Salinas Avenue Culvert Replacement Project
ED14-196/245R12B632

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, NOTICE OF DETERMINATION, & INITIAL STUDY

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

County File Number: ED14-196 (245R12B632) SCH Number: TBD

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
SALINAS AVENUE CULVERT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION & INITIAL STUDY

Abstract

The San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department (County) proposes to replace the existing culvert crossing with two 66-inch diameter culverts. The project will also include replacing in kind a private driveway culvert immediately downstream of the road crossing. This project would increase the capacity of the culverts to meet current County standards. The purpose of the project is to increase safety, improve access, reduce road closure, and decrease maintenance resulting from flooding on Salinas Avenue. The new culverts will be installed along the same alignment as the existing culverts. All work, including staging, will be conducted within the County right-of-way. No public utilities are expected to be affected. Construction is expected to take 2-3 weeks and will require temporary road closure to facilitate the work. The project will be scheduled and completed in late summer or early fall when no water is present in Toad Creek. The project is located on Salinas Avenue between Eddy and Hawley Streets, in the community of Templeton. The project site is located within the Salinas River subarea of the North County planning area in Supervisorial District 1. 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
Steve Jones, 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:

8.3.17
Date

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

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

8/3/17
Date

Dave Flynn
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 5.7)Using Form

Project Title & No. **Public Works - Salinas Avenue Culvert Improvement Project; ED14-196 (245R12B632)**

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 — 8/3/17
Prepared by (Print) — Date

Steve McMasters — Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator (for) — 8/3/17
Reviewed by (Print) — Signature — 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: Request by the San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department to replace two failing and undersized culverts on Toad Creek in Templeton in accordance with Section 5 “Storm Drainage” of County Public Improvement Standards. The existing corrugated metal pipes (CMP) are old, rusted, and silted-in, in part due to poor creek flow conveyance. The new culverts will be designed to pass a 100-year storm event and will improve water conveyance, reduce annual maintenance, and improve passage for aquatic wildlife species. The project is located on Salinas Avenue between Hawley and Eddy Street, in the community of Templeton, in the North County planning area (Salinas River sub area) (refer to Appendix A, Vicinity Map).

The Salinas Avenue Culvert Improvement Project (project) includes replacing the Salinas Avenue culvert crossing – consisting of two 37-foot long, 48-inch diameter CMPs with two 34-foot long, 66-inch diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE/plastic) pipes; and, replacing an adjacent driveway culvert – consisting of two 22-foot long, 36-inch diameter CMPs with two 28-foot long, 66-inch diameter plastic pipes. The design of the culvert replacement will also include reinforced concrete inlet structures (headwall/wingwalls) anchored to the pipe to prevent scour and inlet failure. In addition to the culvert replacement, there are several other project elements including: road reconstruction; roadside drainage improvements; widening approximately 35 linear feet of Toad Creek; vegetation management and debris removal; and revegetation/restoration.

The work will include: 1) sawcut and remove existing culverts; 2) install new culverts; 3) install concrete inlet structures; 4) widen portion of Toad Creek; 5) regrade/pave roadway; 6) vegetation management and debris removal; 7) revegetate and restore disturbed areas. Typical construction equipment will include: backhoe/loader, excavator, dump truck, concrete transit mixer, roller, and asphalt paver. The project will result in approximately 0.8 acre of temporary disturbance and 0.006 acre of permanent disturbance. All work, including staging, will be conducted within County right-of-way. No public utilities will be affected by the project. Construction is expected to take roughly 3-4 weeks to complete. This project will be constructed during the dry season when water is not present in the creek.

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER(S): N/A

Latitude: 35.551245 N Longitude: -120.708225 W **SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT** # 1

B. EXISTING SETTING

PLAN AREA: North County **SUB**: Salinas River Sub Area **COMM:** Templeton

LAND USE CATEGORY: Residential Single Family

COMB. DESIGNATION: Flood Hazard

PARCEL SIZE: Not applicable

TOPOGRAPHY: Nearly level to gently rolling

VEGETATION: Urban-built up, Wooded wetland, Ruderal, Grasses

EXISTING USES: Residential

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

North: Residential Single Family; single-family residence(s)	*East:* Residential Single Family; single-family residence(s)
South: Residential Single Family; single-family residence(s)	*West:* Residential Single Family; single-family residence(s)

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 project is characterized by residential development. Vegetation in the project area consists of woody riparian, scattered oaks, non-native annual grasses, and ornamental landscaping. The project will be visible from immediately surrounding public roadways and the existing single-family residences. The project would not be visible from any major public roadway or silhouette against any ridgelines as viewed from public roadways. The project is considered compatible with the surrounding uses.

Impact. Visible improvements include installing concrete headwalls, repaving the roadway, and vegetation and debris management in Toad Creek. These elements are consistent with the existing character of the area. Temporary visual impacts would occur during construction and prior to establishment of revegetation efforts, but these impacts are considered insignificant because no long-term significant visual impacts would result. Permanent biological impacts to Toad Creek would be mitigated through on-site restoration efforts proposed by the County. The removal of riparian vegetation would be minimized to the extent feasible.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures are necessary.

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: _____	☐	☐	☐	☒

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

Land Use Category: Residential Single Family

State Classification: Not prime farmland

Historic/Existing Commercial Crops: None

In Agricultural Preserve? No

Under Williamson Act contract? No

The soil type(s) and characteristics on the subject property include:

Arbuckle-Positas complex (15-30% slope). This variably sloping soil is moderate to slowly drained. The soil has high erodibility, high expansion potential, and a rapid rate of surface runoff. The soil is considered class VI "non-irrigated" and class VI "6" irrigated

Impact. The project site is located in a residential neighborhood. The project site does not include, nor is it adjacent to prime or unique farmland, farmland of state or local significance, or agricultural operations. The project will not convert agricultural land to non-agricultural use or otherwise interfere with agricultural practices; therefore, no significant impacts to agricultural resources are anticipated.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures are necessary.

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

3. AIR QUALITY *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
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 and updated 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. To evaluate long-term emissions, cumulative effects, and establish countywide programs to reach acceptable air quality levels, a Clean Air Plan has been adopted (prepared by 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.

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.

Asbestos/Naturally Occurring Asbestos. Naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) has been identified by the state Air Resources Board as a toxic air contaminant. Serpentine and ultramafic rocks are very common throughout California and may contain naturally occurring asbestos. Given the geology of the Templeton area, project activities would have a low potential to expose ultramafic rock or NOA.

Referral. As required by section 22.10.030 of the County's LUO, the proposed project was referred to APCD on April 3, 2015, for review and determination of any air quality impacts potentially resulting during the project's construction. Staff consulted with APCD via email.

Impact. As proposed, the project will result in the disturbance of approximately 4,000 square feet (0.09 acre). This will result in the creation of construction dust, as well as short- and long-term vehicle emissions associated with construction activities.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions. GHGs from construction projects must be quantified and amortized over the life of the project. Based on the parameters of this culvert maintenance project, the construction phase impacts will be less than the APCD's significance threshold values as identified in Table 2-1 of the CEQA Air Quality Handbook. Therefore, with the exception of the requirements below, the APCD is not recommending other construction phase measures for this project.

Dust Control Measures. The project, as described in the referral, will be moving less than 1,200 cubic yards/day of material and will disturb less than four acres of area, and therefore will be below the general thresholds triggering construction-related mitigation. However, construction activities can generate fugitive dust, which could be a nuisance to local residents adjacent to the proposed project. Implementing dust control measures will avoid potential fugitive dust impacts.

Mitigation/Conclusion. APCD staff recommended incorporating the following minimization measures into the project to control dust (Melissa Guise, electronic mail, April 17, 2015):

[AQ-1] To manage fugitive dust emissions such that they do not exceed the APCD 20% opacity limit (APCD Rule 401) and minimize nuisance impacts:

a. Reduce the amount of disturbed area where possible;
b. Use water trucks, APCD approved dust suppressants (see Section 4.3 in the CEQA Air Quality Handbook), or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site and from exceeding the District's limit of 20% opacity for greater than 3 minutes in any 60 minute period. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible;
c. All dirt stock-pile areas should be sprayed daily and covered with tarps or other dust barriers as needed;
d. 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, soil binders or other dust controls are used;
e. All of these fugitive dust mitigation measures shall be shown on grading and building plans; and,
f. 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. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress.

[AQ-2] Construction Permit Requirement – Portable equipment, 50 horsepower (hp) or greater, used during construction activities may require California statewide portable equipment registration (issued by the California Air Resources Board) or an APCD permit.

The following list is provided as a guide to equipment and operations that may have permitting requirements, but should not be viewed as exclusive. Refer to the Technical appendices, page 4-4, in the APCD's 2012 CEQA Handbook.

- Power screens, conveyers, diesel engines, and/or crushers;
- Portable generators and equipment with engines that are 50 hp or greater;
- Electrical generation plants or the use of standby generator;
- Internal combustion engines;
- Rock and pavement crushing;
- Unconfined abrasive blasting operations;

- Tub grinders;
- Trommel screens; and,
- Portable plants (e.g. aggregate plant, asphalt batch plant, concrete batch plant, etc.)

[AQ-3] To help reduce sensitive receptor emissions impact of diesel vehicles and equipment used to construct the project, the project shall implement the following idling control techniques:

1. California Diesel Idling Regulations
    a. On-road diesel vehicles shall comply with Section 2485 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations. This regulation limits idling from diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles with gross vehicular weight ratings of more than 10,000 pounds and licensed for operation on highways. It applies to California and non-California based vehicles. In general, the regulation specifies that drivers of said vehicles:
        1. 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,
        2. 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, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation.
    b. Off-road diesel equipment shall comply with the 5 minute idling restriction identified in Section 2449(d)(2) of the California Air Resources Board's In-Use off-Road Diesel regulation.
    c. 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.
    d. The specific requirements and exemptions in the regulations can be reviewed at the following web sites: www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/truck-idling/2485.pdf and www.arb.ca.gov/regact/2007/ordiesl07/frooal.pdf.

2. Diesel Idling Restrictions Near Sensitive Receptors

    In addition to the State required diesel idling requirements, the project applicant shall comply with these more restrictive requirements to minimize impacts to nearby receptors:
    a. Staging and queuing areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors to the extent feasible;
    b. Diesel idling will be limited to the extent possible in an effort to reduce emissions;
    c. Use of alternative fueled equipment is recommended.

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?	☐	☒	☐	☐

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
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.**

Biological Resources

Setting. The project is located in the community of Templeton within the Templeton, U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. Existing biological conditions for the roughly 275 foot-long project site can be categorized as an urban stream supporting woody riparian vegetation surrounded by single-family residential development.

The site is relatively flat with an elevation of approximately 790 feet above mean sea level. Toad Creek, an intermittent tributary stream to the Salinas River, courses through the project site. The stream flows from the southwest through two shotgun culvertsa shotgun culvert under Salinas Avenue and under an existing driveway, towards Eddy Street and out of the project area. Soil types are mapped as: Arbuckle-Positas complex.

On-site Vegetation: ruderal, riparian, ornamental

Name and distance from blue line creek(s): The project is located on Toad Creek, an intermittent stream tributary to the Salinas River, which drains into the Pacific Ocean at Monterey Bay. This feature is mapped as a dash-dot line stream on the Templeton, California USGS 7.5-minute topographical quadrangle map.

Habitat(s): The project area is largely ruderal/disturbed and includes existing roadway and road shoulder, culverts, and single-family residences. These areas are predominately paved, with the exception of disturbed annual grasses and actively managed landscaped areas. Several non-native weedy plant species such as: cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), greater periwinkle (*Vinca major*), slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), and wall barley (*Hordeum murinum*) occur along the unpaved margins of the existing road shoulder.

Although the project area is heavily influenced by development, Toad Creek is an urban stream and supports a woody riparian vegetation community. This habitat type most closely resembles the *Salix lasiolepis* Shrubland Alliance; Arroyo Willow Thickets in the Manual of California Vegetation Classification System (Sawyer et al. 2009). A few mature arroyo willows dominate the overstory of this community. Other tree species observed within this stratum include: coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and London plane (*Platanus acerifolia*). Plant species observed within the shrub/vine stratum of this community were predominantly non-native and include: Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*),

bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), and greater periwinkle. The riparian habitat discussed above is considered a sensitive vegetation community because it is regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) through Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code and the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program.

Site's tree canopy coverage: Approximately 75%.

The CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) was queried for information on sensitive plant and wildlife species known to occur within the project site and vicinity (CNDDB 2015). This search included previously documented occurrences of sensitive species within the Templeton, California USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle. Species considered sensitive for this analysis include all federal and state-listed species, candidates for federal listing and species proposed for state listing, state species of special concern, and other plant species that meet the definitions of endangered or threatened provided in Sections 2062 and 2067 of the California Fish and Game Code, like the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) List 1 and 2 species.

In addition to the quadrangle-based search, special status species that have been previously documented within a five-mile radius of the project site were also considered and visualized using the CDFW Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) Viewer Application (CDFW 2015). An analysis to determine which of these sensitive species has the potential to occur on site was conducted.

The habitat requirements of each sensitive species were assessed and then compared to the type and quality of habitats observed on site during the field surveys (Table 1).

Table 1: BIOS Results within 5-miles Radius of the Project Site

Scientific & Common Name	Habitat	Listing Status*	Habitat Present/Absent
Actinemys pallida Southern western pond turtle	Often seen basking above the water; when water sources dry up summer, some turtles that inhabit creeks will travel along the creek until they find an isolated deep pool, others stay within moist mats of algae in shallow pools while many turtles move to woodlands above the creek or pond and bury themselves in loose soil where they will overwinter.	SSC	A
Anniella pulchra pulchra Silvery legless lizard	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Soil moisture is essential, they prefer soils with a high moisture content	SSC	P
Branchinecta lynchi Vernal pool fairy shrimp	Vernal pools, ephemeral alkali pools, seasonal drainages, stock ponds, vernal swales, and rock outcrops.	FT	A
California macrophylla Round-leaved filaree	Annual herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland; usually on friable clay soils. 15-1200 meters. (March-May)	1B.1	A
Calochortus simulans La Panza mariposa-lily	Bulbiferous herb. Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland; usually on granitic sometimes serpentinite. 395 – 1,100 meters. (May-July)	1B.3	A
Caulanthus lemmonii Lemmon's jewelflower	Annual herb that occurs on dry exposed slopes in pinyon-juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. 80-1220 meters. (March-May)	1B.2	A

Delphinium parryi ssp. Eastwoodiae Eastwood's larkspur	A Perennial herb that occurs in coastal areas with serpentine soil. Often associated with openings in chaparral and valley and foothill grassland. 75 - 500 meters (February-March)	1B.2	A
Eriastrum luteum Yellow-flowered eriastrum	An annual herb that occurs in sandy or gravely substrates within broadleaf upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland. 290 - 1000 meters. (May-June)	1B.2	A
Horkelia cuneata var. puberula Mesa horkelia	A perennial herb that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub/sandy, or gravely openings. 70 - 810 meters. (February-Sept)	1B.1	A
Juncus luciensis Santa Lucia dwarf rush	Chaparral, Great Basin scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, meadows and seeps, vernal pools. 300-2040 meters. (April-July)	1B.2	A
Navarretia nigelliformiss ssp. radians Shining navarretia	Annual herb that occurs in vernal pools within cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, and sometimes clay depressions. 76-1000 meters. (April-July)	1B.2	A
Rana draytonii California red-legged frog	Inhabits lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby, or emergent riparian vegetation; requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development; must have access to aestivation habitat.	FT, SCC	P
Spea hammondii Western spadefoot	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying. Requires a minimum of 4 weeks of permanent water for larval development.	SSC	A
Streptanthus albiduss ssp. peramoenus Most beautiful jewelflower	An annual herb that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland habitats on serpentine soil. 94 – 1,000 meters. (April-June)	1B. 2	A
Taxidea taxus American badger	Prefers open areas and may also frequent brushlands with little groundcover; when inactive, occupies underground burrow; they are usually found in relative dry, grasslands and open forests.	SSC	A
Vireo bellii pusillus Least Bell's Vireo	Summer resident of southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms below 2,000 ft. Nests placed along margins or bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually in willow trees from end of March to late September.	FE, SE	A

***STATUS CODES:**

Federal: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
FE Federal Endangered
FT Federal Threatened
State: California Department of Fish and Wildlife
SE State Endangered
SR State Rare
SSC State Species of Special Concern
Other: California Native Plant Society's Rare Plant Rank

1B Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere

Threat Ranks:

0.1 Seriously Threatened in California
0.2 Fairly Threatened in California
0.3 Not very endangered in California

Special Status Plant Species: The habitat types observed within the project site (ruderal/disturbed and woody riparian) are not considered suitable for any of the 9 sensitive plant species previously documented within a five-mile radius and listed in Table 1; therefore, none these species is expected to occur within the project area. Additionally, none of the special status plant species listed in Table 1 were detected during the field surveys conducted by County Environmental Resource Specialists on March 24 and April 22, 2015.

Special Status Wildlife Species: The habitat types observed within the project site are not considered suitable for southern western pond turtle, vernal pool fairy shrimp, western spadefoot, American badger, or Least Bell's Vireo. However, the woody riparian vegetation and/or Toad Creek are considered suitable habitat for silvery legless lizard and provide marginal dispersal habitat for California red-legged frog. None of the sensitive wildlife species listed above in Table 1 (including California red-legged frog and silvery legless lizard) were detected during the field surveys conducted by County Environmental Resource Specialists on March 24 and April 22, 2015.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The project will permanently impact Toad Creek, which falls within the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jurisdiction; therefore, authorization from the Corps is required. Impacts to Toad Creek will also require permits or agreements from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Prior to commencement of work, permits from these agencies must be obtained.

Referral. The proposed project was referred to CDFW on April 3, 2015 for review and determination of any potential impacts to biological resources resulting from the proposed project. CDFW did not respond to the referral submitted by the County.

Impact. The project site provides marginal habitat for one federally-listed species and one special status wildlife species; therefore, project activities could impact these species and/or their habitat. Suitable habitat is not present for any of the special status plant species known to occur within a five-mile radius of the project.

The habitats observed within the project site are considered suitable for silvery legless lizard and California red-legged frog. If either species is present during construction activities impacts could occur through injury, death, and harassment.

Additionally, the site provides suitable nesting habitat for migratory birds protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Code Section 3503 and 3503.5. If construction occurs during the nesting bird season (February 15 through September 1), and nesting birds are present on site or in the immediate vicinity, impacts to nesting birds could occur through injury, death, and harassment. Use of the mitigation measures presented below would ensure that all potential project-related impacts to sensitive wildlife species and nesting birds are avoided or reduced to less than significant levels.

Implementation of the proposed project would result in approximately 0.08 acre of temporary impacts and 0.006 acre of permanent impacts. Temporary impacts would be associated with heavy equipment operation, removing existing culverts, vegetation and debris management, and other project related disturbances. Permanent impacts would result from the installation reinforced concrete inlet structures.

The proposed project will temporarily introduce potentially hazardous materials into the area in the

form of fuel and fluids in construction equipment. All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The following mitigation measures are required to ensure that all impacts to biological resources are avoided or reduced to less than significant levels:

[BR-1] Construction activities will be conducted from June 1 through October 31 in any given year, and shall only proceed when the channel is dry and no precipitation is forecast for at least 7 days.

[BR-2] The construction footprint will be limited to the minimum extent necessary to achieve the project goals. The project limits shall be clearly delineated in the field and construction activities will only occur within the limits of the marked/designated areas. Most of the work will be executed from the existing roadway.

[BR-3] During project activities, all trash that may attract predators shall be properly contained, removed from the work site and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris shall be removed from work areas.

[BR-4] No pets will be allowed on site during project implementation.

[BR-5] All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. The County shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations.

[BR-6] Prior to the onset of work, the County shall ensure that a plan has been prepared to allow a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

[BR-7] Prior to site disturbance, the County will determine appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented for the general purposes of water quality maintenance, erosion prevention, and sediment control. BMPs shall be implemented prior to, during, and following construction activities. Measures shall include, but not be limited to the following:

a. Silt fencing shall be along the down-slope side of the construction zone;
b. A spill and clean-up kit shall be stored on site at all times;
c. Temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation measures shall be implemented (e.g., silt fence, hay bales, straw wattles, etc.).

[BR-8] Prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for sensitive wildlife species including: California red-legged frog and silvery legless lizard. If any of these species are detected, work activities shall not proceed until the species has vacated the site and CDFW has been notified.

[BR-9] If construction activities are conducted during the typical nesting bird season (February 15 – September 1), a preconstruction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist throughout all areas of potentially suitable and accessible habitats within 300 feet of any proposed construction activities. The preconstruction survey will be performed prior to any construction activity or vegetation trimming, and within 7 days of commencement of such work to identify potential bird nesting activity, and:

a. If active nest sites of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are observed within the vicinity of the project site, then the project shall be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid direct take of identified nests, eggs, and/or young;
b. If active nest sites of raptors and/or bird species of special concern are observed within the vicinity of the project site, then CDFW shall be contacted to establish the appropriate buffer around the nest site. Construction activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence; and

c. All active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist and a letter-report shall be submitted to USFWS and CDFW, documenting project compliance with the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code Section 3513.

[BR-10] A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will be prepared and will include specific measures for restoration and revegetation of all disturbed areas. The HMMP will include protection measures, standards for revegetation, a monitoring program to ensure proper implementation and maintenance of restored areas, and performance criteria to determine success. Permanent disturbance will be mitigated via restoration and enhancement at a 3:1 ratio and temporarily disturbed areas will be restored at a 1:1 ratio.

[BR-11] Any equipment or vehicles driven and/or operated in or adjacent to the stream shall be checked and maintained daily to prevent leaks of materials that, if introduced to the waterway, could be deleterious to aquatic and terrestrial life.

[BR-12] Prior to any activity in the creek, the County shall identify the limits of encroachment into the creek necessary to complete the project.

[BR-13] If any general wildlife is encountered during the course of project-related activities, it shall be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.

[BR-14] Prior to construction the project plans shall be modified to show the new 66-inch culverts under Salinas Avenue partially buried below grade to create a "natural bottom".

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) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The proposed project is located in an area historically occupied by the Chumash and Salinan. No historic structures are present and no paleontological resources are known to exist in the area.

Impact. The project is not located in an area that would be considered culturally sensitive due to the lack of physical features typically associated with prehistoric occupation. Consultation with Native American tribes pursuant to AB 52 was conducted during the preparation of the Initial Study; no tribes requested consultation.

Access and staging will occur within the existing ROW. No evidence of culturally sensitive materials were observed on site during the field surveys conducted by County Environmental Resource Specialists. Therefore, project-related impacts to historic, prehistoric, and/or paleontological resources are not expected to occur.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant cultural resource impacts are expected to occur, but the following mitigation measures will be used for the project to ensure that all potentially significant impacts to cultural resources are avoided:

[CR-1] In the event that archaeological resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction activities the following standards apply:

a. Construction activities shall cease, and the Environmental Coordinator and Planning

Department 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 low.

b. In the event archaeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case where human remains are discovered during construction, the County Coroner is to be notified in addition to the Planning Department and Environmental Coordinator so that proper disposition may be accomplished.

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?*	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 gently rolling

Within County's Geologic Study Area?: No

Landslide Risk Potential: High

Liquefaction Potential: Low

Nearby potentially active faults?: Yes Distance? Approximately 1.5 mile to the east

Area known to contain serpentine or ultramafic rock or soils?: No

Shrink/Swell potential of soil: Negligible

Other notable geologic features? None

The topography of the project is characterized by gently rolling terraces with Toad Creek running through the area. The project site is not within the County's Geologic Study area designation. The project's soil types and descriptions are listed in the previous Agriculture section under "Setting". As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the project's soil erodibility is moderate to high. The liquefaction potential during a ground-shaking event is considered low. Although there is a potentially active fault approximately 1.5 miles northeast of the site, no major faults traverse the site area.

Impact. As proposed, the project will result in the disturbance of approximately 3,500 square feet (0.08 acre). Although the project area is known to have a high potential for landslide risk, no new buildings are proposed as part of this project; therefore, mitigation is not warranted above and beyond the mitigation measures described under the Biological Resources section relating to erosion control (BR-7).

Mitigation/Conclusion. There is no evidence that measures above what will already be required by ordinance or codes are needed.

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

7. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - *Will the project:*	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
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 site is within the 100-year Flood Hazard combining designation (FH). Salinas Avenue will be closed to through traffic between Hawley Street and Eddy Street for approximately 2-4 weeks during construction.

The project is not located in an area of known hazardous material contamination. The project is not within a 'high' or 'very high' severity risk area for fire. Based on the County's fire response time map, it will take approximately 0 to 5 minutes to respond to a call regarding fire or life safety. The project is not within the Airport Review area.

The project is not located in an area of known hazardous material contamination. The project does not involve land that falls under Government Code Section 65962.5 (known as the "Cortese List"), which includes hazardous waste facilities, land designated as hazardous waste property, hazardous waste disposal sites, or is subject to the Hazardous Waste Substances Statement required under subsection (f) of that Section.

The project will temporarily introduce potentially hazardous materials into the area in the form of fuel in construction equipment. All equipment will be staged on the road. A spill and clean-up kit will be stored at all times. All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas will occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. Prior to the commencement of work, the County will prepare a plan to facilitate a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur (refer to mitigation measures BR-5, 6 & 11).

Impact. The project does not propose the use of hazardous materials, nor the generation of hazardous wastes. The proposed project is 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. The following mitigation measure will further reduce potential fire related risks:

[HZ-1] Any staging of equipment/vehicle parking areas shall be free of combustible vegetation and work crews shall have shovels and a fire extinguisher on site during all construction activities.

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. The project site is located on Salinas Avenue between Eddy Street and Hawley Street, in a residential neighborhood in Templeton.

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 approximately two weeks.

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 proposed project is not expected to result in substantial growth, development, or create a need for substantial housing in the community of Templeton. The project is not anticipated to displace existing housing or people or require construction of replacement housing. Additionally, the project will not result in substantial use of fuel or energy.

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 significant population and housing impacts are anticipated, 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: Templeton (Approximately 0.95 miles to the northeast)

Fire: Community Service District Hazard Severity: Not Applicable Response Time: 0 - 5 minutes

Location: (Approximately 0.10 miles to the southeast)

School District: Templeton Unified School District.

For additional information regarding fire hazard impacts, go to the 'Hazards and Hazardous Materials' section.

Impact. No significant project-specific impacts to utilities or public services were identified. The project is expected to provide beneficial impacts by alleviating the localized flooding this area experiences during high stream flow conditions.

The project will not result in an increase in the local population and will not require ongoing public safety services. Therefore, neither the Sheriff's Department nor the Templeton Community Service District will need to required additional personnel or funding to continue the current level of public safety services to the community.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant public services/utilities impacts are anticipated and no mitigation measures are necessary.

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. The project site is 0.10 mile from the Templeton Community Park. Based on the County Parks and Recreation Element, the project is also located within the proposed Toad Creek Trail Corridor.

Impact. The proposed project will not create a significant need for additional park, natural area, and/or recreational resources. The project will have no negative impacts on recreation, including those using the adjacent Templeton Community Park. There will be no impact on the proposed Toad Creek Trail Corridor as a result of the project, and no trail-related improvements are proposed. The project will be temporary in nature and will not create a significant need for additional park, natural area, and/or recreational resources.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts are anticipated, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

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 proposed project is the replacement and realignment of an existing culvert on a residential street.

Impact. The project will result in short term impacts to traffic during construction. Salinas Avenue is expected to be closed to through traffic between Eddy Street and Hawley Street for 2 to 4 weeks during construction. Traffic signage, changeable message signs and other public information efforts will be implemented to minimize impacts to public access, service/delivery vehicles, and emergency vehicle access. In the long term, delays due to localized flooding will be decreased and have a beneficial effect on transposition.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant traffic impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures above what are already required by ordinance are necessary.

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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

13. WASTEWATER

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
Will the project:				
c) Adversely affect community wastewater service provider?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting. The project is located in a residential area served by a municipal sewer system. Construction activities will be limited to the installation of culverts and repaving the roadway and will not result in impacts to wastewater systems or introduce new wastewater to the project area. A portable chemical toilet will available for use by County road crews.

Impacts. None

Mitigation/Conclusion. No mitigation measures are necessary.

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

14. WATER & HYDROLOGY

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

Setting. The project is within the 100-year flood zone and is located within an unnamed groundwater basin.

The topography of the project is nearly level to gently rolling. Toad Creek runs through the project site. As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the soil surface is considered to have moderate to high erodibility.

Projects involving more than one acre of disturbance are subject to the preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which focuses on controlling storm water runoff. The Regional Water Quality Control Board is the local extension who monitors this program.

DRAINAGE – The following relates to the project's drainage aspects:

Within the 100-year Flood Hazard designation? Yes

Closest creek? Toad Creek Distance? on site

Soil drainage characteristics: Not well drained

Water quality within Toad Creek may be impacted by proposed construction activities; however, conducting construction activities during the dry season will reduce potential impacts.

SEDIMENTATION AND EROSION – Soil type, area of disturbance, and slopes are key aspects to analyzing potential sedimentation and erosion issues. The project's soil types and descriptions are listed in the previous Agriculture section under "Setting". As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the project's soil erodibility is as follows:

Soil erodibility: High

Impact – Water Quality/Hydrology

With regards to project impacts on water quality the following conditions apply:

- ✓ Approximately 4,000 square feet of site disturbance is proposed;
- ✓ The project will be subject to standard County requirements for drainage, sedimentation and erosion control for construction and permanent use;
- ✓ The project is not on moderate to steep slopes;
- ✓ Stockpiles will be properly managed during construction to avoid material loss due to erosion;
- ✓ All hazardous materials and/or wastes will be properly stored on-site, which include secondary containment should spills or leaks occur.

The project could result in water quality impacts through the discharge of sediments during construction or the accidental spill of petroleum based fuels, fluids or lubricants. The project will be implemented during the dry season (June 1 through October 15) when the channel is dry and no precipitation is forecast for at least 7 days. The project is located on highly erodible soils, but is not

located in an area that has moderate to steep slopes. The project will not affect groundwater levels.

Mitigation/Conclusion. In addition to implementing best management practices before and during construction, construction activities will be conducted when the channel is dry to minimize potential sedimentation and erosion. The County is also required to obtain a permit from the Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to commencement of site disturbance. Additional measures in the Biological Resources section will further reduce potential impacts to water and hydrology; specifically, BR-7 and 12.

Based on the discussion above and implementation of all recommended mitigation measures, all on site, off site, direct, indirect, and cumulative hydrology and water quality impacts associated with the proposed project are less than significant.

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Other: _____	☐	☐	☐	☐

Setting/Impact. Surrounding uses are identified on Page 2 of the Initial Study. Referrals were sent to outside agencies to review for policy consistencies (e.g., CAL FIRE for Fire Code, APCD for Clean Air Plan, etc.). The project is limited to the road and stream channel (Toad Creek) within County right-of-way. The installation of new culverts beneath an existing street as well as vegetation and debris management downstream of the new outfall are entirely compatible with existing uses. The new culverts will be installed on a redesigned alignment that will benefit the residential area by more effectively draining stormwater that currently inundates Salinas Avenue between Eddy Street and Hawley Street during heavy rainfall. The culverts, headwalls, and vegetation and debris management will be consistent with surrounding urban land uses.

Because the project is a public works project (outside of the coastal zone) it is not subject to local zoning and building codes. However, the project will be constructed to accepted engineering and safety standards. The project is not within or adjacent to a Habitat Conservation Plan area. The project is consistent or compatible with the surrounding uses as summarized on page 2 of this Initial Study.

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://www.ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines 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	**Not Applicable**
☐	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	**Not Applicable**
☐	CA Coastal Commission	**Not Applicable**
☒	CA Department of Fish and Wildlife	**No Response**
☒	CA Department of Forestry (Cal Fire)	**No Response**
☐	CA Department of Transportation	**Not Applicable**
☐	Community Services District	**Not Applicable**
☐	Other _____	**Not Applicable**
☐	Other _____	**Not Applicable**

*** "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 File for the Subject Application

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
- ☐ 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

In addition, the following project specific information and/or reference materials have been considered as a part of the Initial Study:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2015. Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) Viewer. Retrieved March 2015. Available Online: https://map.dfg.ca.gov/bios/.

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). 2014. Biogeographic Data Branch, California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Version 5. Retrieved March, 2015. Available Online: https://map.dfg.ca.gov/rarefind/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2frarefind%2fview%2fRareFind.aspx.

Guise, Melissa. "APCD Comments Regarding the Salinas Avenue Culvert Replacement in Templeton Project Referral, 24R12B632." Letter to Andrew Anderson. April 17, 2015.

Sawyer, J., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J. Evans. 2009. A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition. California Native Plant Society Press. Sacramento, California.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). 2015. Web Soil Survey. National Cooperative Soil Survey. San Luis Obispo County, California. Available Online: http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm.

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

[AQ-1] To manage fugitive dust emissions such that they do not exceed the APCD 20% opacity limit (APCD Rule 401) and minimize nuisance impacts:

a. Reduce the amount of disturbed area where possible;
b. Use water trucks, APCD approved dust suppressants (see Section 4.3 in the CEQA Air Quality Handbook), or sprinkler systems in sufficient quantities to prevent airborne dust from leaving the site and from exceeding the District's limit of 20% opacity for greater than 3 minutes in any 60 minute period. Increased watering frequency would be required whenever wind speeds exceed 15 mph. Reclaimed (non-potable) water should be used whenever possible;
c. All dirt stock-pile areas should be sprayed daily and covered with tarps or other dust barriers as needed;
d. 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, soil binders or other dust controls are used;
e. All of these fugitive dust mitigation measures shall be shown on grading and building plans; and,
f. 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. Their duties shall include holidays and weekend periods when work may not be in progress.

[AQ-2] Construction Permit Requirement – Portable equipment, 50 horsepower (hp) or greater, used during construction activities may require California statewide portable equipment registration (issued by the California Air Resources Board) or an APCD permit.

The following list is provided as a guide to equipment and operations that may have permitting requirements, but should not be viewed as exclusive. Refer to the Technical appendices, page 4-4, in the APCD's 2012 CEQA Handbook.

- Power screens, conveyers, diesel engines, and/or crushers;
- Portable generators and equipment with engines that are 50 hp or greater;
- Electrical generation plants or the use of standby generator;
- Internal combustion engines;
- Rock and pavement crushing;
- Unconfined abrasive blasting operations;
- Tub grinders;
- Trommel screens; and,
- Portable plants (e.g. aggregate plant, asphalt batch plant, concrete batch plant, etc.)

[AQ-3] To help reduce sensitive receptor emissions impact of diesel vehicles and equipment used to construct the project, the project shall implement the following idling control techniques:

1. California Diesel Idling Regulations
    a. On-road diesel vehicles shall comply with Section 2485 of Title 13 of the

California Code of Regulations. This regulation limits idling from diesel-fueled commercial motor vehicles with gross vehicular weight ratings of more than 10,000 pounds and licensed for operation on highways. It applies to California and non-California based vehicles. In general, the regulation specifies that drivers of said vehicles:

1. 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,
2. 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, except as noted in Subsection (d) of the regulation.

b. Off-road diesel equipment shall comply with the 5 minute idling restriction identified in Section 2449(d)(2) of the California Air Resources Board's In-Use off-Road Diesel regulation.
c. 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.
d. The specific requirements and exemptions in the regulations can be reviewed at the following web sites: www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/truck-idling/2485.pdf and www.arb.ca.gov/regact/2007/ordiesl07/frooal.pdf.

2. Diesel Idling Restrictions Near Sensitive Receptors
In addition to the State required diesel idling requirements, the project applicant shall comply with these more restrictive requirements to minimize impacts to nearby receptors:
   a. Staging and queuing areas shall not be located within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors to the extent feasible;
   b. Diesel idling will be limited to the maximum extent possible in an effort to reduce emissions;
   c. Use of alternative fueled equipment is recommended.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

[BR-1] Construction activities will be conducted from June 1 through October 31 in any given year, and shall only proceed when the channel is dry and no precipitation is forecasted for at least 7 days.

[BR-2] The construction footprint will be limited to the minimum extent necessary to achieve the project goals. The project limits shall be clearly delineated in the field and construction activities will only occur within the limits of the marked/designated areas. Most of the work will be executed from the existing roadway.

[BR-3 During project activities, all trash that may attract predators shall be properly contained, removed from the work site and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris shall be removed from work areas.

[BR-4] No pets will be allowed on site during project implementation.

[BR-5] All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. The County shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations.

[BR-6] Prior to the onset of work, the County shall ensure that a plan has been prepared to allow a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

[BR-7] Prior to site disturbance, the County will determine appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) to be implemented for the general purposes of water quality maintenance, erosion

prevention, and sediment control. BMPs shall be implemented prior to, during, and following construction activities. Measures shall include, but not be limited to the following:

a. Silt fencing shall be placed along the down-slope side of the construction zone.
b. A spill and clean-up kit shall be stored on site at all times.
c. Temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation measures shall be implemented (e.g., silt fence, hay bales, straw wattles, etc.).

[BR-8] Prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for sensitive wildlife species including: southwestern pond turtle, California red-legged frog, and silvery legless lizard. If any of these species are detected, work activities shall not proceed until the species has vacated the site and CDFW has been notified.

[BR-9] If construction activities are conducted during the typical nesting bird season (February 15 – September 15), a preconstruction survey shall be conducted by the qualified biologist throughout all areas of potentially suitable and accessible habitats within 200 feet of any proposed construction activities. The preconstruction survey will be performed prior to any construction activity or vegetation trimming, and within 7 days of commencement of such work to identify potential bird nesting activity, and:

a. If active nest sites of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are observed within the vicinity of the project site, then the project shall be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid direct take of identified nests, eggs, and/or young;
b. If active nest sites of raptors and/or bird species of special concern are observed within the vicinity of the project site, then CDFW shall be contacted to establish the appropriate buffer around the nest site. Construction activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence; and
c. All active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist and a letter-report shall be submitted to USFWS and CDFW, documenting project compliance with the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code Section 3513.

[BR-10] A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will be prepared and will include specific measures for restoration and revegetation of all disturbed areas. The HMMP will include protection measures, standards for revegetation, a monitoring program to ensure proper implementation and maintenance of restored areas, and performance criteria to determine success. Permanent disturbance will be mitigated via restoration and enhancement at a 3:1 ratio and temporarily disturbed areas will be restored at a 1:1 ratio.

[BR-11] Any equipment or vehicles driven and/or operated in or adjacent to the stream shall be checked and maintained daily to prevent leaks of materials that, if introduced to the waterway, could be deleterious to aquatic and terrestrial life.

[BR-12] Prior to any activity in the creek, the County shall identify the limits of encroachment into the creek necessary to complete the project.

[BR-13] If any general wildlife is encountered during the course of project-related activities, it shall be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.

[BR-14] Prior to construction the project plans shall be modified to show the two new 66-inch culverts under Salinas Avenue partially buried below grade to create a “natural bottom”.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

[CR-1] In the event that archaeological resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction activities the following standards apply:

a. Construction activities shall cease, and the Environmental Coordinator and Planning Department 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 low;
b. In the event archaeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case where human remains are discovered during construction, the County Coroner is to be notified in addition to the Planning Department and Environmental Coordinator so that proper disposition may be accomplished.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

[HZ-1] Any staging of equipment/vehicle parking areas shall be free of combustible vegetation and work crews shall have shovels and a fire extinguisher on site during all construction activities.

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.

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 CEQA. This plan provides the standards and methods necessary to ensure and document the implementation of the environmental mitigation measures that have been included in the project description as well as with the conditions of approval in the various project permits. Responsibility for ensuring successful implementation of the Mitigation Monitoring Plan lies with the County, 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 resulting from project construction will be reduced to a level of insignificance.

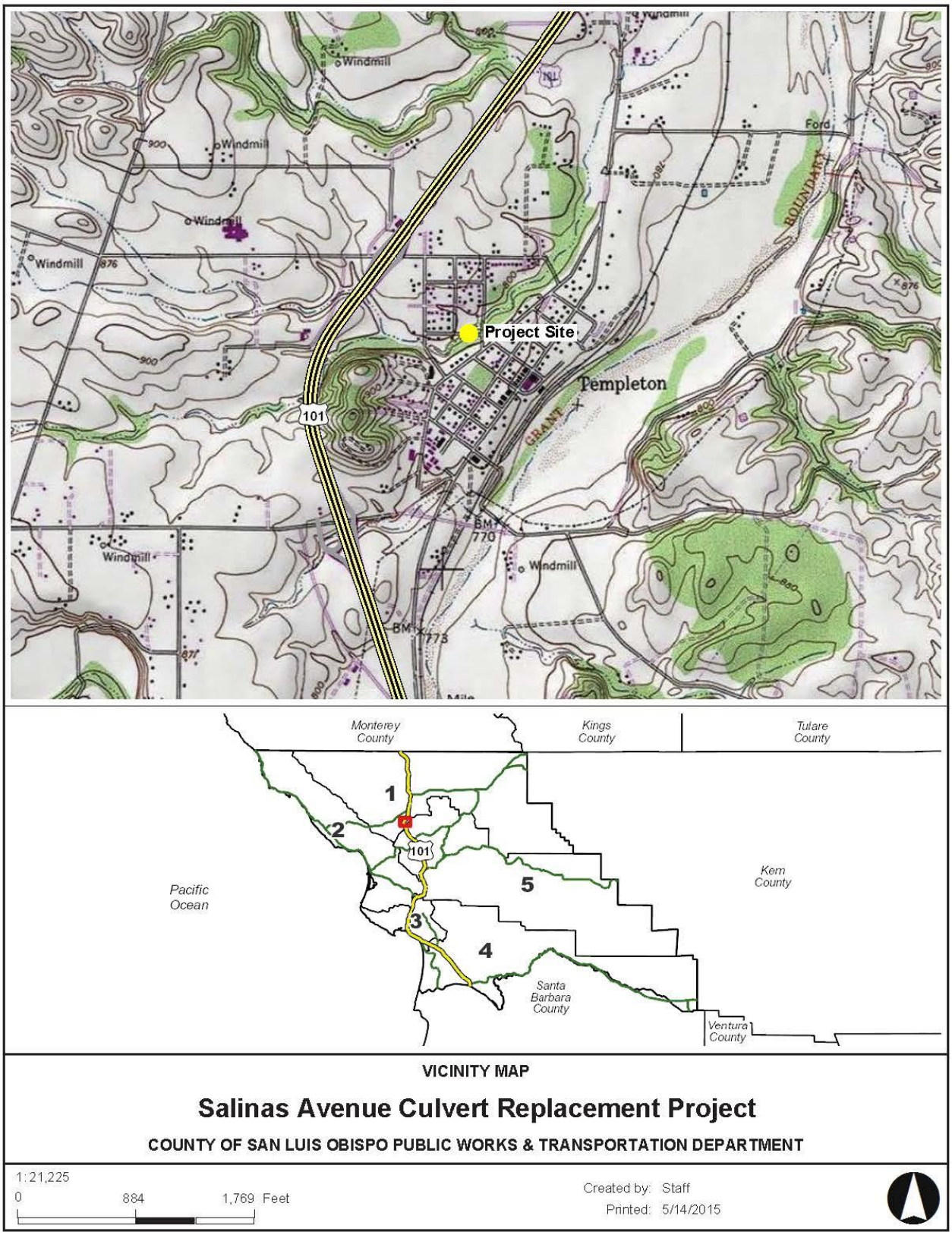
Mitigation monitoring will be carried out by the Environmental Programs Division of the County's Department of Public Works. The Environmental Programs Division provides environmental services to the Department of Public Works, including mitigation compliance and monitoring, with CEQA oversight by the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

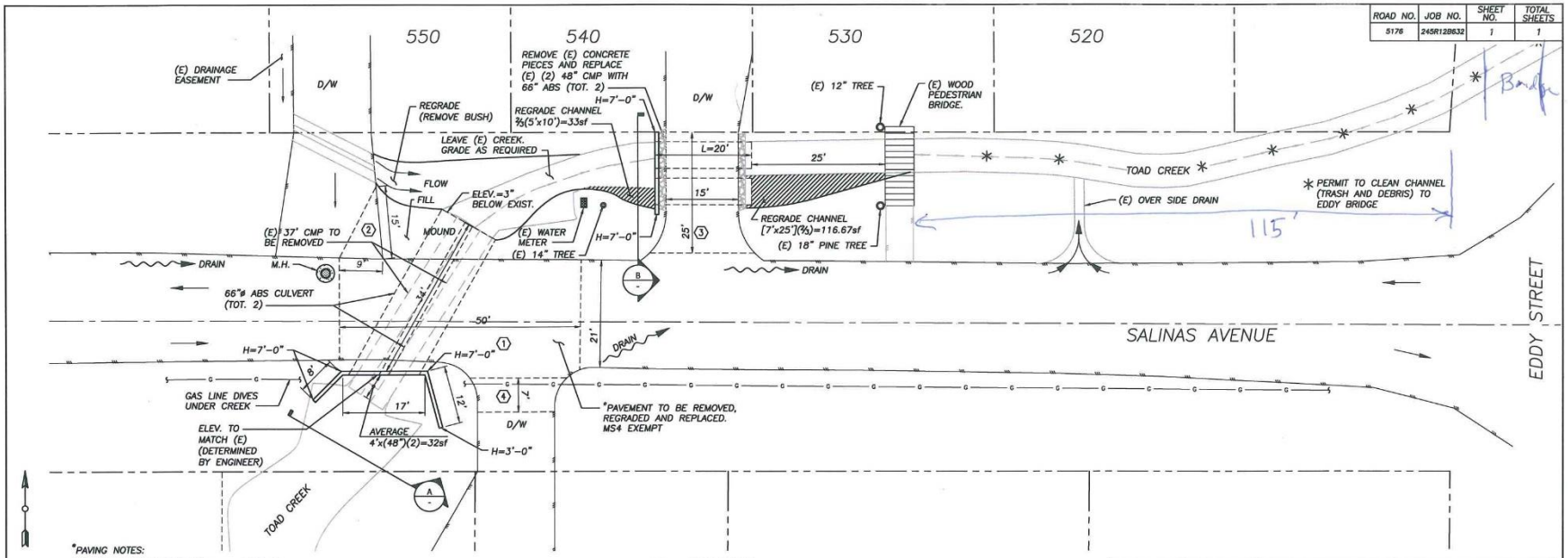
Mitigation measures are organized into project design, pre-construction, construction, and post construction tasks. Compliance with mitigation measures is documented in the project file through written reports and accompanied project photographs when necessary. Post construction monitoring of revegetation and other project components is documented by annual 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 other technical experts under contract to the County. Post construction monitoring is typically conducted for three to five years, depending on permit requirements and specified success criteria.

When 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 and parameters within which the project may be accomplished. 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 on site.

Exhibit C – Maps and Figures



ROAD NO.	JOB NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
5176	245R12B632	1	1

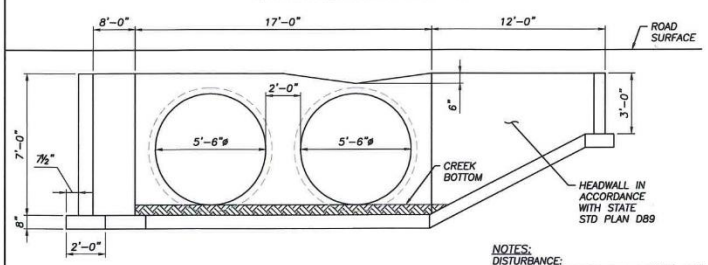


1 SITE PLAN
Scale: 1"=20'

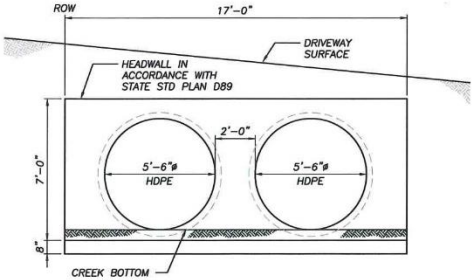
"PAVING NOTES:

1	STREET AREA (21'x50') =	1,050 sf
2	½ DRIVEWAY (9'x15') =	68 sf
3	DRIVEWAY (15'x25') =	375 sf
4	DRIVEWAY (15'x7') =	105 sf

1,598 sf ≤ 2,500 sf EXEMPT FROM MS4



A INLET HEADWALL
Scale: 3/16"=1'-0"

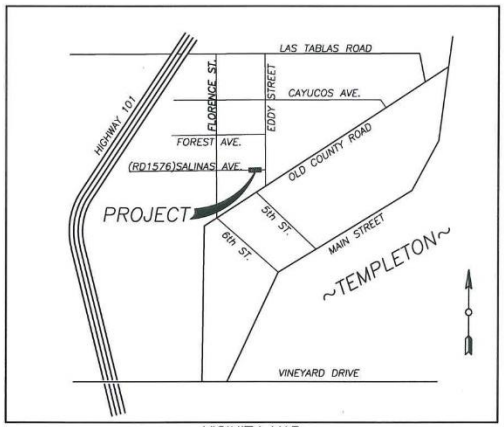


B INLET HEADWALL
Scale: 3/16"=1'-0"

NOTES:
DISTURBANCE:
CREEK DISTURBANCE: 2.5'(34'+22') = 140 sf
HEADWALLS: 2'(8'+17'+12')+2'(17') = 108 sf
TOTAL DISTURBANCE = 248 sf

CREDITS:
CREDIT LESS PIPE: 4'(48")(2) = 32 sf
CREEK REGRADE:
2/3[7'x25']+ 2/3(5'x10') = 150 sf
TOTAL CREDIT: = 182 sf

MITIGATION:
248 sf (Disturbance) – 182 sf (Credits) = 66 sf



VICINITY MAP
NTS

NOTE:
FOR DETAILS NOT SHOWN SEE CALTRANS 2006 STD PLAN D89

SALINAS AVENUE CULVERT REPLACEMENT
TITLE SHEET
TEMPLETON, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CA.

Designer	Date	Drawn By	Date		Date