2017 Storm Damage Road Repair Projects – North Coast
ED17-047; 245R12B401

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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

County File Number: ED17-047 (245R12B401) SCH Number: TBD

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
2017 STORM DAMAGE EMERGENCY ROAD REPAIR PROJECTS – NORTH COAST
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION & INITIAL STUDY

Abstract

The 2017 Storm Damage Emergency Road Repair Projects – North Coast are being proposed by the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works (County) to permanently resolve damages caused by the severe winter storms that occurred between January and March 2017. The seven individual projects in the North Coast Region are being addressed collectively in one CEQA document because they are similar in scope and geographic region, will most likely result in similar potential impacts, and will require similar mitigation measures. The extent of the damage at the project locations varies slightly; however, the projects all involve slip-outs adjacent to stream courses, and portions of the roadways remain undercut and partially closed. The permanent fixes will entail some combination of the installation of sheet pile walls, rock-slope protection (RSP), or concrete block walls, to repair and augment the sections of the roadways that slipped out. Other components of the projects may include back-filling, repaving, installation of cable bracing and metal-beam guard rail, right of way fencing, and culvert replacement and repairs. The project sites are located within the North Coast and Estero Planning Areas, in Supervisorial District 2. Comments regarding this document may be sent to Keith Miller, County Public Works Department, County Government Center Room 206, San Luis Obispo, California 93408.

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

Keith Miller, Environmental Programs Division
or
Don Spagnolo, Project Manager
County Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5252

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration has been issued by:

11.16.2017 Ellen Carroll
Date Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Luis Obispo

The project proponent, who agrees to implement the mitigation measures for the project, is:

11/21/17 Dave Flynn
Date Dave Flynn, Deputy Director of Public Works
County of San Luis Obispo

Initial Study Summary – Environmental Checklist

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600

(ver 5.10) Using Form

Project Title & No. County Public Works – 2017 Storm Damage Emergency Road Repair Projects – North Coast ED17-047 (245R12B401)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The proposed project could have a "Potentially Significant Impact" for at least one of the environmental factors checked below. Please refer to the attached pages for discussion on mitigation measures or project revisions to either reduce these impacts to less than significant levels or require further study.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Geology and Soils	☐ Recreation
☐ Agricultural Resources	☐ Hazards/Hazardous Materials	☐ Transportation/Circulation
☒ Air Quality	☒ Noise	☐ Wastewater
☒ Biological Resources	☐ Population/Housing	☒ Water /Hydrology
☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Public Services/Utilities	☐ Land Use

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the Environmental Coordinator finds that:

☐ The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Keith Miller — Signature — November 3, 2017
Prepared by (Print) — Date

Steve McMasters — Signature — Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator (for) — 11/16/17
Reviewed by (Print) — Date

Project Environmental Analysis

The County's environmental review process incorporates all of the requirements for completing the Initial Study as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The Initial Study includes staff's on-site inspection of the project site and surroundings and a detailed review of the information in the file for the project. In addition, available background information is reviewed for each project. Relevant information regarding soil types and characteristics, geologic information, significant vegetation and/or wildlife resources, water availability, wastewater disposal services, existing land uses and surrounding land use categories and other information relevant to the environmental review process are evaluated for each project. Exhibit A includes the references used, as well as the agencies or groups that were contacted as a part of the Initial Study. The County Planning Department uses the checklist to summarize the results of the research accomplished during the initial environmental review of the project.

Persons, agencies or organizations interested in obtaining more information regarding the environmental review process for a project should contact the County of San Luis Obispo Planning Department, 976 Osos Street, Rm. 200, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408-2040 or call (805) 781-5600.

A. PROJECT

DESCRIPTION: The County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works (County) is proposing the 2017 Storm Damage Emergency Road Repair Projects – North Coast to permanently resolve damages caused by the severe winter storms that occurred between January and March 2017. The seven individual projects in the North Coast are located at Cayucos Creek Road Milepost (MP) 1.2 and 2.8, San Simeon Creek Road MP 4.4, Santa Rosa Creek Road MP 3.4 and 4.9, Toro Creek Road MP 1.9, and Turri Road MP 2.5. The extent of the damage at the project locations varies slightly; however, the projects all involve slip-outs adjacent to stream courses, and portions of the roadways remain undercut and partially closed. Repairs will include some combination of the installation of sheet pile walls, rock-slope protection (RSP), or concrete block walls.

The damage happened during three major storm events during the winter of 2017. The specific storm event periods include: January 3 – 12 and January 18 – 25, 2016 and February 1 – 22, 2017. State and federal emergencies were officially declared for each of these storm periods, which made them eligible for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement funding. Emergency road opening activities such as debris removal and other prompt, remedial measures required to reopen the roadway, were previously completed at each location shortly after the storm events occurred.

The next phase for these projects includes permanently resolving the damages and addressing any underlying deficiencies that may have contributed to the road failures. The permanent fixes will entail some combination of the installation of sheet pile walls, rock-slope protection (RSP), or concrete block walls, to repair and augment the sections of the roadways that slipped out. Other components of the projects may include back-filling, repaving, installation of cable bracing and metal-beam guard rail, right of way fencing, and culvert replacement and repairs. Diversions and dewatering may be required at several of these sites to accommodate access and heavy equipment operations. Habitat restoration and other revegetation efforts will also likely be required.

Temporary impacts to the sites will likely result from disturbance for access and staging, diversion and dewatering (if required), vegetation trimming and removal, and cut and fill associated with slip-out repair. Permanent impacts to the sites are anticipated to result from tree removal (if necessary), placement of RSP, sheet pile and/or concrete block walls, and possibly paving. On average, project implementation of this phase is expected to take between four and six months

per project. The projects would be constructed after required permits have been obtained and construction contracts awarded, possibly as early as the summer of 2018.

A vicinity map, brief description of each project, its environmental setting, and a typical project cross-section follow. Representative photos of each project location are included in Exhibit C.

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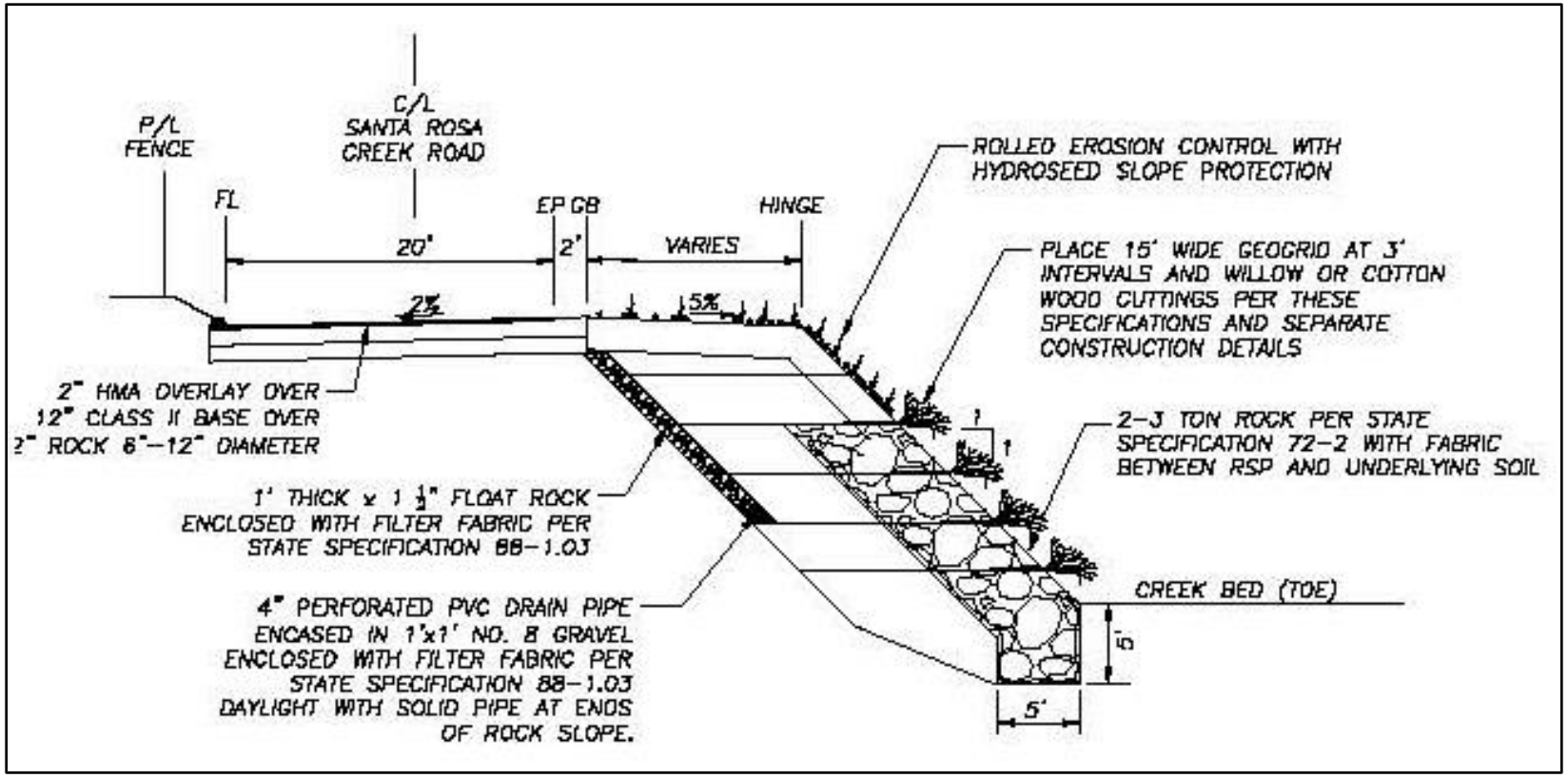
Table 1. 2017 Storm Damage Emergency Road Repair Projects – North Coast

Project Site/Road	Post Mile	Project Description	Environmental Setting
Cayucos Creek Road	1.2	Install approximately 460 cubic yards of RSP in a 60-foot-long by 40-foot-tall area. Install cable bracing, back fill and reconstruct pavement.	The project is located adjacent to and within the Cayucos Creek riparian corridor in a rural area. Land uses in the area include grazing and orchards, with scattered residences and agricultural accessory structures. The riparian corridor in the project area includes rock outcrops, trees such as coast live oak and sycamore, as well as shrubs and annual grasses. The creek is critical habitat for the California red-legged frog (CRLF) and steelhead.
Cayucos Creek Road	2.8	Install a 100-foot-long and 70-foot-tall sheet pile wall and backfill with approximately 130 cubic yards of fill. Install cable bracing, reconstruct pavement, and install a new 100-foot-long metal beam guard rail.	The project is located on a rural 2-lane road adjacent to and within the Cayucos Creek riparian corridor. Land uses in the area include grazing and orchards, with scattered residences and agricultural accessory structures. The riparian corridor in the project area includes trees such as coast live oak and sycamore, as well as shrubs and annual grasses. The creek is critical habitat for the CRLF and steelhead.
San Simeon Creek Road	4.4	Install an approximately 45-foot-long and 30-foot-tall, cable-braced sheet pile wall, backfill with approximately 200 cubic yards of soil, and install new metal beam guard rail. Revegetate as necessary.	Rural 2-lane road within oak woodland at the top of the bank of San Simeon Creek. Adjacent land use is open space, with scattered agricultural operations and residences in the greater vicinity. Vegetation includes coast live oak trees, coastal scrub species and annual grasses. The creek is critical habitat for CRLF and steelhead.
Santa Rosa Creek Road	3.4	Repair/replace an approximately 20 -foot-long section of 24-inch culvert under Santa Rosa Creek Road, backfill voids with a concrete slurry and/or native fill. Repave the road.	The existing culvert outlets into the bank of Santa Rosa Creek. Vegetation has been impacted by the storm, but generally consists of annual grassland, cape ivy, and coast live oak, with scattered scrub species as well. Santa Rosa Creek is critical habitat for the CRLF and steelhead. Surrounding land uses are generally agriculture with scattered residences.
Santa Rosa Creek Road	4.9	Install approximately 1000 cubic yards of RSP in a 175-foot-long by 30-foot-tall area along the eroded bank of Santa Rosa Creek. Repair asphalt and revegetate shoulder and bank to the extent feasible.	This project is located adjacent to and within the banks of Santa Rosa Creek. Land uses are generally agriculture or related. The project area has been severely eroded by the winter storms; however, the creek riparian corridor in this area consists of coast live oak, sycamore, with an understory of annual grasses and coastal scrub species. Santa Rosa Creek is critical habitat for the CRLF and steelhead.
Toro Creek Road	1.9	Remove damaged pavement, install approximately 700 cubic yards of RSP and fill in an area approximately 150-foot long by 25-foot-tall area along the creek bank and channel. Install metal beam guard rail.	Toro Creek Road is a rural 2-lane road in a predominantly agricultural area. The Toro Creek riparian corridor is composed of native trees such as coast live oak and sycamore as well as understory of scrub and annual grasses. The creek is critical habitat for CRLF and steelhead.
Turri Road	2.5	Install approximately 100 cubic yards of RSP along the eroded embankment of Los Osos Creek in a 45-foot-long by 30-foot-tall area. Repave Turri Road and install a 75-foot-long metal beam guard rail.	Turri Road is a rural 2-lane road in a predominately agricultural area. The project area is adjacent to and within a small drainage that flows into an unnamed tributary to Los Osos Creek. Surrounding land uses include open space and cattle grazing. Vegetation in the project area includes a mix of willows, annual grasses, and scattered coastal scrub.

2017 Storm Damage Emergency Road Repair Projects – North Coast
Typical Cross-section




San Simeon Creek Road MP 4.4
Santa Rosa Creek Road MP 3.4
Santa Rosa Creek Road MP 4.9
Cambria
Harmony
Cayucos Creek Road MP 2.8
Cayucos Creek Road MP 1.2
Cayucos
Toro Creek Road MP 1.9
Pacific Ocean
Morro Bay
Los Osos
Turri Road MP 2.5
2017 Storm Damage Emergency Road Repair Projects
North Coast
1: 126,720
0 1 2 Miles
WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere
© County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works
Map for Reference Purposes Only
The County of San Luis Obispo does not assume liability for any damages caused by errors or omissions in the data and makes no warranty of any kind, express or implied, that these data are accurate and reliable.
Monterey County
Kings County
Tulare County
Kern County
Pacific Ocean
Santa Barbara County
Ventura County

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER(S): Not applicable

Latitude and Longitude: Not applicable. **SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT** # 2

B. EXISTING SETTING

PLAN AREA: North Coast and Estero **SUB**: Multiple **COMM:** Rural

LAND USE CATEGORY: Not applicable

COMB. DESIGNATION: Variable, and including Geologic Study Area, Flood Hazard, Renewable Energy

PARCEL SIZE: Not applicable, public right-of-way

TOPOGRAPHY: Flat to steeply sloping

VEGETATION: ruderal, mixed riparian, stream channel

EXISTING USES: Public roads

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

North: Agriculture	*East:* Agriculture
South: Agriculture	*West:* Agriculture

C. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

During the Initial Study process, at least one issue was identified as having a potentially significant environmental effects (see following Initial Study). Those potentially significant items associated with the proposed uses can be minimized to less than significant levels.

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

1. AESTHETICS *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Create an aesthetically incompatible site open to public view?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Introduce a use within a scenic view open to public view?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Change the visual character of an area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create glare or night lighting, which may affect surrounding areas?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Impact unique geological or physical features?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The projects are in the north coastal area of San Luis Obispo County. They are all located on rural roads, in areas with a high scenic value. Land uses in the project areas include primarily agriculture, with scattered residential uses, and open space. The number of viewers on these rural roads is generally low, but there is a high expectation that views of pastoral agricultural areas and open spaces that characterize the area will not be disturbed or obstructed significantly.

Impact. The project sites are small with respect to the landscapes in which they are located. The largest, Santa Rosa Creek Road MP 4.9 is approximately 175 feet long, but in general the projects are less than 100 feet long. The projects are located “downslope” of the road, between the road and the adjacent creek or drainage, and are only visible to motorists specifically looking for them.

The proposed improvements, which include installation of rip-rap, metal beam guard rails, new pavement, and vegetation, are consistent with the existing level of development on these rural roads, where small slope failures and repairs are common during heavy winter rains. The improvements which at first would appear “new” would quickly revegetate and begin to blend with the adjacent existing riparian vegetation within a few years. The projects will not silhouette against any ridgelines, result in night lighting, impact unique features, or create an aesthetically incompatible view to the public when viewed from public roadways. No significant visual impacts are expected to occur.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No impacts have been identified, and mitigation measures are needed.

2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Convert prime agricultural land, per NRCS soil classification, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Impair agricultural use of other property or result in conversion to other uses?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or Williamson Act program?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Agricultural Resources

Setting. Project Elements. The following area-specific elements relate to the property's importance for agricultural production:

Land Use Category: Not applicable - ROW

State Classification:

Not applicable - ROW

Historic/Existing Commercial Crops: Cattle grazing primarily, row crops in surrounding lands

In Agricultural Preserve? Not applicable - ROW

Under Williamson Act contract? Not applicable - ROW

The proposed projects are in rural areas with cattle grazing operations typically in the immediate vicinity. Row crops and orchards exist in proximity to some of the project sites as well. Referrals were sent to the County Agriculture Commissioner's Office.

Impact. The project repairs are generally located within the road ROW and would not convert any agricultural land to another use. In addition, the project locations would not impede agricultural operations/hauling, except for the short-term, temporary lane closure required to complete the work. The Agriculture Commissioner's Office concluded that noxious weeds could be spread into the project sites and adjacent lands inadvertently during construction. In addition, they note that the projects have the potential to temporarily impact agricultural operations by restricting access during construction.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The projects would not impact prime soils, lands under Williamson Act contracts, or convert agricultural land uses to another use. The County routinely coordinates with local landowners during the implementation and construction of local roads projects, and would do so during the construction of these projects. Measures addressing the potential introduction of noxious weeds to the project site are included in the Biological Resources section. These measures would reduce impacts to a less than significant level. No further measures are required.

3. AIR QUALITY

Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Violate any state or federal ambient air quality standard, or exceed air quality emission thresholds as established by County Air Pollution Control District?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Expose any sensitive receptor to substantial air pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Create or subject individuals to objectionable odors?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be inconsistent with the District's Clean Air Plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant either considered in non-attainment under applicable state or federal ambient air quality standards that are due to increased energy use or traffic generation, or intensified land use change?	☐	☐	☒	☐
GREENHOUSE GASES				
f) ***Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?***	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has developed their CEQA Air Quality Handbook (2012) to evaluate project specific impacts and help determine if air quality mitigation measures are needed, or if potentially significant impacts could result. Project impacts are generally considered either short-term (i.e. constriction) or long-term (i.e. operational). Some projects have both, while others, have either one or the other. To evaluate long-term emissions, cumulative effects, and establish countywide programs to reach acceptable air quality levels, the APCD prepared a Clean Air Plan. Project referrals for this project were sent to the SLO County APCD.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions are said to result in an increase in the earth's average surface temperature. This is commonly referred to as global warming. The rise in global temperature is associated with long-term changes in precipitation, temperature, wind patterns, and other elements of the earth's climate system. This is also known as climate change. These changes are now thought to be broadly attributed to GHG emissions, particularly those emissions that result from the human production and use of fossil fuels. In March 2012, the San Luis Obispo County Air Pollution Control

District (APCD) approved thresholds for GHG emission impacts, and these thresholds have been incorporated the APCD's CEQA Air Quality Handbook.

Under CEQA, an individual project's GHG emissions will generally not result in direct significant impacts. This is because the climate change issue is global in nature. However, an individual project could be found to contribute to a potentially significant cumulative impact. Projects that have GHG emissions above the noted thresholds may be considered cumulatively considerable and require mitigation.

The projects are within or adjacent to areas with known naturally-occurring asbestos (NOA). No known areas of hydrocarbon contamination exist within the project areas. As currently proposed, the projects would not include the demolition of buildings or structures, except for broken asphalt, culverts, and fences, for example. No known sources of asbestos containing building materials or lead-based paint exist within the project areas.

Impact. The SLO County APCD has reviewed the projects and determined that they are unlikely to result in significant construction-related air quality/GHG emissions (SLOAPCD 2017). This is due to the project size and relatively short duration. Because the projects are repairs of existing rural roads and will not alter traffic patterns or increase traffic, they will not result in any long-term/operational emissions.

As proposed, each of the projects will disturb less than one acre. Nevertheless, the projects will involve earthwork and the importation and placement of rock rip-rap and soil. These activities will result in the creation of construction dust, as well as short-term construction vehicle emissions. The projects are near widely scattered residences and areas containing naturally-occurring asbestos (NOA).

Mitigation/Conclusion. The SLO County APCD has recommended measures to address the generation of dust, control NOA if it exists, and limit the effects of on and off-road diesel engines idling. These measures are included in Exhibit B and include such things as using water to control dust, preparing an NOA control plan, and enforcing a 5-minute idling restriction during construction. These measures will reduce impacts to a less than significant level No additional measures are required.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES *Will the project:*	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Result in a loss of unique or special status species* or their habitats?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Reduce the extent, diversity or quality of native or other important vegetation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Impact wetland or riparian habitat?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Interfere with the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or factors, which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Conflict with any regional plans or policies to protect sensitive species, or regulations of the California Department of Fish & Wildlife or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
f) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

* **Species – as defined in Section15380 of the CEQA Guidelines, which includes all plant and wildlife species that fall under the category of rare, threatened or endangered, as described in this section.**

Setting.

The biological resources setting section is based on field reconnaissance, review of existing technical reports, and desktop research, and the County's experience with infrastructure development and maintenance projects in northwestern San Luis Obispo County.

Vegetation Communities

The North Coast projects are all similar in size and scope. In addition, they all contain relatively similar habitat types, and many of the dominant plant species observed within the various habitat types are the same. This is to be expected, given that the different projects are all within the same general geographic area. The habitat types observed within the different project areas are described collectively below and these include: ruderal/developed, mixed riparian, and the active stream channel.

Ruderal/developed: All the project areas have some portion of ruderal/developed habitat. This habitat type includes all the paved roadways and road shoulders, any other infrastructure that may be present- such as culverts, fences, and utilities, the sections of the roads that failed and slipped out, and other areas that are trimmed, disturbed, or maintained by private land owners or the County- such as fallow or active agricultural fields and orchards, residential front yards, and active or abandon ranch lands). Plants are predominantly absent in areas classified as ruderal/developed and the dominant species that were observed are weedy, non-native grasses and forbs such as big quaking grass (*Briza maxima*), Harding grass (*Phalaris aquatica*), bristly ox-tongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*), and poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*).

Mixed Riparian: Mature, profuse, and diverse riparian vegetation communities are associated with all the streams that occur within the different project areas. Areas classified as mixed riparian include relatively large sized trees, shrubs and vines, and herbaceous strata. However, the percentages of canopy cover within the different actions areas is variable. At most of the sites, the areas that contain the slip-outs have completely lost the stream bank and the riparian vegetation that previously occurred there and have caved well into the pavement; an entire lane of traffic was lost at several of the sites. Up and downstream of the slip-outs, the mixed riparian vegetation remains intact. The dominant plant species observed within the mixed riparian habitats may include: coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), willows (Salix brewerii, *S. lasiolepis*, and *S. laevigata*), western dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), California mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), and rose (*Rosa* sp.).

Stream Channel: The plant species composition in the active stream channels of the project areas varies between the different sites. In some of the sites, the stream channel contains little to no vegetation and is predominantly scoured, while in others the channel itself is not visible at all because it is covered by a thicker canopy of vegetation. The amount of rock, soil, cobble, and boulders within the stream channels is also highly variable. Several of the dominant plant species observed within the active stream channel within the sites include: sedge (*Carex* spp.), willow sprouts (*Salix* spp.), California blackberry, poison oak, California mugwort, stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*), and horsetail (*Equisetum* spp.).

Jurisdictional Waters

A formal delineation of jurisdictional waters and riparian habitats has not been prepared, but based on the habitat types and approximate project limits, the location, type, and areal extent of waters, including wetlands, and riparian habitats within each of the project sites that would be subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) have been identified. No evidence of jurisdictional wetlands was observed during biological reconnaissance visits. Other waters subject to USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB jurisdiction within the project sites are confined to portions of the streams below

the ordinary high-water marks and the surrounding riparian habitat.

Sensitive Habitat Types and Specials-status Plants

Both the stream channel and mixed riparian vegetation communities are generally considered sensitive habitat types and are subject to permitting by state and federal agencies. In the case of Turri Road MP 2.5, which is within the Coastal Zone, these two communities, would also be considered Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHAs). Local, state, and federal agencies require that mitigation be developed to address impacts to these sensitive communities that may result from the projects.

A search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) indicates that numerous special-status plant species exist in northwestern San Luis Obispo County. An additional search of the CNPS Rare Plant Inventory for riparian habitats in San Luis Obispo County helped to refine the species list. These species are shown in the table below.

The project areas consist of slipouts, slumps, and other earth failures which have eroded, and therefore there is a low potential for special-status plants to exist within the areas of disturbance. During biological resources reconnaissance surveys, Blochman's dudleaya (*Dudleya blochmaniae ssp. Blochmaniae*) was observed on a serpentine outcrop just west of, but outside the right-of-way and project area limits, near the Cayucos Creek Road MP 1.2 project site. No other special-status plant species were observed within any of the project sites.

Species	Status* (Federal/State)	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur?
bristlecone fir (*Abies bracteate*)	None / 1B.3	Broadleafed upland forest, Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Riparian woodland	**Very low**. No firs were observed during field surveys
late-flowered mariposa lily (Calochortus fimbriatus)	None / 1B.3	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Riparian woodland	**Very low.** Riparian areas heavily disturbed from storm damage.
Santa Lucia horkelia (*Horkelia yadonii*)	None / 4.2	Broadleafed upland forest, Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Meadows and seeps, Riparian woodland	**Very low.** Riparian areas heavily disturbed from storm damage.
small-leaved lomatium (*Lomatium parvifolium*)	None / 4.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Riparian woodland	**Very low.** Riparian areas heavily disturbed from storm damage.
Abbott's bush-mallow (Malacothamnus abbottii)	None / 1B.1	Riparian scrub	**Very low.** Riparian areas heavily disturbed from storm damage.
Davidson's bush-mallow (Malacothamnus davidsonii)	None / 1B.2	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Coastal scrub, Riparian woodland	**Very low.** Riparian areas heavily disturbed from storm damage. Bush-mallows have been recorded along Santa Rosa Creek Road.
black-flowered figwort (Scrophularia atrata)	None / 1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, Chaparral, Coastal dunes, Coastal scrub, Riparian scrub	**Very low.** No recorded observations of this species north of the City of San Luis Obispo

*These statuses are based on the CNPS rare plant rank. 1B.1 through 4, all of which may be considered in CEQA documents.

Special-status Wildlife

Special status wildlife with a potential to occur in or around the project sites are included in the following table. A total of nine-quads were searched in the CNNDB in order to identify special-status species with the potential to occur within the project areas. All project locations, except for Turri Road MP 2.5, are located within critical habitat for South-central California steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss;*

steelhead) and the California red-legged frog (CRLF). Steelhead/rainbow trout juveniles were observed within the stream at the San Simeon Creek Road MP 4.4 site during the field surveys.

Species	Status* (Federal/State)	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur?
Steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)	FT/None	Clear, cool water with instream cover, well vegetated stream margins, relatively stable water flow, and a 1:1 pool-to-riffle ratio	**High potential.** Observed in various reaches of coastal creeks. Less likely at Turri Road due to lack of flow.
California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)	FT/SSC	Lowlands & foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.	**High potential**. CRLF exists in coastal creeks throughout the project areas.
Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii*)	None/SSC	Partly-shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats.	**Very low potential**. Suitable habitat generally present, but CNDDB observation from Cambria quad are dated.
Pacific pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*)	None/SSC	Quiet waters of ponds, lakes, streams, and marshes. Typically in the deepest parts with an abundance of basking sites.	**High potential.** Suitable habitat present primarily adjacent to project sites.
Two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondii*)	None/SSC	Perennial and intermittent streams having rocky beds bordered by willow thickets or other dense vegetation with prey present	**Moderate potential.** Suitable habitat present adjacent to project sites.
Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa torosa*)	None/SSC	Coastal drainages from Mendocino County to San Diego County.	**High potential.** Suitable habitat present adjacent to project sites.
Coast-horned lizard (*Phrynosoma Blainvillii)*	None/SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats; most commonly in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes	**Very low potential.** Suitable habitat generally not present north of Morro Bay.
Silvery legless lizard *(Anniella pulchra pulchra)*	None/SSC	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Soils with high moisture content	**Very low potential.** Suitable habitat generally not present north of Morro Bay
Nesting avian species	Protected by the MBTA and other regulations	Variable	**High potential.** Suitable nesting habitat at or adjacent to all sites.

*FT= Federally threatened; SSC= California Species of Special Concern

Impact.

Sensitive Habitat Types and Jurisdictional Areas

The proposed projects will potentially impact jurisdictional areas and sensitive vegetation communities. These impacts are limited in scope due to the disturbed nature of the sites. Impacts would be primarily temporary and construction related and would impact a mixture of ruderal, mixed riparian, and stream channel vegetation communities, the ratios of which are variable between each project.

The location of the dripline of riparian vegetation along with the approximate top of bank was used to approximate the project areas subject to CDFW jurisdiction. Areas of disturbance within jurisdictional areas is shown in the table below. These calculations should be considered preliminary and have been developed to provide a sense of the scale of each project. Specific areas of impact will be further refined during the subsequent permitting process.

Impacts will be temporary since the projects include a removal of slumped material and replacement with rip-rap or earthen fill to reconstruct the embankments. Permanent fill below the ordinary high-water mark would be rock-slope protection, vegetated the extent feasible, which may be considered beneficial fill. These areas will be refined during subsequent project development and the permitting process.

Approximate Temporary Impacts to Jurisdictional Areas (acres)

Project	Agency	
	USACE / RWQCB	CDFW
Cayucos Creek Road MP 1.2	0.014	0.028
Cayucos Creek Road MP 2.8	0.023	0.046
San Simeon Creek Road MP 4.4	0.010	0.021
Santa Rosa Creek Road MP 3.4	0.009	0.018
Santa Rosa Creek Road MP 4.9	0.040	0.080
Toro Creek Road MP1.9	0.034	0.069
Turri Road MP 2.5	0.014	0.028 (also Coastal Zone ESHA)

Special-status Plants

Specials-status plants are not expected to be impacted because the storm damaged project areas generally do not provide suitable habitat for them. Nevertheless, there is a relatively high number of plants that considered rare by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) that could exist in the greater project work areas and surrounding properties. Further, if project construction is not initiated in some locations until 2018 or later, special-status plants, if they existed in the area, could repopulate the storm damaged areas prior to construction.

Special-status Wildlife

Because of the recent and significant level of disturbance, and their proximity to public roads, the project areas generally do not provide pristine habitat for any of the special-status species described above. Nevertheless, the vegetation communities and creeks provide foraging habitat and cover for fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds. CRLF, for example, will utilize natural or man-made structures that provide shade, moisture, and cooler temperatures including spaces under rocks, boulders, and organic debris such as downed trees or logs, and other industrial debris such as drains. CRLF will also use small mammal burrows and moist leaf litter as upland refugia.

Construction activities will require use of heavy machinery such as excavators, dozers, and backhoes, working primarily from the embankment and roads. Special-status wildlife such as the two-striped garter snake the CRLF, and slender salamander, in the project areas may be encountered during construction activities, including dewatering, the excavation of failed slopes, removal of metal guard beams, fences, asphalt, and other materials, and the installation of new materials such as rip-rap, earthen fill, block walls, and guard rails, for example.

Over the long-term, when the sites have been revegetated, conditions for special-status wildlife is expected to be better than the current conditions because the site will be more stable. It should be noted that impacts to steelhead are of particular concern since regulatory agencies have historically determined that substantial armoring of embankments with rip-rap, if done haphazardly, may reduce channel and bank complexity, and limit the amount of cover available, resulting in long-term cumulatively significant habitat loss for that species.

Mitigation/Conclusion.

Despite the relatively small areas of disturbance and temporary nature of the disturbance, the proposed projects will potentially impact jurisdictional areas, sensitive vegetation communities, and wildlife. The species with potential to occur are, generally speaking, equally expected at each site, with a few exceptions. For example, steelhead are unlikely to be encountered at the Turri Road MP 2.5 site due to the limited flow anticipated in the adjacent channel during the construction season, while legless lizard and coast horned-lizard are less likely to be encountered in the more heavily wooded, riparian canopies near San Simeon Creek Road MP 4.4. To that end, the County is preparing a suite of mitigation measures that will be implemented as necessary at each location.

Because the impacts are primarily related directly to construction activities, the measures are heavily focused on conducting thorough pre-construction surveys for the species in question, and monitoring subsequent activities to ensure these species haven't moved into the work areas during construction. The measures are included in Exhibit B and are based on standard County, state and federal measures. The projects will require the County to obtain permits from the CDFDW, RWQCB, and the USACE, and it is expected that refinement of the potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures will occur during consultation with those agencies, as well as the NMFS and USFWS. These measures and processes will ensure that all potential project-related impacts are avoided, reduced, or mitigated to a less than significant level.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES *Will the project:*	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Disturb archaeological resources?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Disturb historical resources?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Disturb paleontological resources?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Cause a substantial adverse change to a Tribal Cultural Resource?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Cultural Resources

Setting. The projects are in areas historically occupied by the Salinan, and/or Obispeño Chumash. The seven project areas are located adjacent to or within coastal streams. Coastal stream terraces are generally considered highly sensitive areas for cultural resources; however, these projects are generally located primarily within the creek bank, dynamic areas subject to regular flooding as well as earth slumps and slides, and were therefore less suitable for habitation or regular use by Native Americans. In addition, the project areas have all been previously disturbed historically by road construction, historic maintenance activities, and significantly by the 2017 winter storms.

The project sites are located primarily within recently deposited alluvium associated with the creeks to which they are adjacent. In some cases, outcrops of the Franciscan mélange are within or adjacent to the project sites. Neither of these geologic formations are known to contain significant paleontological resources.

A review of the County's cultural resources database indicates that few formal cultural resources reports have been previously prepared in the project vicinities, and no known resources have been identified within the project areas. No buildings or structures other than fences, guard rails, and metal culverts were observed within the project areas.

Impact. The projects are in areas that would generally be considered culturally sensitive due to their proximity to creeks, which are physical features typically associated with prehistoric occupation. However, the project sites have been highly disturbed historically because of road development and maintenance, utility installation, historic agricultural use, and drainage improvements, such as the installation of culverts. Potential impacts to cultural resources would be limited to the unlikely event that buried cultural resources are encountered during construction. This potential impact is further limited in that the projects include primarily filling the slope failures with rip-rap and earth fill. Excavation of native material is generally limited to small areas within the active creek channel.

Per AB52, tribal consultation was performed. No tribal cultural resources were identified, although it was requested that the County consider staging areas and proximity to known resources in this review, and to ensure that project construction personnel are trained to be aware of the potential for unearthing unknown cultural resources during excavation.

The formations underlying the project sites have a low sensitivity for paleontological resources. Impacts to paleontological resources are not expected.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Impacts to cultural resources are not expected, however, to minimize impacts to unknown buried cultural resources that may be encountered during construction, a mitigation measure that requires cultural resources worker education has been included in Exhibit B. In addition, if at a later date, staging areas are identified that are not adjacent to/within the road right-of-way, subsequent cultural resources evaluation and avoidance of identified resources may be necessary. These two measures would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. No additional measures are required.

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS *Will the project:*	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Result in exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions, such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, ground failure, land subsidence or other similar hazards?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Be within a California Geological Survey "Alquist-Priolo" Earthquake Fault Zone", or other known fault zones*?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in soil erosion, topographic changes, loss of topsoil or unstable soil conditions from project-related improvements, such as vegetation removal, grading, excavation, or fill?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Include structures located on expansive soils?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Be inconsistent with the goals and policies of the County's Safety Element relating to Geologic and Seismic Hazards?	☐	☐	☒	☐

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
f) Preclude the future extraction of valuable mineral resources?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

* **Per Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication #42**

Setting. The following relates to the project's geologic aspects or conditions:

Topography: Nearly level to steeply sloping

Within County's Geologic Study Area?: Yes - San Simeon Creek MP 4.4, Santa Rosa Creek MP 3.4, and Turri Road 2.5.

Landslide Risk Potential: Low to High

Liquefaction Potential: Low to Moderate

Nearby potentially active faults?: Yes Distance? Variable

Area known to contain serpentine or ultramafic rock or soils?: Yes

Shrink/Swell potential of soil: Variable

Other notable geologic features? Soil slumps and slips due to winter storms

The projects are located within and adjacent to stream banks, where geologic processes are active daily. The banks are steeply sloped, which has likely contributed to localized slope failures. The geology at each site consists of the alluvium associated with the creeks; bedrock has been observed near the surface at some locations, and during geotechnical testing at others. Fill (i.e. road base) construction and drainage improvements exists onsite. The areas to be repaired vary in length from approximately 30 feet to 200 feet, and the slopes to be repaired are approximately 15 to 30-feet-tall on average.

Impact. The projects are proposed to repair existing slope failures that have undermined rural, public roads. Project improvements include the installation of a combination of large rip-rap, sheet pile walls, and cable supports. These areas would be backfilled with earthen soil and revegetated by hydroseeding and installing willow cuttings, as appropriate for each site, to minimize the potential for erosion.

The projects would be located in a seismically active area, but the projects do not include structures for human habitation and the repairs would be constructed in accordance with current established engineering practices. Compliance with these practices and other applicable standards indicate that risks to people and/or structures, including those related to unstable earth conditions, were properly safeguarded against.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Potential impacts would be less than significant based on compliance with existing regulations and standard best management practices. There is no indication that additional measures are required.

7. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Create a hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within ¼-mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on, or adjacent to, a site which is included on a list of hazardous material/waste sites compiled pursuant to Gov't Code 65962.5 ("Cortese List"), and result in an adverse public health condition?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Impair implementation or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) If within the Airport Review designation, or near a private airstrip, result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Increase fire hazard risk or expose people or structures to high wildland fire hazard conditions?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Be within a 'very high' fire hazard severity zone?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Be within an area classified as a 'state responsibility' area as defined by CalFire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The project areas are not located in areas of known hazardous material contamination. The project sites are not located within ¼ mile of any hazardous materials sites included in the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor Database. Based on the County's fire response

time map, it will take approximately 5 to 15 minutes to respond to a call regarding fire or life safety at the project locations.

Impact. Construction of the projects may require the use of hazardous materials such as fuels and lubricants, and may pose a fire safety risk. The projects may temporarily affect traffic flow during construction, however they are not expected to conflict with any regional evacuation plan. Potential impacts could involve mechanical failure of some equipment resulting in fuel or fluid spills. Improper operation of equipment in proximity to dry vegetation could result in an equipment caused fire. It is unlikely but possible that excavation during project construction will encounter unknown hazardous materials/soil contamination.

The projects do not propose the use of hazardous materials, nor the generation of hazardous wastes. The proposed projects are not found on the 'Cortese List' (which is a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5). The project does not present a significant fire safety risk. The project is not expected to conflict with any regional emergency response or evacuation plan.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No impacts have been identified and no mitigation measures are required.

8. NOISE *Will the project:*	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Expose people to noise levels that exceed the County Noise Element thresholds?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generate permanent increases in the ambient noise levels in the project vicinity?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Cause a temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise in the project vicinity?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Expose people to severe noise or vibration?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) If located within the Airport Review designation or adjacent to a private airstrip, expose people residing or working in the project area to severe noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☒
f) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. In general, the projects are in rural, agricultural settings with generally no sensitive receptors (e.g. residences, hospitals, churches, schools, etc.) in the vicinity. The two Santa Rosa Creek Road projects (M.P 3.4 ad 4.9) as well as Cayucos Creek Road MP 1.2 are located in relatively close proximity (fewer than 300 feet) to residences.

Impact. Noise levels in the immediate project area will be elevated during construction activities, especially when heavy machinery is in use. Some residents may at times be bothered by construction noise. No exceedance of county noise standard is expected from the project. Project construction is expected to last no more than one to two weeks at any one location.

Mitigation/Conclusion. To minimize short-term construction noise impacts, the project will comply with the Noise Element of the San Luis Obispo County General Plan by limiting construction activities associated with the project to specific hours, as follows:

[N-1] All construction activities associated with the project shall occur between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and from 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Saturday. There will be no construction activities on Sundays.

9. POPULATION/HOUSING *Will the project:*	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly (e.g., construct new homes or businesses) or indirectly (e.g., extension of major infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Displace existing housing or people, requiring construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Create the need for substantial new housing in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting The projects include the repair of existing public roads in rural, agricultural areas.

Impact. The project will not result in a need for a significant amount of new housing, and will not displace existing housing.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No impacts have been identified and no mitigation measures are necessary.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/UTILITIES *Will the project have an effect upon, or result in the need for new or altered public services in any of the following areas:*	**Potentially Significant**	**Impact can & will be mitigated**	**Insignificant Impact**	**Not Applicable**
a) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Police protection (e.g., Sheriff, CHP)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Schools?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Roads?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Solid Wastes?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The project area is served by the following public services/facilities:

Police: County Sheriff	Location: Variable	
Fire: Cal Fire (formerly CDF)	Hazard Severity: Variable	Response Time: 5-15 minutes
School District: Not Applicable		

Impact. No significant project-specific impacts to utilities or public services are expected. Proposed road repairs would provide beneficial impacts by potentially improving response time for police and fire compared to existing conditions. The projects will not result in an increase in the local population and will not construct any facility that requires ongoing public safety services. Construction will result in minor traffic delays. No significant impacts to public services/utilities are expected to occur from the projects.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No impacts have been identified, and therefore no mitigation measures are required.

11. RECREATION *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Increase the use or demand for parks or other recreation opportunities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Affect the access to trails, parks or other recreation opportunities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Other _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. Based on the County Trails Corridor Map, only the Santa Rosa Creek Road projects are located within potential trail corridors. No projects are located within existing trail alignments or public open spaces.

Impact. The proposed project will not create a significant need for additional park, Natural Area, and/or recreational resources. The proposed improvements along Santa Rosa Creek Road are primarily in the stream bank and will therefore not preclude the future construction of a trail.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No impacts have been identified and therefore no mitigation measures are needed.

12. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Increase vehicle trips to local or areawide circulation system?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Reduce existing "Level of Service" on public roadway(s)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

12. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
c) Create unsafe conditions on public roadways (e.g., limited access, design features, sight distance, slow vehicles)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Provide for adequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with an established measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system considering all modes of transportation (e.g. LOS, mass transit, etc.)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Result in a change in air traffic patterns that may result in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The projects are proposed to repair relatively small sections of rural public roads.

Impact. Impacts to transportation will be beneficial because the roads will be completely functional again once construction has been completed. During construction, minor delays or detours for short periods may be necessary. The County routinely notifies residents and the general public of such activities and will implement their standard notification procedures for each of the projects.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant traffic impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are required.

13. WASTEWATER *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Violate waste discharge requirements or Central Coast Basin Plan criteria for wastewater systems?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Change the quality of surface or ground water (e.g., nitrogen-loading, day-lighting)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Adversely affect community wastewater service provider?	☐	☐	☐	☒

13. WASTEWATER

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
Will the project:				
d) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting/Impact. No individual or community wastewater systems will be affected by the projects. No significant impacts to wastewater are expected to occur from the projects. If necessary, a portable chemical toilet will be on site for use by construction crews.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No impacts have been identified and no mitigation measures are needed.

14. WATER & HYDROLOGY

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
Will the project:				
QUALITY				
a) Violate any water quality standards?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Discharge into surface waters or otherwise alter surface water quality (e.g., turbidity, sediment, temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Change the quality of groundwater (e.g., saltwater intrusion, nitrogen-loading, etc.)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Change rates of soil absorption, or amount or direction of surface runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Change the drainage patterns where substantial on- or off-site sedimentation/ erosion or flooding may occur?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Involve activities within the 100-year flood zone?	☐	☒	☐	☐
QUANTITY				
h) Change the quantity or movement of available surface or ground water?	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) Adversely affect community water service provider?	☐	☐	☒	☐
j) Expose people to a risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding (e.g., dam failure,etc.), or inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

14. WATER & HYDROLOGY

Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
k) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The topography of the project locations varies from flat to steeply sloping. The projects will not require water except for dust control during construction. The projects are generally not within the 100-year flood designation as mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but the projects are located within creek banks, and in some cases within the low-flow channels, and are therefore subjected to flowing and/or standing surface water. The project designs include sedimentation and erosion controls, specific to that project. In general, riprapped slopes will not receive erosion control treatments. Earthen slopes and other areas of bare ground will generally be covered with jute netting and hydroseed. In some cases, straw wattles may be utilized to prevent erosion of the construction areas. Willow cuttings will be installed as applicable at each location

Impact. Construction of the individual projects will involve temporary disturbance and material storage. Exposed and freshly disturbed soils, heavy equipment utilizing diesel fuel and hydraulic fluids, and road surface materials all pose a threat to water quality during the construction period. Soil along existing roadways may be exposed during the construction phase. Adverse water quality impacts could result from the release of fine sediments into any potential nearby creeks or rivers, and the accidental release of petroleum products from construction equipment.

Water may be required during construction for dust control and to achieve compaction specifications. The water requirements for construction will be short term and are expected to be insignificant.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The project designs include sedimentation and erosion controls, specific to that project. In general, riprapped slopes will not receive erosion control treatments. Earthen slopes and other areas of bare ground will generally be covered with jute netting and hydroseed. In some cases, straw wattles may be utilized to prevent erosion of the construction areas. Additionally, mitigation measures have been included in Exhibit B to address residual potentially significant impacts to water quality.

15. LAND USE

Will the project:

	Inconsistent	Potentially Inconsistent	Consistent	Not Applicable
a) Be potentially inconsistent with land use, policy/regulation (e.g., general plan [County Land Use Element and Ordinance], local coastal plan, specific plan, Clean Air Plan, etc.) adopted to avoid or mitigate for environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Be potentially inconsistent with any habitat or community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be potentially inconsistent with adopted agency environmental plans or policies with jurisdiction over the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be potentially incompatible with surrounding land uses?	☐	☐	☒	☐

15. LAND USE

Will the project:

	Inconsistent	Potentially Inconsistent	Consistent	Not Applicable
e) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting/Impact. Surrounding uses vary depending on the location. Referrals were sent to outside agencies to review (e.g., Caltrans, the APCD for Clean Air Plan, etc.). None of the improvement projects are within or adjacent to a Habitat Conservation Plan area. The project is consistent or compatible with the surrounding uses. The projects are limited to the road and associated work. The projects will be consistent with the surrounding land uses and will facilitate efficient and safe movement of people through the area. The projects were found to be consistent with the other reference documents (refer also to Exhibit A on reference documents used). The Turri Road MP 2.5 project is located in the Coastal Zone, and it will be necessary to obtain a Coastal Development Permit before construction.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No inconsistencies were identified and therefore no additional measures above what will already be required were determined necessary.

16. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or pre-history?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

For further information on CEQA or the County's environmental review process, please visit the County's web site at "www.sloplanning.org" under "Environmental Information", or the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System at: http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/ for information about the California Environmental Quality Act.

Exhibit A - Initial Study References and Agency Contacts

The County Planning Department has contacted various agencies for their comments on the proposed project. With respect to the subject application, the following have been contacted (marked with an ☒) and when a response was made, it is either attached or in the application file:

Contacted	Agency	Response
☐	County Public Works Department	**Not Applicable**
☐	County Environmental Health Services	**Not Applicable**
☒	County Agricultural Commissioner's Office	**In file**
☐	County Airport Manager	**Not Applicable**
☐	Airport Land Use Commission	**Not Applicable**
☒	Air Pollution Control District	**In file**
☐	County Sheriff's Department	**Not Applicable**
☒	Regional Water Quality Control Board	**None**
☒	CA Coastal Commission	**None**
☒	CA Department of Fish and Wildlife	**None**
☐	CA Department of Forestry (Cal Fire)	**Not Applicable**
☐	CA Department of Transportation	**Not Applicable**
☒	Other USFWS	**In file**
☒	Other USACE	**In file**
☒	Other NMFS	**None**

*** "No comment" or "No concerns"-type responses are usually not attached*

The following checked ("☒") reference materials have been used in the environmental review for the proposed project and are hereby incorporated by reference into the Initial Study. The following information is available at the County Planning and Building Department.

☒ Project Files

County documents

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

Other documents

☒ Clean Air Plan/APCD Handbook
☒ Regional Transportation Plan
☒ Uniform Fire Code
☒ Water Quality Control Plan (Central Coast Basin – Region 3)
☒ Archaeological Resources Map
☒ Area of Critical Concerns Map
☒ Special Biological Importance Map
☒ CA Natural Species Diversity Database
☒ Fire Hazard Severity Map
☒ Flood Hazard Maps
☒ Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey for SLO County
☒ GIS mapping layers (e.g., habitat, streams, contours, etc.)
☐ Other

Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary Table

Per Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, the following measures also constitute the mitigation monitoring and/or reporting program that will reduce potentially significant impacts to less than significant levels. These measures will become conditions of approval (COAs) should the project be approved. The Lead Agency (County) or other Responsible Agencies, as specified in the following measures, are responsible to verify compliance with these COAs.

Air Quality/GHG

AQ-1 Projects shall implement the following mitigation measures to minimize nuisance impacts and to significantly reduce fugitive dust emissions:

- Reduce the amount of the disturbed area where possible;
- Use water trucks or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible;
- All dirt stock-pile areas should be sprayed daily as needed;
- All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, etc. to be paved should be completed as soon as possible, and building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used;
- All of these fugitive dust mitigation measures shall be shown on grading and building plans; and
- The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the fugitive dust emissions and enhance the implementation of the measures as necessary to minimize dust complaints, reduce visible emissions below 20% opacity, and to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress.

AQ-2 The following measures regarding diesel idling shall be implemented at each project location.

On-road diesel vehicles

- Shall not idle the vehicle's primary diesel engine for greater than 5-minutes at any location, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation; and,
- Shall not operate a diesel-fueled auxiliary power system (APS) to power a heater, air conditioner, or any ancillary equipment on that vehicle during sleeping or resting in a sleeper berth for greater than 5.0 minutes at any location when within 1,000 feet of a restricted area

Off-road diesel vehicles

- Shall comply with the 5-minute idling restriction identified in Section 2449(dX2) of the California Air Resources Board's ln-Use Off-Road Diesel regulation.
- Signs must be posted in the designated queuing areas and job sites to remind drivers and operators of the state's 5-minute idling limit.
- The specific requirements and exceptions in the regulations can be reviewed at the following web sites: www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/truck-idling/factsheet.pdf and www.arb.ca.gov/regacV2007/ordiesl0T/frooal. pdf.

Biological Resources

BR-1 Through the USACE and/or FEMA processes, consult with the USFWS to develop avoidance and minimization measures for the CRLF. These measures may include, for example, the measures described in the 2011 CRLF Programmatic Biological Opinion between the USFWS and the California Department of Transportation, District 5 such as conducting pre-construction

surveys, identifying CRLF relocation sites, using USFWS-approved biologists, and establishing standard monitoring protocols during construction.

BR-2 During construction, work within the creek shall be conducted when the creek does not contain flowing or standing water, if feasible. If work activities must occur when water is present in the creek channel, the contractor shall dewater the creek prior to conducting the activities. If work in the channel is necessary, upstream and downstream passage for fish, including juvenile steelhead, will be provided through or around construction sites at all times and/or fish will be relocated to adjacent areas of suitable habitat unaffected by project activities. Cofferdams will be installed to divert streamflow around each in-stream construction area.

BR-3 Through the USACE and/or FEMA processes, conduct consultation with the NMFS to develop avoidance and minimization measures for steelhead. These measures may include, for example, having a qualified biologist onsite during the installation of cofferdams and during the cofferdam dewatering process to capture and move trapped salmonids and other fish as well as identifying the appropriate procedures for relocating fish. Protocols for the capture, handling, and release of fish will be developed in cooperation with NMFS and CDFW and implemented during project construction.

BR-4 The projects located within the main channel of a stream shall incorporate boulder/cobble clusters, rootwads, or similar design features to the extent practicable, at each project location.

BR-5 Prior to any construction work beginning, including any vegetation clearing, jurisdictional areas and sensitive resource areas shall be clearly marked (e.g. fencing, flagging, paint) in the field adjacent to the work area. No construction work, including material storage, shall occur outside of the “Project Limits”. The required marking shall remain in place during the entire construction period and maintained as needed by the contractor.

BR-6 Before any activities begin on a project, a qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training shall include a description of the important vegetation and special-status resources that occur in the project area, the specific measures that are being implemented to conserve them and the boundaries within which the project may be accomplished. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session, provided that a qualified person is on hand to answer any questions.

BR-7 Prior to and during construction qualified biologists shall conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status wildlife that could be encountered onsite, including pond turtle, slender salamanders, two-striped garter snake, and the coast-horned lizard, for example. Regular subsequent monitoring of each project site shall be conducted and a qualified biologist will be present to monitor during all initial clearing and vegetation and grubbing.

BR-8 During construction, the cleaning and refueling of equipment and vehicles will occur only within a designated staging area and as far from aquatic areas as feasible. At a minimum, all equipment and vehicles will be checked and maintained daily to ensure proper operation and avoid potential leaks or spills.

BR-9 During construction, the biological monitor will ensure that the spread or introduction of invasive exotic plant species is avoided to the maximum extent possible. When practicable, invasive exotic plants in the project site will be removed and properly disposed of.

BR-10 During construction, trash will be contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris will be removed from work

areas. All vegetation removed from the construction site shall be taken to a certified landfill to prevent the spread of invasive species.

BR-11 To protect special-status avian species and those species protected by the Migratory Bird Treat Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code Section 3503, vegetation clearing and earth disturbance should be avoided during the typical nesting season (February 15 to September 1). If avoiding construction during this season is not feasible, a qualified biologist shall survey the area within one week prior to activity beginning on site. If nesting birds are located on or near the proposed project site, they shall be avoided until they have successfully fledged. A buffer zone of 50 feet will be placed around all non-sensitive, passerine bird species, and a 250-foot buffer will be implemented for raptor species, and all activity will remain outside of that buffer until the qualified biologist, has determined that the young have fledged. Buffer reductions and/or work within non-disturbance buffer areas can be completed only with approval from relevant resource agencies.

BR-12 Prior to construction a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) shall be prepared that describes the revegetation efforts to be conducted at each site. Each project area shall be revegetated with a mixture of seed, container plants, and willow stakes, as appropriate. Implementation of the HMPs shall be conducted in coordination with the installation of erosion control measures.

Cultural Resources

CR-1 During earth moving activities, in the event archaeological resources are unearthed or discovered, construction near the find shall stop, and the Public Works project manager and the Environmental Coordinator shall be notified so that the extent and location of discovered materials may be recorded by a qualified archaeologist, and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with state and federal law.

CR-2 In the event archaeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case when human remains are discovered during construction, the County Coroner and Environmental Coordinator are to be notified so proper disposition may be accomplished.

Geology and Soils

GS-1 Install appropriate erosion control measures (i.e., silt fences, hay bales) along the base of the proposed work area and at the downstream end of the proposed construction zone and maintain erosion control mechanisms daily.

GS-2 Check and maintain erosion control measures daily throughout the duration of work activities. Erosion control measures should be re-installed appropriately as the proposed work area changes.

GS-3 Restore all previously vegetated areas that are cleared during project activities through revegetation with appropriate indigenous native species.

Noise

N-1 All construction activities associated with the project shall occur between the hours of 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and from 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on Saturday. There will be no construction activities on Sundays.

Water Resources

WR-1 All project-related spills of hazardous materials shall be cleaned up immediately.

WR-2 Daily, check and maintain all equipment and vehicles that would be operated within the identified work area to ensure proper operation and avoid potential leaks or spills.

WR-3 Employ best management practices (BMPs) to control the discharge of materials from the site and into creeks and local storm drains. BMP methods may include, but would not be limited to, the use of temporary retention basins, straw bales, sand bagging, mulching, erosion control blankets, soil stabilizers, and native erosion control grass seed.

Mitigation Monitoring Plan

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

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

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

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

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

Exhibit C – Representative Photographs

Photo 1. Cayucos Creek Road MP 1.2

Photo 2. Cayucos Creek Road MP 2.8

Photo 3. San Simeon Creek Road MP 4.4

Photo 5. Santa Rosa Creek Road MP 3.4

Photo 6. Santa Rosa Creek Road MP 4.9

Photo 7. Toro Creek Road MP 1.9

Photo 8. Turri Road MP 2.5

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