation Commission Environmental Regulations (Title 21, California Code of Regulations, Chapter 11, Section 1501). Reference is made to the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the project, which is the basic source for the information.

The following effects have been identified in the EIR as resulting from the project. Effects found not to be significant have not been included.

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### Aesthetics

Adverse Environmental Effects:

The project would degrade the existing visual character of the project area due to the addition of lanes on local roads, installation of retaining walls and sound walls, and larger overcrossing and bridge structures.

Findings:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Statement of Facts:

Safe, maintainable planting opportunities shall be incorporated throughout the length of the project. Aesthetic treatments and design shall be incorporated into all new bridge structures (including overcrossings), retaining walls, and sound walls.

Adverse Environmental Effects:
Due to the extension of a local road (Via Real), a new source of light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area would be created.

Findings:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Statement of Facts:

All new lighting in the vicinity of the residential neighborhoods north of Route 101 shall minimize excess light and glare by careful placement of the poles, height, and position of luminaires, and the use of full cut-off lenses where feasible.

**Air Quality**

Adverse Environmental Effects:

Construction of the project would result in a temporary cumulatively considerable net increase of $PM_{10}$ and ozone for which the project region is non-attainment under the state ambient air quality standard and temporarily expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentration.

Findings:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Statement of Facts:

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 7-1.01F (Air Pollution Control) require the contractor to comply with the more stringent of local, or state rules, regulations, and ordinances regarding air quality (Government Code 11017). The California Health and Safety Code requires the contractor to keep visible dust from blowing offsite.

**Biology**

Adverse Environmental Effects:

The project could have an adverse effect on Tidewater Goby and Steelhead Trout Southern California evolutionary significant unit, both federally listed as endangered. The project includes designated critical habitat for both species.

Findings:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

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Statement of Facts:

Riparian habitat will be replaced at a 3:1 ratio. Carpinteria Creek will be restored to a natural state after construction. An existing low-flow creek crossing will be removed during construction, allowing for enhanced fish passage.

Adverse Environmental Effects:

The project could have an adverse effect on riparian habitat.

Findings:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Statement of Facts:

All removed riparian habitat will be replaced at a 3:1 ratio with a minimum 5-year plant establishment period.

Adverse Environmental Effects:

The project could have an adverse effect on wetlands.

Findings:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Statement of Facts:

Wetlands removed for the project will be created, in the project limits, at a 3:1 ratio.

Adverse Environmental Effects:

Construction of the project could interfere in the movement of Tidewater Goby and Steelhead Trout.

Findings:

Changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project, which avoid or substantially lessen the significant environmental effect as identified in the final EIR.

Statement of Facts:

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Preconstruction surveys will be conducted about one year and approximately two weeks before construction. A biological and/or environmental monitor will be present onsite during construction activities that may affect special-status species, including water diversion activities. Caltrans will adhere to all agreements made in the Biological Opinions obtained for both species. Construction within or adjacent to Carpinteria Creek will take place only during low flow between May 1 and October 31 to avoid affecting migrating steelhead trout.

Adverse Environmental Effects:

The project conflicts with a Local Coastal Policy requiring a 100-foot buffer around wetlands.

Findings:

Such changes or alterations are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the agency making the finding. Such changes have been adopted by such other agency or can and should be adopted by such other agency.

Statement of Facts:

An amendment to the Local Coastal Policy issued by the Coastal Commission will be obtained prior to construction.

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