COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION
INITIAL STUDY / NEGATIVE DECLARATION 13NGD-00000-00005
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2014011082

JALAMA ROAD BRIDGE WIDENING PROJECT (NO. 51C-013)

DECEMBER, 2013

Project Proponent

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Tables

Table of Contents

Figures

Appendices

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE AND LEGAL AUTHORITY

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that local, regional and state agencies and special purpose districts prepare an Initial Study to identify potential environmental impacts associated with discretionary actions. An Initial Study is generally used to determine the need for preparation of either a Negative Declaration (ND) or further analysis in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Santa Barbara County Public Works Department has prepared this Initial Study for the proposed widening of the Jalama Road Bridge at Salsipuedes Creek to comply with the provisions of CEQA.

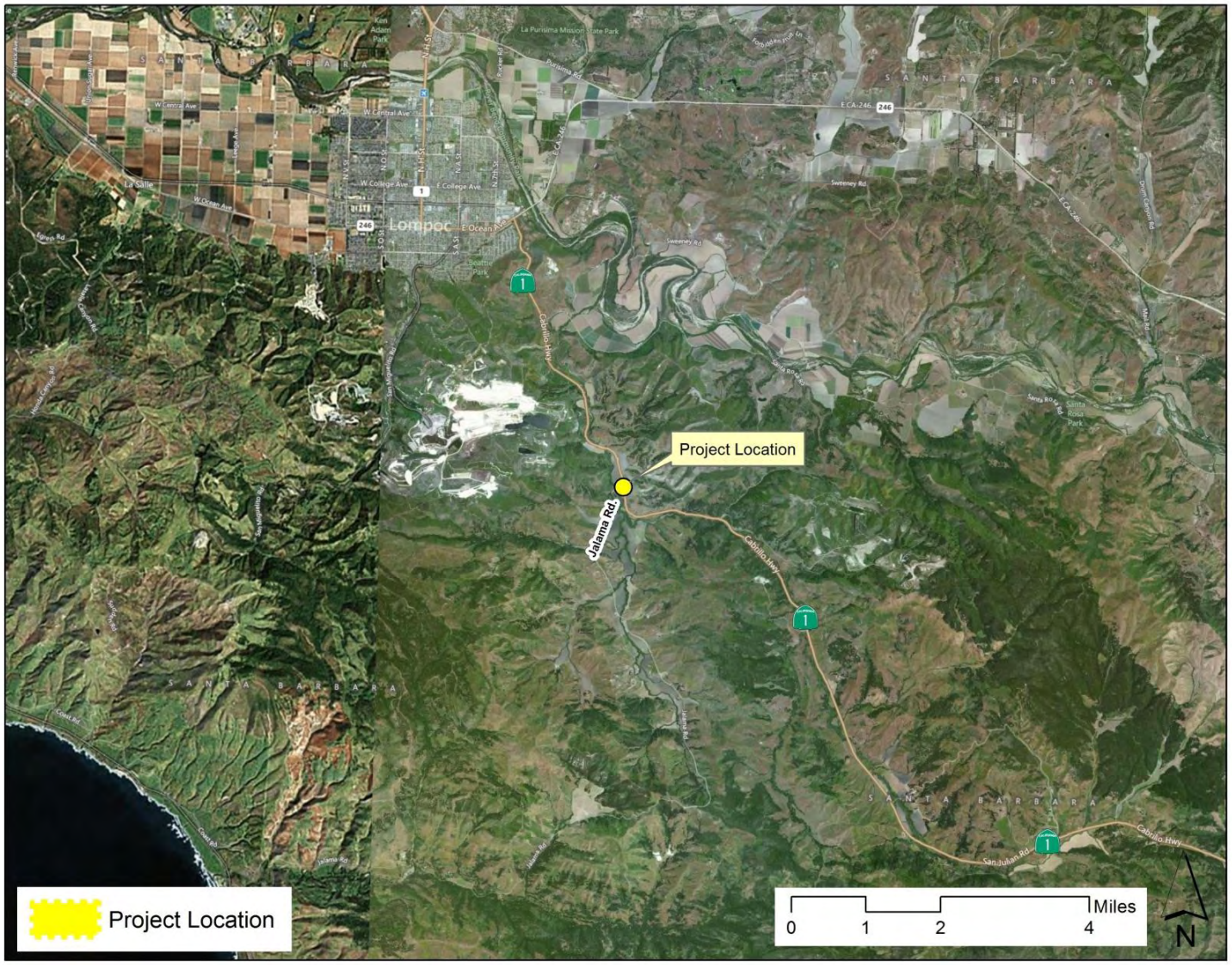
1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The Jalama Road Bridge (51C-013) is located on Jalama Road at Salsipuedes Creek at the intersection of Jalama Road and State Highway 1 approximately 7 miles south of Lompoc, Santa Barbara County, California (Section 24, T6N,R34W USGS Lompoc Hills 7.5 Minute quadrangle, 737669 - 383063 [UTM NAD 83]) (Figure 1).

1.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objective of the proposed project is to widen the existing bridge, which consists of a single span, steel plate girder superstructure with a reinforced concrete deck supported by reinforced concrete abutments and driven “H” pile foundations. The proposed project would involve tying two steel plates girders with cross bracing to the existing girder and the extending the steel floor beams and reinforced concrete deck slab. The bridge would be widened by 7 feet on the north to allow for a single lane of traffic to pass through the project site during construction. The abutments would be widened and supported on 24 inch cast in drilled hole piles. Jalama Road would be widened to accommodate widening of the bridge. All work would be done within the County roadway right-of-way (ROW). The project has been approved for funding through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Highway Bridge Rehabilitation and Replacement Program (HBRR).

FIGURE 1. PROJECT LOCATION



1.4 PROJECT APPROVALS AND PERMITS

Project implementation may require the County to obtain permits and/or other forms of approval from Federal and State agencies. These agencies may include, but are not limited to the following:

Federal Agencies

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Biological Opinion under Section 7 Consultations under the Endangered Species Act.
- National Marine Fisheries Service-Letter of No Effect

State Agencies

- Caltrans issued Categorical Exclusion
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife – Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement under Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code.

Local Agencies

- Santa Barbara County Public Works, Transportation – Roadway Encroachment Permit

1.5 PUBLIC COMMENT

In compliance with Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department will accept written comments on the adequacy of the information contained in the DRAFT Mitigated ND (MND) during the public review period.

Section 15407(b) of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA requires the decision making body to consider comments received on the MND when approving the project. Copies of the comment letters will be provided in Attachment A. Changes to the DRAFT MND in response to public comments will also be provided.

The State Clearinghouse submitted the Project MND to selected state agencies for review. The review period was from January 3, 2014 to February 27, 2014 and no state agencies submitted comments by the closing date. The State Clearinghouse acknowledges the Project complies with State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to CEQA.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS

The purpose of the proposed project is to widen and strengthen the existing bridge (51C-013). Bridge 51C-013 consists of a single span, steel plate girder superstructure with a reinforced concrete deck supported by reinforced concrete abutments and driven "H" pile foundations. The proposed project would involve tying two steel plates girders with cross bracing to the existing girder and the extending the steel floor beams and reinforced concrete deck slab. The bridge would be widened by 7 feet on the north to allow for a single lane of traffic to pass through the project site during construction. The abutments would be widened and supported on 24 inch cast in drilled hole piles. Jalama Road would be widened approximately seven feet to accommodate widening of the bridge. The roadway would taper to approximately 150 feet south of the bridge. The northern approach curve would also be widened by seven feet to accommodate the wider bridge. The bridge guard rail and barrier/bike rail are proposed to have a brown powered coat finish. An architectural treatment is proposed on the interior bridge rail consisting of a native river cobble relief. All work would be done within the County roadway right-of-way (ROW). Project design drawings are provided in **Appendix A**.

Total grading for the project is projected to be approximately 113 cubic yards. Structure excavation for the bridge of 81 cubic yards is estimated and 32 cubic yards of structural backfill is estimated. The remaining estimated 49 cubic yards would be exported off site.

Three native trees are proposed to be removed. The trees are one multi-trunk 24" Dbh arroyo willow (*Salix lasioleps*) and two (10" & 15" Dbh) pacific willows (*Salix lucida).* The trees would be mitigated according to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) requirements.

The project area would be restored after construction by a qualified restoration biologist. Plantings would consist of native tree and shrubs found in the local area. An effort would be made to remove non-native and known invasive species from the project area as part of the restoration plan. A compost blanket would be utilized to stabilize all areas of disturbance and prevent erosion. The restoration plan would be developed to meet the requirements of the CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement for the project.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

3.1 EXISTING LAND USE

All project construction would occur within the existing Santa Barbara County roadway right-of-way and County Flood Control Easement of Salisipuedes Creek. The surrounding area of the project consists of large parcels (APN 083-120-008, APN 083-130-020 and APN 083-130-019) zoned by the County as agricultural. The Jalama Road Bridge project is within unincorporated regions of the Lompoc Valley Rural Region within the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan. The lands on the west side of Salisipuedes Creek near the project are designated as Agricultural/Commercial (AC) (40 – 320 or more acre minimum parcel size). On the east side of the Creek and project the surrounding land is designated as Agricultural/Commercial II (AC-II) (40 or more acres minimum parcel size). Appendix B provides a photographic log of representative photographs of the project site.

3.2 OTHER PENDING AND APPROVED DEVELOPMENT

The following list of projects (Table 1) was obtained from the County's cumulative projects list (dated October 5, 2011) for the Lompoc Valley.

TABLE 1. SANTA BARBARA COUNTY CUMULATIVE PROJECTS

Use Type	Project Name	Status	Residential Units	Commercial Sq. Feet	Industrial Sq. Feet	Ag Dev Sq Feet	Misc
Residential	Clubhouse Estates Tract Map (TM14,629)	Under Construction	52				
Industrial	Lompoc Wind Energy Project	Approved			4,500		Wind energy
Wineries	Dierberg Winery	Built				14,000	
Ag Development	Santa Rita Ridge Estates	Approved					8.79 acre foot reservoir
Residential	Stoker Development Plan	Approved	14				
Wineries	Scoggin/Sundheim Winery Tier II	Approved				20.000	
Ag Development	Sunburst Sanctuary Farm Employee SFDS	Approved	3				
Residential	Burton Mesa Partners General Plan	Proposed	14				
Wineries	Labarge Tier II Winery	Built	1	14,358			
Mines	Sepulveda Bldg Materials Mining	In Process					2000 tons/year
Oil and Gas	PXP Pre-Application for New Oil Wells	Proposed					2 wells

Section 15355 of the State CEQA Guidelines states that "cumulative impacts refer to two or more individual effects which when considered together are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts." Further, "the individual effects may be changes resulting from a single project or a number of separate projects" and "the cumulative impact from several projects is the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present and reasonably minor nut collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time."

4.0 POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS CHECKLIST

The following checklist indicates the potential level of impact and is defined as follows:

- **Potentially Significant Impact:** A fair argument can be made, based on the substantial evidence in the file, that an effect may be significant.
- **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation:** Incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from a Potentially Significant Impact to a Less Than Significant Impact.
- **Less Than Significant Impact:** An impact is considered adverse but does not trigger a significance threshold.
- **No Impact:** There is adequate support that the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to the subject project.
- **Reviewed Under Previous Document:** The analysis contained in a previously adopted/certified environmental document addresses this issue adequately for use in the current case and is summarized in the discussion below. The discussion should include reference to the previous documents, a citation of the page(s) where the information is found, and identification of mitigation measures incorporated from the previous documents.

4.1 AESTHETIC/VISUAL RESOURCES

TABLE 2: AESTHETIC/VISUAL IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public or the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?			X		
b. Change to the visual character of an area?			X		
c. Glare or night lighting which may affect adjoining areas?			X		
d. Visually incompatible structures?			X		

4.1.1 Setting

The Jalama Road Bridge project is located in a moderate scenic value area as designated by the Open Space Element of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan. Jalama Road is considered a scenic corridor and State Highway 1 is designated as a Scenic Highway. While Jalama Road and Highway are considered scenic corridors at the project site they traverse through open rural primarily agricultural lands.

4.1.2 Impact Discussion

a. The bridge widening would be constructed at the same location as the existing bridge and at similar elevations and would not block views or create an aesthetically offensive site. Construction activities may result in temporary degraded visual quality views along Jalama Road and State Highway 1. Visual aesthetics along State Highway 1 are expected to be minimal due to the short time of construction. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

b. Widening of the bridge which consists of a single span, steel plate girder superstructure with a reinforced concrete deck supported by reinforced concrete abutments and driven "H" pile foundations would result in the removal of native riparian vegetation within Salsipuedes Creek. This impact would be permanent but minimal as only a few willows would be impacted and not affect the overall character of Salsipuedes Creek. In addition, natural regeneration of willows is expected. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

c. Project related construction activities may require occasional night lighting. However, lighting would be directed on the project construction area and would not substantially increase ambient light levels. In addition there is no residence in close proximity to the project site. Therefore, this impact is considered less than significant.

d. The Jalama Road Bridge widening would be constructed at the same location and similar elevation with the same materials and general design of the existing bridge and is compatible with adjacent land uses. The bridge guard rail and barrier/bike railings are proposed to have a brown powered coat finish. An architectural treatment is proposed on the interior bridge rail consisting of a native river cobble relief. This same type of architectural treatment is proposed be used on the replacement of bridge 51C-017 approximately 8 miles south on Jalama Road.

4.1.3 Mitigation and Residual Impacts

No mitigation is required. The proposed project would not create significant project aesthetic impacts or substantially contribute to cumulative impacts. Residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

TABLE 3: AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Convert prime agricultural land to non-agricultural use, impair agricultural land productivity (whether prime or non-prime) or conflict with agricultural preserve program?				X	
b. An effect upon any unique or other farmland of State or Local Importance?				X	

4.2.1 Setting

The Jalama Road Bridge project is located adjacent to Grazing Land and Farmland of Local Importance as designated by the California Department of Conservation. Generally within the project area on the east side of Salsipuedes Creek and extending east of State Highway 1 is designated as Farmland of Local Importance. On the west side of Salsipuedes Creek the project area is designated as Grazing Land. All project construction would occur within the existing Santa Barbara County roadway right-of-way. If construction activities were to extend outside of the right-of-way potential impacts to agricultural lands would be temporary.

4.2.2 Impact Discussion

a-b. The proposed bridge widening project would not result in the conversion of prime agricultural land or affect any unique or other farmland of State or Local Importance,

4.2.3 Mitigation and Residual Impacts

No mitigation is required. The proposed project would not result in impacts to agricultural resources or contribute to cumulative impacts. Residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

TABLE 4: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. The violation of any ambient air quality standard, a substantial contribution to an existing or protected air quality violation including, CO hotspots or exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (emissions form direct, indirect, mobile and stationary sources)?			X		
b. the creation of objectionable smoke, ash or odors?			X		
c. Extensive dust generation?			X		
Greenhouse Gas Emissions					
d. Emissions equivalent to or greater than 10,000metric tons of CO2 per year from stationary sources during long-term operations				X	
e. Emissions equivalent to or greater than 1,100 metric tons of CO2 or 4.6 metric tons per year per service population (residents + employees) from other than stationary sources during long-term operations?				X	
f. Emissions equivalent to or greater than 6.6 metric tons of CO2 per year per service population (residents + employees) for plans (general plans, community plans, etc.)?				X	

4.3.1 Setting

The project is located within the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB) which includes Santa Barbara County, San Luis Obispo County and Ventura County. Santa Barbra County within the SCCAB is designated as a non-attainment area for the State 8 hour ozone standard and State particulate matter (PM10) standard.

Air pollution control is administered under three agencies. The U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has jurisdiction under the Clean Air Act, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) has jurisdiction under the California Health and Safety Code and the California Clean Air Act. The Santa Barbara County Air Quality Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD) shares responsibility with the CARB within Santa Barbra County of the SCCAB.

The closest air quality station is the Lompoc H Street Station. The most recent ambient air quality data for the project area is presented in Table 5.

TABLE 5. SUMMARY OF AMBIENT AIR QUALITY DATA

Pollutant	2008	2009	2010
Ozone - Lompoc H Street Station			
Highest 1-hour concentration (ppm)	0.082	0.069	0.075
Highest 8-hour concentration (ppm)	0.075	0.063	0.060
Number of State Exceedances (8-hour›0.07 ppm)	1	0	0
Number of Federal Exceedances (8-hours›0.085ppm)	0	0	0
Particulate matter less than 10 microns (PM10) – Lompoc H Street Station			
Highest sample (micrograms/cubic meter)	49.3	62.6	55.1
Number of State Exceedances (Samples›50)	1	1	0
Particulate Matter less than 2.5 microns (PM2.5) – Lompoc H Street Station			
Highest sample (micrograms/cubic meter)	24	19.6	19.1
Number of Federal Exceedances (Samples›35)	0	0	0

4.3.2 Setting

Greenhouse gases (GHG) include carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFC), perfluorocarbons (PFC), sulphur hexafluoride (SF6) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF3). Combustion of fossil fuels constitutes the primary source of GHG. GHG accumulates in the atmosphere where these gases trap heat near the earth's surface by absorbing infrared radiation. This effect causes global warming and climate change which can cause adverse impacts on humans and the environment.

The California Global Warming Act (AB 32) requires the CARB to adopt a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit equivalent to the statewide GHG emissions levels in 1990 to be achieved by 2020 and requires the CARB to adopt rules and regulations to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective GHG emission reductions. In June 2008, CARB developed a DRAFT Scoping Plan for Climate Change. This draft proposes a comprehensive set of actions designed to reduce overall carbon emissions in California, improve our environment, reduce dependence on oil, diversify our energy sources, save energy, and enhance public health while creating new jobs and enhancing the growth in California's economy.

Senate Bill 97, enacted in 2007 amends the CEQA statute to clearly establish that greenhouse gas emissions and the effects of GHG emissions area appropriate for CEQA analysis. It directs the California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop guidelines addressing the analysis and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions by July 1, 2009 and for the California Resources Agency to certify and adopt the CEQA Guidelines by January 2010.

4.3.3 Thresholds

The Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department has developed the following thresholds to determine the significance of long term air emissions under CEQA:

- Project emissions (mobile and stationary sources) greater than the daily trigger for offsets of 55 pounds per day of NOX and ROC and 80 pounds per day for PM10.
- Cause or contribute to a violation of any California or National ambient air quality standard (except zones).
- Exceed the health risk public notification thresholds of the APCD.
- Be inconsistent with the adopted 2010 Clean Air Plan.

Threshold has not been established for short term construction impacts. The County's Grading Ordinance requires standard dust control conditions for all projects involving grading activities. Long term operation emissions threshold have been established to address mobile emissions and stationary source emissions.

4.3.4 Impact Discussion

a-c. During project construction activities air pollutant emissions would be generated from exhaust emissions from trucks, worker vehicles and heavy equipment. Due to their small magnitude and duration, project emissions are considered a less than significant air quality impact. The project would comply with the standard dust control measures requirement for development within the County. Therefore, construction activities are not expected to result in significant short term emissions of fugitive dust and/or PM10. Heavy equipment associated with the short term constriction activities would result in emissions of ozone precursors (NOX and ROC). Due to the short duration expected for the operation of heavy equipment during construction, related emissions of NOX and ROC would not be significant. The project would implement measures recommended by the SBCAPCD to reduce construction related emission of ozone precursors to the extent feasible. The project consists of repair and widening of the existing bridge at the same

location and configuration. Therefore, there would be no increase traffic volumes or air emissions following construction. The project would not have long term air quality impacts.

d-f The County's methodology to address Global Climate Change in CEQA documents is evolving. The County is currently working to develop a Climate Action Plan consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5 (Tiering and Streamlining the Analysis of Greenhouse Gas Emissions). Until the Climate Action Plan is formally adopted, the County would follow an interim approach to evaluating GHG emissions. This interim approach will look to criteria adopted by the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) for land use development projects.

Based on Table 5 Construction Emissions above, the GHG emissions from this project are considered to be less than 1,150 metric tons/year and cumulative impacts as a result of GHG emissions are considered to be less than significant.

4.3.5 Mitigation and residual Impact

The proposed project would not result in significant impacts and mitigation is not required. Residual impacts would be less than significant. In addition since the project would not have an appreciable effect on existing emissions or exceed established thresholds for long term air quality impacts for NOX and ROC emissions the project would not result in significant cumulative air quality impacts.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

TABLE 6: BIOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
Flora					
a. A loss or disturbance to a unique, rare or threatened plant community?			X		
b. A reduction in the numbers or restriction in the range of any unique rare or threated species of plants?		X			

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
c. A reduction in the extent, diversity, or quality of native vegetation (including brush removal for fire prevention and flood control improvements)?		X			
d. An impact on non-native vegetation whether naturalized or horticultural if of habitat value?			X		
e. The loss of healthy native specimens of trees?		X			
f. Introduction of herbicides, pesticides, animal life, human habitation, non-native plants or other factors that would change or hamper the existing habitat?				X	
g. A reduction in the numbers, a restriction in the range, or impacts to the critical habitat of any unique, rare, threatened or endangered species of animals?		X			
h. A reduction in the diversity of numbers of animal's onsite (including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish or invertebrates)?			X		
i. A reduction in the diversity or numbers of animals (for foraging, breeding, roosting, nesting, etc.)?		X			
j. Introduction of barriers to movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species?			X		

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
k. Introduction of any factors (light, fencing, noise, human presence and/or domestic animals) which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?			X		

4.4.1 Setting

Vegetation

The project area can be divided into the following plant communities (**Figure 3**).

Disturbed *(Survey Area 1.762 acre**,** Project Boundary 0.065 acre)* – Disturbed areas are graded areas lacking a dominant vegetative cover.

Agricultural *(Survey Area 12.762 acre, Project Boundary 0 acres)* - This community is characterized by agricultural fields dominated by row crops and forage grasses, and inactive fields dominated by ruderal non-native species.

Disturbed Annual Grassland *(Survey Area 1.945 acres, Project Boundary 0.168 acre)* - Species found in the Disturbed Annual Grassland habitat include California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), storks bill (*Erodium cicutarium*), red brome (*Bromus rubens*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), picris (*Picris echioides*), bullthistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), wild oats (*Avena sp*.) and ripgut brome (*Bromus tectorum*).

Willow Riparian *(Survey Area 3.265 acres, Project Boundary 0.082 acre* - The Willow Riparian community is associated with Salsipuedes Creek and is dominated by arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and Pacific willow (*Salix lucida*). Other species include elderberry (*Sambucus Mexicana*), coyote brush and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). The Willow Riparian habitat is along both banks of Salsipuedes Creek. Salsipuedes Creek is a perennial to intermittent stream that transverses the proposed project area. This section of Salsipuedes Creek is characterized as having flowing water to slow moving, relatively deep pools. At the time of the site assessment the average water depth of the pool varied from 16 to 48 inches. The width of the creek averaged 15 to 30 feet with a maximum width of 50 feet. Salsipuedes Creek channel high water mark is approximately 15 to 30 feet wide on average. The substrate of the creek is composed of sediment ranging in size from sand to fine gravel. Emergent vegetation dominated by watercress is within the creek. Bank vegetation varies from southern willow dominated by arroyo willow and Pacific willow and steep banks dominated by coyote brush, poison oak and California sagebrush.

Coast Live Oak Woodland *(Survey Area 3.268 acres, Project Boundary 0.004 acre)* – The Oak Woodland is dominated by Coast Live Oak with understory species typical of the Disturbed Annual Grassland. The Oak Woodland is not within the project construction footprint but within the project survey area.

Coyote Brush Coastal Sage Scrub *(Survey Area 4.901 acres, Project Boundary 0.001 acre)* **–** The Coyote Brush Coastal Sage Scrub is dominated by coyote brush and California sagebrush. The habitat understory varies from Disturbed Annual Grassland to being dominated by black mustard and Italian thistle. This habitat is primarily found outside the project construction footprint within the project survey area. However, the community is found along the edges of the Willow Riparian and along potions of the steeper banks of Salsipuedes Creek within the construction footprint.

Wildlife

Salsipuedes Creek and its riparian habitat provides important habitat for wildlife. The riparian habitat in the region is discontinuous; however, within the project area the corridor is intact. The project area supports a variety of wildlife species typically associated with rural agricultural areas.

Southwestern pond turtles were observed at the project site. The only reptiles observed include the western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidntalis*), western whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris*) and gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*). Birds observed during project surveys within the project area include turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*) and western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*). The only mammal observed was the California ground squirrel *(Spermophilus beecheyi*). Several Southern California steelhead were also observed during the project surveys within Salsipuedes Creek.

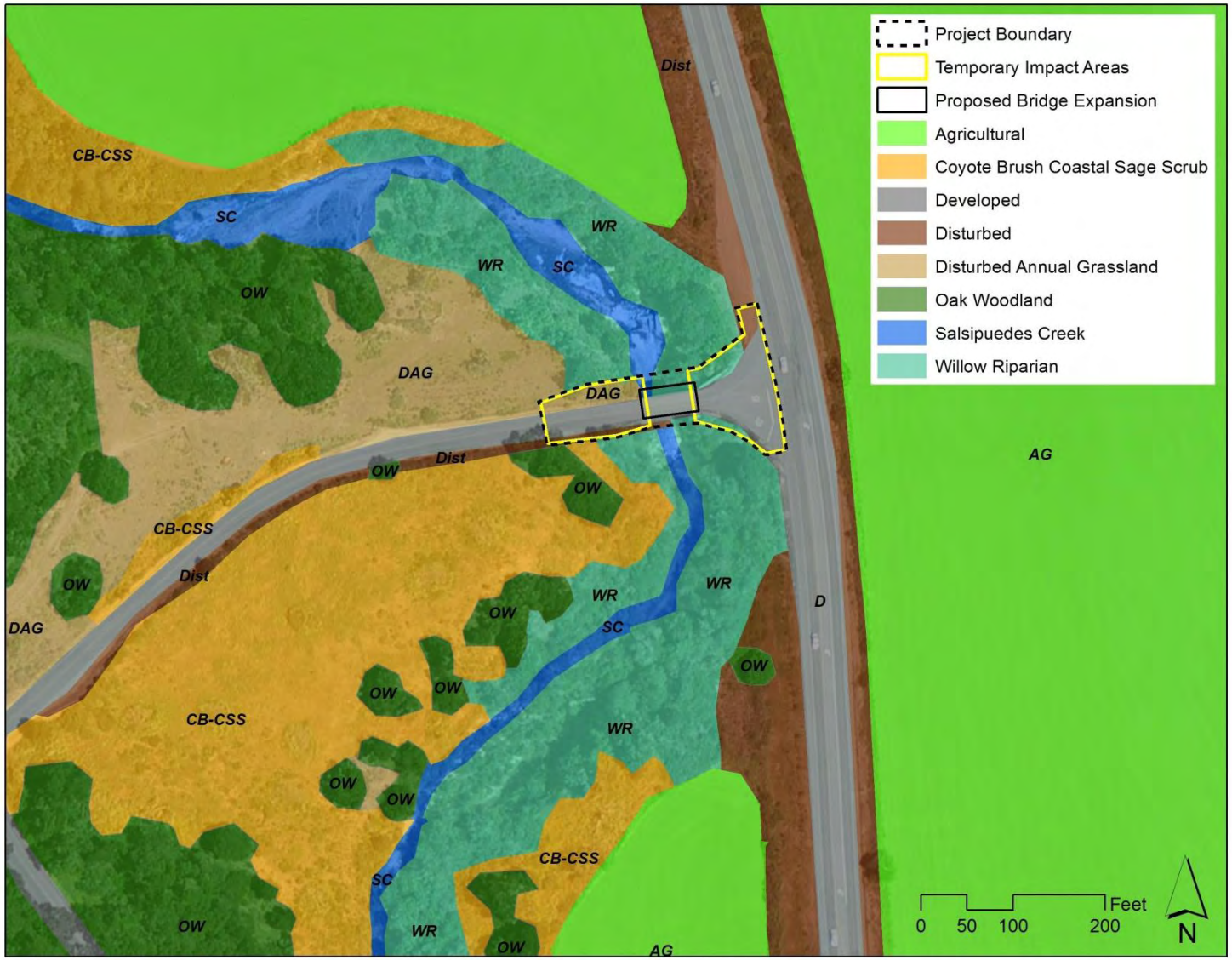
Wildlife Corridors

Salsipuedes Creek and its riparian habitat provides important habitat for wildlife. The riparian habitat in the region is primarily continuous. Salsipuedes Creek provides habitat continuity within the region from the Santa Ynez Mountains to the Santa Ynez River as well as access opportunities for foraging birds and mammals

Invasive Species

The California Invasive Plant Council has developed an Invasive Plant Inventory that rates weedy non-native plant species based on their potential to have effects on the ecology of an area. Only one plant species fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) rated high for invasiveness was observed at the project site. Seven plants rated as moderate for invasiveness were observed and seven plants rated as limited were observed. The majority of the site is dominated by weedy non-native species and rates as moderate and limited for invasiveness.

FIGURE 2 PROJECT BOUNDARY SURVEY AREA PLANT COMMUNITIES



Special-Status Species and Habitats of Concern

For the purposes of this document, project special-status species are defined below.

- Plants listed or proposed for listing as candidate, threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
- Plants that meet the definitions of rare or endangered species under the CEQA.
- Plants considered by the California Native Plant Society to be rare, threatened, endangered in California or with limited distribution or needing more information.
- Plants listed under the California Native Plant Protection Act.
- Trees protected by Santa Barbara County ordinances.
- Animals listed or proposed as candidate, threatened or endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- Animals that meet the definitions of rare or endangered species under CEQA.
- Animal species of special concern or fully protected by the CDFW.

Table 7 lists special-status species that may occur within the project area, including state and federally endangered, threatened, proposed, candidate, and sensitive species from CNDDB search of Lompoc Hills and surrounding quads (CDFW 2003), or field visit observations, and the potential for occurrence at the project site (None = no suitable habitat present at project site; Possible = suitable habitat present at project site; Present = species observed during field visit).

TABLE 7. LIST OF SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES WITH THE POTENTIAL TO OCCUR IN THE PROJECT AREA

Common Name	Scientific name	Listing	Potential to occur
Plants			
Hoover's bent grass	*Agrostis hooveri*	1B.2	None
Santa Ynez groundstar	*Ancistrocarphus keillii*	1B.1	None
Eastwood's brittle-leaf manzanita	*Arctostaphylos crustacean ssp. eastwoodiana*	1B.1	None
La Purisima manzanita	*Arctostaphylos purissima*	1B.2	None
Sand Mesa manzanita	*Arctostaphylos rudis*	1B.2	Possible
Coulter's saltbush	*Atriplex coulteri*	1B.2	None
Late-flowered mariposa lily	*Calochortus fimbriatus*	1B.2	None
Dwarf calycadenia	*Calycadenia villosa*	1B.2	None
Straight-awned spineflower	*Chorixanthe rectispina*	1B.3	None
California saw grass	*Cladium californicum*	2.2	None
Seaside bird's-beak	*Cordylanthus rigidus* ssp. *littoralis*	SE, 1B.1	Possible
Gaviota tarplant	*Deinandra increscens ssp villosa*	FE,SE	Possible

Common Name	Scientific name	Listing	Potential to occur
Dune larkspur	*Delphinium parryi ssp. blochmaniae*	1B.2	None
Mesa horkelia	*Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *puberula*	1B.1	None
Kellogg's horkelia	*Horkelia cuneata ssp sericea*	1B.1	Possible
Pale-yellow layia	*Layis heterotricha*	1B.1	None
Santa Barbara honeysuckle	*Lonicera subspicata var. subspicata*	1B.2	None
Vandenberg monkeyflower	*Mimulus fremontii var. vandenbergensis*	1B.2	None
Crisp monardella	*Monardella crispa*	1B.2	None
Black-flowered figwort	*Scrophularia atrata*	1B.2	Possible
Chaparral figwort	*Senecio aphanactis*	2.2	None
Fish			
Tidewater goby	*Eucyclogobius newberryi*	CSC	None
Southern steelhead-southern California	*Onocrhynchus mykiss irideus*	FE	Present
Herptiles			
California tiger slamander	*Ambystoma californiense*	CSC,FT,ST	Possible
Silvery legless lizard	*Anniella pulchra pulchra*		Possible
Southwestern pond turtle	*Emys marmorata pallida*	CSC	Present
Coast horned lizard	*Phrynosoma blainvillii*	CSC	Possible
Coast patch-nose snake	*Salvadora hexalepis virguitea*	CSC	Possible
Western spadefoot	*Spea hammondii*	CSC	Possible
Mammals			
Pallid bat	*Antrozous pallidus*	CSC	Possible
Silver-haired bat	*Lasionycteris noctivagans*		Possible
Western red bat	*Lasiurus blossevillii*	CSC	Possible
Hoary bat	*Lasiurus cinereus*		Possible
Yuma myotis	*Myotis yumnensis*		Possible
San Diego desert woodrat	*Neotomo lepida intermedia*	CSC	None
American badger	*Taxidea taxus*	CSC	None

FE = Federally listed as Endangered
FT = Federally listed as Threatened
FC = Federally candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act
FPE = Federally proposed for listing as Endangered
FPT = Federally proposed for listing as Threatened
SE = State-listed as Endangered
ST = State-listed as Threatened
CSC = California Department of Fish and Game (CDFW) Species of Special Concern
SR = State Rare
1B = CNPS list 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere

Plants

Several sensitive plant species are known to occur in the vicinity of the project area (Table 2). These species include Gaviota tarplant, seaside bird's beak, sand mesa manzanita, black flowered figwort and Kellogg's horkelia. A search of the CNDDB and BIOS did not identify any occurrence at the project area for Gaviota tarplant, and Kellogg's horkelia. One occurrence (Occurrence No. 5) for sand mesa manzanita was identified 4 miles southeast of Lompoc within chaparral. The exact location is not known, site is mapped by CNDDB along Highway 1 north of Jalama Road. The only source of information for this site is a 1929 collection by Ferris. One occurrence (Occurrence No. 36) for seaside bird's beak was identified within Salsipuedes Creek near Highway 1, northwest of San Julian ranch. The exact location is unknown. The location is mapped as a best guess by the CNDDB along Salsipuedes Creek adjacent to Highway 1. The only source information for this collection is a 1966 collection. The closest known record of black flowered figwort is approximately 1 to 2 miles east of the intersection of Highway 1 and Jalama Road. This occurrence (Occurrence No. 45) is within a deep wooded canyon along Salsipuedes Creek. The only source information for this site is a 1954 collection. Botanical surveys of the project site were conducted during the blooming period for seaside bird's beak, Kellogg's horkelia and black flowered figwort. No plants of the genera *Cordylanthus, Horkelia* or *Scrophularia* were observed. Therefore, seaside bird's beak, Kellogg's horkelia and black flowered figwort are not expected to occur. Surveys were not conducted during the blooming period for sand mesa manzanita. However, no genera of *Arctostaphylos* were observed. Sand mesa manzanita is not an annual but a shrub and not entirely dependent on blooming periods for observance. This species is not expected to occur.

The botanical surveys were not conducted during the blooming period for the Gaviota tarplant. In addition, a known location of this species was visited to determine if the species was in flower and it was not.

While the survey was not conducted in the blooming period the project site lacks suitable habitat for this species due to the disturbed condition of the area. In addition, the project site is not located within critical habitat for the Gaviota Tarplant. However, a follow up survey of the project site was conducted on May 24, 2012 during the blooming period for the Gaviota Tarplant and no individuals of that species or genera were observed. No special-status species were observed, or are expected to occur in the project area due to an absence of these genera during surveys and lack of suitable habitat within the project construction footprint.

Fish

Southern Steelhead (Onocrhynchus mykiss irideus)
Status: FE

The southern steelhead is an anadromous form of the species *Oncorhynchus mykiss*. Historically these fish were the only abundant salmon species that occurred naturally within the coast ranges of southern California. Suitable habitat for this species occurs within Salsipuedes Creek which is designated as a Southern California Steelhead Stream. In addition, the project is within critical habitat, Santa Ynez Hydrologic Unit, for southern steelhead. A weir is present downstream from

the bridge and was installed to improve low flow passage conditions for adult steelhead by creating a series of three small step pools. Several fish of this species were observed upstream of the bridge in a deep pool during the project surveys. This species has the potential to occur within the project area in the wetted portion of Salsipuedes Creek.

Herptiles: Reptiles or Amphibians

The following special-status wildlife species have the potential to occur within the project area. Only species with a possibility to occur are discussed further in this document. No special-status wildlife species were observed during project site surveys.

California Red-Legged Frog (Rana aurora draytonii)
Status: FT, CSC.

The historical range of the California red-legged frog extends from the vicinity of Point Reyes National Seashore in Marin County, California, on the coast and from the vicinity of Redding, California, inland, south to northwestern Baja California, Mexico.

This species is found in streams and ponds from sea level to about 5,000 feet. Typically, frogs can be found in areas that are heavily vegetated, but frogs have been found to breed successfully in areas with little to no vegetation.

According to a CNDDB search, the California red-legged frog is known to occur at the project site. CNDDB Occurrence No. 606 is within Salsipuedes Creek 100 feet upstream from the Jalama Road Bridge. The habitat consists of a shallow pool surrounded by emergent plant species. This siting included 1 adult observed on August 1, 2000.

Salsipuedes Creek is a perennial to intermittent stream that transverses the proposed project area. This section of Salsipuedes Creek is characterized as having flowing water to slow moving, relatively deep pools. At the time of the site assessment the average water depth of the pool varied from 16 to 48 inches. The width of the creek averaged 15 to 30 feet with a maximum width of 50 feet. Salsipuedes Creek channel high water mark is approximately 15 to 30 feet wide on average. The substrate of the creek is composed of sediment ranging in size from sand to fine gravel. Emergent vegetation dominated by watercress is within the creek. Bank vegetation varies from southern willow dominated by arroyo willow and Pacific willow and steep banks dominated by coyote brush, poison oak and California sagebrush. The project area is surrounded primarily by agricultural lands dominated by row crops, forage grasses and inactive fields dominated by ruderal non-native species. Ruderal non-native species including; storksbill, red brome, Italian thistle, picris (*Picris eschoides*), bull thistle, and black mustard occur along the road shoulders of Highway 1 and Jalama Road.

Based on site characteristics observed at the Jalama Road Bridge project area, this site offers suitable habitat components for-breeding California red-legged frogs. The portion of Salsipuedes Creek within the immediate vicinity of the proposed project provides pools and the presence of emergent plant species suitable for tadpole rearing, therefore it is expected that the pool present on site could be utilized for breeding by California red-legged frogs. In addition, it is highly likely that California red-legged frogs utilize the creek for summer water and during dispersal.

The areas riparian vegetation adjacent to the creek provide areas of cover and litter that are suitable California red-legged frog aestivation sites. California red-legged frogs are likely to be present at the site during the non-breeding and breeding seasons and are likely to breed in this portion of the creek. The project is not within critical habitat for this species.

The County has been granted authority by Caltrans to use their Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) Number (8-8-10 F 58) for projects funded or approved under the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Aid Program for activities related to the California red-legged frog. The USFW in a letter dated September 13, 2013 (Appendix C) concurs that the project is consistent with and appropriate for inclusion in the PBO. The PBO contains measures allowing USFWS approved biologists to participate in the capture, handling and monitoring of the California red-legged frog for this project. Measures from this PBO have been incorporated into a biological mitigation measure to offset the potential impacts, reduction or restriction of the California red-legged frog.

California Tiger Salamander (Ambystoma californiense)
Status: FT-Santa Barbara County Population FE, ST, CSC.

The California tiger salamander is a federally listed threatened species and a state listed threatened species. In addition, this species is a California species of special concern. The Santa Barbara County population is considered a federally endangered species. The range of the California tiger salamander is limited to the grasslands and foothills of central California. It occurs along the coast ranges in southern San Mateo County south to central San Luis Obispo, and also in the vicinity of northwestern Santa Barbara County. This species has a biphasic life cycle and as a result requires two distinct habitats. During winter rains, they emerge from their burrows to feed and migrate to wetland breeding pools. Breeding pools are vernal pools, seasonal pools within grasslands or oak savannahs, or even stock ponds. In late spring and early summer, juveniles migrate into uplands and settle into animal burrows. This species may use small mammal burrows in upland habitats within 1.2 miles of breeding ponds.

The project site is outside the potential range for the California tiger salamander (California Tiger Salamander Santa Barbara County Distinct Population Segment 5-Year Review, November 2009). In addition, there are no known breeding pools or ponds within the 3.1 miles of the project site or known occurrences of individuals (CNDDB and BIOS). Therefore, the California tiger salamander is not expected to occur or be impacted by the proposed project.

Silvery Legless Lizard (Anniella pulchra pulchra)
Status:

The silvery legless lizard occurs in moist warm loose soil with plant cover. Moisture is essential. The species occurs in sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chaparral, pine oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes and stream terraces, under rocks, boards, driftwood and or logs. Suitable habitat is present within the project area for this species to occur and there is the potential for this species to occur.

Southwestern Pond Turtle (Emys marmorata)
Status: CSC.

The southwestern pond turtle is an aquatic turtle inhabiting streams, marshes, ponds and irrigation ditches within woodlands, grasslands and open forest communities. The species requires upland sites for nesting and over-wintering. Stream habitat must contain large, deep pool areas with moderate plant and debris cover, and rocks, open sandy areas or tree limbs for basking. Salsipuedes Creek provides suitable habitat for this species and have been identified 100 feet downstream of the Jalama Road Bridge (Occurrence No. 1121). During the project surveys 6 individual pond turtles were located in a deep pool upstream of the bridge on the southeast side.

Coast Horned Lizard (Phrynosoma blainvillii)
Status: CSC.

This species is endemic to southern California and northern Baja California. In California the species is distributed throughout the cismontane regions of the Transverse Ranges in Kern, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Bernardino and Ventura Counties.

The coast horned lizard is found in a variety of habitats including coastal sage scrub, chaparral, grassland, coniferous forest, oak woodlands and riparian habitats; within these habitats the species prefers loose fine sandy soils. The project site provides suitable habitat for this species and it has the potential to occur.

Coast Patch-Nosed Snake (Salvadora hexalepis virguitea)
Status: CSC

This species occurs from northern Carrizo Plains of California through the California coastal zone into coastal northern Baja California.

This species occurs within semi-arid brush, canyons, rocky hillsides and plains. Suitable habitat is present adjacent to the project but outside of the project construction footprint.

Western Spadefoot Toad (Spea hammondii)
Status:CSC.

This species is endemic to California and northern Baja California and ranges from near Redding, California south throughout the Great Valley and its associated foothills, through the South Coast Ranges into coastal southern California south of the Transverse Mountains and west to the Peninsula Mountains, into northwest Baja California.

The Western Spadefoot prefers open areas with sandy to gravelly soils in a variety of habitats including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washes, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills and mountains.

Pools that are devoid of bullfrogs, fish or crayfish are necessary for breeding. The species has been recorded in the region of the project area and this species has the potential to occur.

Birds

Salsipuedes Creek and the associated riparian habitat provide roosting, foraging and nesting habitat for passerine birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MTBA).

Mammals

The existing bridge does not provide roosting habitat for bats and bats were not observed during field surveys. Suitable roosting and breeding habitat for the silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans),* western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii),* Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumnensis), pallid* bat *(Antrozous pallidu)* and hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus)* does not occur on the project site, however, these species could forage within the project area.

Wetlands – Waters

No areas within Salsipuedes Creek or the surrounding area of the project exhibited the three mandatory criteria (hydric soils, hydrophytic vegetation and hydrology) present to be classified as a wetland. Hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding for a period of time during the growing season long enough to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. Hydrophytic vegetation is defined as the community of macrophytes that occur in areas where inundation or soil saturation is either permanent or of sufficient frequency and duration to exert a controlling influence on the plant species present. Hydrophytic vegetation is present when the plant community is dominated by species that can tolerate inundation or soil saturation during the growing season. Hydrology includes the presence of surface water or groundwater, evidence of flooding or ponding (water marks, drift deposits, sediment deposits) and evidence of soil saturation (surface water, soil saturation in the upper 12 inches, oxidized rhizospheres, reduced iron or sulphur). Salsipuedes Creek is a perennial to intermittent stream that transverses the proposed project area. This section of Salsipuedes Creek is characterized as having flowing water to slow moving, relatively deep pools. At the time of the site assessment the average water depth of the pool varied from 16 to 48 inches. The width of the creek averaged 15 to 30 feet with a maximum width of 50 feet. Salsipuedes Creek channel high water mark is approximately 15 to 30 feet wide on average. The substrate of the creek is composed of sediment ranging in size from sand to fine gravel. Emergent vegetation dominated by watercress is within the creek. Bank vegetation varies from southern willow dominated by arroyo willow and Pacific willow and steep banks dominated by coyote brush, poison oak and California sagebrush (**Figure 3**). Hydric soils were not present. While hydrophytic vegetation (primarily Arroyo and Pacific willow) is present they are dominant on the banks where hydric soils and hydrology are not present. Hydrology is present within the channel with the presence of surface water and evidence of ponding.

The project site is within the Santa Ynez River Valley within the Lompoc valley. Salsipuedes Creek along with its major tributary, El Jaro Creek is the largest tributary to the lower Santa Ynez River.

The Salsipuedes Creek/El Jaro Creek watershed drains approximately 47.1 square miles and flows roughly 25.1 miles from its headwaters along the Santa Ynez Mountain range to its confluence with the lower Santa Ynez River.

The project site lies within the Central Coast Hydrologic Region, within the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Lompoc Hydrology Area. The basin is bounded by the Purisima Hills on the northwest, the San Rafael Mountains on the northeast, and the Santa Ynez Mountains on the south and the Pacific Ocean on the west. On the east and underlying the groundwater basin, the basin is bounded by consolidated non-water-bearing rocks of Tertiary age. The Santa Ynez River follows a westward course for about 70 miles through the valley before flowing into the Pacific Ocean. Waters of the U.S. (ACOE Jurisdiction) within the project boundary total 0.082 acres.

As detailed in the Jurisdictional Guidebook, agencies will assert jurisdiction over the following waters:

- Traditional navigable waterways (TNWs) and wetlands adjacent to TNWs

Non-navigable tributaries (NNT) of TNWs that are relatively permanent (tributaries typically flow year round or have continuous flow at least seasonally) and wetlands that directly about such tributaries. Salsipuedes Creek is a NNT to the Santa Ynez River which is considered primary tributary to the Pacific Ocean, a Traditional Navigable Waterway. Therefore, Salsipuedes Creek is considered Waters of the U.S. and under the jurisdiction of the ACOE, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Activities within federal jurisdiction would also require a 401 Water Quality Certification under the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. A Preliminary Jurisdictional Form has been completed in keeping with guidance from the ACOE. All determinations in this report should be considered preliminary until concurrence from the ACOE, Los Angeles District.

The Regional Water Quality Control Board has jurisdiction of natural drainages under the jurisdiction of the ACOE. Therefore, Salsipuedes Creek is considered to be State Waters. State Waters including CDFW jurisdiction (high bank to high bank or extent of riparian vegetation) within the project boundary.

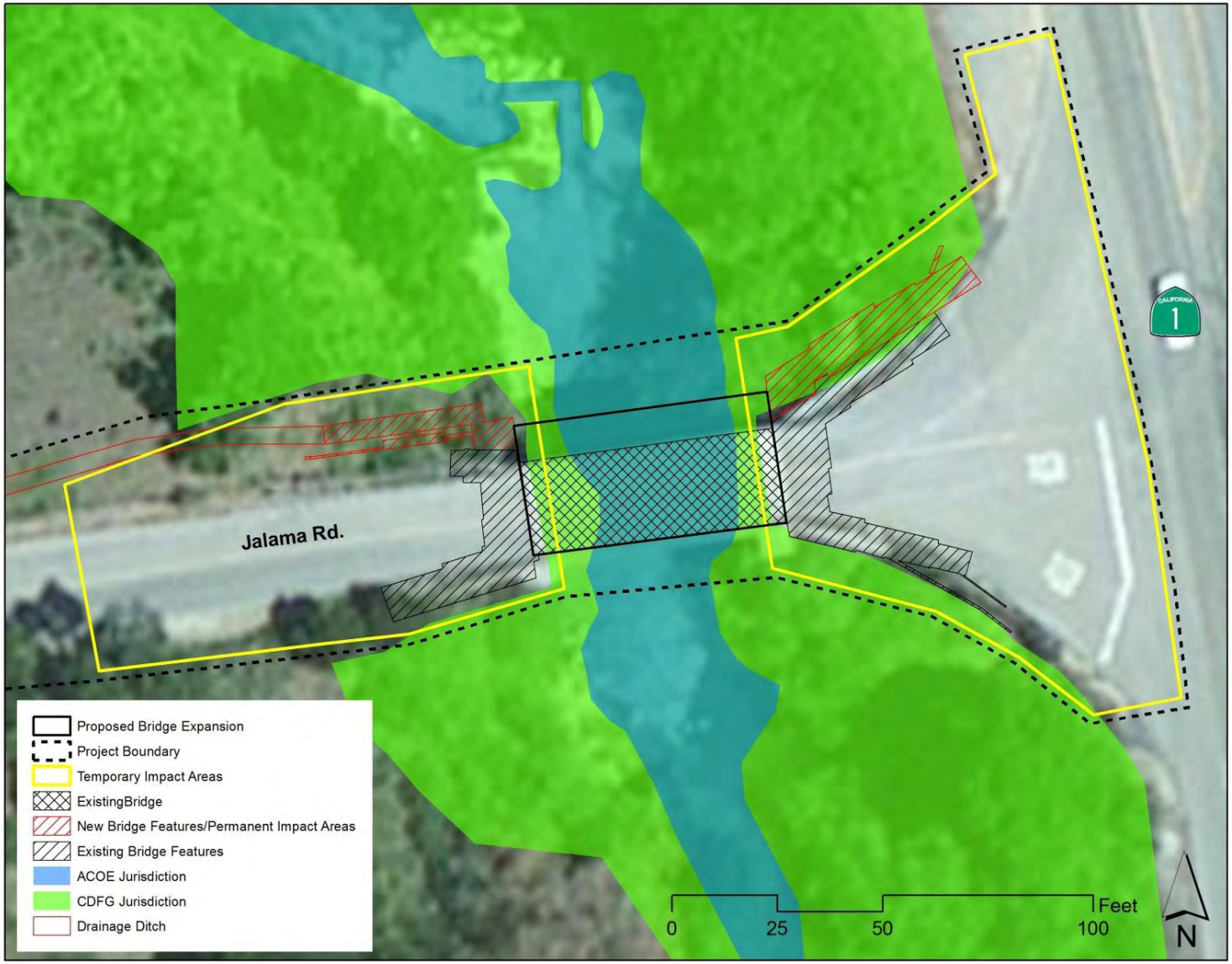
The CDFW is responsible for conserving, protecting, and managing California's fish, wildlife, and native plant resources. To meet this responsibility, the Fish and Game Code (Section 1602) requires notification to the CDFW of any proposed activity that may substantially modify a river, stream, or lake. Notification is required by any person, business, state or local government, or public utility that proposes an activity that would:

- Substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream or lake;
- Substantially change or use any material form the bed, channel, or bank of, any river stream or lake; or

- Deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake.

The notification requirement applies to any work undertaken in or near a river, stream, or lake that flows at least intermittently through a bed or channel. This includes ephemeral streams, desert washes, and watercourses with subsurface flow. Therefore, Salsipuedes Creek is considered State Waters and subject to Section 1602.

FIGURE 3. WATERS AND WETLANDS



4.4.2 Impact Discussion

a-b. Several sensitive plant species are known to occur in the vicinity of the project area. No special-status plant species were observed or are expected to occur in the project area due to an absence of these genera during surveys and lack of suitable habitat resulting from long-term disturbance and a severely disturbed road right-of-way. The botanical surveys were not conducted during the blooming period for the Gaviota tarplant. However, a known location of this species was visited to determine if the species was in flower and it was not. While the survey was not conducted in the blooming period the project site lacks suitable habitat for this species due to the disturbed condition of the area. In addition, the project site is not located within critical habitat for the Gaviota Tarplant. A follow up survey of the project site was conducted later in the blooming period on May 24, 2012, which is during the blooming period for the Gaviota Tarplant and no individual plants of that species or genera were observed. Therefore, the species is not expected to occur or be impacted by the project due to an absence of this genera during surveys and lack of suitable habitat.

The project would result in the loss of riparian vegetation within the Willow Riparian community associated with Salisipudes Creek. Riparian communities are important and unique as they provide important nesting and forging habitat for a variety of wildlife including migratory birds. In addition, the Willow Riparian community is associated with State Waters under the jurisdiction of the CDFW. Impacts to the Willow Riparian community are considered a less than significant impact with implementation of mitigation.

c. The project would result in the temporary loss of 0.037 acre (1611 sq. ft.) of native vegetation and 0.0115 acre (500 sq.ft.) of permanent loss of native vegetation primarily within the Willow Riparian community. Some native plants would be lost within the Ruderal and Agricultural communities but are not dominant within those communities. Impacts to the native vegetation will be limited and onsite enhancement and restoration would occur within the Willow Riparian community to offset loss. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant with implementation of mitigation.

d. The project would result in the temporary impact of non-native dominated Disturbed Community (graded areas lacking a dominant vegetative cover) of 0.253 acre (11.020 sq.ft.) and 0.0066 acre (287 sq.ft.) of permanent impacts and 0.043 acre (1873 sq.ft.) of temporary impacts to the Disturbed Annual Grassland. Species found in the Disturbed Annual Grassland habitat include California sagebrush, coyote brush, storks bill, red brome, Italian thistle, picris, bullthistle, black mustard, poison oak, wild oats and ripgut brome. The community value is low due to the dominance of non-native species and its proximity to the road edge of Jalama Road. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

e. The project would impact 0.037 acre (1611 sq.ft.) of temporary impact and 0.0115 acre (500 sq.ft.) of permanent impacts to the Willow Riparian resulting in the loss of one 24 “

Dbh arroyo willow (Salix lasioleps) and two (10“ & 15” Dbh) pacific willows (Salix lucida) resulting to loss of the structure of the riparian corridor associated with Salsipuedes Creek. The trees will be mitigated according to CDFW LSAA requirements. The impact to native trees is considered less than significant with mitigation.

f. No chemicals, animals, human habitation or invasive plants would be associated with the project implementation.

g. The project site provides suitable habitat for the California red-legged frog. The areas of riparian vegetation (Willow Riparian) immediately adjacent to the creek provide areas of cover and litter that are suitable for California red-legged frog aestivation sites. There is the potential for red-legged frogs to occur during the non-breeding season and the breeding season, and there are suitable breeding sites within Salsipuedes Creek.

Project construction including grading, excavation, and vegetation removal associated with the bridge widening could result in destruction, crushing, and mortality of individual frogs. Potential impacts to the California red-legged frog are considered less than significant with mitigation. The County has been granted authority by Caltrans to use their Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) Number (8-8-10 F 58) for projects funded or approved under the Federal Highway Administration’s Federal Aid Program for activities related to the California red-legged frog. The USFW in a letter dated September 13, 2013 (Appendix C) concurs that the project is consistent with and appropriate for inclusion in the PBO. The PBO contains measures allowing USFWS approved biologists to participate in the capture, handling and monitoring of the California red-legged frog for this project. Measures from this PBO have been incorporated into a biological mitigation measure to offset the potential impacts, reduction or restriction of the California red-legged frog.

The southwestern pond turtle is present at the project site within Salsipuedes Creek. The western spadefoot, silvery legless lizard, coast horned lizard and coast patch nose snake has the potential to occur on site as Salsipuedes Creek and the associated Willow Riparian provide breeding and foraging habitat. Construction activities associated with bridge abutments/pilings and bridge widening could result in the loss of habitat and mortality to individuals and is considered a less than significant impact with mitigation.

Project construction may have impacts to nesting birds protected by the MBTA due to removal of vegetation primarily trees or trimming of trees resulting in mortality of nesting birds or their eggs. In addition, indirect impact could occur due to elevated noise levels and vibration associated with construction equipment resulting in abandonment of nests, eggs or young. Potential impacts to nesting birds are considered less than significant with mitigation.

Bat species including silver-haired bat, western red bat, hoary bat, pallid bat and Yuma myotis may forage in the project area. However, roosting and nesting habitat is not expected. Vegetation removal could result in temporary displacement to adjacent

foraging habitat. Therefore, potential impacts to these species are considered less than significant.

Salsipuedes Creek is designated as a Southern California Steelhead Stream. In addition, the project is within critical habitat, Santa Ynez Hydrologic Unit, for southern steelhead. A weir is present downstream from the bridge and was installed to improve low flow passage conditions for adult steelhead by creating a series of three small step pools. Several fish of this species were observed upstream of the bridge in a deep pool during the project surveys. Project widening of the bridge and placement of pilings would not have direct impacts to southern steelhead habitat (OHWM or inundated areas). Indirect impacts may occur from construction activities resulting in erosion and sedimentation resulting in elevated turbidity and suspended sediments that may adversely impact the southern steelhead and their spawning areas. Potential impacts to these species are considered less than significant with mitigation. Caltrans determined in the Jalama Road Bridge (No.51C-013) Widening Biological Assessment (July 2013) that the project is not likely to adversely affect steelhead or designated critical habitat. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in a letter dated December 19, 2013 concurs with the is not likely to adversely affect determination (Appendix C).

h. Project related loss of habitat to all plant communities: Disturbed, Agriculture, Disturbed Annual Grassland, Willow Riparian, Oak Woodland, Coyote Bush and Coastal Scrub would be minimal with total of 0.333 acres (14,505 sq.ft.) of temporary impacts and 0.0181 acres (788 sq.ft.) of permanent impacts. Construction related disturbance including noise, vibration and equipment activity would be localized and occurs primarily in disturbed areas along the roadway. Therefore, reduction in diversity or substantial reduction in numbers of general wildlife is not expected. However, as discussed above, special-status species and /or critical habitat would be affected by the project and is considered less than significant with mitigation.

i. As discussed in c. and g. project related habitat loss would occur resulting in effects to special- status species and there habitat and loss of native vegetation and is considered less than significant with mitigation.

j. Project implementation would not result in the introduction of barriers to movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species In addition, no work would occur at night, when most wildlife movement occurs and the existing steelhead weir/fish stairs would be protected in place. Impacts to wildlife movement are considered less than significant.

k. Project implementation would not involve the use of fencing and construction would not occur at night eliminating the need for lighting. The project is located along an existing roadway and adjacent to rural agricultural lands. The project would not result in substantial increase in factors which may hinder normal activities of wildlife. Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

4.4.3 Mitigation and Residual Impact

BIO-1 Riparian trees and vegetation

To offset the loss of native vegetation, native trees and riparian vegetation within the Willow Riparian community, the following measures would be implemented:

- Vegetation removal and trimming shall be minimized and limited to essential areas and mature trees in and adjacent to the creek shall be avoided. Exclusion fencing shall be erected around mature trees to be avoided. Exposed slopes, the creek bed, and bank of the project site shall be revegetated with an appropriate assemblage of native riparian and upland vegetation of the region following project completion.
- The 3 willow trees removed shall be mitigated at a 5:1 ratio, using one-gallon containers or 6" diameter bundles.
- To ensure that seeds from invasive species are not transported into the project area and out of the project area by construction equipment, all construction equipment would be cleaned before being brought on-site, and washed again prior to leaving the project area.
- Any organic material used during project construction for erosion control, hydroseeding, or re-vegetating disturbed areas, shall be free of non-native species.
- To reduce the spread and re-growth of non-native invasive plant species the top 6 inches of soil shall be removed from the site except within the Willow Riparian community and taken to a certified landfill.

Plan Requirements and Timing:

These requirements shall be included in the project plans and specifications**.**

Monitoring:

These requirements shall be shown on the construction plans. The Resident Engineer will ensure compliance with these measures. A qualified biological monitor will be onsite as well to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures.

BIO-2 Riparian Habitat Restoration

To offset the temporary and permanent loss of native vegetation, including trees and riparian vegetation within the Willow Riparian community a habitat restoration plan shall be developed and implemented as follows:

- Prior to construction, a restoration enhancement plan shall be developed. Implementation of the plan will occur when construction is complete. The plan will be developed to compensate for the loss or disturbance of riparian and upland vegetation associated with State Waters under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The plan will include the restoration and/or enhancement for temporary and permanent impacts. The plan will include, but is not limited to, location of the restoration, species to be used, restoration techniques, time of year the work will be done, removal of invasive and non-native plant species. The plan will include identifiable success criteria for completion, and remedial actions if the success criteria are not achieved. In addition,

the plan will incorporate and follow any restoration enhancement mitigation guidelines and conditions stipulated in approved CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement.

Plan Requirements and Timing:

These requirements shall be included in the project plans and specifications**.**

Monitoring:

The Resident Engineer will ensure compliance with these measures. A qualified biological monitor will be onsite as well to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures.

BIO-3 Protected and other aquatic and invertebrates species

To offset potential reduction, restriction, and numbers of rare, species or animals of special concern such as (Impact Discussion g., i.) western spadefoot, silvery legless lizard, coast horned lizard, southwestern pond turtle and coast patch-nose snake the following measures shall be implemented.

- Prior to commencing project activities, including excavation in upland areas, that could result in injury or mortality of individual southwestern pond turtles, western spadefoot toads, silvery legless lizards, coast horned lizards and coast patch nose snakes a pre-construction survey will be conducted immediately preceding the activity. The agency-approved biologist will search all potential hiding spots for these species. Any of these species found within the project area will be removed to the nearest appropriate habitat.
- During project construction activities, the project site and area will be checked at the discretion of the agency-approved biologist for southwestern pond turtles, western spadefoot toads, silvery legless lizards, coast horned lizards and coast patch nose snakes.
- An agency-approved biologist will conduct a training session for all project personnel prior to any project activities. Training shall include a description of the special-status species and their habitats, the necessity for adhering to the conditions of project permits, specific measures that are being implemented to conserve the special-status species while the project is being constructed, and the restrictions and guidelines that must be followed by all construction personnel to reduce or avoid effects on these species during project construction.
- Project construction will be limited to daylight hours to maximize the chances of detecting special-status species in the project area.
- Vegetation removal and trimming should be limited to areas needed and mature trees in and adjacent to the creek should be avoided. Exclusion fencing shall be erected around mature trees to be avoided. This requirement will be shown on the construction plans.

Plan Requirements and Timing:

These requirements shall be included in the project plans and specifications**.**

Monitoring:

The Resident Engineer will ensure compliance with these measures. A qualified biological monitor will be onsite as well to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures.

BIO-4 California red legged frog

To offset potential reduction, restriction of the California red-legged frog, a threatened species or critical habitat of the species the following measures shall be implemented from the 2011 Programmatic Biological Opinion for Projects Funded of Approved under the Federal Highway Administrative Aid Program (9-9-10-F-58) (Impact Discussion h). The USFW in a letter dated September 13, 2013 (Appendix C) concurs that the project is consistent with and appropriate for inclusion in the PBO.

- At least 15 days prior to ground disturbing activities, Caltrans will submit the names and credentials for biologist(s) to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for approval to conduct the activities specified in the following measures. No project activities will begin until Caltrans has received approval from the agency that the biologist(s) is qualified to do the work.
- An agency-approved biologist will conduct USFWS protocol level surveys at the project site two weeks before project activities begin. If California red-legged frog adults, tadpoles, or eggs are found, the approved biologist will contact the USFWS to determine if moving frogs of any life stages is appropriate. In making this determination, the USFWS will consider if an appropriate relocation site exists.
- If the USFWS approves moving the animals, the approved biologist will be allowed sufficient time to move the frogs from the work site before work activities begin. Only approved biologists will participate in activities associated with the capture, handling and monitoring of California red-legged frogs.
- Within three days prior to construction activities, the agency-approved biologist(S) will inspect the project area and associated silt fences for California red-legged frogs. This will be done two times at night and two times during daylight hours. If any California red-legged frog adults or tadpoles are found within the project area they will be moved to the nearest appropriate habitat and released by the agency-approved biologist. In addition, if any California red-legged frog adults or tadpoles are found during the surveys the agency-approved biologist shall check the immediate project area for ten consecutive days prior to the start of each day's work. If no frogs are found during the ten consecutive days, then the immediate project area will be checked at the discretion of the agency-approved biologist. If activities cease for more than one week, a one-night search for California red-legged frogs will be conducted within 100-feet upstream and 250-feet downstream of the project area.
- Prior to commencing project activities, including excavation in upland areas, which could injure or kill individual California red-legged frog, a pre-construction survey will be conducted immediately preceding the activity. The agency-approved biologist will search all potential hiding spots for California red-legged frog. The agency-approved biologist will relocate any California red-legged frogs found within the project area to the nearest appropriate habitat.

- An agency-approved biologist will ensure that the spread or introduction of invasive exotic plant species will be avoided to the maximum extent possible. When practicable, existing invasive exotic plant species in the project area will be removed.
- An agency-approved biologist will permanently remove from the project area any individuals of exotic species, such as bullfrogs (*Rana catesbieana*), crayfish, and centarchid fishes, to the maximum extent possible. The agency-approved biologist will have the responsibility to ensure that project activities are in compliance with the CDFW Code and the Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA).

Plan Requirements and Timing:

These requirements shall be included in the project plans and specifications**.**

Monitoring:

The Resident Engineer will ensure compliance with these measures. A qualified biological monitor will be onsite as well to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures.

BIO-5 Southern Steelhead and habitat within Salsipuedes Creek.

Caltrans determined in the Jalama Road Bridge (No.51C-013) Widening Biological Assessment (July 2013) that the project is not likely to adversely affect steelhead or designated critical habitat. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in a letter dated December 19, 2013 concurs with the is not likely to adversely affect determination (Appendix C).To offset potential effects to the critical habitat of the Southern Steelhead the following measures shall be implemented

(Impact Discussion j).

- Construction activities within Salsipuedes Creek and associated Willow Riparian habitat will be conducted during the dry season (May to December).
- All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 200 feet from any riparian habitat or water body. The County will ensure that contamination of habitat does not occur during fueling or maintenance operations. Prior to the onset of work, the contractor shall prepare a spill response plan to allow a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.
- To control erosion during and after project implementation and potential increase of sedimentation and turbidity within Salsipuedes Creek, the contractor will install silt fence, straw wattles or other erosion control devices down slope of all exposed slopes and/or soil piles. The erosion control devices will be monitored by the onsite biological monitor to ensure devices are in working order.
- To control the potential of an accidental spill of concrete during construction, containment devices such as spill containment berms or other devices shall be implemented during concrete pours,

- Exposed earth, slopes and the creek bank of the project site will be covered with a compost blanket and then revegetated with an appropriate assemblage of native riparian, wetland, and upland vegetation of the region after the project is complete.

Plan Requirements and Timing:

These requirements shall be included in the project plans and specifications**.**

Monitoring:

The Resident Engineer will ensure compliance with these measures. A qualified biological monitor will be onsite as well to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures.

BIO-6 Protection of nesting birds and birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

To offset potential effects to nesting birds and other protected birds the following measures shall be implemented (Impact Discussion k).

- Riparian Vegetation will only be removed within the limits of the project boundary.
- Vegetation may be removed outside of the bird nesting season between August 15 and February 15.
- A qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction nesting bird survey 72 hours prior to any construction activity, including tree trimming or removal. In addition, the onsite qualified biologist monitor will conduct periodic nesting surveys within the project area. If nesting birds are observed within the project area, depending on the species of bird a buffer will be established around the nest and no activity will occur within the buffer until the young have fledged.

Plan Requirements and Timing:

These requirements shall be included in the project plans and specifications**.**

Monitoring:

The Resident Engineer will ensure compliance with these measures. A qualified biological monitor will be onsite as well to ensure compliance with the mitigation measures.

Full implementation of the above mitigation measures would reduce project specific and cumulative impacts to biological resources to less than significant levels.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

TABLE 8: CULTURAL IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
Archaeological Resources					

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a Disruption, alteration, destruction or adverse effect on a recorded prehistoric or historic archaeological site?				X	
b. Disruption or removal of human remains?				X	
c. Increased potential for trespassing, vandalizing or sabotaging archaeological resources?				X	
d. Ground disturbances in an area with potential cultural resource sensitivity based on the location of known historic or prehistoric sites?		X			
Ethnic Resources					
e .Disruption of or adverse effects upon a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or property of historic or cultural significance to a community or ethnic group?				X	
f. Increased potential for trespassing, vandalizing, or sabotaging ethnic, sacred or ceremonial places?				X	
g. The potential to conflict with or restrict existing religious, sacred or educational uses of the area?				X	

4.5.1 Setting

Prehistory

Archaeologists have studied Chumash prehistory for decades. Most of that research has concentrated on the Santa Barbara Channel region, where the Barbareño Chumash developed a highly complex social system. While it is clear that many differences distinguish Chumash groups living north and south of Point Conception, there are some broad patterns of cultural change which apply to both regions.

Although the earliest documented human habitation of the Santa Barbara Channel area dates to more than 10,000 before present (B.P.), it was not until approximately 9000 B.P. that human presence became more widespread (Erlandson 1993; Fitzgerald 2000; Jones 2007; Jones et al. 2008). Moratto (1984) coined the term "Paleocoastal" to refer to the possible descendants of local Paleoindians who inhabited the coast and exploited marine resources prior to the Milling Stone Period (Erlandson 1994). The Paleoindian artifact assemblage emphasized flaked stone tools, although recent research suggests that milling stone technology extends back to this period as well (Fitzgerald 2000; Parker 2004).

During this period, people appear to have subsisted largely on plants, shellfish, and some vertebrate species. The subsequent period (6500–3500 B.C.) can be differentiated from the early Holocene by technological changes, particularly the prevalence of manos and metates (handstones and milling slabs) in the tool kit. Well-developed middens also have been associated with this period, suggesting more regular and continuous use of habitation sites. Researchers have reported differently on food preferences during the Milling Stone Period, which may reflect mobility between coastal and inland locations (Erlandson 1988, 1991; Glassow 1992; Jones et al. 1994:189; Wallace 1978).

Cultural changes after 3500 B.C. are thought to have occurred as a result of environmental shifts, rising sea levels, and an increase in the population base. The response to these changes is evidenced by sites that appear more settled, but not permanent, with an increase in specialized sites for resource procurement activities such as hunting, fishing, and plant material processing (Jones et al. 1994:62; Jones and Waugh 1995:132). Exotic shell beads and obsidian materials evince expanded inter-regional trade, possibly the result of increased population (Jones et al. 1994). Like the Milling Stone Period, ground stone artifacts identified with the Early Period consist of handstones and milling slabs. Toward the end of the period mortars and pestles were added, probably indicating systematic exploitation of acorns (Glassow et al. 1988).

Technological innovations during the Middle Period (1400 B.C.–A.D. 1150) included development of the tomol and most of the sophisticated fishing technology used until historic times. The tomol was utilized by the Chumash south of Point Conception, where ocean conditions were more navigable, and allowed a greater exploitation of marine resources. There is some evidence for increasing population size during the Middle and Late periods, but no rigorous estimates of population size or density have been established.

Social complexity became more apparent during the Middle to Late Period transition

(A.D. 1150–1300), when most archaeologists believe craft specialization and social ranking developed (Arnold 1992). These changes, however, are again more noticeable south of Point Conception and may have been due, in part, to environmental changes that occurred at that time. By the Late Period (A.D. 1300–1782), Chumash culture, which had evolved a complex religious, social, and economic system, was probably very similar to what the Spanish observed when they arrived. There are few records of Spanish encounters with the Chumash north of Point Conception (Glassow 1990:2–5), although it appears that the absence of the tomol and a lower population density contributed to a social and political organization different from that of their neighbors to the south.

Record Search

An archaeological survey report was prepared for the project by Applied Earthworks, Inc. (AE) (2011). A record search was conducted at the Central Coast Information Center (CCIC) at the University of California, Santa Barbara on June 12, 2002 and again on March 13, 2011. The CCIC record search for 2002 identified 10 previous surveys had been conducted within 1 mile of the project study area. The 2011 records identified four of these surveys and the 2002 surveys occurred within 0.25 miles of the project study area. Three of these investigations included portions of the project study area in their coverage.

A survey conducted by the Anthropology Department of the University of California, Los Angeles covered a wide swath around Salsipuedes Creek and four sites were recorded near but not within the project study area. The Singer and Ruiz Survey found no sites or isolates in their examination of Jalama Road. The Hines and Wheeler Survey recorded several sites along Highway 1, including CA-SBA-2468/H. This site contains a sparse lithic scatter on both sides of Highway 1 and the remains of an adobe structure and historic trash on the west side of Highway 1. In addition, to CA-SBA-2468/H, the 2002 records identified 16 sites and isolates within 1 mile of the bridge.

Field Investigation

AE conducted an archaeological survey of the project site on June 5, 2002. Documentation for CA-SBA-2468/H was updated following Æ's survey in 2002. This site contains both prehistoric and historic remains including a sparse lithic scatter and the remains of an adobe structure and associated historic trash. CA-SBA-3682 is a prehistoric lithic scatter, determination of site boundaries was limited due to dense vegetation and lack of accessibility beyond the County ROW.

AE recorded one previously identified but undocumented prehistoric archaeological site within the study area in 2002, CA-SBA-3682. Surface artifacts include one biface fragment and five flakes of Monterey and Franciscan chert. No other cultural remains were observed during the 2002 or 2011 surveys. The site boundaries and integrity of CA-SBA-3682 could not be determined during the current investigations; the site surface is covered by dense vegetation.

Native American Consultation

AE contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on February 4, 2011 to request pertinent cultural resources information available for the project study area. The NAHC replied that a search of their Sacred Lands Inventory failed to indicate the presence of Native American cultural resources in the immediate project area.

The NAHC also provided contact information for individuals/organizations that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. Letters were mailed to the individuals identified by the NAHC and AE attempted to contact each person by phone or e-mail.

4.5.2 Impact Discussion

a. Based on the results of the record search and field survey the extent of previous ground disturbance no significant disruption or other adverse effects to known archaeological sites is anticipated.

b. Impacts to known archaeological sites would not occur and disruption or removal of human remains is not anticipated.

c. The proposed project would not result in an increase in population or increased access to archaeological sites. An increase potential for trespassing, vandalism or sabotage is not anticipated.

d. Due to the close proximity of CA-SBA-2468/H and CA-SBA-3682 unknown buried cultural resources may be adversely affected by project construction activities.

e. No prehistoric archaeological sites or properties of historic or cultural significance would be adversely affected by the proposed project.

f. No ethnic, sacred or ceremonial places occur in the vicinity of the project and no adverse effects are expected.

g. The proposed project would not result in an increase in population or increased access to ethnic, sacred or ceremonial places. Increased conflicts with religious sacred or educational uses are not expected.

4.5.3 Mitigation Measures and Residual Impacts

AR-1

To minimize potential significant impacts to archaeological resources the following measures shall be implemented.

1. The County shall retain the services of a qualified Archaeologist to ensure the establishment of the Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA's) by accomplishing the following tasks:

    - Oversee photo-documentation of CA-SBA-3682 prior to and after construction;
    - Advise the contractor during a preconstruction meeting that the ESAs are potentially significant cultural resources and require protection and avoidance;

- Prior to bridge construction, preside over installation of 4-foot-high orange temporary construction fences around the portions of CA-SBA-3682 outside of the Area of Direct Impact;
- Notify the contractor that no construction work is to occur within the ESAs; and
- With a Native American tribal representative, monitor all construction work within CA-SBA-3682.

2. Post construction of the Jalama road right of way shall be permanently fenced with barbed wire.
3. If human remains are discovered all work will be halted until the County coroner has investigated pursuant to Safety Code Section 7050.5 and Public Resources Code Section 5097'98. If the remains are determined to be Native American descent the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission.

Plan Requirements and Timing:

These requirements shall be included in the project plans and specifications**.**

Monitoring:

The Resident Engineer will ensure compliance with these measures.

Full implementation of the above mitigation measures would reduce project specific and cumulative impacts to cultural resources to less than significant levels.

4.6 ENERGY

TABLE 9: ENERGY IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a Substantial increase in demand, especially during peak periods, upon existing sources of energy?				X	
b. Requirement for the development or extension of new sources of energy?				X	

4.6.1 Impact Discussion

a. The project consists of the widening of an existing bridge and would not consume energy other than fossil fuels during construction. Overall, no increase in demand for energy would occur.

b. The project would not require or induce new development or an extension of existing sources of energy.

4.6.2 Mitigation and Residual Impacts

No mitigation is required. No cumulatively considerable or residual impacts area anticipated. Residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.7 FIRE PROTECTION

TABLE 10: FIRE PROTECTION IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Introduction of development into an existing high fire hazard area?				X	
b. Project caused high fire hazard?		X			
c. Introduction of development into an area without adequate water pressure, fire hydrants or adequate access for firefighting?				X	
d. Introduction of development that will hamper fire prevention techniques such as controlled burns or backfiring in high fire hazard areas?				X	
e. Development of structures beyond safe fire Dept. response time?				X	

4.7.1 Setting

The project site is an existing bridge along Jalama Road at Salsipuedes Creek. Fire hazard is moderate and associated with weedy roadside areas. County Fire Department Station 51 serves the area and is located at 3510 Harris Grade Road near Lompoc, CA. approximately 8.5 miles to the north of the project site.

4.7.2 Impact Discussion

a. The proposed project does not involve the construction of habitable structures, and would not directly or indirectly lead to any such structures than may increase the exposure of the public to fire hazard.

b. Construction activities would occur in areas supporting potential flammable vegetation and have the potential to significantly increase fire hazard to adjacent farming structures to the south of the project site.

c-e. The proposed wider bridge would be constructed of nonflammable materials (cement, steel and asphalt concrete) and would not require fire protection.

4.7.3 Mitigation and Residual impacts

FIRE-1

To minimize potential fire hazards, a Fire Awareness and Avoidance Plan shall be implemented. The plan shall include the following:

- Fire prevention measures addressing cutting, grinding, and welding;
- Maintaining fire extinguishers in every vehicle on site;
- Providing a water truck;
- Minimizing activity during red flag alerts; and
- Communication with emergency response agencies.

Plan Requirements and Timing:

The Fire and Awareness and Avoidance Plan shall be submitted prior to the initiation of construction.

Monitoring:

The County Resident Engineer shall ensure the Plan is fully implemented

Full implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce project specific and cumulative fire hazard impacts to a level less than significant.

4.8 GEOLOGICAL PROCESSES

TABLE 11: GEOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, soil creep, mudslides, f=ground failure (including expansive, compressible, collapsible soils), or similar hazards?			X		
b. Disruptions, displacement, compaction or overcoming of the soil by cuts, fills, or extensive grading?				X	
C .Permanent changes in topography?			X		
d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic, paleontological, or physical features?				X	
e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off site?				X	
f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands or dunes or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river, or stream, or the bed of the ocean, or any bay, inlet or lake?		X			
g. The placement of septic disposal systems in impermeable soils with severe constraints to disposal of liquid effluent?				X	

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
h. Extraction of mineral or ore?				X	
i. Excessive grading on slopes of over 20%				X	
j. Sand or gravel removal or loss of topsoil?				X	
k. Vibration from short term construction or long term operation, which may affect adjoining areas?			X		
l. Excessive spoils, tailings or over burden?				X	

4.8.1 Setting

Based on the Geologic Map of the Santa Maria Quadrangle the project site is underlain by alluvium, upper Miocene marine and Middle Miocene nonmarine deposits. Based on the Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Map prepared by the California Conservation - Mines and Geology indicates the project area has a 10 percent chance in 50 years to experience a shaking event 20 to 30 percent to 30 to 40 percent of the force of gravity.

Based on the Seismic Safety and Safety Element of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan, the project site is located in an area designated as a low problem area for liquefaction, slope stability, tsunami, soil creep and low to moderate problem area for compressible collapsible soils, expansive soils and seismic.

4.8.2 Impact Discussion

a. The project site does not include any slopes that landslides and slope stability would be an issue. The proposed bridge widening is designed to withstand anticipated seismic stresses according to established engineering practices. The proposed project would not include any habitable structures and no persons would be exposed to geologic hazards.

b. Earth work associated with the project would be limited to minor excavation for bridge abutment footings, and re-shaping of the creek banks to return the natural slope shape. No extensive grading, cuts or fills would occur.

c. The ground surface would be restored after construction activities are complete with only minor localized changes in topography.

d. While project related ground disturbance would occur in recent alluvium intact paleontological resources are not present. Therefore, no impacts to unique geologic, paleontologic or physical features would occur.

e. The project dos not involve hillside grading that would increase soil erosion. Potential soil erosion with storm water flows during construction is addressed in Section 4.16.

f. Bridge widening and abutment widening would not involve stream diversion or excavation within Salsipuedes Creek. Grading on the creek banks may result in short term increases in erosion and siltation.

g. The proposed project would not involve the placement of septic systems.

h. The proposed project does not involve the extraction of processing of minerals or ore.

i. No grading of slopes is proposed.

j. Excavation associated with the bridge widening would occur with previously disturbed areas, roadway fill and stabilized and eroded stream banks, and would not result in the loss of topsoil.

k. Vibration would be generated by construction equipment. However, no residences are in the vicinity of the project and vibration impacts area considered less than significant.

l. No spoils would be generated and any material excavated would be used on site.

4.8.3 Mitigation and Residual Impacts

Mitigation for potential significant erosion and siltation impacts are discussed in the Water Resources Section 4.16. Residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.9 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/RISK OF UPSET

TABLE 12: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. In the known history of this property, have there been any past uses, storage or discharge of hazardous materials (e.g., fuel or oil stored in underground tanks, pesticides, solvents or other chemicals)/		X			
b. The use, storage or distribution of hazardous or toxic materials?				X	

c. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (e.g., oil, gas, biocides, bacteria, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?				X	
d. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?				X	
e. The creation of a potential public health hazard?				X	
f. Public safety hazards (e.g., due to development near chemical or industrial activity, producing oil wells, toxic disposal sites, etc.)/				X	
g. Exposure to hazards from oil or gas pipelines or oil well facilities?				X	
h. The contamination of a public water supply?				X	

4.9.1 Setting

The project area supports agricultural land uses and past accumulation of historic pesticides could have occurred. Based on review of the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker and California Department of Toxic Substances Control ENVIROSTOR data bases no hazardous material sites including leaking underground storage tanks were identified within the project area. No evidence of hazardous material or underground storage tanks were observed at the project site.

4.9.2 Impact Discussion

a. A hazardous material survey was conducted at the project site on October 8, 2010 to detect lead based paint and asbestos containing materials. No asbestos containing materials were detected but lead based paint was detected. Lead was detected in the structural steel girders and beans used on the underside of the main bridge span. The painted rail fencing located at each end of the bridge tested positive for lead at concentrations below the regulatory level for lead. One paint chip sample taken from the east side of the bridge showed regulated levels of lead at 2% by weight, which is above the Federal and State definition of "lead based" which is 0.5% by weight. The other

painted surfaces including the white numbering, center line stripe or galvanized guard rails tested below regulated levels.

b. Except for the lead detected as described above site is not known to be contaminated by hazardous materials. Any pesticides used within the adjacent agricultural fields are expected to have been removed from the site by erosion during storm events.

c. The project is not known to be contaminated by hazardous materials. Any pesticides used in the adjacent agricultural operations are expected to be removed from the area from erosion and storm events.

d. Excluding fuels during construction the project does not involve the use, storage or distribution of hazardous or toxic materials. Equipment and vehicles would be fueled from a maintenance vehicle away from Salsipuedes Creek and other drainages. Fuel may be stored during construction within the proposed storage areas and would have proper containment and spill prevention in place.

e. No risk of explosion is expected as a result of project related activities.

f. The proposed project would not interfere with any emergency response plan. Jalama Road would be constrained to one lane during construction and would ensure emergency vehicles the ability to respond to local and regional needs.

g. The proposed project does not involve the creation, storage or handling of any hazardous materials and would not create any potential health hazard.

h. The proposed project does not include any new development near hazardous materials.

i. The project does not involve exposure to hazards form oil and gas pipelines or oil well facilities.

j. The proposed project does not include any activities that would affect public water supplies.

4.9.3 Mitigation and Residual Impact

HAZ-1

To minimize potential significant impacts associated with demolition of lead based paint coating material the following measures shall be implemented.

- The structural steel beams, frame comprising the main bridge span and painted metal rail fence on the east side of the bridge should be managed using lead safe work practices to prevent exposure to workers and avoid generation of lead dust and paint chips. Lead safe work practices include the use of proper containment, wet methods and use of hand tools or methods that will minimize the generation of lead dust.
- Workers performing lead abatement or mitigation task will be properly trained and protected using appropriate personal protective equipment and comply with California Title 8 and Title 17 requirements.

- There is no requirement to remove lead paint before demolition activities. However, the paint should be stabilized to the extent practical to prevent lead from flaking off the surface. If the metal surfaces with leas based paint will be torch cut or disturbed using mechanical means the paint should be removed from the immediate area of the proposed cut. Otherwise proper controls and personal protection equipment should be implemented to prevent worker exposure and contamination.
- Components of lead based paint to be removed may be encapsulated with an appropriate primer or coating to prevent flaking or peeling from being dispersed during demolition.
- Lead waste will be properly disposed in accordance with federal, state and local requirements. Waste material which contains greater than 1,000 ppm total lead by TTLC methods or 5 ppm soluble lead by STLC method meets the definition of hazardous waste per Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. Characterization sampling may be necessary to determine the appropriate disposal requirements.

Plan Requirements and Timing:

These measures shall be included in the project plans and specifications.

Monitoring:

The County Resident Engineer will ensure the measures are implemented.

4.10 HISTORICAL RESOURCES

TABLE 13: HISTORICAL IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Adverse physical or aesthetic impacts on a structure or property at least 50 years old and/or historic cultural significance to the community, state or nation?				X	
b. Beneficial impacts to an historic resource by providing rehabilitation, protection in a conservation/open easement, etc.?				X	

4.10.1 Setting

The existing bridge was constructed in 1941. No other modifications have been made since initial construction. AE conducted a records search at the CCIC on March 3, 2011 and did not identify any historic sites in the project area. Also the California Inventory of Historic Resources, California Historic Landmarks and California Points of Historical Interest were consulted and no resource was identified in the project area.

4.10.2 Impact Discussion

a. All project activities would occur within or immediately adjacent to the roadway, right-of-way for Jalama Road and no historic structures or properties would be affected. The Caltrans 1986 California Historic Bridge Inventory determined that Bridge 51C-013 was not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge is still listed as a Category 5 structure (not eligible for listing on the National Register) in the current (September 2011) version of the Bridge Inventory.

b. The project does not involve rehabilitation or protection of historic resources.

4.10.3 Mitigation and Residual Impacts

No mitigation is required. No cumulatively considerable or residual impacts are anticipated. Residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.11 LAND USE

TABLE 14: LAND USE IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a Structures and/or land use incompatible with existing land use?				X	
b, 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 la, specific plan, local coastal program or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigation an environmental effect?				X	
c. The induction of substantial growth or concentration of population?				X	
d. The extension of sewer trunk lines or access roads with capacity to serve new development beyond this proposed project?				X	
e. Loss of existing affordable dwellings through demolition, conversion or removal?				X	
f. Displacement of substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	
g. Displacement of substantial numbers of people necessitating the construction replacement housing elsewhere?				X	
h. The loss of a substantial amount of open space?				X	

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
i. An economic or social effect that would result in a physical change? (i.e. Closure of a freeway ramp results in isolation of an area, business located in the vicinity close, neighborhood degenerates, and buildings deteriorate. Or if construction of new freeway divides an existing community, the construction would be the physical change, but the economic/social effect on the community would be the basis for determining that the physical change would be significant.				X	
j. Conflict with adopted airport safety zones?				X	

4.11.1 Setting

The Jalama Road bridge widening would be located within the public right-of-way along Jalama Road with abutment widening located within Salsipuedes Creek. Land uses located immediately adjacent to the project are agricultural/commercial.

- APN083-120-008 – Zoned 100-AG(Agricultural)
- APN083-130-019 – Zoned 100-AG(Agricultural)
- APN083–130-020– Zoned 100-AG(Agricultural)

4.11.2 Impact Discussion

a. The proposed project is a bridge widening with the same number of traffic lanes and the same basic configuration and is compatible with the surrounding land uses.

b. The proposed project is consistent with all applicable plans and policies (see Table 8).

c. The proposed project does not involve any new development that would result in population growth or spatial reconfiguration of the existing population.

d. The proposed project does not include the extension of sewer lines or roadways.

e. The proposed project would not displace any dwellings.

f. The proposed project would not displace any dwellings and would not result in the need for construction of replacement housing.

g. The proposed project would not displace any dwellings or residents and would not result in the need for replacement housing elsewhere.

h. No loss of open space would occur as a result of the proposed project.

i. No social economic effect would occur that would result in a physical change in the local community. Jalama Road would be constrained to one lane during construction and would not result in isolation of any land use.

j. The project would not conflict with any airport safety zones.

4.11.3 Mitigation and Residual Impact

No mitigation is required. No cumulatively considerable or residual impacts area anticipated. Residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.12 NOISE

TABLE 15: NOISE IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a Long term exposure of people to noise levels exceeding County thresholds (e.g. locating noise sensitive uses next to an airport)?				X	
b. Short-term exposure of people to noise levels exceeding County thresholds?		X		X	
c. Project generated substantial increase in the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas (either day or night)?		X			

4.12.1 Setting

Noise sensitive receptors in the immediate vicinity of the project include two rural residences approximately 0.29 miles (1531 feet) to the south.

4.12.2 Impact Discussion

a, The proposed project involves widening of the existing Jalama Road Bridge at the same location and in the same general configuration. The project would not affect traffic volumes or travel speeds and no long term noise increase would occur.

b. Heavy equipment activity would occur at various times during construction. There are two residences within 1,600 feet of the project site. In addition the County has not developed any short term noise thresholds. Therefore, due to the short duration of construction and lack of sensitive receptors the project would not expose people to noise levels exceeding County thresholds. However, since construction activities are within 1600 feet of two rural residences are considered to generally result in a potentially significant impact, implementation of Mitigation Measure Noise-1 would ensure short term noise impacts are reduced to less than significant levels.

c, Heavy equipment activity would occur at various times during construction. However, there are two residences within 1,600 feet of the project site. In addition the County has not developed any short term noise thresholds. Therefore, since construction activities within 1600 feet of the rural residence are considered to generally result in a potentially significant impact, implementation of Mitigation Measure Noise-1 would ensure short term noise impacts are reduced to less than significant level due to the short duration of construction and lack of sensitive receptors the project increase in ambient noise levels during construction are considered less than significant.

4.12.3 Cumulative Impacts

The implementation of the project is not anticipated to result in any substantial noise effects. Therefore, the project would not contribute in a cumulatively considerable manner to noise impacts.

4.12.4 Mitigation and Residual Impact

The following mitigation measures would reduce the project's noise effects to a less than significant level:

Noise-1.

To minimize potentially significant construction-related noise impacts to adjacent residences the following measure shall be implemented.

- Construction activities involving heavy equipment or heavy-duty truck traffic shall be limited from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. No construction shall occur on State holidays (e.g., Thanksgiving, Labor Day). Construction equipment maintenance shall be limited to the same hours. Non-noise generating construction activities are not subject to these restrictions.

Plan Requirements: Three signs stating these restrictions shall be provided by the contractor and posted on site. **MONITORING:** The County on site resident engineer (RE) shall ensure compliance with this measure.

With the incorporation of these measures, residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.13 PUBLIC FACILITIES

TABLE 16: PUBLIC FACILITIES IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. A need for new or altered police protection and/or health care services?				X	
b. Student generation exceeding school capacity?				X	
c. Significant amounts of solid waste or breach any national, state or local standards or thresholds relating to solid waste disposal and generation (including recycling facilities and existing landfill capacity?				X	
d. A need for a new or altered sewer system facilities (sewer lines, lift station, etc.)?				X	
e. The construction of new storm drainages or water quality control facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X	

4.13.1 Impact Discussion

a. The proposed project does not include any new development or any facilities that would require police protection or health care services.

b. The project does not include any residential land uses and would not generate demand for school capacity.

c. The project is a bridge widening and would not generate solid waste exceeding the 350 ton County CEQA threshold for construction and demolition.

d. The proposed project does not include any residential or commercial development and would not generate demand for sewage collection or related facilities.

e. The proposed project would not require the construction of any storm drain or water quality control facility. Mitigation and Residual impacts:

No mitigation is required. No cumulatively considerable or residual impacts area anticipated.

Residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.14 RECREATION

TABLE 17: RECREATIONAL IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Conflict with established recreational uses of the areas?				X	
b. Conflict with biking, equestrian and hiking trails?				X	
c. Substantial impact on the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities (e.g., overuse of an area with constraints on numbers of people, vehicles, animals, etc. which might safely use the area)?				X	

4.14.1 Setting

No recreational facilities are in the vicinity of the project. Jalama Road and State Highway 1 are used for recreational bicycling but do not have designated bike lanes.

4.14.2 Impact Discussion

a. The project would not conflict with recreational uses of the area.

b. The project site is not located in the immediate vicinity of any trails or bikeways.

c. The project does not include residential land uses. Therefore, the project would not generate demand for recreational facilities or result in associated overuse. Mitigation and Residual Impact:

No mitigation is required. No cumulatively considerable or residual impacts area anticipated.

Residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.15 TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

TABLE 18: TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement (daily, peak hour, etc.) in relation to existing traffic load and capacity of the street system?				X	
b. A need for private or public road maintenance, or need for new roads?				X	
c. Effects on existing parking facilities or demand for new parking?				X	
d. Substantial impact upon existing transit systems (e.g. bus service) or alteration of present patterns of circulation or movement of people and or goods?				X	
e. Alteration to waterborne, rail or air traffic?				X	
f. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles bicyclists or pedestrians (including short term construction and long term operational)?				X	
g. Inadequate sight distance?				X	

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
h. Inadequate ingress/egress?				X	
i. Inadequate general road capacity?				X	
j. Inadequate emergency access?				X	
k. Impacts to the Congestion Management Plan?				X	

4.15.1 Impact Discussion

a. Project short term construction related traffic would not substantial increase additional vehicular movement.

b. The proposed project involves roadway improvements and would not result in a need for new roads or maintenance of existing roads.

c. Parking facilities do not occur in the project area.

d. The proposed project would not create a demand for transit or interfere with the exiting transit system or circulation of people and goods.

e. The proposed project would not affect waterborne or rail traffic and is not located in either clear zones or approaches of any airport.

f. Jalama Road will be constrained to one lane during construction but will not result in potential hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians. Jalama Road will be constrained to one lane during construction and would not significantly affect ingress/egress to and from Jalama Road and Highway 1.

g. The proposed project would not result in inadequate sight distance.

h. Jalama Road will be constrained to one lane during construction and would not significantly affect ingress/egress to and from Jalama Road and Highway 1.

i. The proposed project would not affect roadway capacity.

j. The proposed project would not affect emergency access.

k. Roadways and intersections in the project area operate at acceptable levels of service and are not subject to Congestion Management Plan requirements.

4.15.2 Mitigation and Residual Impact

No mitigation is required. No cumulatively considerable or residual impacts area anticipated.

Residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.16 WATER RESOURCES/FLOODING

TABLE 19: WATER RESOURCES/FLOODING IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh water?				X	
b. Changes in percolation rates, drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface water runoff?				X	
c. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body?				X	
d. Discharge into surface waters or alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity or thermal water pollution?		X			
e. Alterations to the course or flow of flood waters or need for private or public flood control projects.				X	
f. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding (placement of project in 100 year flood plain) accelerated runoff or tsunamis?				X	
g. Alteration of the direction of rate or flow of groundwater?				X	

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less than Significant with Mitigation	Less than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
h. Change in the quantity of groundwaters, either through direct additions or withdrawals or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavation or recharge interference?				X	
i. Overdraft or over commitment of any groundwater basin? Or, a significant increase in the existing overdraft or over commitment of any groundwater basin?				X	
j. Substantial degradation of groundwater quality including saltwater intrusion?				X	
k. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for the public supplies?				X	
l. Introduction of storm water pollutants (e.g., oil, grease, pesticides, nutrients, sediments, pathogens, etc.) into groundwater or surface water?			X		

4.16.1 Setting

The project site is within the Santa Ynez River Valley within the greater Lompoc Valley. Salsipuedes Creek along with its major tributary, El Jaro Creek is the largest tributary to the lower Santa Ynez River. The Salsipuedes Creek/El Jaro Creek watershed drains approximately 47.1 square miles and flows roughly 25.1 miles from its headwaters along the Santa Ynez Mountain range to its confluence with the lower Santa Ynez River. The project site is partially within the 100-year floodplain at Salsipuedes Creek (FIRM Map 06083C1010F effective date September 30, 2005).

The project site lies within the Central Coast Hydrologic Region, within the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater Basin, Lompoc Hydrology Area. The basin is bounded by the Purisima

Hills on the northwest, the San Rafael Mountains on the northeast, the Santa Ynez Mountains on the south and the Pacific Ocean on the west. On the east and underlying the groundwater basin, the basin is bounded by consolidated no water-bearing rocks of Tertiary age. The Santa Ynez River follows a westward course for about 70 miles through the valley before flowing into the Pacific Ocean.

4.16.2 Impact Discussion

a. Construction would not occur within the Salsipuedes Creek channel and construction activities would be conducted during the driest time of the year (May to December). Therefore, no significant impacts to water movement are expected.

b. No substantial long term changes in creek or storm drain locations would occur. No significant change in percolation rates or surface runoff would occur.

c. No change in the amount of surface water present in any water body would occur as a result of the project.

d. Water quality degradation in the form of increased turbidity, siltation and reduced dissolved oxygen may occur as a result of construction activities. Storm runoff from construction areas and exposed slopes may cause increased turbidity, sedimentation and discharge of hydrocarbons and other pollutants.

e. No changes in the course or flow of flood waters would occur and no new flood control facilities would be required.

f. The proposed project would not result in land development or otherwise increase the exposure of persons or property to water related hazards.

g. The proposed project would not involve pumping of groundwater and would not affect groundwater or recharge of Salsipuedes Creek.

h. The proposed project does not involve extraction of groundwater, excavation of aquifers or interference with recharge.

i. The proposed project would not involve groundwater extraction or commitment of groundwater. The proposed project would not contribute to overdraft of the Santa Ynez River Valley Groundwater basin.

j. The proposed project would not involve groundwater extraction or contribute to saltwater intrusion.

k. The proposed project would not require water and would not affect public water supplies.

l. Storm runoff from Jalama Road, Highway 1 and adjacent agricultural land uses has the potential to contribute pollutants to Salsipuedes Creek. However, the proposed project would not result in substantial increase on the discharge of these pollutants.

4.16.3 Mitigation and Residual Impact

WR-1

The project would require Water Pollution Plan (WPCP) pursuant to the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ). The WPCP will include best management practices (BMPs). The following BMPs will be incorporated into the WPCP to minimize potential water quality impacts. Implementation of these measures would mitigate impacts to a less than significant level with the implementation of these measures.

- All ground disturbances will be limited to the dry season or periods when rainfall is not predicted.
- Disturbed or exposed areas will be stabilized or re-vegetated prior to the start of the rainy season.
- Straw wattles or other erosion and sedimentation measures will be used to impede suspended sediment downstream of the work area at Salsipuedes Creek during construction activities.
- Impacts to vegetation within and adjacent to Salsipuedes Creek will be minimized. The work area will be flagged and vegetation will not be removed beyond those limits.
- Exposed slopes, the creek bed and bank of the project site will be revegetated with an appropriate assemblage of native riparian and upland vegetation of the region after the project is complete.
- Construction materials and soil piles will be placed in designated areas away from Salsipuedes Creek.
- During construction, washing of concrete trucks, paint, equipment, or similar activities shall occur only in areas where polluted water and materials can be contained for subsequent removal from the site. Wash water shall not be discharged to the storm drains, street, drainage ditches, creeks, or wetlands. Concrete washout area shall be isolated from the creek, wash water and waste shall be removed from project site. The location of the washout area shall be clearly noted at the construction site with signs.
- Waste and debris generated during construction will be stored in designated areas and containers away from Salsipuedes Creek. All waste and debris will be disposed of regularly.
- All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and equipment will occur in designated areas 200 feet from Salsipuedes Creek. The designated areas will include a drain pan or drop cloth and absorbent materials to clean up spills.
- Vehicles and equipment will be maintained properly to prevent leakage of hydrocarbons and coolant and will be examined for leaks on a daily basis.
- Any accidental spill of hydrocarbons or coolant that may occur on the construction site shall be cleaned up immediately. Absorbent materials will be maintained on the construction site for this purpose

Plan Requirement/Timing:

These measures shall be included in the project specifications and WPCP.

Monitoring:

The County Resident Engineer will ensure the measures are fully implemented.

The implementation of the mitigation measure would reduce construction water quality impacts to less than significant levels.

5.0 INFORMATION SOURCES

5.1 COUNTY DEPARTMENTS CONSULTED

Police, Fire, **Public Works**, Flood Control, Parks, Environmental Health, Special Districts, Regional Programs, Other : _____

5.2 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

X	Seismic Safety/Safety Element	X	Conservation Element
X	Open Space Element	X	Noise Element
	Coastal Plan and Maps	X	Circulation Element
X	ERME	X	Agricultural Element

5.3 OTHER SOURCES

X	Field work		Ag Preserve maps
	Calculations	X	Flood Control maps
X	Project plans	X	Other technical references
	Traffic studies		(reports, survey, etc.)
	Records		Planning files, maps, reports
	Grading plans	X	Zoning maps
	Elevation, architectural renderings	X	Soils maps/reports
X	Published geological map/reports	X	Plant maps
X	Topographical maps	X	Archaeological maps and reports
		X	Other
			FEMA Floodplain maps

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7.0 PROJECT SPECIFIC (SHORT ANDF LONG TERM) AND CUMULATIVVE IMPACT SUMMARY

7.1 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE IMPACTS

None identified.

7.2 SIGNIFICANT BUT MITIGABLE IMPACTS

Biological Resources – The proposed project may result in:

- Loss of native vegetation and native Riparian vegetation within the Willow Riparian community.
- Loss of native trees.
- Potential significant impacts to California red-legged frog, southwestern pond turtles, western spadefoot toads, silvery legless lizards, coast horned lizards and coast patch nose and birds protected by the MBTA and nesting cliff swallows.

Cultural Resources – The proposed project may result in:

- Potential disturbance of unknown buried cultural resources.

Fire Protection – The proposed project may result in:

- Increased fire hazard to adjacent areas associated with construction activities in areas supporting potentially flammable vegetation.

Hazardous materials – The proposed project may result in:

- Exposure of the public and workers to lead based paint associated with bridge demolition.

Water Resources/Flooding - The proposed project may result in:

- Temporary degradation of surface water quality associated with discharge of storm water from project construction.

7.3 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts are defined as two or more individual effects which, when considered together are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.

Pursuant to Section 15064 of the State CEQA Guidelines the lead agency must identify cumulative impacts, determine their significance and determine if the effects of the project are cumulatively considerable.

Air Quality

Other potential projects could generate both short term construction emissions and long term vehicle emissions. The proposed project would not contribute to cumulative long term vehicle emissions. If the proposed project and potential future projects were to occur at the same time the proposed project may contribute to cumulative construction emissions. Construction emissions

of all proposed projects would be mitigated by standard measures required by the Santa Barbara County APCD. Implementation of these measures would reduce significant project and cumulative air quality impacts from construction. The incremental air quality impact associated with project construction would not be cumulatively considerable.

Water Resources

Potential future projects in the area may require potable water service and may affect groundwater supplies. The proposed project would not require a water supply and would not contribute to this impact. Cumulative development would increase pollutant concentration in storm runoff and may adversely affect surface water quality. Proposed project construction may contribute to cumulative surface water quality impacts. Project mitigation measures would be implemented to and minimize impacts to surface water quality.

Potential future projects may be located near drainages and there is the potential for spills of fuel and lubricants affecting the groundwater. The proposed project could contribute to this cumulative impact. Mitigation measures would be implemented to minimize impacts to groundwater quality. Therefore, the proposed project contribution to groundwater impacts would not be considerable.

Biological Resources

Future potential projects may be located along drainages and within native plant assemblages and could result in removal and loss of native vegetation including riparian vegetation or native trees. The California red-legged frog, southern steelhead, southwestern pond turtles, western spadefoot toads, silvery legless lizards, coast horned lizards and coast patch nose two-striped garter snake could occur in drainages within the region and other projects may adversely affect suitable habitat and individuals of these species. Birds protected by the MBTA occur throughout the region and potential future projects would most likely affect protected birds.

The proposed project, with the implementation of project mitigation measures, is not expected to substantially contribute to cumulatively significant biological resource impacts. No other bridge projects are planned in the near future within the project vicinity.

The proposed project would be constructed of steel and does not provide crevice habitat for bats. In addition, with no other bridge projects in the near future, cumulative impacts for cliff swallows are not expected. The proposed project is not expected to contribute to cumulative impacts to the cliff swallow or nest sites.

Cultural resources

Potential future projects may be located in previously developed areas and are not expected to adversely affect intact archaeological resources. Some projects may be located in potential sensitive areas and may result in disturbance of cultural resources. The proposed project may impact unknown cultural resources and could contribute to cumulative impacts. Mitigation measures would be implemented to minimize potential impacts to archaeological resources. The proposed project contribution to cumulative cultural resource impacts would not be considerable.

Noise

Potential future projects could generate both short term construction noise and long term traffic noise. The proposed project would not contribute to cumulative long term traffic noise and may contribute to cumulative construction noise if the proposed project construction is going on at the same time as potential future projects. The proposed project is not located in close proximity to other projects and construction would not be at the same time. The proposed project would not have considerable contribution to cumulative impacts at noise sensitive receptors affected by these future projects.

8.0 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

TABLE 20. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE IMPACTS

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
1. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish and 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 of restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X			
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short term to the disadvantage of long term environmental goals?				X	
3. 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)?			X		
4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X			

Will the proposal result in:	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
5. Is there disagreement supported by facts, reasonable assumptions predicated upon facts and/or expert opinion supported by facts over the significance of an effect which would warrant investigation in an EIR?				X	

8.1 IMPACT DISCUSSION:

1. The proposed project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment. Implementation of the Bio -1 through Bio -6 mitigation measures will ensure there is no substantial reduction in the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, will not cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. The proposed project will not contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions or significantly increase energy consumption, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
2. The proposed project does not have the potential to achieve short-term to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals. The proposed project is designed to achieve the goal of the Public Works Department to replace all structurally deficient bridges within the County owned roadway system.
3. The proposed project does have impacts that are individually limited to the project location, but are cumulatively considerable. There are no proposed bridge projects in the area or other projects in the vicinity that may create cumulative impacts which when considered together would be considerable, or which compound or increase other environmental impacts.
4. The proposed project will not create environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Construction equipment will generate short term noise. Construction noise impacts will be minimized with the implementation of mitigation measure Noise-1.
5. Is there no disagreement supported by facts or any reasonable assumptions predicated upon facts and/or expert opinion supported by facts over the significance of an effect which would warrant investigation in an EIR.

9.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

No significant adverse unmitigable impacts were identified, therefore, no project alternatives were considered.

10.0 INTITIAL REVIEW OF PROJECT CONISTENCY WITH APPLICBLE ZONING AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

An analysis of the consistency of the proposed project with applicable policies of the Santa Barbara Comprehensive Plan is provided below.

HILLSIDE AND WATERSHED PROTECTION POLICIES	
1.	Plans for development shall minimize cut and fill operations. Plans requiring excessive cutting and filling may be denied if it is determined that the development could be carried out with less alteration of the natural terrain. **Consistency**: The proposed bridge widening minimizes cut and fill by retaining the old abutments and wing walls on the creek bank. The construction of the wider bridge limits alternation of the natural terrain.
2.	All developments shall be designed to fit the site topography, soils, geology, hydrology, and any other existing conditions and be oriented so that grading and other site preparation is kept to an absolute minimum. Natural features, landforms, and native vegetation, such as trees, shall be preserved to the maximum extent feasible. Areas of the site which are not suited to development because of known soil, geologic, flood, erosion or other hazards shall remain in open space. **Consistency**: The proposed wider bridge structure fits to the site topography and limits grading and impacts to the surrounding natural features.
3.	Degradation of the water quality of groundwater basins, nearby streams, or wetlands shall not result from development of the site. Pollutants, such as chemicals, fuels, lubricants, raw sewage, harmful waste, shall not be discharged into or alongside coastal streams or wetlands either during or after construction. **Consistency**: Mitigation measures for the proposed project protect the nearby stream from pollutants and prohibit discharge of fuels, lubricants and cement washout into Salsipuedes Creek.
STREAMS AND CREEKS POLICIES	
1.	All permitted construction and grading within stream corridors shall be carried out in such a manner as to minimize impacts from increased runoff, sedimentation, biochemical degradation, or thermal pollution. **Consistency**: Mitigation measures for the proposed project protect the nearby stream from sedimentation and erosion into Salsipuedes Creek.

FLOOD HAZARD AREA POLICIES	
1.	All development, including construction, excavation, and grading, except for flood control projects and non-structural agricultural uses, shall be prohibited in the floodway unless off-setting improvements in accordance with federal regulations are provided. If the proposed development falls within the floodway fringe, development may be permitted, provided creek setback requirements are met and finished floor elevations are two feet above the projected 100-year flood elevation, and the other requirements regarding materials and utilities as specified in the Flood Plain Management Ordinance are in compliance. **Consistency**: The existing bridge has existing footings within a portion the floodway as do most bridges supporting public transportation facilities. The existing bridge has footings within the 100-year flood plain elevation of Salsipuedes Creek although the travel way the public drives on is more than 25 feet above the 100 year flood plain elevation.
HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES POLICIES	
1.	All available measures, including purchase, tax relief, purchase of development rights, etc., shall be explored to avoid development on significant historic, prehistoric, archaeological, and other classes of cultural sites. **Consistency**: The proposed bridge location was thoroughly studied and documented with a Historic Property Survey Report and an Archaeology Survey report that determined no archaeological or historic resources would be impacted. Mitigation measure AR-1 for the proposed project is in place in the unlikely event that cultural materials are found during excavation of the roadway
2.	Native Americans shall be consulted when development proposals are submitted which impact significant archaeological or cultural sites. **Consistency**: Native Americans were notified and consulted during the drafting of the Historic Property Survey Report and Archaeologic Survey Reports.

11.0 RECOMMENDATION BY LEAD AGECNY STAFF

On the basis of the Initial Study, lead agency staff:

_____ Finds that the proposed project WILL NOT have a significant effect on the environment and therefore, recommends that a Negative Declaration (ND) be prepared.

_X_ Finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be sufficient effect in this case because the mitigation measures incorporated into the project description would successfully mitigate the potentially significant impacts; Staff recommends the preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The MND finding is based on the assumption that mitigating measures will be acceptable to the applicant; if not acceptable a revised Initial Study finding for the preparation of an EIR may result.

_____ Finds that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and recommends an EIR be prepared.

_____ Finds that from existing documents (previous EIRs, etc.) that a subsequent document (containing updated and site specific information, etc.) pursuant to CEQA Sections 15162/15163/15164 should be prepared.

Potentially significant unavoidable adverse impact areas: None

_____ With Public Hearing __X__ Without Public Hearing

Previous Document: None

Project Evaluator: Steve Jones, Senior Botanist/Permitting Specialist BioResource Consultants Inc.

Date: December 2013

12.0 DETERMINATION BY ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING OFFICER

✓ I agree with staff conclusions. Preparation of the appropriate document may proceed.

_____ I DO NOT agree with staff conclusions. The following actions will be taken:

_____ I require consultation and further information prior to making my determination.

SIGNATURE: John Ritter INITIAL STUDY DATE: 1.9.14

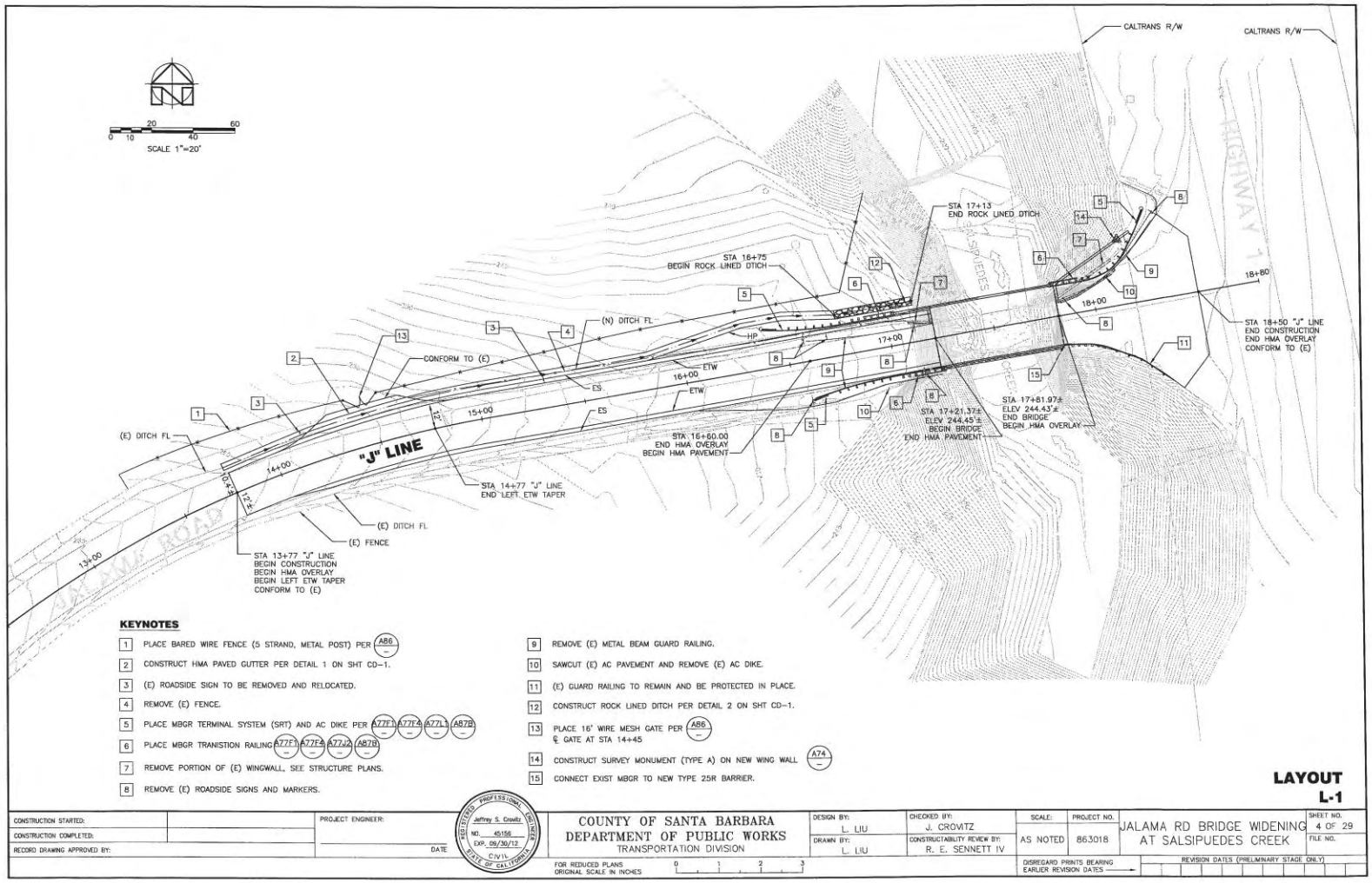
SIGNATURE: John Ritter DRAFT ND DATE: 1.9.14

SIGNATURE:_____ REVISION DATE:_____

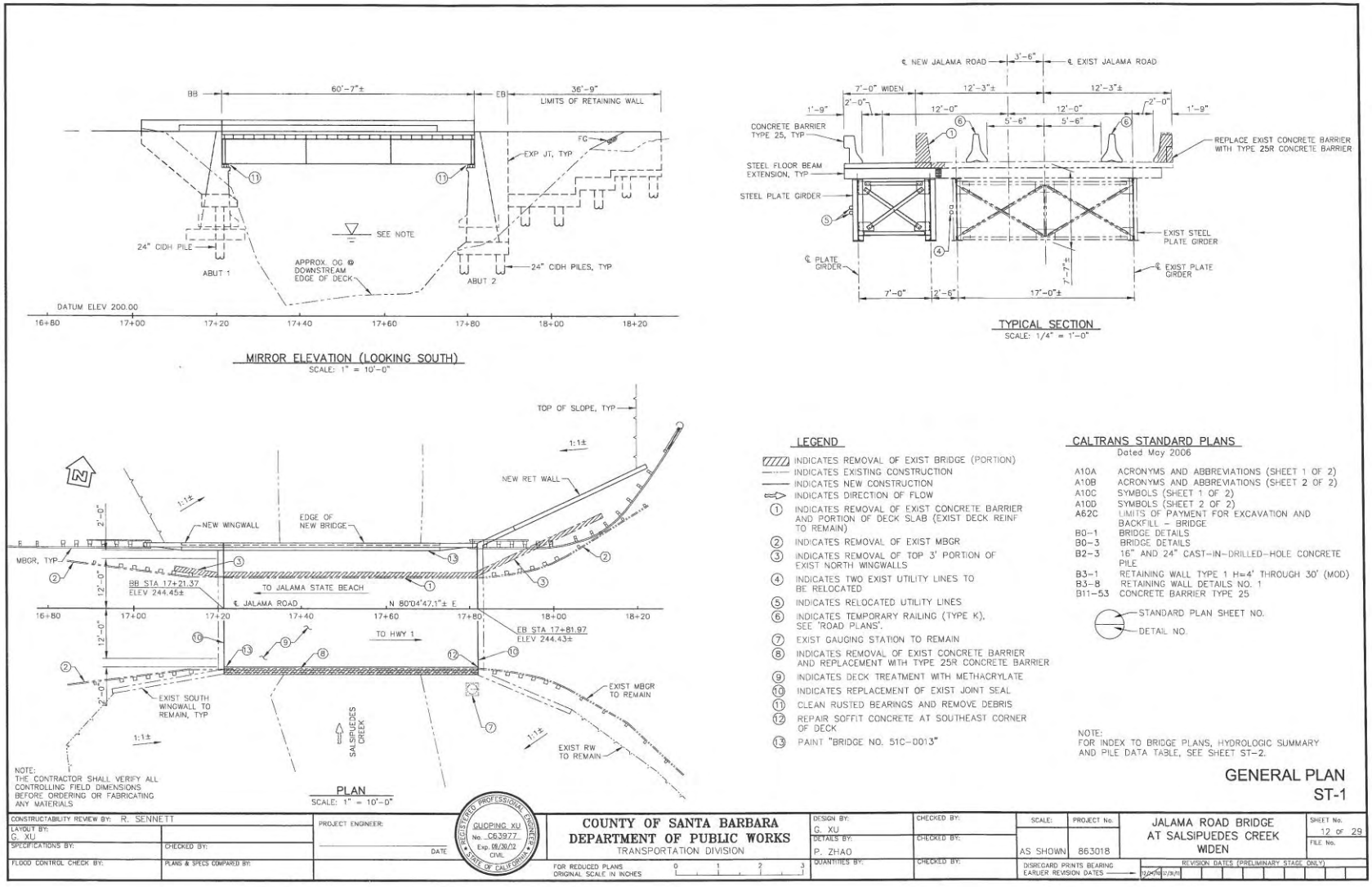
SIGNATURE:_____ FINAL MND DATE:_____

Appendix A

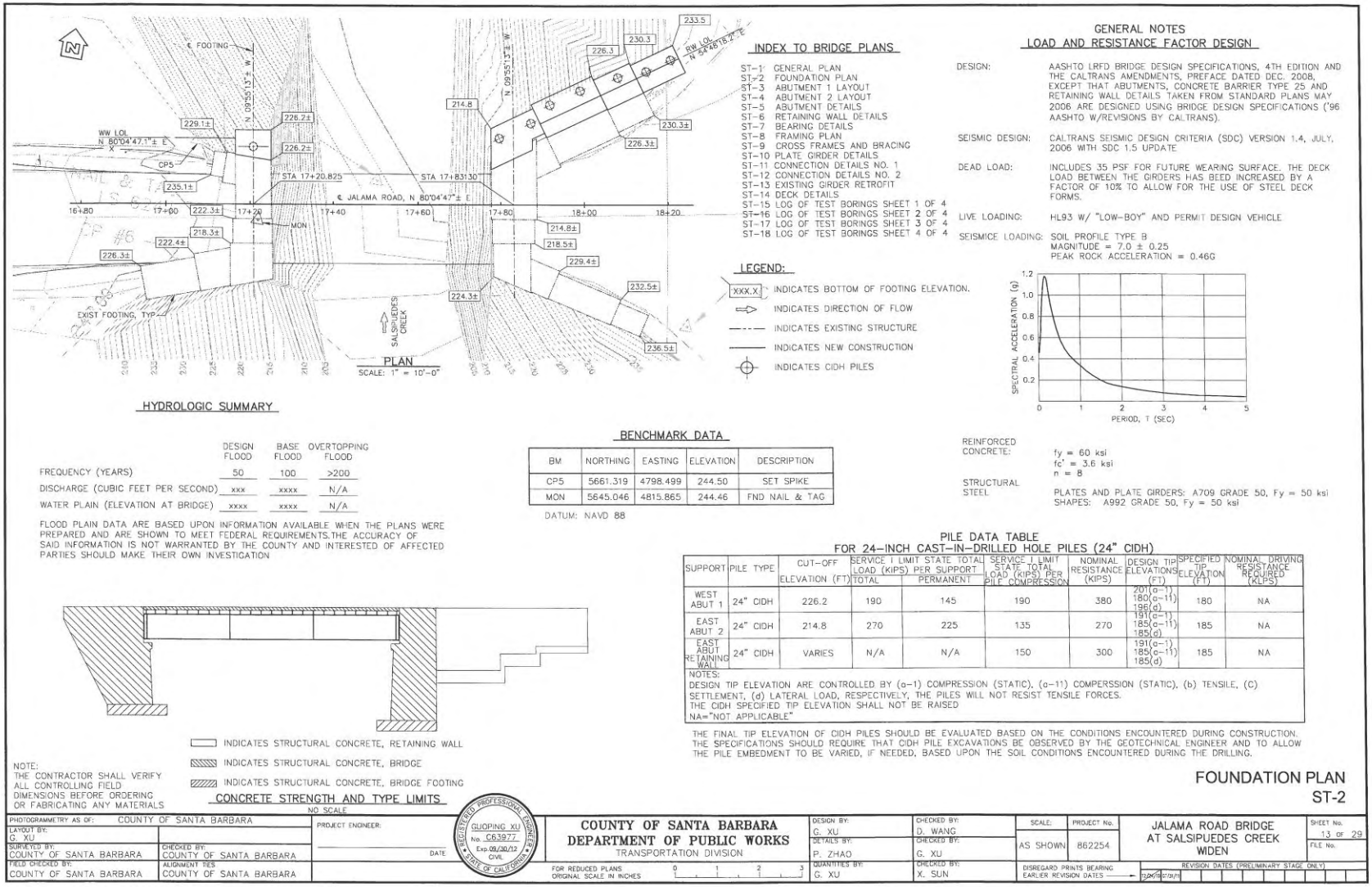
Project Design Drawings



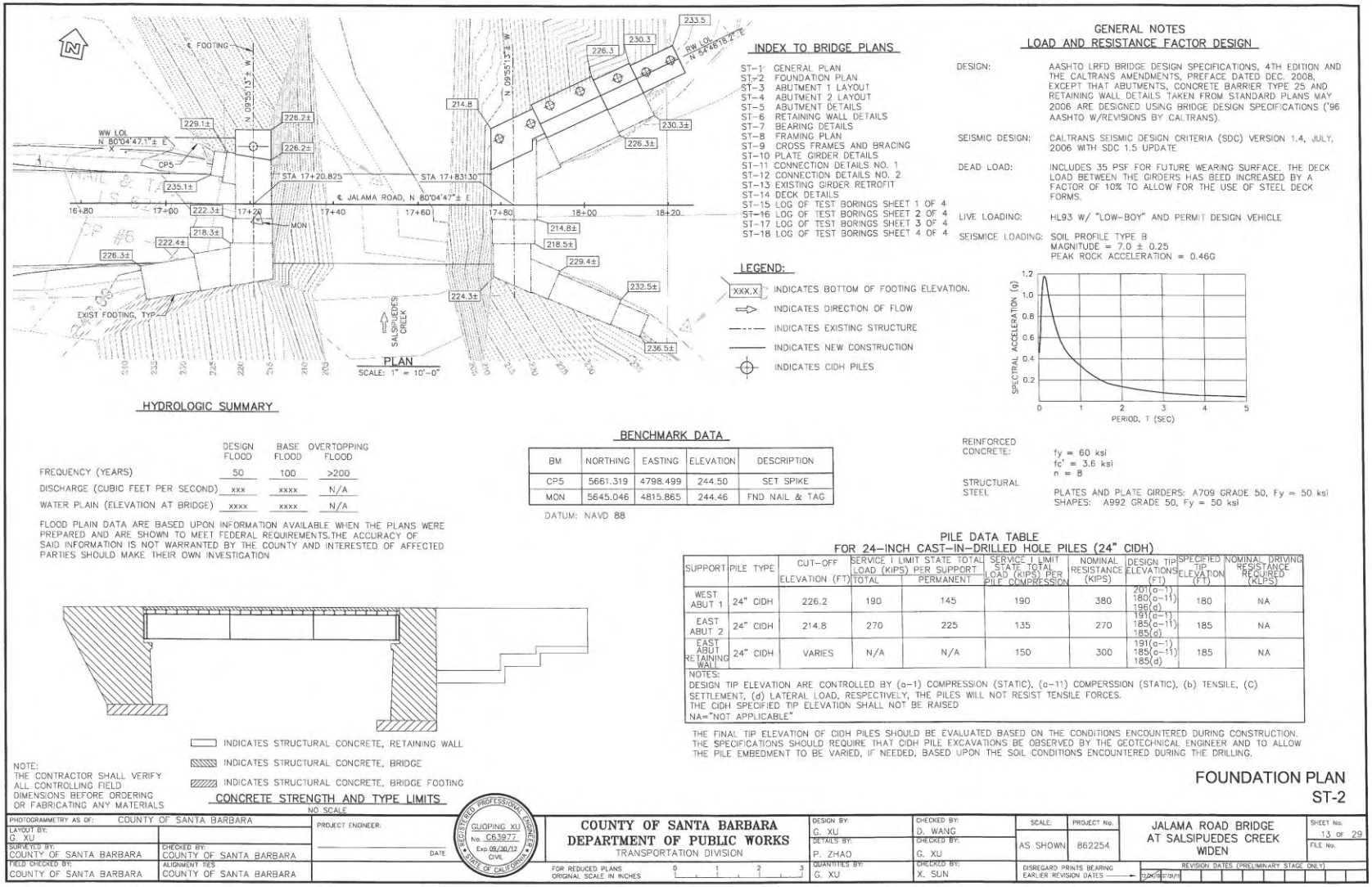
Jalama Road Bridge (NO. 51C-013) Widening Project
13NGD-00000-00005
Santa Barbara County Project No. 863018



Jalama Road Bridge (NO. 51C-013) Widening Project
13NGD-00000-00005
Santa Barbara County Project No. 863018



Jalama Road Bridge (NO. 51C-013) Widening Project
13NGD-00000-00005
Santa Barbara County Project No. 863018



Jalama Road Bridge (NO. 51C-013) Widening Project
13NGD-00000-00005
Santa Barbara County Project No. 863018

Appendix B

Photographic Log

Photo 1. Jalama Road Bridge looking south on Jalama Road

Photo 2.. Looking north on Jalama Road toward the Jalama Road Bridge and Highway 1

Photo 3..Disturbed Annual Grassland south of Salsipuedes Creek and west of Jalama Road

Photo 4..Coyote Brush Coastal Sage Scrub south of Jalama Road Bridge and east of Jalama Road..

Photo 5.. Salsipuedes Creek looking upstream at Jalama Road Bridge

Photo 6..Salsipuedes Creek looking downstream

Photo 7..Salsipuedes Creek looking at Fish Ladder and Pools on downstream side of Jalama Road Bridge

Photo 8. Salsipuedes Creek looking upstream from the Jalama Road Bridge

Photo 9. Looking down at Salsipuedes Creek on the upstream side at southwestern pond turtles and pool

Photo 10 Looking at the southwest slope

Photo 11 Looking at northwest slope

Appendix C

Agency Concurrence Letters

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003

IN REPLY REFER TO:
08EVEN00-2013-F-0453

September 17, 2013

Tom Edell, Biologist
California Department of Transportation, District 5
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Subject: Jalama Road Bridge Widening Utilizing the Programmatic Biological Opinion for Projects Funded or Approved under the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Aid Program (8-8-10-F-58)

Dear Mr. Edell:

We are responding to your notification sent on September 11, 2013, and received in our office on September 12, 2013, regarding the widening of the Jalama Road Bridge, Santa Barbara County, California. Under the administration of the Programmatic Biological Opinion for Projects Funded or Approved under the Federal Highway Administration's Federal Aid Program (8-8-10-F-58) (PBO), you are required to notify us of project activities that may adversely affect any federally listed species analyzed within this programmatic biological opinion. You have determined that the subject projects are likely to adversely affect the federally threatened California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), but not affect designated critical habitat for the species.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has assumed the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), for this action in accordance with Section 1313, Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program, of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) of 2012, as described in the National Environmental Policy Act assignment Memorandum of Understanding between FHWA and Caltrans (effective October 1, 2012) and codified in 23 U.S.C. 327.

You are notifying us of your intent to widen the existing Jalama Road Bridge in Santa Barbara County, which may affect the California red-legged frog. The Jalama Bridge is located on Jalama Road at Salsipuedes Creek at the intersection of Jalama Road and State Highway1 approximately 7 miles south of Lompoc. The project site is within the Santa Maria River – Santa Ynez River core recovery area, but not within designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog. The proposed project would involve tying two steel plate girders with cross bracing to the existing girder, and extending the steel floor beams and reinforced concrete deck slab. The bridge would be widened by 7 feet on the north to allow for a single lane of traffic to pass

through the project site during construction. The 7-foot road widening would extend for approximately 200 feet from the bridge to near Station 15+00. The abutments would be widened to accommodate the widening of the bridge. All work would be done within the County right-of-way.

Bridge widening is part of the repair and maintenance of existing bridges, and is not part of a larger action. As described, this project satisfies the four criteria outlined in the PBO for projects that are likely to result in adverse effects to the California red-legged frog, but would not affect the long-term viability of the population in the action area. Projects of this nature were analyzed in the PBO under the Effects of the Action section (Pages 29-34). Per your notification, all minimization and avoidance measures outlined in the PBO under Description of the Proposed Action will be implemented for these projects. In addition to these measures, the bridge widening will occur during the dry season (May 1 – December 1) when water levels are at their lowest.

We concur with your determination that the Jalama Road Bridge widening project is consistent with and appropriate for inclusion under the PBO. Caltrans must implement all avoidance and minimization measures, reasonable and prudent measures, and terms and conditions of the PBO.

You have not requested the Service's approval of biologists for this project, but will instead submit the names and qualifications for Service approval at least 30 days prior to the onset of activities. With this approval, the project may proceed without further consultation.

If you have any questions regarding our response to your pre-project notifications, please contact Bill Standley of our staff at (805) 644-1766, extension 315.

Sincerely,

Jeff Phillips
Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
West Coast Region
501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, California 90802-4213

In response, refer to:
2013/9802: JKO

DEC 19 2013

Tom Edell
Environmental Stewardship Branch
California Department of Transportation, District 5
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Dear Mr. Edell:

Thank you for your September 11, 2013, letter requesting initiation of Section 7 consultation under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. NMFS has reviewed the letter and additional information received December 13, 2013, from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) regarding the Jalama Road Bridge Widening Project (proposed action) at Salsipuedes Creek in Santa Barbara County, California. Caltrans is serving as the lead federal agency for the proposed action in accordance with the provisions of the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans Concerning the State of California's Participation in the Surface Transportation Project Delivery Program Pursuant* to 23 USC 327, which became effective October 1, 2012. The proposed action is of concern to NMFS because Salsipuedes Creek is within the endangered Southern California Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of steelhead and is designated critical habitat for the species.

Under the proposed action, Caltrans would widen the existing single-span bridge by 7-feet to the north. The existing bridge abutments located outside of the channel will be widened and supported on reinforced concrete piles cast in drilled holes. Construction activities will occur from the roadway or top of bank and not require construction within the creek channel or diversion of surface flows. Widening of the bridge would permanently and temporarily impact approximately 0.0115 acres and 0.037 acres of riparian habitat, respectively. A habitat mitigation and monitoring plan (HMMP) has been proposed by Caltrans to mitigate for these impacts. Construction activities will occur between May 1 and November 30 when water levels are typically low.

Caltrans determined that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect steelhead or designated critical habitat for this species, and requested NMFS concurrence with this determination. After carefully reviewing the proposed action, including the additional information Caltrans provided, NMFS concurs with Caltrans' determination for the following reasons:

1. No water diversion or dewatering of aquatic habitat is required for the proposed action because all construction will occur outside of the active channel and away from flowing water. Thus, direct effects to steelhead are not expected.

2. The proposed bridge widening is not expected to alter the channel configuration or hydrology within this section of Salsipuedes Creek because the abutments which support the single-span bridge are located outside of the channel. Thus, the proposed action is not expected to alter the function of this section of Salsipuedes Creek as a migratory corridor or freshwater rearing site for adult and juvenile steelhead.

3. Impacts to riparian vegetation within the action area are expected to be minimized due to the implementation of a HMMP. The plan would restore permanent and temporary impacts to riparian vegetation at a ratio of 5:1 and 3:1, respectively. A total of 0.1685 acres of riparian vegetation would be restored. Thus, impacts to riparian vegetation are expected to be discountable.

4. Best management practices will be implemented during construction to minimize the risk that on-site impacts would extend off site and affect steelhead and aquatic habitat within Salsipuedes Creek downstream of the action area. These practices include sediment-control measures to minimize erosion and impacts on water quality, a pollution prevention plan, measures to prevent fresh concrete from entering the creek channel, and fueling and maintenance of heavy equipment in areas away from the creek channel and sensitive habitats. Short-term increases in turbidity owing to the propose action, if observed, are anticipated to last only a few hours after the first rain event of the winter, but the magnitude of the increase is expected to be small relative to background concentration. Thus, indirect effects to steelhead and aquatic habitat from temporary levels of turbidity or runoff are not expected.

This concludes Section 7 consultation in accordance with 50 CFR 402.13 (a) for the proposed action. Consultation must be reinitiated where discretionary federal agency involvement or control over the action has been retained or is authorized by law) and: (1) if new information becomes available revealing effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to extent not previously considered; (2) if the agency action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to listed species or critical habitat that was not considered; or, (3) if a new species or critical habitat is designated that may be affected by this action.

Please contact Jay Ogawa at (562) 980-4061 or via email at jay.ogawa@noaa.gov if you have any questions concerning this letter, or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

for William W. Stelle, Jr.
Regional Administrator
West Coast Region

cc: Mary Larson, CDFW, Los Alamitos
Chris Dellith, USFWS, Ventura
Administrative File: 151422SWR2013PR00266