COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PLN-2039
04/2019

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

Project Title & No. Prefumo Canyon Road Milepost 4.9 Slip Out Repair Project ED20-008-PW (245R12B652)

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The proposed project could have a "Potentially Significant Impact" for 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	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Public Services
☐ Agriculture & Forestry Resources	☒ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Recreation
☒ Air Quality	☒ Hydrology & Water Quality	☐ Transportation
☒ Biological Resources	☐ Land Use & Planning	☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Utilities & Service Systems
☐ Energy	☐ Noise	☐ Wildfire
☒ Geology & Soils	☐ Population & Housing	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

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.

Monica Stillman (mjstillman@co.slo.ca.us)	Monica Stillman	Monica Stillman, Environmental Specialist	3-5-2020
Prepared by (Print)	Signature		Date
Keith Miller (klmiller@co.slo.ca.us)		Keith Miller, Environmental Division Manager	3-5-2020
Reviewed by (Print)	Signature		Date

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

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 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 Department of Public Works, 976 Osos Street, Rm. 206, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408-2040 or call (805) 781-5252.

A. Project

DESCRIPTION: The County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works (County) is proposing to repair an approximately 110-foot long slip out immediately adjacent to and below Prefumo Canyon Road. The project is located on the east side of Prefumo Canyon Road at milepost (MP) 4.9 (i.e., 4.9 road miles from the junction of Prefumo Canyon Road and See Canyon Road), and is approximately one-half mile west of the San Luis Obispo city limits, in the San Luis Obispo North Subarea of the San Luis Obispo Planning Area.

The project site borders Prefumo Creek. Erosion at this location was triggered by a large oak tree falling from the top of the bank in March 2018, which resulted in the loss of a portion of the road and shoulder, creating a near-vertical to overhanging erosional scarp from the pavement down to Prefumo Creek. The downed tree trunk settled along the edge of Prefumo Creek at the base of the slope. Some of larger limbs of the downed tree were cut and removed by a crane operating from the road in August 2018; no work in the channel was conducted and the work was monitored by qualified biologists. The trunk and the root mass of the tree remain in place and have been incorporated into the proposed slope stabilization plan to maintain the instream habitat that they provide.

The proposed project includes restoring the north-bound travel lane (to provide two 10-foot-wide travel lanes) and a 3-foot-wide shoulder with a guardrail for a length of approximately 110 feet, and stabilizing the slope between the road shoulder and Prefumo Creek with rock slope protection (RSP) at a 1:1 slope. RSP would consist of 3-ton angular rocks, typically 2.5 to 3 feet in diameter.

The project design includes the following habitat enhancement measures: (a) leaving the existing downed tree in place at the channel edge where it provides scour pools and woody debris/cover; (b) installing a second log structure at the base of the RSP at the upstream end of the project to provide the same functions; (c) installing up to three instream boulders at the base of the RSP for flow structure (i.e., development of pools and riffles); (d) planting willow stakes along the base of the RSP where conditions are suitable to provide shading to cool surface water temperatures, cover for aquatic species, and riparian habitat; and (e) establishing a 2:1 sloped vegetated shelf several feet wide on top of the RSP to provide a vegetated buffer.

Construction access would be from the existing road surface and from a temporary equipment access pad to be constructed adjacent to the scarp within the proposed footprint of permanent project impacts. All

materials and equipment associated with the construction of the slip out repair would be staged within the County's existing right-of-way.

The project would be constructed during dry conditions. Dewatering, if required, would be accomplished by installing gravel bag berms and pumping water upstream a distance of approximately 50 feet to a location where it can be discharged in a vegetated floodplain location to minimize impacts to the channel.

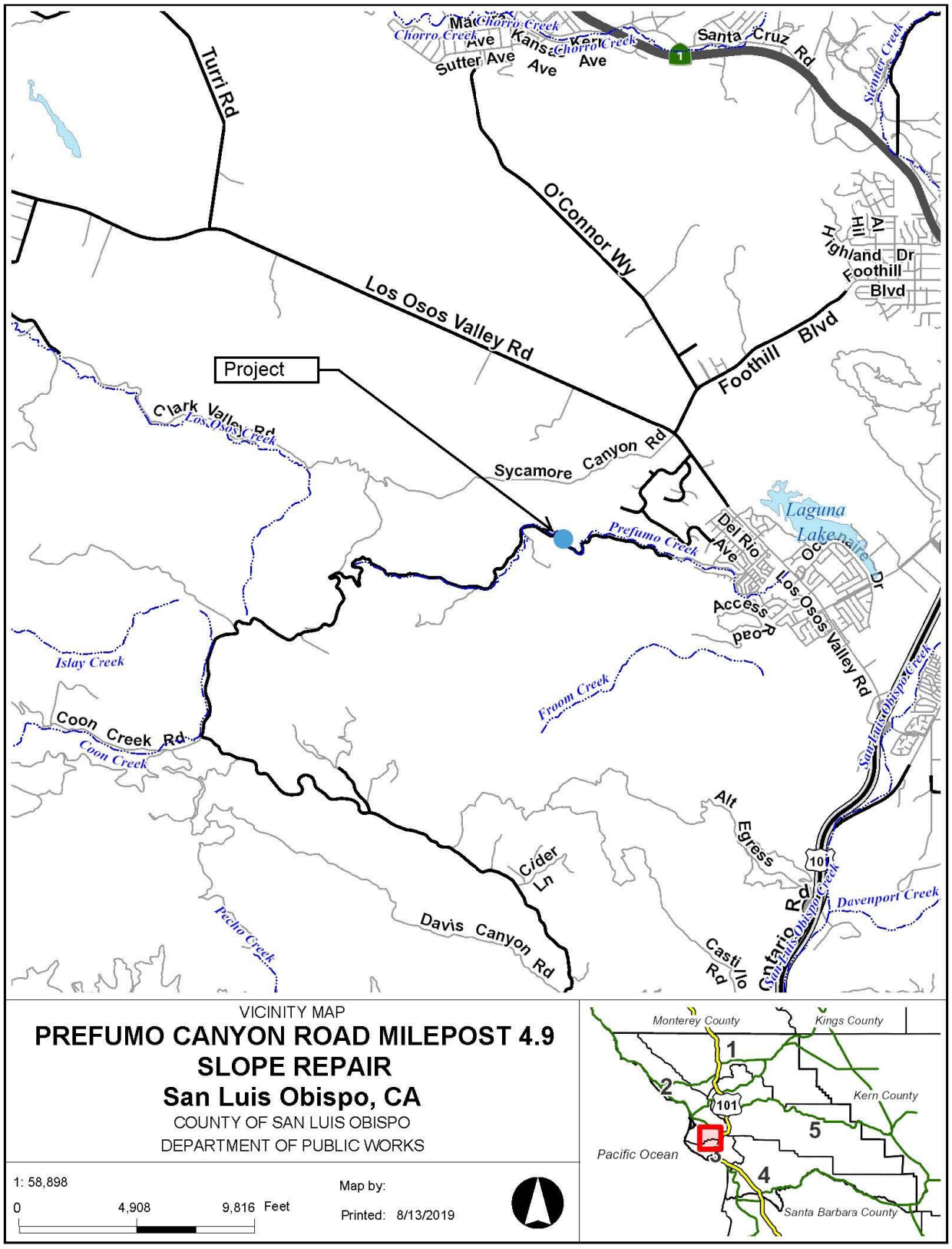
Minor trimming of roadside vegetation may be required for construction; no tree removal is proposed.

The project would result in permanent fill (RSP) in approximately 1300 square feet, including 500 square feet below ordinary high water (OHW) in Prefumo Creek and 770 square feet of riparian bank. Temporary construction activities would potentially impact an additional 1050 square feet, including 720 square feet below OHW for dewatering channel pools if necessary and sedimentation and erosion controls, and 300 square feet of riparian bank for construction access. All areas of temporary disturbance would be restored to preconstruction conditions upon completion of the work. Permanent impacts would be mitigated with implementation of the habitat enhancement measures described above.

The project would be constructed after required permits have been obtained, ideally in late summer/early fall of 2020. Construction is expected to take between four and six weeks to complete, which includes up to approximately two weeks to complete the work in the creek and riparian bank, and the remaining time to pave the road and install the guardrail.

A vicinity map, site photographs, and conceptual design plans follow.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

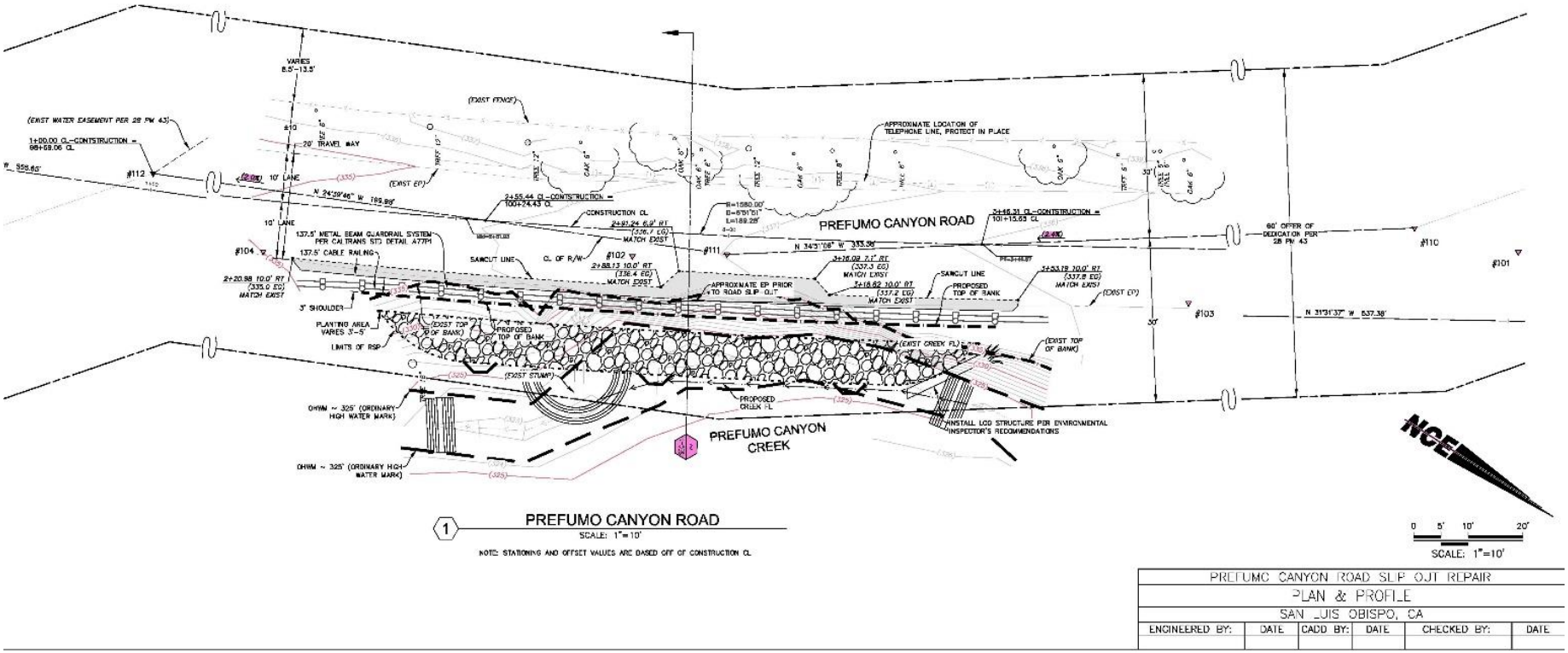


Site Photographs (July 17, 2019)

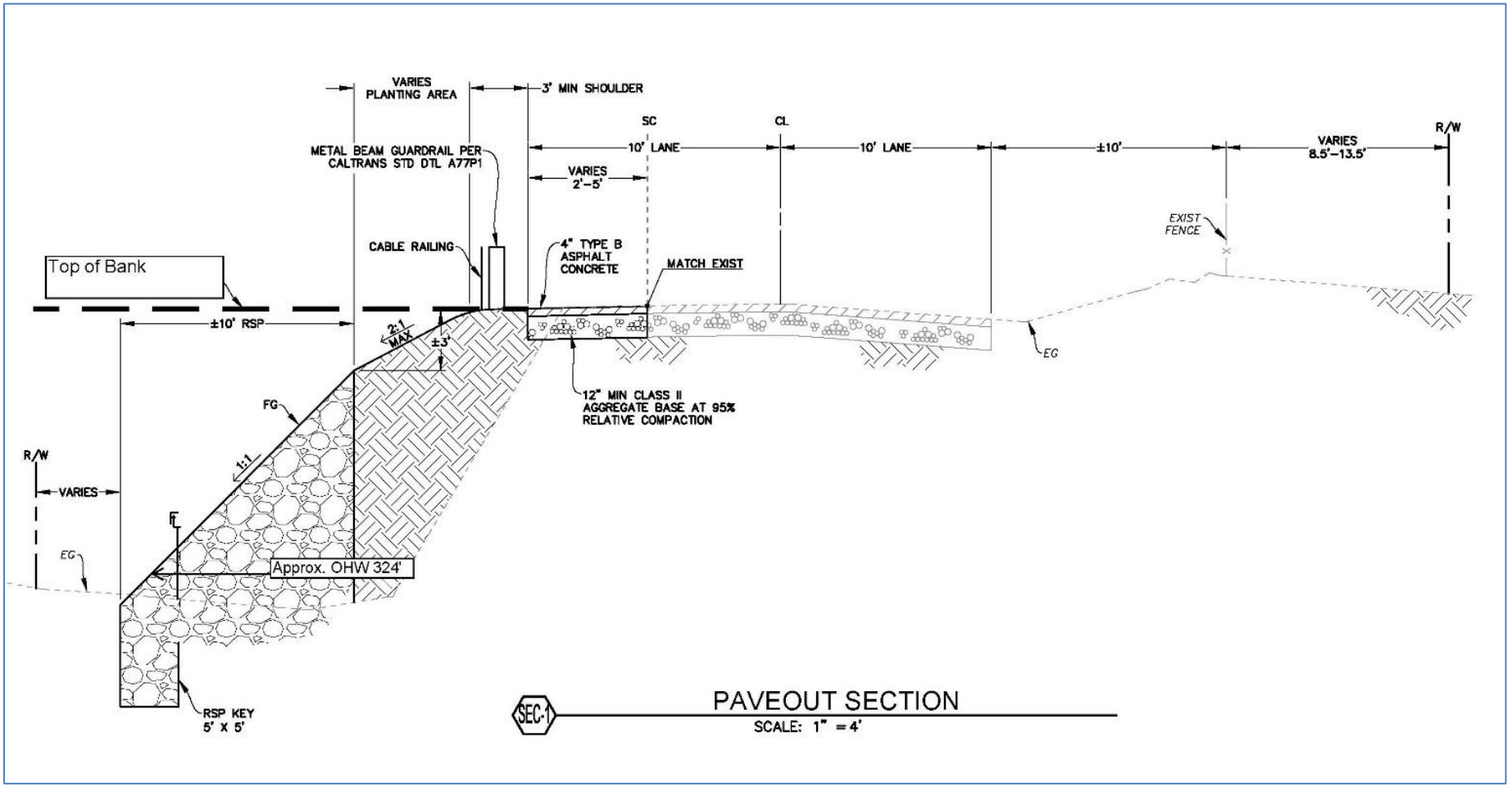
(a) View looking north along project site on Prefumo Canyon Road.

(b) View looking south along project site on Prefumo Canyon Road. Existing fallen tree, to remain, in photograph center.

Conceptual Site Plans



(a) Preliminary conceptual plan view.



(b) Preliminary conceptual cross-section.

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ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER(S): The site occurs within the County's existing ROW adjacent to APN 067-211-028.

Latitude: 35.26418 **Longitude:** -120.72684 **SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT #** 3

B. Existing Setting

Plan Area: San Luis Obispo **Sub:** San Luis Bay (North) **Comm:** Rural

Land Use Category: Rural (adjacent to road ROW)

Combining Designation: Sensitive Resource Area Geologic Study Visual Areas

Parcel Size: Not applicable

Topography: Very steeply sloping

Vegetation: Ruderal Riparian

Existing Uses: County-maintained roadway

Surrounding Land Use Categories and Uses:

North: Rural Lands; agricultural uses ***East:*** Rural Lands; rural residential

South: Rural Lands; ***West:*** Rural Lands; agricultural uses

C. Environmental Analysis

The Initital Study Checklist provides detailed information about the environmental impacts of the proposed project and mitigation measures to lessen the impacts.

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.

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

I. AESTHETICS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:					
(a)	Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(d)	Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The project is located on an undeveloped section of a rural road in an area with high scenic value. Prefumo Canyon Road parallels Prefumo Creek as it winds through sparsely developed residential and agricultural land. The scenery along Prefumo Canyon Road in the vicinity of the project site consists of dense cover of trees and shrubs close to the road, with occasional rock outcrops and views of the surrounding hills.

The number of viewers on this rural road is generally low, but there is a high expectation that views of open spaces that characterize the area will not be disturbed or obstructed significantly. The project site does not occur in a designated visually sensitive resource area or scenic highway.

Discussion

(a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

The project is located immediately adjacent to and below Prefumo Canyon Road. The project is small (approximately 110 feet of roadway) in relation to the surrounding landscape. The portions of the project that would be visible from the road include the restored roadway, road shoulder, guardrail, and safety rail. These are commonly occurring, low-profile features that would not have an adverse effect on the aesthetics of the area or block distant views. The proposed slope protection measures would be located downslope of

the road and would only be visible to travelers specifically looking down the slope. As such, the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on scenic vistas.

(b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

The project is not in a designated state scenic highway and would not impact scenic resources such as trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings or structures. There are rock outcrops in the creek valley downstream of the project site that would not be impacted by the project. No tree removal is proposed.

(c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

As described under (a) above, the project would have limited visibility, would be consistent with the existing views along Prefumo Canyon Road, where small slope failures and repairs are common, would not silhouette against any ridgelines, impact unique features, or create an aesthetically incompatible view to the public when viewed from public roads. As such, the project would not alter the character or quality of existing public views of the site and its surroundings.

The site is within an area designated as a Sensitive Resource Area for visual resources, the Irish and San Miguelito Hills, which generally parallel the south side of Los Osos Valley Road to the east, north, and northwest of the project site. The designation is based on the hills being highly visible from Highways 101 and 227, Los Osos Valley Road, Foothill Boulevard, and Prefumo Canyon Road. While the County is not subject to the requirements of the Inland Area Plan, the project is consistent with the goals of maintaining the aesthetic character of the designation.

(d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No construction would occur at night and no lights would be installed for the project. Therefore, the project would not create a new source of light or glare.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project would restore the preexisting road and shoulder, and install a guardrail and safety rail, which are compatible with existing views along the road and which would not materially alter the character of the existing views. Therefore, no significant adverse visual impacts would occur and no mitigation measures are required.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
(a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Project areas include the road right-of-way, steep banks, and riparian vegetation bordering Prefumo Creek. The site is in the designated Los Osos Agricultural Preserve, but is along a section of Prefumo Canyon Road

bordered by rural residential land uses. The project is not adjacent to agricultural land uses or land currently under a Williamson Act Contract for protection of agricultural land and open space. Soils at the site are mapped as Lodo-Rock Outcrop complex, which is moderately to poorly suited for rangeland depending on slope and is not well suited for crops. The terrain in the immediate vicinity of the project site is not suited for agricultural uses.

The project is not located at or near managed forest land or timberlands.

Discussion

(a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

(b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

(c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

(d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

(e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

In regard to (a) through (e), based on the project setting described above, the project does not have the potential to convert agricultural land, forest land, or timberland to other uses, would not conflict with agricultural or forest land management zoning, or result in a loss of forest land or timberland. The project would not impact these resources.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project would not impact agricultural or forestry resources. No mitigation measures are required.

III. AIR QUALITY

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:					
(a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(b)	Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Setting

San Luis Obispo County is in non-attainment status for ozone and particulate matter 10 micrometers in size and smaller (PM_{10}) under the California standards. This means that the state air quality standards for ozone and PM_{10} are not being met. Ozone is generated by, among other sources, fossil-fuel exhaust from vehicles and equipment. Particulate matter is generated by, among other sources, airborne dust from earth disturbance. The County's Clean Air Plan describes strategies to reduce emissions of these pollutants with the goal of improving air quality to meet the state standards by the earliest possible date.

For project-specific emissions analyses, the current guidance is the County APCD CEQA Air Quality Handbook (2012). The Handbook provides daily and quarterly air pollutant significance thresholds that apply to project operations and construction and specifies mitigation measures to address threshold exceedances. These include diesel idling restrictions for on-road and off-road construction vehicles and equipment, control measures for any grading activities that would generate airborne dust or disturb naturally occurring asbestos (NOA), and control measures for disturbance of hydrocarbon-contaminated soils, demolition of asbestos-containing buildings and structures, and demolition of structures coated with lead-based paint.

APCD received a project referral and responded that they did not have any comments on the project.

Discussion

(a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

The source control measures in the Clean Air Plan are not directly applicable to the project. The project will not affect vehicle use such as by generating new traffic or increasing vehicle miles. Therefore, the project does not conflict with the Clean Air Plan.

(b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Construction activities have the potential to increase ozone and PM_{10} emissions from temporary, short-term

construction equipment exhaust and fugitive dust emissions. Based on our experience with similar types of projects, the small scope of the project, and limited earth disturbance required for construction, the project is not expected to exceed the daily or quarterly pollutant thresholds for these air pollutants.

(c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

The closest schools, parks, day care centers, nursing homes, or hospitals to the project site are in the vicinity of Los Osos Valley Road at least 1.5 miles east of the Project site. Sensitive receptors in the vicinity of the project consist of nearby residential dwellings, the closest of which is within approximately 400 feet of the project site, and bicyclists using the road for recreation.

Diesel engine idling is regulated by State law in Section 2485 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations (for on-road vehicles) and Section 2449(d)(2) of the CARB's In-Use Off-Road Diesel regulation (for off-road equipment). These idling restrictions would apply to construction vehicles and equipment and would reduce the potential for adverse effects to sensitive receptors from diesel exhaust.

The project could result in construction-generated dust that could adversely impact nearby residences and recreational users. Mitigation measures to control construction-generated emissions, such as watering the work area, would be implemented as needed to ensure no adverse effects to sensitive receptors during construction.

Outcrops of serpentine rock are mapped within several hundred feet of the project. However, no disturbance to bedrock is required for the project. Geotechnical borings indicate that depth of refusal at the project site occurs at 21 and 21.5 feet below the existing road surface (Earth Systems 2018). No work is proposed at that depth and no construction activities that would disturb bedrock are required. Additionally, based on the substantial erosion that has occurred, limited disturbance of the native soil is required; the project will primarily involve bringing in clean material to fill the eroded area and stabilize the bank. Therefore, naturally occurring asbestos is not expected to be encountered or disturbed at the project site.

The project would not require demolition of buildings or structures that could contain asbestos-containing materials or lead-based paint. Based on the rural nature of the project setting, hydrocarbon-contaminated soil is not expected to be encountered.

(d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

The project is not expected to result in other air emissions that could cause adverse effects at or near the project site.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project has the potential for significant air quality effects from construction-related emissions in close proximity to sensitive receptors. Standard mitigation measures to control construction-related dust such as watering down exposed soil, spraying or covering dirt stockpiles, and monitoring for fugitive dust emissions (AQ-1, Exhibit B) would reduce potentially significant air quality impacts to a less than significant level.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(b)	Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(c)	Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(f)	Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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 the County, including recent projects on Prefumo Canyon Road.

Several field reconnaissance surveys of the site were conducted since the oak tree fell in March 2018; these include site visits to document conditions, pre-construction surveys by a qualified biologist for CRLF prior to and during removal of portions of the downed oak limbs, delineation of jurisdictional boundaries, botanical surveys, and brief site visits while conducting regional surveys for Chorro Creek bog thistle (*Cirsium fontinale* var. *obispoense*) and inspecting other nearby project sites.

Prefumo Creek

Prefumo Creek is a tributary to San Luis Obispo Creek. It flows east through Prefumo Canyon, residential neighborhoods adjacent to Los Osos Valley Road, and the Laguna Lake Municipal Golf Course prior to flowing into Laguna Lake. Prefumo Creek then flows out of the east side of Laguna Lake and joins San Luis Obispo Creek on the east side of Highway 101. San Luis Obispo Creek empties into the Pacific Ocean west of the community of Avila Beach. Prefumo Creek, including the segment at the project site, is listed as an impaired surface water due partly to agricultural runoff (see Hydrology and Water Quality section).

The creek is designated critical habitat for South-Central California Coast (S-CCC) steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) approximately one mile downstream from the project site. However, the designated stream segment extends over a mile upstream from Laguna Lake, where it is unlikely that steelhead would occur, due to the presence of several potentially impassable barriers.

Habitats

The habitat types in the project area include ruderal/developed, mixed riparian, and active stream channel. The slip out is unvegetated and covered with protective sheeting and sandbags. Ruderal/developed areas include the adjacent road shoulder areas, which are vegetated with non-native grasses, prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), and the invasive French broom (*Genista monspessulana*). The riparian vegetation community associated with Prefumo Creek in the vicinity of the site contains coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) in the overstory, and willows (*Salix* spp.), western dogwood (*Cornus sericea*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*), California mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) in the understory.

The channel is predominantly unvegetated and contains a wide range of grain sizes from silt and sand to cobbles and boulders. At the project site, the creek borders the south/west side of the ravine at the base of the erosional slope. Plant species growing in the channel include sedges (*Carex* spp.), willow sprouts (*Salix* spp.), leather root (*Hoita macrostachya*), and horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.). The opposite side of the channel at the project site consists of a 12 to 15-foot wide alluvial deposit and a steep earthen bank, both with sparse to moderate coverage by riparian vegetation.

Bedrock outcrops occur along the channel margins both upstream and downstream of the project site; none occur in the proposed limits of disturbance for the project.

Jurisdictional Waters

The creek and riparian habitat at the project site are 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). No evidence of jurisdictional wetlands was observed during biological reconnaissance visits. The jurisdictional portion of the stream is the area below the ordinary high water (OHW) elevation, which was delineated in the field based on the hydrologic indicators of the active channel. The jurisdictional riparian zone includes and extends from OHW to the top of bank, which has been delineated as the eroded edge of the paved road surface and shoulder. Under the pre-slip out conditions, the top of bank would have been at the edge of the pre-existing paved surface.

The project would require disturbance to a total of approximately 2,320 square feet (0.053 acre). Of this total, there would be permanent impacts (RSP) in approximately 1,270 square feet (including 500 square feet below OHW and 770 square feet between OHW and top of bank). Temporary construction impacts beyond the permanent fill footprint would total approximately 1,050 square feet (720 square feet below OHW and 300 square feet between OHW and top of bank).

Both the stream channel and mixed riparian vegetation communities are considered sensitive habitat types and are subject to permitting by state and federal agencies. Mitigation is proposed to address impacts to these sensitive communities that may result from the project, subject to the review and approval of the regulatory agencies.

All areas of channel and bank that are temporarily disturbed by construction are proposed to be restored to preexisting conditions. Restoration of disturbed bank areas would include stabilization with native seed mix and container plantings. Additional habitat enhancement measures proposed as mitigation for permanent project impacts are described below.

Sensitive Habitat Types and Special-Status Species

Searches of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) within a seven-quadrangle area centered on the project site and the California Native Plant Society Rare Plant Inventory within a five-mile radius of the project site (completed 9/6/2019) indicate that numerous special-status species exist in central and south-western San Luis Obispo County (Appendix D). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) IPAC system and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) database were used to generate lists of federally protected species for the project site and the San Luis Obispo USGS quadrangle, respectively (Appendix E).

These lists were refined to those species with the potential to occur at the project site based on site-specific conditions (Table 1 for plants and Table 2 for wildlife) and observations during appropriately timed field surveys. No special-status plant species were observed on site during any of the reconnaissance or botanical surveys. Additionally, the project area consists primarily of the undercut road surface, the eroded slip out, and earth failures around the downed oak tree. Therefore, there is low potential for special-status plants to exist in the proposed limits of disturbance.

Special-status wildlife species with a potential to occur in or around the project site are included in Table 2. The complete CNDDB and USFWS lists were refined to identify those special-status species with the potential to occur at the site based on habitat conditions.

Three federally listed species, California condor, least Bell's vireo, and southwestern willow flycatcher were identified as having potentially suitable habitat on site. However, the project site is outside the known breeding range of each of these species and they have not been observed on site during field surveys. It is assumed that they could occur at or near the project site on a transient basis foraging for food. Pre-construction surveys for nesting birds would include determining if these species are present.

As described in the project setting, above, while there is designated critical habitat for SCCC steelhead downstream of the project site in Prefumo Creek, there is very low potential for steelhead to occur above Laguna Lake. There is no designated critical habitat for the California red-legged frog (CRLF) at the project site. However, CRLF were observed in pools near the downed oak root mass during reconnaissance surveys conducted in July and August, 2018, and in October 2019. CRLF adults, juveniles, and froglets have been observed at the site. None of the other special-status wildlife species listed in Table 2 were detected during the site reconnaissance surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019.

Table 1. Special-Status Plants with Potential to Occur at the Project Site

Species	Status (Federal/State)	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur
Pecho manzanita (*Arctostapholus pechoensis*)	None/1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub.	Absent. No suitable habitat on site and not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
San Luis Obispo sedge (*Carex obispoensis*)	None/1B.2	Often serpentine seeps, sometimes gabbro; often on clay soils. Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland.	Low. Project area heavily disturbed from erosion and not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
Ojai fritillary *(Fritillaria ojaiensis)*	None/1B.2	Broadleaf upland forest (mesic), chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest; on rocky slopes	Low. Project area heavily disturbed from erosion and not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
Mesa horkelia *(Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula)*	None/1B.1	Sandy or gravelly maritime chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub	Very low. Project area heavily disturbed from erosion and not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
Black-flowered figwort *(Scrophularia atrata)*	None/1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, riparian scrub	Low. Project area heavily disturbed from erosion and not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
Most beautiful jewelflower *(Streptanthus albidus* ssp. *peramoenus)*	None/1B.2	Serpentine in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland	Low. Project area heavily disturbed from erosion and not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
Chorro Creek bog thistle (*Cirsium fontinale var. obispoense*)	Endangered	Serpentine seeps and drainages in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland.	Absent. Project area heavily disturbed from erosion, lacks serpentine seeps and drainages, and not observed during reconnaissance surveys.

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

Table 2. State and Federally Listed Wildlife Species with Potential to Occur at the Project Site

Species	Status (Federal/State)	Habitat Requirements	Potential to Occur
Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra)*	None/Species of Special Concern	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation; soils with high moisture content	Low. Suitable habitat generally not present. Closest documented occurrences are in Montana de Oro, Oceano/Pismo Dunes, and Edna Valley. Not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)	Endangered/Threatened	Nests in dense thickets of riparian habitats.	Low. The project site is outside the known breeding range. Migrating individuals may forage in the riparian habitats in the vicinity.
Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*)	None/Species of Special Concern	Quiet waters of ponds, lakes, streams, and marshes with muddy or rocky bottoms	Moderate. Suitable habitat present but not observed during reconnaissance surveys. Known from Prefumo, San Luis Obispo, and Froom Creeks.
South/central California coast steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*)	Threatened/None	Clear, cool water with instream cover, well vegetated stream margins, relatively stable water flow, and a 1:1 pool-to-riffle ratio	Absent. Critical habitat one mile downstream but unlikely able to access Laguna Lake and upstream portions of Prefumo Creek.
Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*)	None /Species of Special Concern	Frequents a wide variety of habitats; most commonly in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes.	Low. Suitable habitat generally not present on site and not observed during site reconnaissance surveys.
Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii*)	None/Endangered	Valley foothill riparian, coastal scrub, mixed chaparral, and wet meadow; partly-shaded shallow streams and riffles with rocky substrate.	Very Low. Known from scattered locations in the County on the western slopes of the Coast Range.
California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)	Threatened/Species of Special Concern	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.	High. Species observed on site during several reconnaissance surveys, in pools near the oak root mass.
Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa*)	None/Species of Special Concern	Coastal drainages from Mendocino County to San Diego County.	Moderate. Suitable habitat but not observed during reconnaissance surveys.
Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)	Endangered/Endangered	Riparian forest, woodland, shrub, and scrub habitats.	The project site is outside the known breeding range. Migrating individuals may forage in the riparian habitats in the vicinity.
Nesting avian species	Migratory Bird Treaty Act protection	Variable	High. Suitable nesting habitat occurs adjacent to the site.

Discussion

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

Special-status plants would not be impacted because the erosion-damaged project area does not provide suitable habitat for them and none were observed in the immediately adjacent areas that would be impacted during construction.

Because of the recent, substantial disturbance caused by the slip out, and the proximity to a public road, the project site generally does not provide pristine habitat for any of the special-status wildlife species described above. However, the creek and riparian vegetation provide foraging habitat and cover for fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds. CRLF, for example, will use natural or man-made structures that provide shade, moisture, and cooler temperatures including spaces under rocks, boulders, and organic debris such as the downed oak tree at the site. 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, bulldozers, and backhoes, working primarily from the embankment and road. Temporary fill would need to be placed along the embankment as an equipment platform to access the base of the bank. Special-status wildlife if present in the project area may be encountered during construction activities including dewatering, grading the failed slope, and installing the proposed backfill, RSP, guard rail, and pavement. Over the long term, as the site becomes revegetated, conditions for special-status wildlife are expected to be better than the current conditions because the site will be more stable.

Despite the relatively small area of disturbance and temporary nature of the disturbance, the proposed project would impact jurisdictional areas and wildlife that may be present at the start of construction. Timing of construction would target dry conditions in the creek to avoid impacts to fish and other aquatic species such as pond turtle. In the unlikely event there is flow in the channel during construction, a diversion and dewatering plan would be implemented that incorporates measures to ensure no adverse effects to aquatic species. Based on past occurrences at the site, CRLF will be presumed to be present in ponded water that may remain in the channel during the dry season.

The County proposes to implement mitigation measures to avoid construction impacts to any special-status wildlife species that occur at the site. Mitigation measures would include pre-construction surveys and monitoring subsequent activities to ensure these species haven't moved into the work area during construction. The measures are included in Exhibit B and are based on standard County, state, and federal measures.

The County proposes to implement CRLF mitigation measures consistent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Programmatic Biological Opinion developed for the California Department of Transportation District 5, and/or other measures determined to be appropriate based on consultation through the USACE permit process.

The project design minimizes habitat disturbance and restores habitat functions to the greatest extent feasible. The proposed RSP would provide a stable slope while also providing cavities for wildlife cover and for vegetation to take root. Leaving the fallen tree trunk and root mass in place, with the RSP designed to stabilize the surrounding bank, minimizes the potential for additional bank erosion and would maintain the

flow diversity and wildlife cover functions that the tree provides. Additional proposed habitat enhancement measures include installing a second instream log structure at the upstream limit of RSP; installing instream boulders at the base of the RSP to provide cover and flow diversity; planting willow stakes along the base of the RSP to provide a shaded riparian edge; planting a vegetated shelf between the top of the RSP and the road shoulder to provide a more natural border between the creek and the road; and implementing riparian zone enhancements by removing invasive French broom from the alluvial deposit on the opposite side of the channel.

It is expected that refinement of the proposed design and mitigation measures may occur during permit consultations. The permit evaluation procedures and resulting mitigation measures will ensure that all potential project-related impacts are avoided, reduced, and mitigated to a less than significant level.

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

See response in (a) above. The project is proposed to stabilize a naturally eroding slope and therefore must be located in the creek and riparian habitat zones. The project would provide benefits to the stream and the sensitive natural communities it supports by stabilizing a current source of erosion to the stream. Impacts to the stream and riparian zone have been reduced to the minimum necessary to accomplish the project goals, which include maintaining habitat functions to the greatest extent possible.

(c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No wetlands have been identified at the project site.

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

The project would restore an eroded creek bank to approximate pre-tree-fall conditions and would occur in a location with a relatively broad sand and gravel floodplain deposit that is inundated during infrequent, high flow events. Construction activities would be conducted during the dry season when there is no flow present in the channel so as not to impede the passage of any fish or wildlife species or the use of nursery sites. Based on the presence of deeper pools in the channel, it is anticipated that there may be standing water in the channel. Any ponded areas in the construction area would be dewatered with a screened intake to prevent impingement of aquatic species.

In the event there is flow in the channel during construction (not expected during the dry season), a diversion and dewatering plan would be implemented with gravel berms and a pipe directing flow from the upstream to the downstream limits of construction.

Construction impacts would be of short duration and would affect a small area in relation to the Prefumo Creek channel and riparian zone; therefore, effects to native resident and migratory wildlife corridors are not expected to occur. Construction would be conducted outside the bird nesting season, or pre-construction surveys would be conducted for nesting birds so that construction activities could be modified to avoid adverse effects to nesting birds.

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

No known local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources are applicable to the project.

(f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans are applicable to the project site.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project is small in size but is located in sensitive habitat areas with a high potential for occurrence of CRLF. Areas directly affected by the slip out have been stabilized with plastic sheeting and do not provide any current habitat value. However, the general project setting consisting of Prefumo Creek and its riparian bank are sensitive habitat areas. Therefore, the project design and construction approach have been developed to minimize the potential for adverse impacts to the surrounding habitat areas and to restore valuable riparian functions to the slip out to the maximum extent feasible.

Construction measures to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive species include conducting the work during the dry season to avoid the need to divert creek flow. Standard construction measures to avoid impacts to biological resources include conducting pre-construction surveys for protected species and nesting birds, limiting disturbance to a pre-determined construction limit and clearly marking that boundary in the field, using appropriate sedimentation and erosion control measures, controlling all potential sources of contaminants to the waterway, and revegetating disturbed areas using native species.

Exhibit B includes measures to mitigate impacts to biological resources (BR-1 through BR-15). Mitigation measure BR-12 addresses the likely occurrence of CRLF at the site during construction and provides a detailed list of mitigation measures, subject to modification by the USFWS, to prevent adverse effects to CRLF. These include, for example, requirements that a qualified biologist conduct preconstruction surveys for CRLF, measures to be implemented if CRLF are present at any time during construction, and measures to minimize the potential for inadvertent disturbance to CRLF from dewatering, water quality impacts, and invasive species. The County concludes that with appropriate CRLF mitigation measures, potential impacts of the project to CRLF would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Mitigation measure BR-15 stipulates that the County would prepare and implement a habitat mitigation and monitoring plan to mitigate for temporary and permanent impacts to jurisdictional areas. This plan would include 1:1 restoration of all areas temporarily disturbed by construction, implementation of the habitat enhancement measures described above (i.e., vegetated shelf at the top of the RSP, willow stake plantings at the base of the RSP, instream log and boulder structures, riparian enhancement), and any additional measures determined to be necessary to provide up to 1.75:1 mitigation for project impacts and/or as required by the project permits.

Collectively, the biological resource mitigation measures in Exhibit B, the habitat enhancement features incorporated into the bank stabilization design, and any additional mitigation requirements identified by the permit agencies would ensure that all potentially significant impacts to biological resources are avoided or reduced to a less than significant level.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Setting

Consideration of cultural resources under CEQA (Section 15064.5) includes evaluation of project impacts to resources listed in or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. This can include, among other things, historical buildings, structures, and sites, and archaeological resources. Analysis of potential project impacts to cultural resources includes a search for Register-listed sites in the vicinity and studies to determine the presence or likely presence of cultural resources that could be impacted by the project.

No historical buildings, structures or sites listed in the California Register of Historical Resources are located in or near the project area.

With respect to archaeological resources, the project is located within the territory historically occupied by the Obispeño Chumash. Archaeological evidence has revealed that the ancestors of the Obispeño settled in SLO County over 10,000 years ago. Following an annual cycle of hunting, fishing, fowling, and harvesting, the Chumash peoples adapted to changing environmental and social conditions and grew into a large complex society that persists today. Archaeological sites have been recorded in coastal areas, including Morro Bay, Avila, and Pismo Beach, spanning over 5,000 years and varying from large permanent villages to very small seasonal camp sites. The area that is now known as San Luis Obispo did not support as dense a population as nearby coastal areas, but there are known prehistoric sites in the city limits. These include small occupation or village sites along the major creeks (e.g., San Luis Obispo Creek).

Archaeological reports have been completed for sites in the vicinity of the project, including the Irish Hills region and the canyons and drainages between Los Osos Valley Road and Avila Beach. Several of these investigations resulted in significant archaeological finds.

Based on these findings, the project area is considered sensitive for archaeological resources. A pedestrian survey of an approximately 2.5-acre area centered on the project site was conducted by a qualified archaeologist on September 19, 2019. The survey revealed no surface presence of prehistoric or historic

cultural resources in the project area.

Discussion

(a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

A review of the California Register of Historical Resources (conducted September 11, 2019) did not identify any listed resources in the vicinity of the project.

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

The project would be in the previously disturbed right-of-way that has been further substantially disturbed by the slope failure. Access and staging would occur within the existing right-of-way. Therefore, impacts to archaeological resources are considered unlikely. However, the project is in an area considered sensitive for archaeological resources and it is appropriate to include mitigation measures to be implemented in the event archaeological resources are inadvertently discovered during construction.

(c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

Based on the past disturbance to the project area, the project is considered unlikely to disturb cultural resources. In the event of accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains at the project site, the appropriate responses and notifications in the state Health and Safety Code would be followed.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project is in previously disturbed areas and is not expected to result in adverse impacts to cultural resources. However, based on the archaeological sensitivity of the area, the incorporation of standard construction measures in the event cultural resources are discovered (CR-1 and CR-2, Exhibit B) would ensure that any potential adverse effects are less than significant.

VI. ENERGY

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Energy considerations under CEQA are intended to evaluate projects with respect to the goals of decreasing energy consumption and reliance on fossil fuels, and increasing reliance on renewable energy sources (CEQA Guidelines Appendix F). Relevant factors for consideration can include energy consumption required for the project, compliance with energy standards, and effects of the project on local and regional energy supplies, electricity demand, and transportation energy requirements.

Discussion

(a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Project energy requirements and energy use efficiencies are limited to construction-generated vehicle and equipment fuel consumption. Construction vehicle use has been discussed from the perspective of air emissions as described in the Air Quality section, and would be designed and managed to avoid wasteful or unnecessary consumption of fuel that would contribute to air emissions. From an operational perspective, the project would not result in any increase in fuel use or transportation capacity, and therefore would not contribute to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of fossil fuels.

(b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

There are no applicable state or local plans for renewable energy relevant to this type of road maintenance project.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project is not expected to result in significant effects to energy resources. The air quality impact assessment for the project, described in the Air Quality section, confirms that the project would not result in substantial construction-related emissions. The project would be of small size and limited duration and therefore would not be likely to result in wasteful or unnecessary fuel consumption. No energy resource-related mitigation measures are necessary.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☒	☐

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(i)	Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
(ii)	Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iii)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(iv)	Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(c)	Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(d)	Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(e)	Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(f)	Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The project site is approximately 0.75 mile south of the closest mapped Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, is not in an area mapped for landslide risk, and is in an area mapped as low soil liquefaction risk. The

mapped soil unit at the site is the Lodo-Rock Outcrop Complex. Lodo soils consist of clay loam with a moderate shrink-swell capacity (i.e., expansive soils characteristic) and moderate erodibility.

Serpentine rock units occur in the vicinity, but are not mapped directly at the project site. Rock outcrops observed in the creek corridor a short distance downstream from the site are likely volcanic in origin in accordance with the mapped surface layer (i.e., greenstone or basalt) for this portion of the creek.

Two soil borings were collected at the project site to inform the bank stabilization design. Depth of refusal was encountered at 21 and 21.5 feet below the existing road surface; it was not determined whether this corresponded to a cobble/boulder layer or bedrock.

Discussion

(a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

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

(a-ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

(a-iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

(a-iv) Landslides?

In regard to (a-i) through (a-iv), the project is small-scale and proposed to correct an existing slope failure to protect public safety and restore the integrity of an existing public road. Therefore, the project would not create new risk of loss or injury pertaining to seismic activity. The properties of the existing soil would be considered in the engineering design; once constructed, the project would provide a substantially more stable slope at the project site than pre-existing conditions. Therefore, the project would not cause adverse effects, and would have a beneficial effect at a location where the road is in close proximity to steep slopes and the Prefumo Creek channel.

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

The project is proposed to correct an existing source of soil erosion triggered by a tree fall. Topsoil has likely already slumped into the creek and been dispersed downstream. The site has been stabilized with temporary measures that do not constitute a permanent solution to control erosion at the site. The project would install appropriate slope stabilization measures that would prevent continued soil erosion at the site.

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

The project is not located in an area identified for specific instability risks.

(d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

The mapped soil unit at the project site has a moderate shrink-swell potential. Site-specific geotechnical analysis of the soils would be used in the engineering design to ensure that the project would be stable for anticipated conditions so as not to cause substantial direct or indirect risk to life or property.

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

Not applicable - the project is a road repair project and would not involve any wastewater disposal systems.

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

Not applicable - the project would not require a depth of excavation that would affect an underlying rock formation and the mapped rock unit at the site is volcanic rocks with a very low potential for paleontological resources.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project is not expected to result in significant impacts to geological resources with the incorporation of standard mitigation measures intended to minimize sedimentation and erosion during and following construction as described in the Biological Resources section (i.e., BR-43 through BR-7, Exhibit B). With the inclusion of these mitigation measures, potential adverse effects would be reduced to a less than significant level and no additional mitigation measures are required.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions are broadly recognized as contributing to an increase in the earth's average surface temperature and long-term changes in climate. Potential GHG emissions associated with the project would be limited to burning fossil fuels from construction vehicles and equipment.

The passage of Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act (2006), recognized the need to reduce GHG emissions and set the GHG reduction goal for the State of California into law. The law codifies the statewide goal of reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. This is to be accomplished by reducing GHG emissions from significant sources via regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions.

APCD does not currently have a quantitative GHG emissions standard applicable to this type of project.

Discussion

(a) *Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*

The project would involve construction activity that could generate temporary increases in local air pollution. As discussed under Air Quality above, the project would result in short-term construction equipment exhaust emissions, which result in contributions of GHG emissions. Based on the small scale and temporary nature of the project's proposed construction emissions, the project is not expected to generate GHG emissions that would have a direct or indirect significant impact on the environment.

(b) *Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

The project would not increase transportation-related emissions and would not affect other sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Accordingly, the project would not conflict with any applicable plans, policies, or regulations intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Conclusion/Mitigation

Under CEQA, an individual project's GHG emissions would 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. Small-scale, short duration construction projects are generally not expected to result in GHG emissions that would be considered cumulatively considerable. If an incremental contribution to a cumulative impact, such as global climate change, is not 'cumulatively considerable', no mitigation is required.

The project's cumulative contribution to GHG emissions is limited to construction. Because this project's construction emissions are expected to be minimal, no mitigation is required.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(e)	For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(g)	Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Setting

The project is not located in or near an area of known hazardous materials contamination. The project is not expected to conflict with any regional evacuation plan or alter the existing emergency vehicle response times because Prefumo Canyon Road would remain open during construction, which is anticipated to take approximately four to six weeks to complete. The project site is not located within an Airport Review Area or near a private airstrip. The project site is in an area mapped as a very high fire severity zone. Fire response in the area is the responsibility of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Based on the County's Emergency Response Time map, the project site is in an area with 10- to 15-minute emergency response time.

Discussion

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

The project would be a short-term construction project that would not require the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

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

Use of hazardous materials for the project is limited to use of fuels and lubricants for construction vehicles and equipment. Potential impacts could involve mechanical failure of equipment resulting in fuel or fluid spills. Standard construction best management practices described in the Biological Resources section (i.e., BR-2 and BR-8, Exhibit B) would minimize the risk of hazards from any accidental releases or spills.

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

Acutely hazardous wastes are wastes that would cause death, disabling personal injury, or serious illness. The project is not expected to use or encounter acutely hazardous materials, and the closest schools to the project site are in the residential neighborhoods along Los Osos Valley Road, over a mile east of the project site. Therefore, no adverse effects related to hazardous emissions or acutely hazardous materials would occur.

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

Based on a review of the state's Envirostor database, no documented hazardous materials sites exist in the vicinity of the project. The list includes hazardous waste facilities and properties, public water supply wells, underground storage tanks, and similar facilities for which there has been an unauthorized release of hazardous materials. The closest mapped sites are along Highway 101 several miles east of the site.

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

Not applicable. The project is not within an airport land use plan area or within two miles of a public airport.

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

Prefumo Canyon Road would remain open for a single lane of traffic for the duration of construction. There may be temporary delays to travelers required for construction vehicle maneuvers. However, emergency access would be accommodated at all times during construction and the project would not conflict with any regional emergency response or evacuation plans.

(g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

The project would not pose a significant fire safety risk.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project is not expected to result in significant effects pertaining to hazards or hazardous materials with the incorporation of standard mitigation measures to avoid fuel and hazardous materials leaks and spills during construction (BR-2 and BR-8, Exhibit B). No additional mitigation measures are necessary.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☒	☐	☐
	(i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☒	☐	☐

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(ii)	Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iii)	Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iv)	Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Setting

The project site abuts Prefumo Creek. There is no mapped flood hazard zone associated with Prefumo Creek at the project location. Prefumo Creek is on the 303(d) list of impaired surface waters for dissolved oxygen, turbidity, fecal coliform, and toxicity conditions; the listing covers 7.7 miles of Prefumo Creek extending from upstream of the project site downstream to the junction with San Luis Obispo Creek. Sources are listed as agriculture and urban runoff. A total maximum daily loads (TMDL) is currently being prepared to address these pollutant levels in the creek.

The project site is in the Avila Valley subbasin of the San Luis Obispo Valley groundwater basin. The primary constraints in the subbasin are physical limitations and environmental demand.

Discussion

(a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

There is the potential for construction activities to introduce turbidity into the creek. The slip out has been temporarily stabilized using temporary measures. Removal of the temporary stabilization measures for construction of the project would expose unstable slopes. Construction would be conducted during dry conditions to avoid potential water quality effects in Prefumo Creek. Use of standard sedimentation and

erosion control measures during construction would help ensure no adverse effects to water quality result from erosion-induced turbidity.

The potential for water quality effects from hazardous substances is described in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section, above. The potential for adverse effects would be avoided and minimized with use of standard construction mitigation measures pertaining to use of fuels and lubricants in construction vehicles and equipment.

The project would not use or introduce any materials that have the potential to affect water quality in Prefumo Creek for any other water quality parameters for which the creek is on the 303(d) list of impaired surface waters (e.g., dissolved oxygen, fecal coliform, and toxicity to aquatic organisms). Dissolved oxygen levels are primarily affected by flow conditions, water temperature, and/or introductions of organic material, changes to which would not occur as a result of the project. Fecal coliform is present in surface waters from wildlife and wastewater sources, which would not be introduced or increased as a result of the project. The project would not introduce contaminants or alter streambed conditions that could contribute to toxicity in aquatic organisms.

Upon completion, the project would eliminate an existing source of erosion that has the potential to increase turbidity in Prefumo Creek.

(b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Not applicable; the project would not use groundwater supplies or alter any conditions affecting groundwater recharge.

(c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

(c-i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

(c-ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

(c-iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

(c-iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

The project may result in minor changes in the configuration of the creek channel at the base of the proposed revetment. In terms of surface water runoff, the project would restore the preexisting road surface and would not expand the impervious surface of road. The project would replace the eroding slope with a stable bank that would eliminate an existing source of erosion and help prevent future siltation to the creek.

There are no existing or planned stormwater drainage systems that would be affected by the project.

(d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

The project is not located in a flood hazard zone or in a coastal area where tsunami or seiche zone risks would be of concern.

(e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Potential impacts of the project on water quality and groundwater are described in (a) and (b) above.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project has the potential for significant water quality impacts from construction-related erosion and associated turbidity effects. Constructing during dry conditions (i.e., mitigation measure BR-4 in Exhibit B), incorporating standard mitigation measures related to sedimentation and erosion controls (i.e., mitigation measures BR-3 through BR-7), and management of fuels and construction debris (i.e., mitigation measures BR-2, 8, and 9) would reduce construction-related impacts to water quality to a less than significant level.

The proposed habitat features described in the Biological Resources section would create a more natural channel edge and would also help prevent erosion at the base of the revetment. The Biological Resources section also describes mitigation measures to compensate for impacts to riparian bank that would help restore water quality renovation functions to the area affected by the slip out (i.e., mitigation measure BR-15). Therefore, the effects of the project to hydrology and water quality are considered less than significant and no additional mitigation measures are required.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The project is located on a sparsely developed road outside of urban centers. Surrounding land uses include rural residential development and agriculture.

Discussion

(a) Physically divide an established community?

Not applicable. The project is located in an existing right-of-way and would not alter existing transportation networks.

(b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

The project is limited to the road right-of-way and associated work and would restore a stable bank and a safe two-lane road that is consistent with existing land use. Referrals were sent to outside agencies to review for policy consistencies. The project was found to be consistent with these documents (refer also to Exhibit A on reference documents used). The project is not within or adjacent to a Habitat Conservation Plan area.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project would not have adverse effects pertaining to land use and planning and no mitigation is required.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Result in the loss of availability of a locally- important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The project areas are not in the vicinity of any mapped mining or resource extraction areas.

Discussion

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

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

In regard to (a) and (b) above, project impacts would be located within the existing right-of-way and the project site is not in the vicinity of any mapped mining or resource extraction areas for which access or availability would be adversely affected by the project.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project would not affect mineral resources and no mitigation is required.

XIII. NOISE

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:					
(a)	Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The primary transportation noise sources in the project areas are limited to traffic on Prefumo Canyon Road. The closest major source of road noise is Los Osos Valley Road over a mile away. There are no substantive stationary noise sources in the immediate vicinity of the project. The project is not in an airport land use plan area or within two miles of a public airport.

Discussion

(a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

The project would not generate noise beyond typical construction noise, which would be temporary and for a relatively short duration. The project would not alter traffic circulation patterns or vehicle use on Prefumo Canyon Road or other area roads and therefore would not affect long-term noise levels in the vicinity.

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

The project would not require blasting, pile-driving, or other construction activities that could cause excessive groundborne vibration.

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

Not applicable. The project is not within an airport land use plan area or within two miles of a public airport.

Conclusion/Mitigation

Project-related noise would be limited to short-term construction noise, which would not constitute a significant adverse effect. No mitigation measures are required.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The project is in a rural area with scattered residences and agricultural land use.

Discussion

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

The project is a road repair project. It would not extend or expand existing transportation networks or other infrastructure and would not have any effect on regional population growth.

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

The project would be located within the existing right-of-way and would not displace any existing housing.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project would not affect population and housing and no mitigation measures are required.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

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

Police: County Sheriff Location: San Luis Obispo

Fire: Cal Fire (formerly CDF) Hazard Severity: Very High Response Time: 15-20 minutes

School District: San Luis Coastal Unified School District

Discussion

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

The project consists of a road repair project in the existing right-of-way. The project would not result in changes to the existing fire or police protection services, school services, public parks, or other public facilities. One lane of travel would be maintained for traffic during construction, and emergency access would be accommodated at all times during the construction period.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project would not adversely affect public services and no mitigation measures are required.

XVI. RECREATION

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Setting

The closest recreational facilities in the vicinity of the project are in San Luis Obispo (e.g., Laguna Lake downstream of the project site on Prefumo Creek, on the east side of Los Osos Valley Road). There is also a

network of recreational trails in the Irish Hills Natural Preserve located a roughly one-half mile east/southeast of the project site, including a small trailhead parking area on Prefumo Canyon Road.

Discussion

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

Not applicable. The project is a road repair project and would not affect use or demand for recreational facilities.

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

Not applicable. The project is a road repair project and does not include construction or expansion of recreational facilities.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project is not within or directly adjacent to any recreational areas or trails and would not affect access to any such areas. The project would have no effect on recreational resources and no mitigation is required.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Setting

Prefumo Canyon Road would remain open to through traffic during construction, which is anticipated to

take approximately four to six weeks to complete. Construction activities would occur within the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Discussion

(a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

The project is to repair a slip out in the existing right-of-way and would not conflict with any plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system.

(b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

Under § 15064.3(b)(2), transportation projects that would reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled are presumed to cause less than significant transportation impacts. The project is to repair an existing slip out and would have no impact to vehicle miles traveled; therefore, the project is presumed to cause less than significant impacts to transportation under this section.

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

The project would not alter the existing road geometry or any intersection design. Repairing the slip out would correct an existing hazard due to the failed slope. The project would restore two travel lanes and the road shoulder, and install a guardrail. This would result in a beneficial effect on transportation by restoring preexisting travel lanes and correcting a safety hazard for travelers caused by the slip out.

(d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

One lane of traffic would remain open on Prefumo Canyon Road during construction to minimize any potential temporary traffic impacts. Construction activities would be managed to accommodate emergency access if required at any time during construction.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project would not have an adverse effect on transportation, and would have beneficial effects by correcting a potentially hazardous condition. Minor traffic delays may occur during construction but access for emergencies would be accommodated at all times. No mitigation measures are required.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
	(i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☒	☐
	(ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

Setting

California Assembly Bill (AB) 52 was passed to ensure effective consultation with Native American tribes concerning the potential for impacts to tribal cultural resources from proposed projects. A Tribal Cultural Resource is a site feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place or object that is of cultural value to a Native American tribe, and that is listed in or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or a local historic register.

Many cultural resource sites and the remains in them are a sacred part of the heritage, religion, and culture of the Native American community. As such, consideration of tribal cultural resources under CEQA overlaps

to some extent with the Cultural Resources section above. This section specifically requires that consideration be given to tribal cultural values in the determination of project impacts and mitigation.

The project setting as it pertains to cultural resources is described in the Cultural Resources section above. Additional sources of information that may be relevant for consideration of Tribal Cultural Resources include designated sacred lands and information obtained from consultation with Native American tribes.

The County received comments from two Native American Tribal representatives in response to the AB 52 outreach for the project. The Northern Chumash Tribal Council state that the site is sensitive for archaeological resources because it is a steelhead resource, and requested a search of the State Sacred Lands File. The Chair of the yak titÿu titÿu yak tiłhini - Northern Chumash Tribe San Luis Obispo County and Region stated concern with the potential for archaeological resources at the project's creek-side setting.

A search of the State Sacred Lands database indicated that there is a documented site in the area. Responses to tribal outreach confirmed that the site would not be affected by the project.

Discussion

(a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

(a-i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?

(a-ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

As described in the Cultural Resources section, a review of the California Register of Historical Resources did not identify any listed resources in the vicinity of the project, and the project disturbance would be limited to the existing right-of-way and is not expected to affect archaeological resources. A search of the State Sacred Lands File indicated a designated sacred site is in the vicinity, but is not close enough to be directly or indirectly affected by the project. While the area is considered sensitive for archaeological resources, the project site has been subjected to disturbance from road construction and from the recent, substantial erosion that occurred at the site. Construction activities would be limited to the minimum required to repair the slip out and would minimize impacts in adjacent areas, which consist of steep banks.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project would be located in the existing right-of-way at a location that has been substantially disturbed by the slope failure. The project is not expected to adversely impact tribal cultural resources. However, based on the archaeological sensitivity of the area, the standard mitigation measures described in the Cultural Resources section would protect against significant adverse effects to tribal cultural resources if any are inadvertently discovered during construction (mitigation measures CR-1 and CR-2 in Exhibit B). No other mitigation measures specific to tribal cultural resources are required.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:					
(a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(c)	Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
(d)	Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Setting

There are no water or wastewater lines or treatment facilities in the vicinity of the project.

Discussion

(a) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Not applicable. The project is a road repair project and would not require construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities.

(b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

The project may require limited water for dust control during construction. Once constructed, the project would not require use of water. Therefore, impacts to water supplies are expected to be not significant.

(c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

Not applicable. The project is a road repair project and would not generate wastewater. If necessary, a portable chemical toilet would be on site for use by construction crews.

(d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

(e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

In regard to (d) and (e) above, solid waste generated by the project would be limited to construction debris, which would be handled and disposed of in accordance with all federal, state, and local management and reduction statues and regulations related to solid waste.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project would have no effect on water and wastewater facilities and no mitigation is required.

XX. WILDFIRE

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:					
(a)	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(b)	Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☒	☐

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		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(c)	Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(d)	Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Setting

The project areas are within the high severity risk area for fire. Emergency response time within the project area is 15 to 20 minutes.

Discussion

(a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

(b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

(c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

(d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

In regard to (a) through (d) above, the project is not expected to interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans, increase wildfire risk in the area, or expose people to significant wildfire-related hazards. The project would not result in any reconfiguration or expansion of existing intersections and roads. In the event of a wildfire emergency during the project construction period, the construction zone would be managed to eliminate any interference with emergency response or evacuation plans. Once construction is completed, the project would have a beneficial impacts to traffic conditions in the event of a wildfire emergency response or evacuation event by restoring two lanes of travel and the road shoulder.

Conclusion/Mitigation

The project would have no adverse impacts to wildfire conditions and no mitigation measures are required.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
(a)	Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
(b)	Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
(c)	Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Setting

The project consists of road repair to correct a hazardous condition caused by slope failure. The setting is as described on page two of the Initial Study and from the perspective of the resource areas addressed in the applicable sections, such as Aesthetics, Biological Resources, and Cultural Resources.

Discussion

(a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

The project has the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment. The mitigation measures listed in Exhibit B would ensure that project implementation would not substantially reduce the number of fish and wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of rare or endangered plant or animal species, and/or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or pre-history. Therefore, the anticipated project-related impacts are less than significant.

(b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

The project does not propose a new or different use than the existing use, and would be located in the existing right-of-way. Construction-related impacts would be temporary and limited by the limited duration and scope of the project. The project is not expected to have impacts that would be individually limited, but cumulatively considerable and would include implementation of measures to avoid and minimize project impacts to each of the resource categories considered above. Therefore, project impacts, when considered together with past, on-going, and future projects in the vicinity, would not be cumulatively considerable and would not compound or increase other environmental impacts. Therefore, the project-related impacts would be less than significant.

(c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

The project would not result in environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects impacts to human beings, either directly or indirectly. The anticipated effects of the project would not substantially conflict with any adjacent land uses. Implementation of the project would restore two travel lanes to the affected section of Prefumo Canyon Road, would stabilize a currently unstable road edge and slope, and would install a guardrail. These would provide net benefits to transportation and public safety; therefore, all impacts are considered less than significant.

Conclusion/Mitigation

With the implementation of the project-specific mitigation measures, including appropriate measures listed in Exhibit B, the project would have a less than significant impact on the environment

Initial Study – Environmental Checklist

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	**None**
☐	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	**Not Applicable**
☒	CA Department of Fish and Wildlife	**None**
☒	CA Department of Forestry (Cal Fire)	**None**
☒	CA Department of Transportation	**None**
☐	Community Services District	**Not Applicable**
☒	Other U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	**None**
☒	Other USFWS and 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 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
☒ SLO Area Plan/SLO (north) sub area and Update EIR
☐ 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

Other references:

Earth Systems, Report of Soil Borings, Laboratory Testing and Limited Geotechnical Information, Prefumo Canyon Road Investigation, Prefumo Canyon Road, MP 4.9, San Luis Obispo, California, November 28, 2018.

Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary

Air Quality

[AQ-1] The County will implement the following dust control measures as needed during construction to minimize nuisance impacts and to significantly reduce fugitive dust emissions:

- Reduce the amount of 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 stockpile areas should be sprayed daily or covered with tarps or other dust barriers as needed.
- The County 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.

Biological Resources

[BR-1] Prior to construction activities, the construction limits will be clearly marked in the field (e.g., with fencing, flagging, or paint) and construction activities will only occur within the limits of the marked areas. No construction work (including storage of materials) will occur outside of the specified construction limits. The construction footprint will be limited to the minimum extent necessary to achieve the project goals as indicated on the proposed plans and/or as modified as a result of the project permit approvals.

[BR-2] Prior to the onset of construction activities, a plan to facilitate the prompt and effective response to any accidental spills will be prepared. All construction personnel will be informed of the importance of preventing accidental spills and shall be instructed on the appropriate measures to take should an accidental spill occur

[BR-3] Prior to the onset of construction activities, the County will install appropriate erosion control measures (e.g., silt fences, straw wattles) at the downstream end of the proposed construction zone. The erosion control measures will be maintained daily during construction and until all disturbed areas are stabilized.

[BR-4] Construction activities will be conducted during the dry season when stream flows will be at annual lows (typically June 1 through October 31), or as otherwise directed by the regulatory agencies. Construction activities will be conducted when there is no active flow in the channel if feasible. If work activities must occur when water is present in the creek channel, the County will dewater the creek prior to conducting the activities.

[BR-5] During construction, if there is flow in the channel, stream diversion activities will be conducted in such a way that allows water flow and fish passage through the site, as natural flow conditions allow. Such diversion methods may include, but are not limited to, installation of cofferdams up and downstream of the work and use of a water line to convey flows downstream. Another

potential method may include creating a secondary flow channel just outside the active work area that allows water to flow through the site, but not into the work area.

[BR-6] During construction, if there are ponded areas in the channel that need to be temporarily dewatered by pumping, intakes will be completely screened with wire mesh not larger than 0.2 inch to prevent aquatic organisms, including California red-legged frog, from entering the pump system or being impinged on intake screening. Pumps will release the diverted water in a stable, vegetated area upstream so that suspended sediment will not re-enter the stream. The form and function of pumps used during the dewatering activities will be checked daily, at a minimum, by a qualified biological monitor to ensure a dry work environment and minimization of adverse effects to aquatic species and habitats. Upon completion of construction activities, any diversions or barriers to flow will be removed in a manner that would allow flow to resume with the least disturbance to the substrate. Alteration of the streambed will be minimized to the maximum extent possible; any imported material will be removed from the streambed upon completion of the project.

[BR-7] During and after construction, to control sedimentation until all disturbed areas are stabilized, the County will implement best management practices outlined in the authorizations and permits that it receives for the project. During construction, erosion control measures (e.g., silt fencing, fiber rolls, and barriers) will remain available onsite and will be used as necessary to prevent erosion and sedimentation in jurisdictional areas. No synthetic plastic mesh products will be used for erosion control and use of these materials onsite is prohibited. Erosion control measures and other suitable Best Management Practices used will be checked to ensure that they are intact and functioning effectively and maintained on a daily basis throughout the duration of construction. If best management practices are ineffective, the County will attempt to remedy the situation immediately.

[BR-8] During construction, the cleaning and refueling of equipment and vehicles will occur only in 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 to avoid potential leaks and spills.

[BR-9] 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 will be taken to a certified landfill to prevent the spread of invasive species.

[BR-10] If construction activities are proposed during the typical nesting season (February 1 to September 1), a nesting bird survey will be conducted by qualified biologists no more than two weeks prior to the start of construction to determine presence/absence of nesting birds. If no occupied nests are observed, construction may commence and no further mitigation is required.

[BR-11] If active nests are encountered on site during the pre-construction nesting bird surveys, an appropriate avoidance buffer (likely 100 feet from active passerine nests and 250 feet from active raptor nests) will be established around the occupied nest(s). If the identified nest(s) belongs to a special status species CDFW will be consulted. Avoidance will be accomplished by installation of high visibility orange construction fencing or flagging around the occupied areas with the appropriate setback. A qualified biological monitor will facilitate installation of the

fence or flagging and will conduct periodic site visits to ensure that the fencing remains intact for the duration of development activities in proximity to the active nest(s) and he or she will continue to monitor the nest(s). Construction activities will not occur within the nesting bird avoidance buffer area(s) until the biological monitor determines that either: a) all young have fledged and that the nest(s) are no longer occupied, or b) construction activity is not precluding nesting activity. Any and all active nests will be appropriately documented by the monitoring biologist and a letter-report will be submitted to CDWF, documenting project compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code Section 3513.

[BR-12] Through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit process, the County will consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop avoidance and minimization measures for the California red-legged frog (CRLF). These measures may include, for example, the measures described in the 2011 CRLF Programmatic Biological Opinion between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Transportation District 5, as follows:

1. Only U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service- (Service) approved biologists will participate in activities associated with the capture, handling, and monitoring of California red-legged frogs. Biologists authorized under this biological opinion do not need to re-submit their qualifications for subsequent projects conducted pursuant to this biological opinion, unless the Service has revoked their approval.
2. Ground disturbance will not begin until written approval is received from the Service that the biologist is qualified to conduct the work, unless the individual(s) has/have been approved previously and the Service has not revoked that approval.
3. A Service-approved biologist will survey the project site no more than 48 hours before the onset of work activities. If any life stage of the California red-legged frog is found and these individuals are likely to be killed or injured by work activities, the approved biologist will be allowed sufficient time to move them from the site before work begins. The Service-approved biologist will relocate the California red-legged frogs the shortest distance possible to a location that contains suitable habitat and that will not be affected by activities associated with the proposed project. The relocation site should be in the same drainage to the extent practicable. The County will coordinate with the Service on the relocation site prior to the capture of any California red-legged frogs.
4. Before any activities begin on the project, a Service-approved biologist will conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training will include a description of the California red-legged frog and its habitat, the specific measures that are being implemented to conserve the California red-legged frog for the project, 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.
5. A Service-approved biologist will be present at the work site until all California red-legged frogs have been relocated out of harm's way, workers have been instructed, and disturbance of habitat has been completed. After this time, the County will designate a person to monitor on-site compliance with all minimization measures. The Service-approved biologist will ensure that this monitor receives the training outlined in measure (4) above and in the identification of California red-legged frogs. If the monitor or the

Service-approved biologist recommends that work be stopped because California red-legged frogs would be affected in a manner not anticipated by the County and the Service during review of the proposed action, they will notify the resident engineer (the engineer that is directly overseeing and in command of construction activities) immediately. The resident engineer will either resolve the situation by eliminating the adverse effect immediately or require that all actions causing these effects be halted. If work is stopped, the Service will be notified as soon as possible.

6. During project activities, all trash that may attract predators will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris will be removed from work areas.
7. All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles will occur at least 60 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies and in a location from where a spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat (e.g., on a slope that drains away from the water). The monitor will ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the County will ensure that a plan is in place for prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.
8. Habitat contours will be returned to their original configuration at the end of project activities. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the Service and the County determine that it is not feasible or modification of original contours would benefit the California red-legged frog.
9. The number of access routes, size of staging areas, and the total area of the activity will be limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the project goals. Environmentally Sensitive Areas will be delineated to confine access routes and construction areas to the minimum area necessary to complete construction, and minimize the impact to California red-legged frog habitat; this goal includes locating access routes and construction areas outside of channel and riparian areas to the maximum extent practicable.
10. The County will attempt to schedule work activities for times of the year when impacts to the California red-legged frog would be minimal. For example, work that would affect large pools that may support breeding will be avoided, to the maximum degree practicable, during the breeding season (November through May). Isolated pools that are important to maintain California red-legged frogs through the driest portions of the year will be avoided, to the maximum degree practicable, during the late summer and early fall. Habitat assessments, surveys, and coordination between the County and the Service during project planning will be used to assist in scheduling work activities to avoid sensitive habitats during key times of the year.
11. To control sedimentation during and after project implementation, the County will implement best management practices outlined in any authorizations or permits issued under the authorities of the Clean Water Act that it receives for the project. If best management practices are ineffective, the County will attempt to remedy the situation immediately, in coordination with the Service.
12. If a work site is to be temporarily dewatered by pumping, intakes will be completely screened with wire mesh not larger than 0.2 inch to prevent California red-legged frogs from

entering the pump system. Water will be released or pumped downstream at an appropriate rate to maintain downstream flows during construction. Upon completion of construction activities, any diversions or barriers to flow will be removed in a manner that would allow flow to resume with the least disturbance to the substrate. Alteration of the stream bed will be minimized to the maximum extent possible; any imported material will be removed from the stream bed upon completion of the project.

13. Unless approved by the Service, water will not be impounded in a manner that may attract California red-legged frogs.
14. A Service-approved biologist will permanently remove any individuals of non-native species, such as bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*), signal and red swamp crayfish (*Pacifasticus leniusculus*; *Procambarus clarkii*), and centrarchid fishes from the project area, to the maximum extent possible. The Service-approved biologist will be responsible for ensuring his or her activities are in compliance with the California Fish and Game Code.
15. If the County demonstrates that disturbed areas have been restored to conditions that allow them to function as habitat for the California red-legged frog, these areas will not be included in the amount of total habitat permanently disturbed.
16. To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between work sites by the Service-approved biologist, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force will be followed at all times.
17. Project sites will be re-vegetated with an assemblage of native riparian, wetland, and upland vegetation suitable for the area. Locally collected plant materials will be used to the extent practicable. Invasive, exotic plants will be controlled to the maximum extent practicable. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the Service and the County determine that it is not feasible or practical.
18. The County will not use herbicides as the primary method used to control invasive, exotic plants. However, if the County determines the use of herbicides is the only feasible method for controlling invasive plants at a specific project site, it will implement the following additional protective measures for the California red-legged frog:

    a. The County will not use herbicides during the breeding season for the California red-legged frog.

    b. The County will conduct surveys for the California red-legged frog immediately prior to the start of any herbicide use. If found, California red-legged frogs will be relocated to suitable habitat far enough from the project area that no direct contact with herbicides would occur.

    c. Giant reed and other invasive plants will be cut and hauled out by hand and painted with glyphosate or glyphosate-based products, such as Aquamaster® or Rodeo®.

    d. Licensed and experienced County staff or a licensed and experienced contractor will use a hand-held sprayer for foliar application of Aquamaster® or Rodeo® where large monoculture stands occur at the project site.

    e. All precautions will be taken to ensure that no herbicide is applied to native vegetation.

f. Herbicides will not be applied on or near open water surfaces (no closer than 60 feet from open water).

g. Foliar applications of herbicide will not occur when wind speeds are in excess of 3 miles per hour.

h. No herbicides will be applied within 24 hours of forecasted rain.

i. Application of all herbicides will be done by a qualified County staff or contractors to ensure that overspray is minimized, that all application is made in accordance with label recommendations, and with implementation of all required and reasonable safety measures. A safe dye will be added to the mixture to visually denote treated sites. Application of herbicides will be consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs, Endangered Species Protection Program county bulletins.

j. All herbicides, fuels, lubricants, and equipment will be stored, poured, or refilled at least 60 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies in a location where a spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat. The County will ensure that contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the County will ensure that a plan is in place for 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.

19. Upon completion of the project, the County will ensure that a Project Completion Report is completed and provided to the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office using the required form.

[BR-13] Prior to and during construction, in addition to the CRLF monitoring required in mitigation measure BR-12, qualified biologists will conduct surveys for other special status wildlife species that could be encountered on site, such as pond turtle and coast range newt, for example. Regular monitoring of the project site will be conducted by a qualified biologist for the duration of construction activities.

If other special status wildlife species are encountered on site, a qualified biologist will capture and relocate the animal(s) the shortest distance possible to a location that contains suitable habitat not likely to be affected by project activities associated with the project, downstream. The biologist shall return to the project site daily for the duration of in-stream construction activities and will conduct pre-construction clearance surveys within the work area to ensure that the protected species did not return to the site.

[BR-14] Upon completion of construction, all areas temporarily disturbed from construction of the project will be restored to their previous condition and re-vegetated with a native riparian seed mix and/or container stock that is suitable for use at this location.

[BR-15] Prior to construction, the County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department will prepare a conceptual Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan that provides for a 1:1 restoration ratio for temporary impacts and a 3:1 enhancement ratio for permanent impacts, unless otherwise directed by regulatory agencies. Any revegetation will be conducted using only native plant species. The final Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan will identify the specific mitigation sites and it will be implemented immediately following project completion.

Cultural Resources

[CR-1] If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work will be halted in that portion of the project area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find and determine the appropriate course of action.

[CR-2] As specified by California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, if human remains are found on the project site during construction, the San Luis Obispo County Coroner's office will be notified so proper disposition may be accomplished.

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 Planning and Building Department.

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, regulatory agencies, construction personnel) in working together to solve problems and arrive at solutions in the field.