Initial Study/
Mitigated Negative Declaration

for the

Silver Fork Road at
South Fork American River
Bridge (25C0113) Rehabilitation Project

December 2014

El Dorado County
Community Development Agency
Transportation Division
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

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1. Project Information

1. Project Title:

Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge (25C0113) Rehabilitation Project

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:

Ms. Janet Postlewait, Principal Planner
(530) 621-5993
janet.postlewait@edcgov.us

4. Project Location:

The Project is located along Silver Fork Road approximately 150 ft south of U.S. Highway 50 in the community of Kyburz in unincorporated El Dorado County, CA. The Project occurs on the Kyburz, USGS topographic quadrangle (T11N, R15E, Section 27) at an elevation of approximately 4,080 ft.

The Project area includes approximately 300 linear ft of Silver Fork Road, road shoulders, a portion of the South Fork American River, and portions of adjacent privately owned parcels including and assessor's parcel numbers (APNs) 012-302-18, 012-302-08, 012-361-05 and 012-303-02.

5. Description of Project:

The El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division, in conjunction with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), intends to rehabilitate the existing Silver Fork Road Bridge (25C0113) over South Fork American River located in unincorporated El Dorado County. The existing 60 ft 10in long, 24 ft 3in wide, 2-lane single span, welded-steel plate girder bridge with a concrete deck was constructed in 1953. The bridge has been identified by Caltrans as structurally deficient (sufficiency rating of 64.0) and the concrete deck is in poor condition. The Project proposes to rehabilitate the existing bridge structure to improve roadway safety and comply with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidelines and El Dorado County standards. The County will replace the bridge deck with a wider, cast-in-place, reinforced concrete deck; install approach slabs on each side of the bridge; install new railings; repair localized scour at the north abutment, and reposition the existing girders and refurbish the existing paint system. Original steel elements of the bridge will either be 1) transported offsite to be cleaned and repainted, or 2) cleaned and painted onsite in accordance with applicable lead-based paint regulations. No bridge or roadway re-alignment is anticipated. Some minor adjustments to the roadway profile will be necessary to improve longitudinal drainage along the bridge and to allow modifications to the abutment seat. The Rehabilitation/ Widening Alternative will not require a detour during construction; rather a single through lane with a timed signal will be used. Temporary construction easements to install a retaining wall and relocate fencing will be necessary. A portion of APN 012-302-18 will be acquired by the County to perfect the existing right of way where Silver Fork Road lies on private property. A

detailed project description is included in Section 3 of this Initial Study.

6. General plan designation:

El Dorado County right-of-way; High-Density Residential (HDR)

7. Zoning:

El Dorado County right-of-way; One-family Residential (R1)

8. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The Project area is located approximately 28 mi east of Placerville in the community of Kyburz, in unincorporated El Dorado County. Adjacent land use includes rural residential. Silver Fork Road is classified as an off-system, two-lane, local rural road in El Dorado County.

9. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

The Project may require permits or approvals from the following:

- Caltrans — National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Section 404 Clean Water Act Nationwide Permit
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board — Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife — Streambed Alteration Agreement
- El Dorado County Air Quality Management District — Fugitive Dust Plan Approval

2. Introduction

The El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division, (Transportation) intends to rehabilitate the existing Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge (25C0113) located in unincorporated El Dorado County. The existing 2-lane single-span welded steel plate girder bridge was constructed in 1953.

El Dorado County is the local lead agency and prepared this Initial Study to consider the significance of potential project impacts pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.). This Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Administrative Code, Section 14000 et seq.).

Based on the results of this Initial Study, the County has determined that the Project would have less than significant impacts on the environment with the incorporation of mitigation measures. The County may approve the Project with the certification of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

The remainder of this document is organized into the following sections:

- **Section 3, Project Description:** Provides a detailed description of the proposed Project;
- **Section 4, Initial Study Checklist and Supporting Documentation:** Provides CEQA Initial Study Resource impact checklists and supporting documentation. Identifies the thresholds of significance, evaluates potential impacts, and describes mitigation necessary to reduce impact significance;
- **Section 5, Initial Study Findings:** Provides a determination of the County's CEQA findings;
- **Section 6, Supporting Information Sources:** Identifies the personnel responsible for the preparation of this document and provides a list of the references cited throughout the document.
- **Appendix A, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan**: Contains the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan prepared for the proposed project. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan includes a list of required mitigation measures and includes information regarding the County's policies and procedures for implementation and monitoring of the mitigation measures.

3. Project Description

3.1 Location

The Project is located along Silver Fork Road approximately 0.1 mi south of U.S. Highway 50 in the community of Kyburz in unincorporated El Dorado County, CA (Figures 1 and 2). The Project is located on the Kyburz, USGS topographic quadrangle (quad; T11N, R15E, Section 27). The bridge deck elevation is approximately 4,080 ft.

3.2 Project Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Project is to rehabilitate the existing Silver Fork Road Bridge (25C0113). Project objectives include improving roadway safety and compliance with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidelines and El Dorado County standards. This Project is identified in the El Dorado County Capital Improvement Program as project # 77124 (El Dorado County 2013).

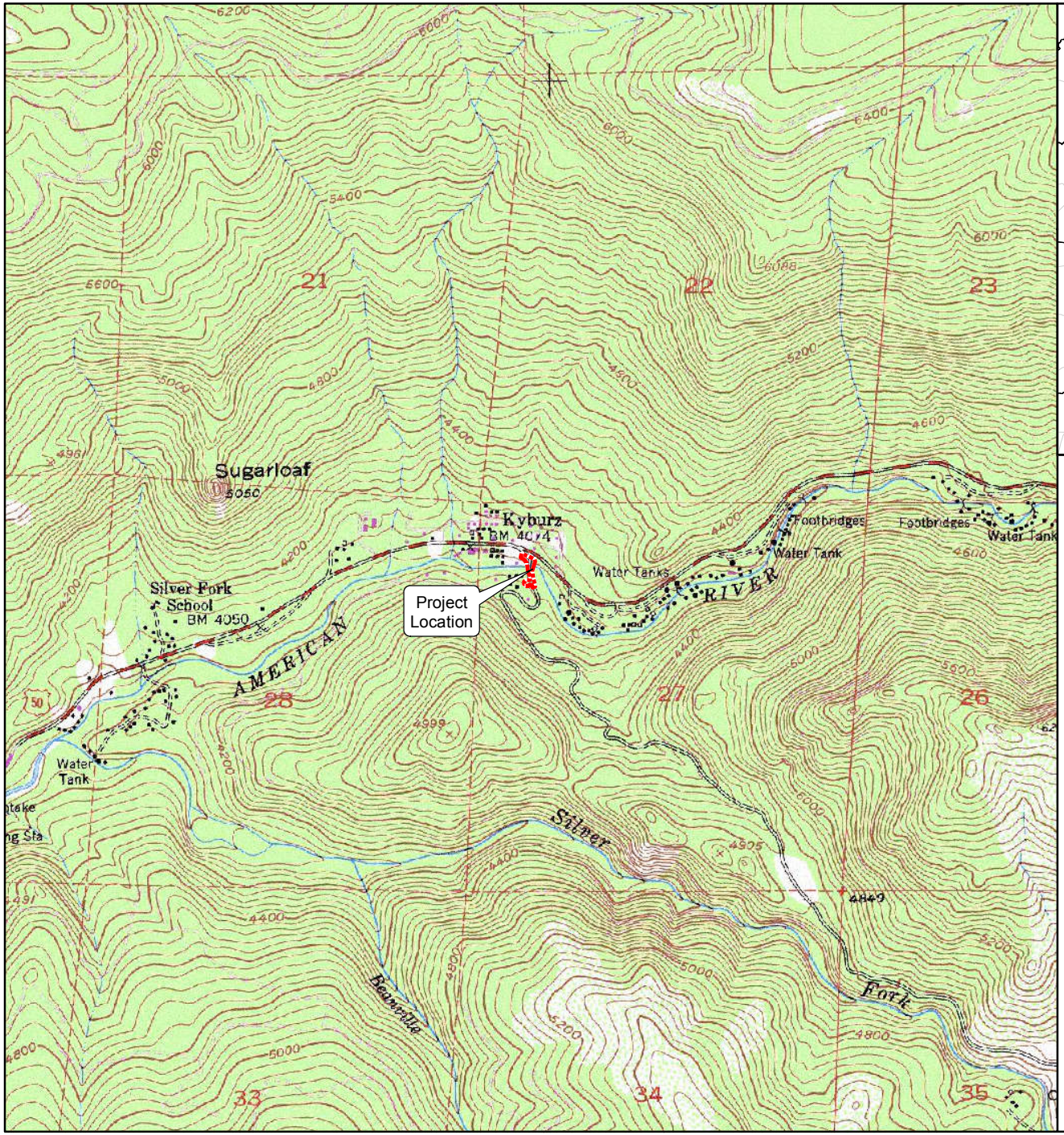
Rehabilitation and widening of the structure is necessary due to the following (CH2M HILL 2014):

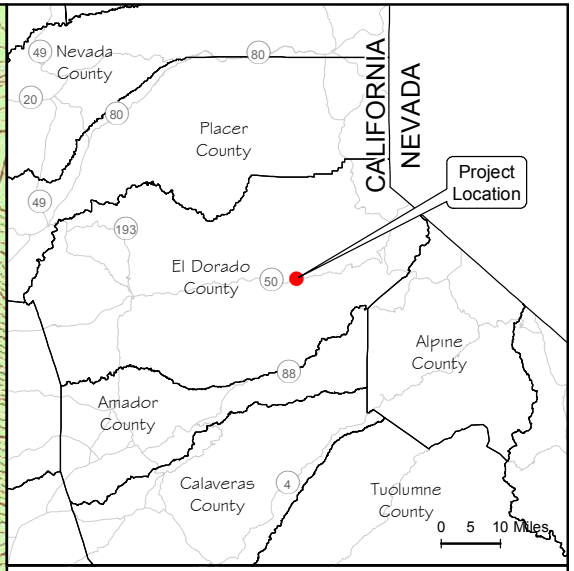
- The existing bridge is classified as functionally obsolete and structurally deficient per the Caltrans Bridge inspection report. The sufficiency rating of the structure is 64/100, which qualifies the bridge for rehabilitation in accordance with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) guidelines.
- The concrete deck is rated in poor condition per the inspection report and is showing significant signs of deterioration with extensive surface spalling due to freeze-thaw effects.
- No appreciable shoulders are provided along the bridge, and the barriers are obsolete and exhibit numerous areas with localized surface spalling.
- The paint system on the steel girders and diaphragms has failed. The plate girders exhibit extensive rust along the bottom flange, though no significant section loss is evident.
- The expansion joints allow seepage of water and debris through the joint and the deck is cast level and thus does not properly drain.

3.3 Project Description

The existing Silver Fork Road at the South Fork of the American River was built in 1953 and consists of welded steel plate girders supported on cantilever type abutments with an approximate 24 ft 3 inch wide by 7.5 inch thick concrete deck and a 1.5 inch to 2 inch asphalt overlay. The existing facility provides two 11 ft lanes with essentially no shoulders and obsolete traffic barriers along the bridge.

The proposed bridge improvements consist of deck replacement, deck widening, and rehabilitation of the existing superstructure (Figure 3 and Figure 4). The existing deck will be replaced with a 31.33 ft wide, approximately 8 inch thick, reinforced sand-lightweight concrete deck that provides two 11 ft lanes, 3 ft shoulders, and modern California ST-10 barriers. The existing plate girders will be cleaned, painted, and relocated onto new bearings to minimize the overhang length and accommodate the deck widening. Original steel elements of the bridge will either be 1) transported offsite to be cleaned and repainted, or 2) cleaned and painted onsite in accordance with applicable lead-based paint regulations. The girder relocation strategy requires abutment seat transverse extensions at both ends of the north abutment and adding a reinforced concrete topping to the abutment seats.





Silver Fork Road Bridge (25C-0113) at
South Fork American River
El Dorado County, CA
30 October 2013

Figure 1. Location Map

Project Location

2,000 1,000 0 2,000 Feet

Scale: 1 inch = 2,000 feet

N

Kyburz, CA (Revised 1973)
USGS 7.5' Quadrangle DRG
CASIL California Digital Raster Graphics,
7.5 Minute (C) Series, Albers Nad83 Mosaics (MrSID)
0_nw0102.sid

11075SilverForkRdBridgeatSouthForkAmericanRiver_Fig1LocationMap.mxd

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Silver Fork Road Bridge (25C-0113) at
South Fork American River
El Dorado County, CA
30 October 2013

800 400 0 800 Feet

N

Scale: 1 inch = 800 feet

Project Study Area

Aerial Photograph: 14 August 2011
UC-G Imagery, US-CA-Placerville, Microsoft
ESRI ArcGIS Basemap Layer

Figure 2. Aerial Photograph

11075SilverForkRdBridgeatSouthForkAmericanRiver_Fig2AerialPhoto.mxd

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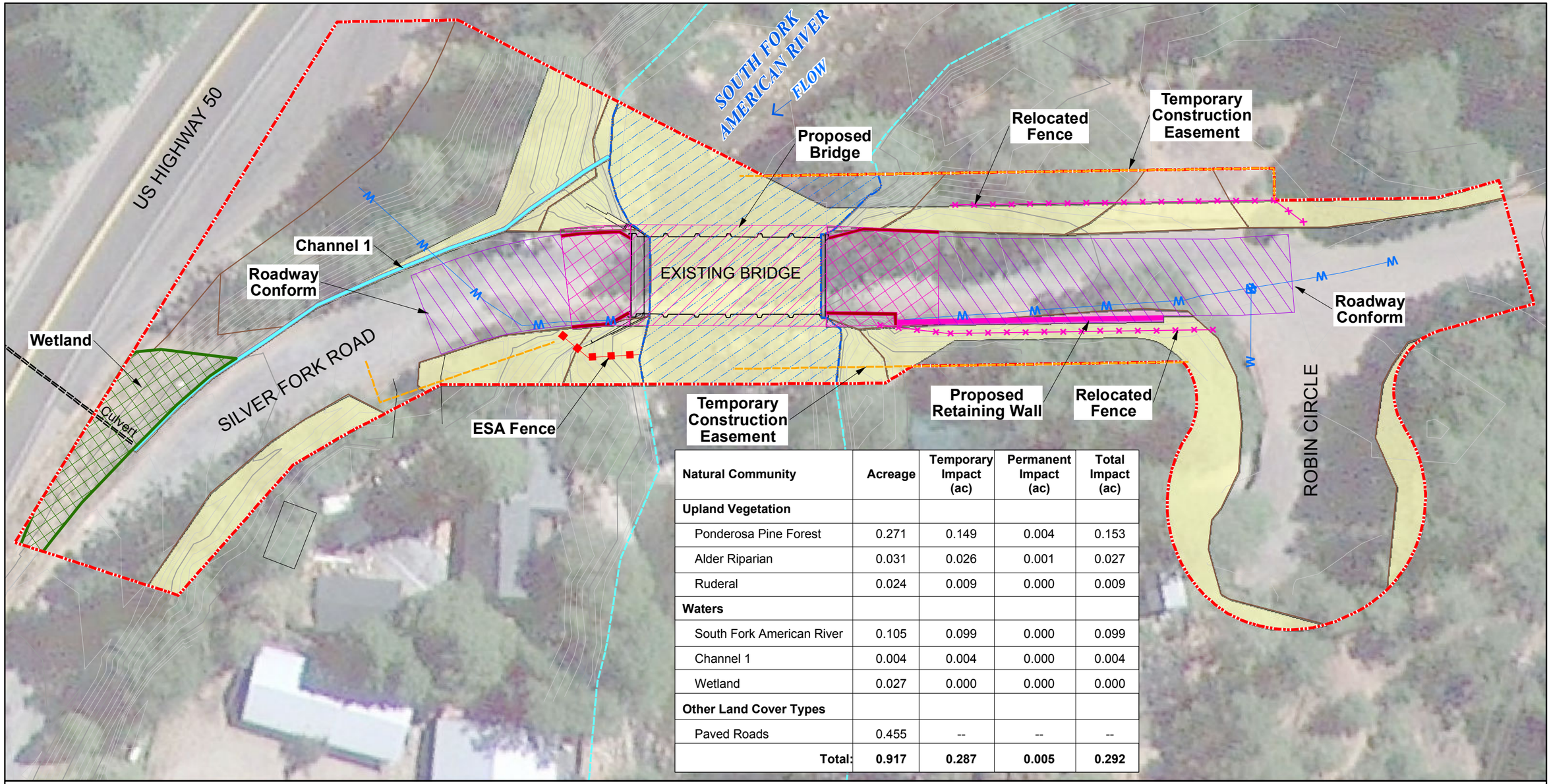

Natural Community	Acreage	Temporary Impact (ac)	Permanent Impact (ac)	Total Impact (ac)
Upland Vegetation				
Ponderosa Pine Forest	0.271	0.149	0.004	0.153
Alder Riparian	0.031	0.026	0.001	0.027
Ruderal	0.024	0.009	0.000	0.009
Waters				
South Fork American River	0.105	0.099	0.000	0.099
Channel 1	0.004	0.004	0.000	0.004
Wetland	0.027	0.000	0.000	0.000
Other Land Cover Types				
Paved Roads	0.455	--	--	--
Total:	**0.917**	**0.287**	**0.005**	**0.292**

Silver Fork Road Bridge (25C-0113) at
South Fork American River
El Dorado County, CA
5 June 2014

Figure 3. Proposed Project

- Project Study Area (PSA)
- Channel 1
- Wetland
- South Fork American River (In BSA)
- Culvert
- Proposed Bridge
- Proposed Structure Approach
- Wall Under Proposed Structure Approach
- Proposed Road Improvements
- W Existing Waterline
- Relocated Fence
- Temporary Construction Easement
- ESA Fence
- Proposed Retaining Wall
- Permanent Impact
- Temporary Impact

30 15 0 30 Feet

Scale: 1 inch = 30 feet

Proposed layout: Silver Fork Road Geometric Approval Drawings
Plan & Profile, LAYOUT SHEET - 2014-03-11.dwg (11 Mar. 2014)
Existing Topo: XBase_withMapping.dwg (23 Aug. 2013)
by El Dorado County Dept. of Transportation
Aerial Photograph: 28 August 2012, Google Earth Pro Imagery
Parcels and Roads: El Dorado County, GIS datasets

11075SilverForkRdBridgeatSouthForkAmericanRiver_Fig3ProjectMap_v5CEQA.mxd

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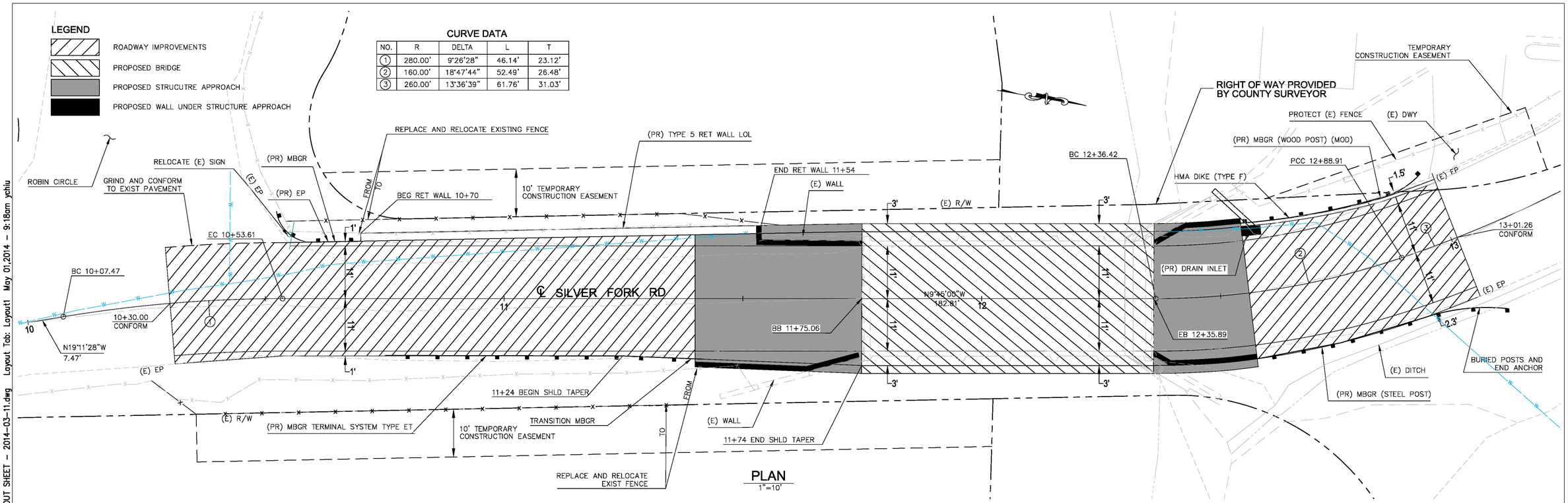
LEGEND

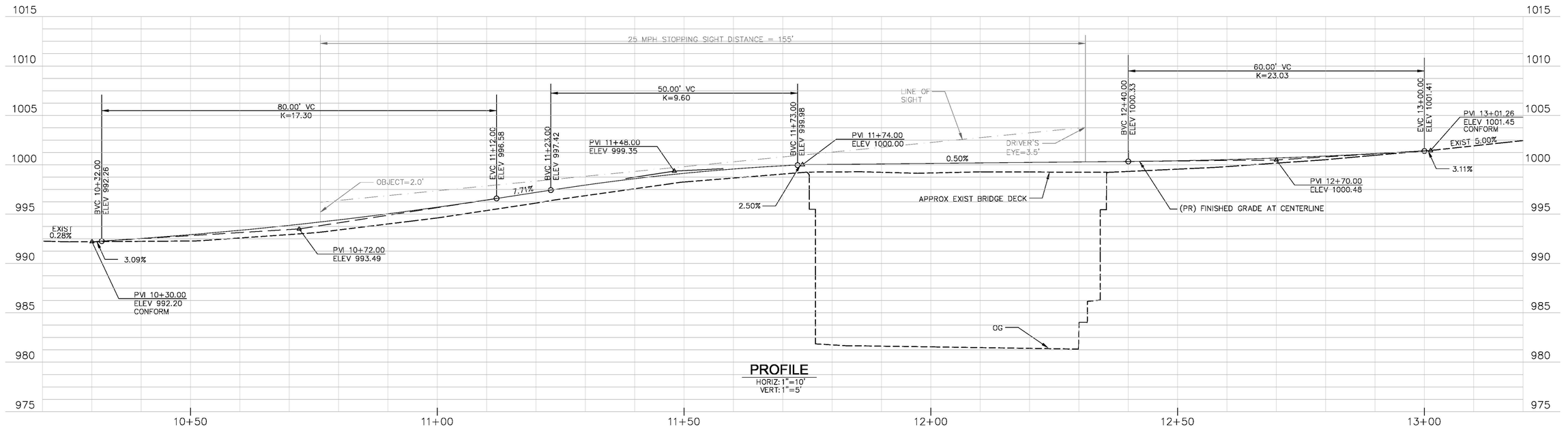
- ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS
- PROPOSED BRIDGE
- PROPOSED STRUCUTRE APPROACH
- PROPOSED WALL UNDER STRUCTURE APPROACH

CURVE DATA

NO.	R	DELTA	L	T
1	280.00'	9°26'28"	46.14'	23.12'
2	160.00'	18°47'44"	52.49'	26.48'
3	260.00'	13°36'39"	61.76'	31.03'



PLAN
1"=10'



PROFILE
HORIZ: 1"=10'
VERT: 1"=5'

ORIGINAL SCALE IS IN INCHES
Drawing name: \\yosemite\Pro\ElDoradoCounty\DOT\457839\Roadway\LAYOUT SHEET - 2014-03-11.dwg Layout Tab: Layout1 May 01,2014 - 9:18am ychiu

FOR REDUCED PLANS

REVISION NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY

PREPARED UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF :

REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER

DATE:

DESIGNED:	DRAWN:
L.PROCTOR	L.PROCTOR
CHECKED:	DATE:
E.HENDERSON	03-11-2014
ROAD NUMBER:	

EL DORADO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SILVER FORK ROAD
GEOMETRIC APPROVAL DRAWINGS
PLAN AND PROFILE

SHEET
OF
W.O. No.

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Other proposed improvements include building a longitudinal slope along the deck to facilitate drainage, constructing Caltrans Type R (Mod) approach slabs at each end of the bridge, replacing the expansion joints, installing a retaining wall from the south-west corner of the rehabilitated structure to approximately Robin Circle, and repairing some localized scour at the north abutment.

3.4 Construction Methods

3.4.1 Bridge Rehabilitation

El Dorado County proposes to rehabilitate the existing bridge structure. The County will replace the bridge deck with a wider, cast-in-place, reinforced concrete deck; install approach slabs on each side of the bridge; install new railings; repair localized scour at the north abutment, and refurbish the existing paint system. No bridge or roadway re-alignment is anticipated. Minor adjustments to the roadway profile will be necessary to improve longitudinal drainage along the bridge and to allow modifications to the abutment seat.

The new 31.33 ft wide deck will be installed using two construction stages to maintain one 10 ft traffic lane at all times. The wider deck will incorporate two 11 ft travel lanes with 3 ft shoulders. Existing substandard and outdated rail barriers will be replaced with code-compliant modern see-through barriers. Original steel elements of the bridge will either be 1) transported offsite to be cleaned and repainted, or 2) cleaned and painted onsite in accordance with applicable lead-based paint regulations and Caltrans specifications.

Two construction stages will be needed to maintain continuous traffic flow on the bridge while replacing and widening the concrete deck, rehabilitating and relocating the existing plate girders, and constructing the bridge approaches. In the first stage of construction, the roadway will be reduced to one controlled lane for both directions of traffic along one side of the existing bridge, using temporary railing and a timed signal. Two girders will then be relocated, prior to casting the first phase of the deck replacement.

In the second stage of construction, traffic will use the new portion first phase of the replacement deck, with one controlled lane for both directions of traffic. The second half of the existing concrete deck will be removed, the other two existing girders relocated, and the second stage of the concrete deck will be placed and connected to the first stage with a closure pour. After construction of the deck replacement, bridge approaches, and retaining wall, traffic will be rerouted to the final configuration.

3.4.2 Bridge Approach Structures

To accommodate the increased width of the new bridge deck and ensure a smooth profile transition, modified approach slab structures will be used at each end of the bridge. The approach structures will be installed within the footprint of the existing bridge footings and will cantilever past the existing wing walls to support the widened travel way. The roadway approach width will be tapered to match the width of the approach structures and new bridge deck. Minor surface grinding of the existing pavement may be necessary at conform locations to match the elevation of the new bridge pavement to the existing pavement. No excavation for road sub-base is expected outside the existing roadway/ fill prism.

In order to accommodate the proposed bridge and approach improvements within the existing ROW, a retaining wall will be constructed. The retaining wall will be located along the west side of Silver Fork

Road between Robin Circle and the southwest corner of the rehabilitated bridge. Excavation associated with the construction of the retaining wall will occur within the nonnative fill prism of the existing road bed.

3.4.3 Scour Repair

Repair of the localized scour at the north abutment will require an in-stream water diversion of a small portion of the South Fork American River. Flows would be maintained through the existing channel under the bridge. Diversion methods may include the use of water pillows, rock, sandbags, sheet piling, pipes or coffer dams, or other structural methods approved by the Project Engineer and CDFW. Scour repair will occur during the river's low flow season. During repairs a containment barrier will be installed to prevent flows in or out of the repair area. A grout/pea gravel mixture will then be used to repair scoured areas of the foundation.

3.4.4 Construction Staging and Right of Way

Construction materials and equipment will be staged primarily at the intersection of Silver Fork Road and Robin Circle south of the bridge, where there is a wide cul-de-sac. No staging will occur on APN 012-303-02 beyond the existing County ROW. The existing fence located within the County ROW on APNs 012-303-02 and 12-302-08 will be reconstructed on the property line at the completion of the project.

Temporary construction easements to install a retaining wall and relocate fencing will be necessary. It is anticipated that a portion of APN 012-302-18 will be acquired by the County to perfect the existing right of way where Silver Fork Road lies on private property. Silver Fork Road currently traverses a portion of APN 012-302-18. The portion of APN 012-302-18 to be acquired is already paved roadbed.

Best management practices will be implemented during construction to prevent concrete, lead paint or other materials from entering South Fork American River and other waters unnecessarily. General bridge construction equipment expected to be used includes, but is not limited to: haul trucks, cranes, excavators, gradalls, backhoes, dump delivery trucks, concrete boom pump, and service vehicles.

3.4.5 Utilities

Utilities in the Project area include a four-inch diameter water line that runs along the west edge of the bridge. An existing abandoned cable TV line (assumed) occurs along the seat of the north abutment and west girder. Based on available information there are no other utilities identified in the vicinity of the bridge (CH2M HILL 2014).

The Kyburz Mutual Water Company has plans to replace and potentially relocate the existing water line along the bridge. The existing four-inch diameter water line alignment is shown on Figure 3. The ultimate alignment of the water line will be determined during final design. The line may be relocated from its current location on the west side of the bridge and attached to the east side or may be carried between the bridge girders. The relocation will occur within the existing ROW. Relocation may require trenching within the road prism and may encounter native soils.

3.5 Construction Contract

Transportation would retain a construction contractor to construct the proposed improvements. The contractor would be responsible for compliance with all applicable rules, regulations, and ordinances associated with proposed Project activities and for implementing construction-related mitigation measures.

Transportation would provide construction contractor oversight and management and would be responsible for verifying implementation of the mitigation measures. The contractor would construct the proposed Project in accordance with the Public Contract Code of the State of California, the State of California Department of Transportation Standard Plans and Standard Specifications, and the Contract, Project Plans, and Project Special Provisions under development by Transportation. The following are a combination of standard and project-specific procedures/requirements applicable to Project construction:

- Construction contract special provisions will require that a Traffic Management Plan be prepared. The Traffic Management Plan will include construction staging and traffic control measures to be implemented during construction to maintain and minimize impacts to traffic during construction. The Traffic Management Plan will address the coordination issues for residential access during short-term road closures during the construction window as applicable;
- Contract special provisions will require compliance with El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Rules 223, 223-1, and 223-2 to minimize fugitive dust emissions;
- Contract provisions will require notification of Transportation and compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Sections 5097.5, 5097.9 et seq., regarding the discovery and disturbance of cultural materials or human remains should any be discovered during project construction;
- Contract provisions will require implementation of best management practices (BMPs) consistent with the Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbooks to protect water quality and minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation.
- Transportation or its construction contractors will conduct early coordination with utility service providers, law enforcement and emergency service providers to ensure minimal disruption to service during construction;
- Transportation and its construction contractors will comply with the current State of California Standard Specifications written by the State of California Department of Transportation, for public service provision; and
- The Project would comply with El Dorado County General Plan Policy 6.5.1.11 pertaining to construction noise.
- The County will install ESA fencing as shown in the Caltrans approved Cultural Resources documents.
- Contract provisions will require the existing paint system be handled in accordance with Caltrans Standard Special Provisions for removal of lead paint (Provision 14-11.08, Disturbance of Existing Paint Systems on Bridges).

3.6 Project Schedule

Transportation expects to construct the Project in the summer of 2016.

4. Initial Study Checklist and Supporting Documentation

4.1 Initial Study Checklist

This section of the Initial Study incorporates the Environmental Checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Each resource topic section provides a determination of potential impact and an explanation for the checklist impact questions. The following 18 environmental categories are addressed in this section:

• Aesthetics	• Land Use and Planning
• Agricultural and Forestry Resources	• Mineral Resources
• Air Quality	• Noise
• Biological Resources	• Population and Housing
• Cultural Resources	• Public Services
• Geology and Soils	• Recreation
• Greenhouse Gas Emission	• Transportation/Traffic
• Hazards and Hazardous Materials	• Utilities/ Service Systems
• Hydrology and Water Quality	• Mandatory Findings of Significance

Each of the above listed environmental categories was fully evaluated and one of the following four determinations was made for each checklist question:

- **"No Impact"** means that no impact to the environment would occur as a result of implementing the Project.
- **"Less than Significant Impact"** means that implementation of the Project would not result in a substantial and/or adverse change to the environment and no mitigation is required.
- **"Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation is Incorporated"** means that the incorporation of one or more mitigation measures would reduce the impact from potentially significant to less than significant.
- **"Potentially Significant Impact"** means that there is either substantial evidence that a project-related effect would be significant or, due to a lack of existing information, could have the potential to be significant.

4.2 Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures

4.2.1 Aesthetics

I. AESTHETICS—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
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) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The Project occurs in the Sierra Nevada, at an elevation ranging from of approximately 4,070 to 4,100 ft above sea level. The Project is located in a residential/ urban setting in the community of Kyburz in unincorporated El Dorado County. The project area includes existing ROW and portions of private parcels. The project vicinity includes the existing roads, disturbed areas along the road shoulders, driveways, homes and accessory structures, horticultural landscaping near homes, Ponderosa Pine Forest in upland areas, and Alder Riparian adjacent to the South Fork American River.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** A scenic vista refers to the view of an area that is visually or aesthetically pleasing. Aesthetic components of a scenic vista include; 1) scenic quality, 2) sensitivity level, and 3) view access.

Table 5.3-1 of the General Plan EIR identifies multiple scenic views and resources in the County. The South Fork American River corridor is identified as a scenic resource and scenic view as per Table 5.3-1 of the General Plan EIR (El Dorado County 2004a). Silver Fork Road is not identified in Table 5.3-1 of the General Plan EIR.

The Project consist of deck replacement, deck widening, and rehabilitation of the existing structure. The rehabilitated bridge will be visually consistent with the existing structure and other transportation infrastructure in the vicinity of the Project. Impacts to the scenic resource/ scenic view designation of South Fork American River corridor is considered less-than significant.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** U.S 50 between Echo Summit and Placerville is a state-designated scenic highway. The Project is located approximately 530 ft south of U.S. 50. Westbound traffic on U.S. 50 likely has brief views of the existing bridge through the corridor of trees that occur between U.S. 50 and the Project site. Eastbound U.S. 50 traffic likely has partial views of the existing bridge as they pass the Silver Fork Road/U.S. 50 intersection. The posted speed limit on

U.S. 50 in this area is 55 mph. The travelling public's awareness of the bridge and its appearance is significantly reduced when travelling in a vehicle at 55 mph.

The rehabilitated bridge will be visually consistent with the existing structure and will not significantly affect the views from U.S. 50. Visually the pre and post project conditions will be similar. Project impacts are considered less-than significant.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** See discussion of a) and b) above.

d) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not introduce any new source of light or glare.

4.2.2 Agricultural and Forestry Resources

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY—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::	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The Project is located in a residential area in the Sierra Nevada. The Project area is outside of the area mapped as part of the States Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (California Department of

Conservation 2014c). No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or lands under Williamson Act contracts occur in the project area. The Project area is located outside of the area identified as 'Timber Production Zone' on Exhibit 5.2-4 (Timber Production Zones) of the County General Plan EIR (El Dorado County 2004a).

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or lands under Williamson Act contracts occur in the project area.

b) ***No Impact.*** See response for item a).

c) ***No Impact.*** The proposed Project is consistent with the existing zoning and does not include any rezoning activities.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The proposed project may have temporary impacts to forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)). Temporary impacts will result from the pruning trees and removal of vegetation to allow temporary construction access. The proposed Project is being constructed within the existing County right of way and will not result in a permanent loss of forest land or conversion of forest land.

e) ***No Impact.*** Excluding temporary vegetation impacts the project is not anticipated to involve other changes in the existing environment that could result in conversion of Farmland or forest land.

4.2.3 Air Quality

III. AIR QUALITY— Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

The project area is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). The San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin and the Sacramento Valley Air Basin are located to the west, and the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin is located to the south. Climate in the MCAB relate to elevation and proximity to the Sierra Ridge. Precipitation is greater and temperatures are lower at higher elevations. Summer temperatures in the project area are in the mid- to upper nineties. Winter temperatures are in the upper thirties to lower forties.

The air quality of a region is determined by the air pollutant emissions (quantities and type of pollutants measured by weight) and by ambient air quality (the concentration of pollutants within a specified volume of air). Air pollutants are characterized as primary and secondary pollutants. Primary pollutants are those emitted directly into the air, for example carbon monoxide (CO), and can be traced to a single pollutant source. Secondary pollutants are those pollutants that form through chemical reactions in the atmosphere, for example reactive organic gasses (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NO_X) combine to form ground level ozone, or smog.

Congress established much of the basic structure of the Clean Air Act in 1970, and made major revisions in 1977 and 1990. The Federal Clean Air Act established national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). These standards are divided into primary and secondary standards. Primary standards are designed to protect public health and secondary standards are designed to protect other values. Because of the health-based criteria identified in setting the NAAQS, the air pollutants are termed "criteria" pollutants. California has adopted its own, more stringent, ambient air quality standards (CAAQS). El Dorado County is currently in severe nonattainment status for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS and nonattainment status for PM 2.5. The County is in nonattainment status for and for the 1-hour ozone, 8-hour ozone, and PM10 CAAQS.

The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) administers the state and federal Clean Air Acts in accordance with state and federal guidelines. The AQMD regulates air quality through its district rules and permit authority. It also participates in planning review of discretionary project applications and provides recommendations. The following District rules apply to the Project:

- **Rule 205 (Nuisance):** Prohibits the discharge of air containments which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance.
- **Rule 207 (Particulate Matter):** Limits the quantity of PM through concentration limits.
- **Rule 223 (Fugitive Dust):** Limits the amount of PM and asbestos PM entrained in the atmosphere.
- **Rule 224 (Cutback and Emulsified Asphalt Paving Materials):** Limits emissions of ROGs from the use of cutback and emulsified asphalt paving materials, paving, and maintenance operations.
- **Rule 233 (Stationary Internal Combustion Engines):** Limits emissions of NOx and CO from stationary internal combustion engines. (This rule applies to any stationary internal combustion engine rated at more than 50 brake horsepower, operated on any gaseous fuel or liquid fuel, including liquid petroleum gas (LPG), gasoline, or diesel fuel.)

El Dorado County AQMD's Guide to Air Quality Assessment (2002) specifies specific daily emissions thresholds that can be used to determine the significance of project emissions. The EDCAQMD considers a significant cumulative impact to occur if the project requires a change in the existing land use designation (i.e., general plan) and would individually exceed the project-level thresholds of significance. Thresholds of significance for specific pollutants of concern are as follows:

- ROG: 82 lbs/day
- NOx: 82 lbs/day
- PM10: AAQS

Potential Environmental Effects

The Project would result in short-term, temporary air pollutant emissions from construction activities. Construction emissions were estimated for the Project using the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's *Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 7.1.1* as recommended in the El Dorado County AQMD Guide to Air Quality Assessment. The results are in Table 1.

Table 1. Estimated construction emissions.

Project Phases	ROG lbs/day	CO lbs/day	NOx lbs/day	PM10 lbs/day	Exhaust PM10 lbs/day	Fugitive Dust PM10 lbs/day
Grubbing/land clearing	0.1	0.8	1.3	8.7	0.1	1.8
Grading/excavation	0.1	0.7	1.1	8.7	0.0	1.8
Drainage/utilities/sub-grade	0.1	0.8	1.1	8.7	0.0	1.8
Paving	0.1	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.0	-
Maximum lbs/day	0.1	0.8	1.3	8.7	0.1	1.8
Significance Threshold	82	AAQS	82	AAQS	*N/A*	*N/A*
Significant?	NO	NO	NO	NO	*N/A*	*N/A*

Notes: Data entered to emissions model: Project Start Year: 2016; Project Length (months): 6; Total Project Area (acres): 0.868; Total Soil Imported/Exported (yd^3/day): 0. PM10 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures. Total PM10 emissions are the sum of *exhaust* and *fugitive dust* emissions.

a) ***No Impact.*** The proposed Project is identified in the Sacramento Council of Governments' *Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy 2035* (Sacramento Council of Governments 2012). Projects included in the Metropolitan Transportation Plan have been determined to be consistent with the planning goals of the State Implementation Plan.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** El Dorado County is in nonattainment status for both federal and state ozone standards and the state PM10 standard. Construction activities would result in short-term increases in emissions from the use of heavy equipment that generate dust, exhaust, and tire-wear emissions and from paints and coatings. Project construction would create short-term increases in ROG, NOx, and PM10 emissions from vehicle and equipment operation. None of the estimated emissions exceed the County's significance thresholds (Table 1). The Project would not

generate additional traffic on Silver Fork Road. No operational emissions will result from the Project.

c) ***No Impact.*** Cumulative net increases of criteria pollutants have been evaluated in the *Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy 2035* (SACOG 2012). This Project is referenced and evaluated in the *Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy 2035*. Also see the response for item b).

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Adjacent residences have the potential to be exposed to PM10, PM2.5, CO, ROG, and NOx during construction. These impacts are considered less than significant due to the limited nature of the Project and short-term construction period.

The Project is not located within an area known to contain naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) or an area "more likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos" (California Department of Conservation 2000, El Dorado County 2005).

e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities would involve the use of construction equipment and asphalt paving, which have distinctive odors. Odors are considered less than significant because of the limited number of the public affected and the short-term nature of the emissions.

4.2.4 Biological Resources

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
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 Game 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 Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (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?

Environmental Setting

Potential impacts to biological and wetlands resources were evaluated in the Project's Natural Environment Study (NES; Sycamore Environmental 2014). The NES is a standard Caltrans report format for documenting and evaluating the potential Project impacts to biological resources. The NES concludes the following regarding special-status species Project area:

- The Project area does not provide habitat for federal-listed wildlife or plant species. There is no critical habitat in the Project area and the Project will not affect critical habitat.
- The Project area does not provide habitat for State-listed wildlife or plant species.
- The Project area provides suitable habitat for several other California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW; formerly Department of Fish and Game) special-status species, including foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii*), Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), birds of prey and birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA),
- The Project area provides suitable habitat for 7 special-status plants ranked by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).
    - scalloped moonwort (*Botrychium crenulatum*)
    - western goblin (*Botrychium montanum*)
    - mud sedge (*Carex limosa*)
    - saw-toothed lewisia (*Lewisia serrata)*
    - northern adder's-tongue (*Ophioglossum pusillum*)
    - Stebbins' Phacelia (*Phacelia stebbinsii*)
    - Sierra blue grass (*Poa sierrae)*

Natural communities that occur in the Project area are shown in Table 2 (Sycamore Environmental 2014). The South Fork American River, the wetland, Channel 1, and the alder riparian community are considered sensitive natural communities in the Project area.

Table 2. Natural Communities in the Project area

Natural Community	Vegetation Alliance and CDFW Alliance Code [1]	Rarity Rank [2]	Acreage
Upland Vegetation			
Ponderosa Pine Forest	*Pinus ponderosa* Forest Alliance (87.010.00)	G5 S4	0.239
Alder Riparian	*Alnus rhombifolia* Forest Alliance (61.420.00)	G4 S4	0.027
Ruderal	--	--	0.017
Aquatic Communities			
South Fork American River (Perennial)	--	--	0.099

Channel 1 (Intermittent)	--	--	0.004
Wetland	*Juncus mexicanus* Herbaceous Alliance (45.562.02)	G5 S4	0.027
Other Cover Types			
Paved Roads	--	--	0.455
Total:			**0.868**

[1] Vegetation alliances based on descriptions and classification methods in Sawyer et al. (2009); codes from CDFW (2010).

[2] Rarity ranking follows NatureServe's Heritage Methodology and is based on degree of imperilment as measured by rarity, trends, and threats. State (S) ranks of 1-3 are considered highly imperiled (CDFW 2010).

The South Fork American River is a perennial channel that flows west under the Silver Fork Road bridge in the Project area. The South Fork American River is a potential waters of the U.S. The South Fork American River is a Central Valley Drainage Resident Rainbow Trout Stream, a sensitive natural community tracked by the CNDDB.

Alder riparian occurs along the South Fork American River in the Project area. Alder riparian in the Project area is part of the stream zone protected by Fish and Game Code Section 1600. The composition of vegetation in this community is classified as montane riparian by the El Dorado County General Plan EIR (2004a). Montane riparian is considered a sensitive natural community in the El Dorado County General Plan EIR (2004a). The alder riparian in the Project area occurs in a relatively thin band between Ponderosa pine forest and the South Fork American River. It is sparse and there are few trees present.

An approximately 0.027 acre of wetland occurs in the Project area just south of US 50 near the intersection of US 50 and Silver Fork Road. Channel 1 is a roadside drainage that drains to the South Fork American River northeast of the existing bridge, flow is an intermittent. Channel 1 was aligned into its current location during the original road, Highway, and bridge construction. Channel 1 and the wetland in the Project area are both potential waters of the U.S. (Sycamore Environmental 2013).

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** The Project area does not provide habitat for federal-listed wildlife or plant species. There is no critical habitat in the Project area and the Project will not affect critical habitat. The Project area does not provide habitat for State-listed wildlife or plant species.

The Project area provides suitable habitat for other California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW; formerly Department of Fish and Game) special-status species, including foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF, *Rana boylii*), Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), and birds of prey and birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

FYLF were not observed during the general biological surveys conducted in the Project area. The South Fork American River in the Project area provides habitat for FYLF. BIO-1 will be implemented to protect FYLF and will reduce potential impact Less Than Significant.

Measure BIO-1

- *A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for FYLF within 48 hours prior to the start of construction activities within the riparian and aquatic habitat in the Project area.*
- *A qualified biologist will be present during grubbing and clearing activities in the riparian and aquatic habitat in the Project area to monitor for FYLF.*
- *During construction, if a FYLF is observed in the active construction zone, construction will cease and a qualified biologist will be notified. Construction may resume when the biologist has either relocated the FYLF to nearby suitable habitat outside the construction zone, or, after thorough inspection, determined that the FYLF has moved away from the construction zone.*

No pallid bats were observed during the general biological surveys conducted in the Project area. Trees and structures in and near the Project area provide marginal roosting habitat for Pallid bat. BIO-2 will be implemented to protect Pallid bat and will reduce potential impact Less Than Significant.

Measure BIO-2

- *A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for roosting bats within 2 weeks prior to the start of construction. If roosting is occurring, the County will contact CDFW for additional guidance on bat avoidance and impact minimization during bridge rehabilitation activities.*

The Project area provides potential nesting habitat for birds of prey and birds listed by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-711). BIO-3 will be implemented to avoid impacts to birds of prey and birds listed by the MBTA.

Measure BIO-3

Under the MBTA, nests that contain eggs or unfledged young are not to be disturbed during the breeding season. Nesting or attempted nesting by migratory birds and birds-of-prey is anticipated from February 15 to September 1.

Bridge-Nesting Birds

In California, bridge-nesting swallows typically arrive in mid-February, increase in numbers until late March, and remain until October. Nesting begins in April, peaks in June, and continues into August. Although swallows are unlikely to nest on the Silver Fork Road Bridge, other migratory birds may attempt to nest under the bridge. Black phoebes and Stellar's jays occur in the area and are known to nest on bridges. Measures should be taken to prevent establishment of nests prior to construction. Techniques to prevent nest establishment include using exclusion devices, removing and disposing of partially constructed and unoccupied nests of migratory or nongame birds on a regular basis to prevent their occupation, or perform any combination of these. This can be done by:

- *The contractor or County can visit the site weekly and remove partially completed nests using either hand tools or high pressure water; and/or*

- *Hang netting from the bridge before nesting begins. If this technique is used, netting should be in place from late February until project construction begins.*

Birds of Prey and Birds Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

- *If construction begins outside the 15 February to 1 September breeding season, there will be no need to conduct a preconstruction survey for active nests.*
- *Trees scheduled for removal should be removed during the non-breeding season from 2 September to 14 February. Vegetation removal includes trees and vegetation within the stream zone. Vegetation may be removed using hand tools, including chain saws and mowers, and may be trimmed several inches above the ground with the roots left intact to prevent erosion.*
- *If construction or vegetation removal begins between 15 February and 1 September, a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey for active bird of prey nests within 250 ft and active MTBA bird nests within 100 ft of the Project Study Area from publicly accessible areas within two weeks prior to construction. The measures listed below shall be implemented based on the survey results.*

No Active Nests Found:

- *If no active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is found, then no further avoidance and minimization measures are necessary.*

Active Nests Found:

- *If an active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is discovered that may be adversely affected by construction activities or an injured or killed bird is found, immediately:*
    1. *Stop all work within a 100-ft radius of the discovery.*
    2. *Notify the Engineer.*
    3. *Do not resume work within the 100-ft radius until authorized.*
- *The biologist shall establish a minimum 250-ft Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) around the nest if the nest is of a bird of prey, and a minimum 100-ft ESA around the nest if the nest is of an MBTA bird other than a bird of prey.*

Table 3. Bird Species Protection Areas

Protected Bird Type	***Size of Protection Area (ESA)***
Bird of prey	*250 ft no-disturbance buffer*
MBTA protected bird (not bird of prey)	*100 ft no-disturbance buffer*

- *Activity in the ESA will be restricted as follows:*
    1. *Do not enter the ESA unless authorized.*
    2. *If the ESA is breached, immediately:*

a. *Secure the area and stop all operations within 60 feet of the ESA boundary.*

b. *Notify the Engineer.*

3. *If the ESA is damaged, County determines what efforts are necessary to remedy the damage and who performs the remedy.*

- *No construction activity will be allowed in the ESA until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active, or unless monitoring determines that a smaller ESA will protect the active nest.*
- *The size of an ESA may be reduced if the biologist monitors the construction activities and determines that no disturbance to the active nest is occurring. Reduction of ESA size depends on the species of bird, the location of the nest relative to the project, project activities during the time the nest is active, and other project-specific factors.*
- *Between 15 February and 1 September, if additional trees or shrubs need to be trimmed and/or removed after construction has started, a survey will be conducted for active nests in the area to be affected. If an active nest is found, the above measures will be implemented.*
- *If an active nest is identified in or adjacent to the construction zone after construction has started, the above measures will be implemented to ensure construction is not causing disturbance to the nest.*

The Project area provides suitable habitat for 7 special-status plants ranked by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). These species were not observed in the Project during a botanical survey conducted during the evident and identifiable period. No impact will occur.

b) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** The South Fork American River, the wetland, Channel 1, and the alder riparian community are considered sensitive natural communities in the Project area and are listed in Table 2. Impacts to the South Fork American River, the wetland, and Channel 1 channel are discussed under Item c below.

The alder riparian in the Project area occurs in a relatively thin band between Ponderosa pine forest and the South Fork American River. It is sparse with few trees present. The Project will result in 0.001 acre of permanent impact and 0.026 acre of temporary impacts to alder riparian. Temporary impacts will result from the pruning and removal of vegetation to allow temporary construction access. Implementation of measure BIO-4 below will reduce potential impacts to the alder riparian community to less than significant.

c) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** The Project has been designed to minimize impacts to potential water of the U.S. including wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act including the South Fork American River and Channel 1. The wetland, also a potential water of the U.S., will not be affected by the proposed Project.

The Project will not result in permanent impacts to the South Fork American River. The temporary water diversion needed to repair the north abutment will result in 0.099 acre of temporary impacts to the South Fork American River and is discussed below. Repair of the localized scour at the north abutment will occur within the existing footprint of the bridge structure and does not result in new permanent impacts to the South Fork American River.

The Project will not result in permanent impacts to Channel 1. Channel 1 may be reshaped to accommodate the installation of the approach structures but will remain parallel to Silver Fork Road. The Project will result in 0.004 acre of temporary impacts to Channel 1 resulting from reshaping. Implementation of BIO-4 as well as will reduce Project impacts to potential water of the U.S. including wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Measure BIO-4

- *Mark the limits of construction with temporary fencing to prevent affecting South Fork American River, Channel 1, the wetland, and alder riparian unnecessarily.*
- *Prior to construction, fencing will be installed around the protected wetland.*
- *Trucks and other vehicles will not be allowed to park beyond, nor shall equipment be stored beyond, the fencing.*
- *No vegetation removal, ground disturbing activities, or burning will be permitted beyond the fencing.*
- *Contract provisions will require implementation of best management practices (BMPs) consistent with the Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbooks to protect water quality and minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation.*
- *Areas temporarily disturbed will be revegetated and reseeded with native grasses and other native herbaceous annual and perennial species in accordance with Appendix E of the Project NES. Reseeded areas will be covered with a biodegradable erosion control fabric to prevent erosion and downstream sedimentation. The project engineer will determine the specifications needed for erosion control fabric (e.g., shear strength) based on anticipated maximum flow velocities and soil types. The seed type will consist of commercially available native grass and herbaceous species. No seed of nonnative species will be used unless certified to be sterile.*

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project area is not located within a County-designated Important Biological Corridor (El Dorado County 2004b). Construction of the project could temporarily disrupt movement of native wildlife species that occur in or adjacent to the Project area. Daytime construction activities will result in minimal disruption of nocturnal wildlife movement. Although construction disturbance may temporarily hinder wildlife movements within the project area, the impact is less than significant due to its short-term nature.

e) ***No Impact.*** The Project area does not include oak woodlands and the Project does not propose removal of any oaks. Tree removal will be minimized to the maximum extent possible. A ponderosa pine (dbh approximately 17 in) located along the east side of Silver Fork road south of the bridge will require removal to accommodate installation of the approach structure in this location. A small pine tree located near the northwest corner of the bridge may require removal to accommodate a realigned drainage outlet. A small number of white alder saplings may also be removed during the minor reshaping of Channel 1. The final tree removal determination will be made by El Dorado County.

There is no specific regulatory protection for the non-oak woodland. Implementation of BIO-4 will reduce potential impacts associated with removal of white alder saplings from Channel 1. The Project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

f) ***No Impact.*** The Project is not located in an area covered by a habitat or natural community conservation plan. El Dorado County is currently preparing an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan to identify important habitats in the county and establish a program for the management and preservation of these areas. The plan is still in process and is not anticipated to be adopted until after this Project has been completed.

4.2.5 Cultural Resources

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

Tremaine & Associates, Inc. (Tremaine) prepared an Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) for the Project. The ASR included a records search and literature review, an intensive pedestrian survey, and consultation with the Native American community and local preservation societies.

Excavation associated with the proposed Project will occur almost entirely within the existing road prism which is composed of nonnative fill material. The Kyburz Mutual Water Company has plans to replace and potentially relocate the water line along the bridge. The existing four-inch diameter water line alignment is shown on Figures 3 and 4. The ultimate alignment of the water line will be determined during final design. The line may be relocated from its current location on the west side of the bridge and attached to the east side or may be carried between the bridge girders. Relocation may require trenching within the road prism and may encounter native soils. The exact depth of trenching/ excavation required to relocate the existing water line will be determined during final design. The existing water line ranges from approximately 24 to 30 inches below the ground surface.

The existing bridge, built in 1953, is classified as structurally deficient and has been determined ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Tremaine 2014). An intensive pedestrian survey was conducted of the Project area on 23 October 2013. One previously recorded cultural resource is located adjacent to the Project area. The cultural resource is located adjacent to and outside Project disturbance footprint and will be avoided during construction.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** An intensive pedestrian survey and records search were conducted in support of the ASR. No historic resources were discovered in the Project area (Tremaine 2014). The existing bridge, built in 1953, is classified as structurally deficient. The bridge has been determined ineligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Tremaine 2014).

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** One previously recorded cultural resource is located adjacent to the Project area. The cultural resource is located adjacent to and outside Project disturbance footprint and will be avoided during construction. Given the location of the previously recorded cultural resource outside the disturbance footprint the Project does not appear to have the potential to impact the previously recorded cultural resource impact or any other archaeological site (Tremaine 2014). As a precautionary measure to ensure avoidance of the previously recorded cultural resource outside the disturbance footprint the County will implement the Caltrans approved *Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA*) *Action Plan* (CULT-1) measure below.

Measure CULT-1

- *The County will install ESA fencing as shown in the Caltrans approved ESA Action Plan.*

c) ***No Impact.*** Paleontological resources in El Dorado County are associated with limestone cave deposits, occurrences of the Mehrten formation, and Pleistocene channel deposits (El Dorado County 2004a). Because these resources do not occur in the project area, no impact will occur. The site does not contain any other unique geologic features.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project ASR documents that no known cemeteries or burials occur within the project study area (Tremaine 2014). Should human remains be discovered during the excavation portion of the Project, the project description includes contract provisions that will require notification of Transportation and compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097.9 et seq.

4.2.6 Geology and Soils

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

Regional Geology: El Dorado County is located in the Sierra Nevada geomorphic province of California, east of the Great Valley province and west of the Range and Basin provinces. Steep-sided hills and narrow rocky stream channels characterize the Sierra Nevada province. This province consists of Pliocene and older deposits that have been uplifted as a result of plate tectonics, granitic intrusion, and volcanic activity. Subsequent glaciations and additional volcanic activity are factors that led to the east-west orientation of stream channels. (El Dorado County 2004a).

The southwestern foothills of El Dorado County are composed of rocks of the Mariposa Formation that include amphibolite, serpentine, and pyroxenite. The northwestern areas of the county consist of the Calaveras Formation, which includes metamorphic rock such as chert, slate, quartzite, and mica schist. The higher peaks in the County consist primarily of igneous and metamorphic rocks with granite intrusions, a main soil parent material at the higher elevations (El Dorado County 2004a).

Seismicity: Seismicity is defined as the geographic and historical distribution of earthquake activity. Seismic activity may result in geologic and seismic hazards including seismically induced fault displacement and rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, lateral spreading, landslides and avalanches, and structural hazards. Based on historical seismic activity and fault and seismic hazards mapping, El Dorado County is considered to have relatively low potential for seismic activity, and is located beyond the highly active fault zones of the coastal areas of California. The County's fault systems and associated seismic hazards are described below (El Dorado County 2004a).

Fault Systems: Earthquakes are associated with the fault systems in a particular area. The distribution of known faults in El Dorado County is concentrated in the western portion of the county, with several isolated faults in the central county area and the Lake Tahoe Basin. Fault systems mapped in western El Dorado County include the West Bear Mountains Fault; the East Bear Mountains Fault; the Maidu Fault Zone; the El Dorado Fault; the Melones Fault Zone of the Clark, Gillis Hill Fault; and the Calaveras–Shoo Fly Thrust. The Project area is located in the American River Market Area and has no late quaternary faults mapper (El Dorado County 2004a). The section of East Bear Fault in the project area is classified as a well-located Pre-Quaternary (inactive) fault.

No active faults have been identified in El Dorado County. One fault, part of the Rescue Lineament–Bear Mountains fault zone, is classified as a well located late-Quaternary fault; therefore, it represents the only potentially active fault in the county. All other faults located in El Dorado County are classified as pre-Quaternary (inactive).

Soils: Soils on the west slope of El Dorado County consist of well-drained silt and gravelly loams divided into two physiographic regions, the Lower and Middle Foothills and the Mountainous Uplands. There are a total of eight soil associations in western El Dorado County.

The only mapped soil unit in the Project area is Chaix-pilliken coarse sandy loam, 5 to 30 percent slopes. The Chaix series consists of well-drained soils derived from residuum weathered from granite (Sycamore Environmental 2013). Permeability is moderately rapid and surface runoff is medium to rapid.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***a-i) No Impact.*** No active faults have been identified in El Dorado County. Therefore, the Project will not rupture a fault mapped on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map. No impacts are anticipated.

a-ii) No Impact. The Project is not in a seismic hazard zone (California Department of Conservation 2014b). No impacts are anticipated.

a-iii) No Impact. No portion of El Dorado County occurs in a Seismic Hazard Zone (i.e., regulatory zones that encompass areas prone to liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides) based on the Seismic Hazards Mapping Program administered by the California Geologic Survey (CGS). Consequently, El Dorado County and the Project site are not considered to be at risk from liquefaction hazards.

a-iv) No Impact. No portion of El Dorado County occurs in a Seismic Hazard Zone (i.e., regulatory zones that encompass areas prone to liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides) based on the Seismic Hazards Mapping Program administered by the California Geologic Survey (CGS). Consequently, El Dorado County and the Project site are not considered to be at risk from earthquake-induced landslides.

The California Division of Mines and Geology (DGM) conducted detailed geologic and slope stability mapping along the US 50 corridor from Riverton to Strawberry (California Department of Conservation 1997). Kyburz and the Project area are within the limits of the DMG study. The DMG study identified the surface geology of the Project area to include both quaternary stream and channel deposits and quaternary alluvium. The DMG study did not identify any quaternary colluvium and or landslide deposits in Project area (California Department of Conservation 1997).

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project requires minimal grading of approximately a maximum of 0.868 ac. Contract provisions will require implementation of best management practices (BMPs) consistent with the Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbooks to protect water quality and minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation. Construction activities will include implementation of stormwater runoff best management practices (BMPs). Application of these requirements and measures would prevent substantial erosion or topsoil loss. Areas temporarily disturbed on the banks of the South Fork American River will be revegetated and reseeded with native grasses and other native herbaceous annual and perennial species. No seed of nonnative species will be used unless certified to be sterile.

c) ***No Impact.*** The project area is underlain by granitic bedrock of Mesozoic age (California Department of Conservation 2014a). The DMG study identified the surface geology of the Project area to include both quaternary stream and channel deposits and quaternary alluvium (California

Department of Conservation 1997). Soils on site are not susceptible to landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. No impacts are anticipated from unstable soil.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The coarse sandy loam soils in the Project area have a low shrink-swell potential NRCS 1974).

e) ***No Impact.*** The proposed Project is a surface transportation project. Septic tanks and alternative wastewater disposal systems are not part of the Project.

4.2.7 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are recognized by wide consensus among the scientific community to contribute to global warming/climate change and associated environmental impacts. The major GHGs that are released from human activity include carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide (OPR 2008). The primary sources of GHGs are vehicles (including planes and trains), energy plants, and industrial and agricultural activities (such as dairies and hog farms).

Greenhouse gas emissions for transportation projects can be divided into those produced during operations and those produced during construction. The proposed Project does not increase the capacity of Silver Fork Road and would not increase operational GHG levels. The discussion below therefore focuses on construction related GHG emissions of the Project.

The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District's (EDCAQMD) has not adopted GHG emissions significance thresholds for development projects. Given the lack of locally adopted GHG emissions significance thresholds the EDCAQMD recommends using significance criteria adopted by the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District (SLOAPCD) to determine the significance of GHG emissions for CEQA. SLOAPCD developed the GHG Emissions Significance Thresholds table below (Table 1). Projects to "screen out" those below the thresholds as their impacts would be less than significant.

SLOAPCD GHG Emissions Significance Thresholds.

Significance Determination Thresholds	
GHG Emission Source Category	**Operational Emissions**
Non-stationary Sources	1,150 $MTCO_2e$/yr OR 4.9 MT CO_2e/SP/yr
Stationary Sources	10,000 $MTCO_2e$/yr

SP = service population, which is resident population plus employee population of the project

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The proposed Project does not increase the capacity of Silver Fork Road and would not increase operational GHG levels. Construction of the proposed Project would generate short-term emissions of greenhouse gases. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD's) *Roadway Construction Emissions Model Version 7.1.5.1* was used to estimate reactive organic gasses (ROG, includes methane) and CO2 emissions from the proposed Project.

The EPA's 'Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator" provides users a means to convert various emissions data into CO2 equivalencies (CO2e). Results from the *Roadway Construction Emissions Model* were entered into the EPA calculator to determine estimated total Project CO2e. The Project will require approximately 6 months or 143.1 days to complete. The total CO2e estimate was then divided by two to provide a yearly CO2e estimate.

Based on the Roadway Construction Emissions Model Project construction is estimated to produce approximately:

- ROG = 0.7 MT for Project (includes methane).
- CO2 = 701.0 MT for Project

Using the EPA CO2e calculator the total estimated Project CO2e is approximately 719 MT. On a yearly basis this equals approximately 360 MTCO2e. The County has not yet quantified thresholds for construction activities. However, the construction emissions would be well below the lowest SLOAPCD threshold (1,150 MTCO2e/yr) for non-stationary sources. Project impacts are considered less than significant.

It is important to note that the SLOAPCD threshold was developed to evaluate operational GHG emissions and does not specifically apply to construction emissions. Since construction emissions are temporary, as opposed to annual, utilizing the SLOAPCD operational threshold represents a conservative assessment of potential construction impacts.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** EDCAQMD has not yet adopted a qualified plan, policy, or regulation to reduce GHG emissions. Therefore, the most applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions is Assembly Bill (AB) 32, which codified the State's future GHG emissions reduction targets.

ARB adopted the AB 32 Scoping Plan as a framework for achieving AB 32. The Scoping Plan outlines a series of technologically feasible and cost-effective measures to reduce statewide GHG

emissions. These strategies are geared towards sectors and activities that generate significant amounts of GHGs. For example, the majority of measures address building, energy, waste and wastewater generation, goods movement, on-road transportation, water usage, and high global warming potential gases. Activities associated with the Project are not considered by the AB 32 Scoping Plan as having a high potential to emit GHGs. This statement is substantiated by the project-level emissions analysis, which demonstrates that the GHG emission. Consequently, none of the AB 32 reduction strategies are applicable to construction of the project. Implementation of the Project would therefore not conflict with implementation of AB 32.

4.2.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

VIII.HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
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 for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

A regulatory agency database review for locations included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (The Cortese list') was conducted as part of the Project scoping process. No listed hazardous materials or waste sites were reported within or near the project site.

The September 2012 *Field Inspection Report* (CH2MHill 2012) included sampling and analysis of the exiting bridge paint system. A total five locations were sampled and are listed below:

1. Abutment 2 Bay 3 Diaphragm
2. Girder 4 near Abutment 2
3. Abutment 1 Bay 3 Diaphragm
4. Girder 4 near Abutment 1
5. Girder 1 near Abutment 1

All paint samples were tested for the presence of lead. The fifth sample was tested for chromium and zinc as well as lead. The results are presented in the table below.

Paint System Testing Results (CH2M HILL 2012)

Sample Number	Concentration Parts Per Million (ppm)		
	Lead (Pb)	**Chromium (Cr)**	**Zinc(Zn)**
1	98,000	Not tested	Not tested
2	87,000	Not tested	Not tested
3	11,0000	Not tested	Not tested
4	94,000	Not tested	Not tested
5	19,0000	320	370

The HUD/Cal-OSHA action levels for lead are 0.5 percent lead by weight, or 5,000 ppm. Cal-OSHA Lead Standard states that work which involves the disturbance of materials containing more than 0.5 percent lead by weight, or 5,000 ppm, or if the permissible exposure limit of airborne lead particulate of 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air is exceeded, then the work must be conducted in accordance with the Standard.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Small amounts of hazardous materials would be used during construction activities (i.e., equipment maintenance, fuel, solvents, roadway resurfacing and re-striping materials). Hazardous materials would only be used during construction of the Project, and any hazardous material uses would be required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal standards associated with the handling and storage of hazardous materials. Use of hazardous materials in accordance with applicable standards ensures that any exposure of the public to hazard materials would have a less-than-significant impact.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Lead levels present in the bridge paint samples are above the federal and state action thresholds for lead contaminated paint. Specialized methods will be used to remove the existing paint system during completion of the proposed Project. Original steel elements of the bridge will either be 1) transported offsite to be cleaned and repainted, or 2)

cleaned and painted onsite in accordance with applicable lead-based paint regulations. Contract provisions will require the existing paint system be handled in accordance with Caltrans Standard Special Provisions for removal of lead paint (Provision 14-11.08, Disturbance of Existing Paint Systems on Bridges).

c) ***No Impact.*** The closest school is the Silver Fork School located at 1325 Sugarloaf Avenue in Kyburz, approximately 0.9 mile west of the Project. As noted above, the Project would involve the short- term handling of hazardous materials during construction. Handling and storage of hazardous materials during construction would comply with all applicable local, state, and federal standards.

d) ***No Impact.*** No listed hazardous materials or waste sites occur within or near the project site.

e) ***No Impact.*** The Project is not located within two miles of a public airport or public use airport and no private air strips occur in close proximity to the Project.

f) ***No Impact.*** See response of item e) above.

g) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Two construction stages with one controlled lane for both directions of traffic will be used to maintain continuous traffic flow on the bridge while replacing and widening the concrete deck, rehabilitating and relocating the existing plate girders, and constructing the bridge approaches. The County will prepare a traffic control plan in conjunction with the engineering plans. The Project will not require a detour. Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers.

h) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The completed Project will not expose people or structures to a new or increased significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. The use of one controlled lane for both directions of traffic during the two stage construction process could potentially result in a minor increase in risk from wildland fires. Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers.

4.2.9 Hydrology and Water Quality

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or	☐	☐	☒	☐

area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				
e) 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The Project is located in the in the South Fork American Hydrologic Unit (hydrologic unit code 18020129). The American River has been extensively dammed and diverted downstream of the Project area for hydroelectricity production as part of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District's (SMUD) Upper American River Project (Sycamore Environmental 2013). Seasonal surface runoff is conveyed through the project site via roadside ditches.

The Project site is not listed as occurring in a l00-year floodplain. According to the FEMA/FIRM index panel (060 l 7CINDOB) for El Dorado County the project site falls within non-printed community panel no. 060 l 7C0600E in an area where flood hazards are undetermined but possible.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The bridge rehabilitation will not violate water quality or waste discharge requirements. The Project requires soil disturbance of less than one acre and does not require a Section 402 NPDES permit. Implementation of the revegetation measures and water quality BMPs in BIO-4 will ensure long-term soil stabilization and protect of water quality during construction.

b) ***No Impact.*** The Project would not involve any withdrawals from an aquifer or groundwater table.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project is the rehabilitation of an existing structure and will not alter the course of the South Fork American River and will not substantially change rate or amount of surface runoff present. Channel 1 may be reshaped to accommodate the installation of the approach structures but will remain parallel to Silver Fork Road.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** See response to item c) above.

e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project would not provide additional sources of runoff compared with the existing bridge. The minor increase of impervious surface area resulting from

construction of the approaches and wider bridge deck is not expected to contribute to a substantial increase in water runoff from the site.

f) ***No Impact.*** No additional impacts other than those discussed above are anticipated.

g) ***No Impact.*** The Project is a roadway improvement project, and no housing development is associated with the Project.

h) ***Less Than Significant.*** The Project will not further impede the available freeboard relative to the existing structure and therefore will not raise the flood flow elevation (CH2M HILL 2014). There is no history of flooding at the Project site (CH2M HILL 2014). The Project site is not listed as occurring in a l00-year floodplain. According to the FEMA/FIRM index panel (060 l 7CINDOB) for El Dorado County the project site falls within non-printed community panel no. 060 l 7C0600E in an area where flood hazards are undetermined but possible.

The County of El Dorado Community Development Agency, Transportation Division prepared a Location Hydraulic Study and Summary Floodplain Encroachment Report for the proposed Project. The study concludes that proposed Project will not have an impact on the base floodplain and does not constitute a significant floodplain encroachment (El Dorado County 2014a). Caltrans approved the Summary Floodplain Encroachment Report and its conclusions on 18 June 2014 (El Dorado County 2014b).

i) ***No Impact.*** The Project will not expose people to higher levels of risk involving flooding. General Plan Policy 6.4.2.2 protects the life and property of County residents below dams by not allowing new critical or high occupancy structures (e.g., schools, hospitals) to be located within the inundation area resulting from failure of dams. The bridge is not a critical or high occupancy structure.

j) ***No Impact.*** The Project is not in an area subject to seiche or tsunami.

4.2.10 Land Use and Planning

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The 2004 El Dorado County General Plan is the relevant land use plan for the project area. The General Plan designation of the parcels in the Project area is high density residential with a R1 (one-family residential) zoning designation (El Dorado County 2004b).

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** The Project proposes to rehabilitate the existing bridge on the same alignment and would not physically divide an established community.

b) ***No Impact.*** The project would not conflict with the goals, objectives or policies intended to mitigate environmental impacts adopted in the 2004 El Dorado County General Plan. Rehabilitation the existing bridge is identified as (El Dorado County 2013) a needed improvement (project number 77124) in the El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division's 2013 Adopted Capital Improvement Program (El Dorado County 2013).

c) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not occur in an area covered by a habitat or natural community conservation plan. El Dorado County is currently preparing an Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan to identify important habitats in the County and establish a program for the management and preservation.

4.2.11 Mineral Resources

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

El Dorado County is considered a mining region capable of producing a wide variety of mineral resources. Metallic mineral deposits, gold in particular, are considered the most significant extractive mineral resource. Other metallic minerals found in the county include silver, copper, nickel, chromite, zinc, tungsten, mercury, titanium, platinum, and iron. Nonmetallic mineral resources include building stone, limestone, slate, clay, marble, soapstone, sand, and gravel (El Dorado County 2004a). The Project area is not located in an area mapped as an 'Important Mineral Resource Area' (El Dorado County 2004b).

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.***). The Project area is not located in an area mapped as an 'Important Mineral Resource Area' (El Dorado County 2004b). The Project would not impact the availability of mineral resources that are locally important or would be of value to the state.

b) ***No Impact.*** See response to item a).

4.2.12 Noise

XII. NOISE—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The July 2004 El Dorado County General Plan Public Health, Safety, and Noise Element establishes policies and standards for noise exposures at noise sensitive land uses. The relevant policies are listed below:

Policy 6.5.1.9 Noise created by new transportation noise sources, excluding airport expansion but including roadway improvement projects, shall be mitigated so as not to exceed the levels specified in Table 6-1 at existing noise-sensitive land uses.

Table 4 includes General Plan Table 6-1.

Table 4. Maximum allowable noise exposure for transportation noise sources (General Plan Table 6-1).

TABLE 6-1 MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE NOISE EXPOSURE FOR TRANSPORTATION NOISE SOURCES			
Land Use	**Outdoor Activity Areas[1] L_{dn}/CNEL, dB**	**Interior Spaces**	
		L_{dn} /CNEL, dB	**L_{eq}, dB[2]**
Residential	60[3]	45	--
Transient Lodging	60[3]	45	--
Hospitals, Nursing Homes	60[3]	45	--
Theaters, Auditoriums, Music Halls	--	--	35
Churches, Meeting Halls, Schools	60[3]	--	40
Office Buildings	--	--	45
Libraries, Museums	--	--	45
Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks	70	--	--

Notes:

[1] In Communities and Rural Centers, where the location of outdoor activity areas is not clearly defined, the exterior noise level standard shall be applied to the property line of the receiving land use. For residential uses with front yards facing the identified noise source, an exterior noise level criterion of 65 dB L_{dn} shall be applied at the building facade, in addition to a 60 dB L_{dn} criterion at the outdoor activity area. In Rural Regions, an exterior noise level criterion of 60 dB L_{dn} shall be applied at a 100 foot radius from the residence unless it is within Platted Lands where the underlying land use designation is consistent with Community Region densities in which case the 65 dB L_{dn} may apply. The 100-foot radius applies to properties which are five acres and larger; the balance will fall under the property line requirement.

[2] As determined for a typical worst-case hour during periods of use.

[3] Where it is not possible to reduce noise in outdoor activity areas to 60 dB L_{dn} /CNEL or less using a practical application of the best-available noise reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 65 dB L_{dn} /CNEL may be allowed provided that available exterior noise level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with this table.

Policy 6.5.1.12 When determining the significance of impacts and appropriate mitigation for new development projects, the following criteria shall be taken into consideration.

A. Where existing or projected future traffic noise levels are less than 60 dBA L_{dn} at the outdoor activity areas of residential uses, an increase of more than 5 dBA L_{dn} caused by a new transportation noise source will be considered significant;

B. Where existing or projected future traffic noise levels range between 60 and 65 dBA L_{dn} at the outdoor activity areas of residential uses, an increase of more than 3 dBA L_{dn} caused by a new transportation noise source will be considered significant; and

C. Where existing or projected future traffic noise levels are greater than 65 dBA L_{dn} at the outdoor activity areas of residential uses, an increase of more than 1.5 dBA L_{dn} caused by a new transportation noise will be considered significant.

County General Plan Policy 6.5.1.11 outlines standards for daytime construction and would apply to construction-related noise associated with the Project. General Plan Policy 6.5.1.11 notes that night time construction activities are allowed if it can be shown that nighttime construction activities would alleviate traffic congestion and safety hazards. The significance of noise impacts associated with operation of transportation facilities is normally measured using General Plan Policy 6.5.1.12, which takes into account the existing (ambient) noise environment. Because the Project is not capacity increasing and would not result in an increase of the number of vehicles passing through the roadway corridor, the ambient condition is not expected to change as a result of the Project.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***(Construction Noise) Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities could increase noise levels temporarily in the vicinity of the Project. Actual noise levels would depend on the type of construction equipment involved, distance to the source of the noise, time of day, and similar factors. These increases would be temporary. Daytime construction would comply with noise standards for construction activities outlined in General Plan Policy 6.5.1.11, and any nighttime work would be allowed if nighttime construction activities would alleviate traffic congestion and safety hazards. Given that the Project contractor would adhere to applicable County construction-related noise standards, this impact considered less than significant.

(Operational Traffic Related Noise) No Impact. The Project does not increase the capacity of Silver Fork Road. The post project noise levels in the Project vicinity will be substantially unchanged from the pre-project condition

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Project construction includes activities, such as operation of large pieces of equipment (e.g., heavy trucks) which may result in the periodic, temporary generation of ground-borne vibration. Because the Project would not expand the roadway or change the way in which it is used, an increase in ground-borne vibration associated with use of the road would not change from the current condition. Given the nature of any potential ground-borne vibration and given that any impacts would be temporary and periodic, potential impacts are less than significant.

c) ***No Impact.*** The Project is not traffic- or growth inducing and would not change the way in which the roadway is used. The Project would not contribute to a substantial permanent increase in the ambient noise level in the project vicinity.

d) ***Less Than Significant.*** Construction activities would increase noise levels temporarily in the vicinity of the Project. Actual noise levels would depend on the type of construction equipment involved, distance to the source of the noise, weather, time of day, and other factors. However, these increases would be temporary. Daytime construction activity would comply with noise standards for construction activities outlined in General Plan Policy 6.5.1.11, and any nighttime work would be allowed if nighttime construction activities would alleviate traffic congestion and

safety hazards. Because the Project contractor would be required to comply with applicable County construction-related noise standards, this impact is considered less than significant.

e) ***No Impact.*** The Project is not located within an airport land use plan area or within two miles of a public or public use airport.

f) ***No Impact***. The Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

4.2.13 Population and Housing

XIII.POPULATION AND HOUSING—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Induce substantial 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 housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The Project is the rehabilitation of an existing bridge and will not increase the capacity of the Silver Fork Road.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.***). The Project will not result in population growth, the displacement of existing any housing, or a need for new housing.

b) ***No Impact.*** See response to item a).

c) ***No Impact.*** See response to item a).

4.2.14 Public Services

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The El Dorado County Sheriff provides general public safety and law enforcement services. The El Dorado County Fire District's Station 16 located at 13275 U.S. Highway 50 provides fire protection services and emergency services. During fire season the United States Forest Service, Eldorado National Forest (ENF), has an agreement with El Dorado County Fire to use Station 16 as a base for ENF Engine 64. The County maintains public facilities including the project area roadways.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** Rehabilitation of the existing bridge would not increase human presence in the area. No new or physically altered governmental facilities would be needed.

4.2.15 Recreation

XV. RECREATION:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

There are no recreation facilities within or adjacent to the proposed project area.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** The Project would not increase the use of existing parks in the area and does not include the construction of any recreational facilities.

b) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not include the construction of any recreational facilities and would not require the expansion of existing recreational facilities.

4.2.16 Transportation/Traffic

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

Silver Fork Road is classified as an off-system, two-lane, local rural road in El Dorado County. The existing roadway provides two 11 foot wide lanes with no appreciable shoulders along the bridge and no metal beam guard rail (MBGR) along the approaches. Silver Fork Road serves as a collector for local residents to Highway 50 and provides access to a camp ground and hiking trails for visitors. In addition, the roadway is sometimes used by logging companies harvesting on United States Forest Service lands (CH2M HILL 2014).

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** Rehabilitation of Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge would not change the amount of traffic on Silver Fork Road because it is not a new development or growth inducing project. The number of through lanes on Silver Fork Road would remain the same. The Project will not require a detour. Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers.

b) ***No Impact.*** The bridge replacement would not change the amount of traffic on Silver Fork Road.

c) ***No Impact.*** The Project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns.

d) ***No Impact.*** The Project objectives include improving roadway safety and compliance with the American Association of Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidelines and El Dorado County standards.

e) ***Less than Significant.*** Two construction stages with one controlled lane for both directions of traffic will be used to maintain continuous traffic flow on the bridge while replacing and widening the concrete deck, rehabilitating and relocating the existing plate girders, and constructing the bridge approaches. The Project will not require a detour. Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers.

f) ***No Impact.*** The Project would not result in an increase in demand for parking in the vicinity of the Project.

g) ***No Impact.*** The Project is identified in the El Dorado County Capital Improvement Program (CIP) as project # 77124 (El Dorado County 2013). The CIP is coordinated with the Five-Year major review of the General Plan (including the Transportation and Circulation Element) and is also included in the annual General Plan review. The Transportation and Circulation Element address alternative transportation systems.

4.2.17 Utilities/ Service Systems

XVII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

Utilities in the Project area include a four-inch diameter water line that runs along the west edge of the bridge. An existing abandoned cable TV line (assumed) occurs along the seat of the north abutment and west girder. Based on available information there are no other utilities identified in the vicinity of the bridge (CH2M HILL 2014).

The Kyburz Mutual Water Company has plans to replace and potentially relocate the water line along the bridge. The existing four-inch diameter water line alignment is shown on Figures 3 and 4. The ultimate alignment of the water line will be determined during final design. The line may be relocated from its current location on the west side of the bridge and attached to the east side or may be carried between the bridge girders. The relocation will occur within the existing ROW. Relocation may require trenching within the road prism and may encounter native soils.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** The Project would not produce additional wastewater and would not exceed the applicable wastewater treatment requirements.

b) ***No Impact.*** The Project would not increase the demand on existing water or wastewater treatment facilities.

c) ***Less than Significant.*** The Project may involve minor reconfiguration of the roadside drainage system within the project area. The facilities will retain approximately the same capacity as the existing system.

d) ***No Impact.*** The Project would not require water service.

e) ***No Impact.*** The Project would not produce wastewater.

f) ***No Impact.*** Solid waste generated by the Project would be limited to construction debris, including asphalt and concrete, generated by the excavation of existing roadway and construction of the proposed improvements. Solid waste disposal would occur in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. Disposal would occur at permitted landfills. Therefore, the Project would not generate the need for new solid waste facilities.

g) ***No Impact.*** The Project would conform to all applicable state and federal solid waste regulations.

4.2.18 Mandatory Findings of Significance

XVIII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE (To be filled out by Lead Agency if required)	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** Through the use of Best Management Practices and the mitigation measures noted previously, the Project will not degrade the quality of the environment.

b) ***Less than Significant.*** The Project is consistent with the General Plan and would not result in individually limited but collectively significant impacts. Therefore, the project would not cause any additional environmental effects or significantly contribute to a cumulative impact.

c) ***Less than Significant.*** The Project would not result in substantial direct or indirect adverse effects from noise, either during project construction or operation, nor would it result in impacts to air quality, water quality or utilities and public services. Therefore the Project would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

5. Determination

5.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This Initial Study has determined that in the absence of mitigation the proposed Project could have the potential to result in significant impacts associated with the factors checked below. Mitigation measures are identified in this Initial Study that would reduce all potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels.

___	Aesthetics	___	Mineral Resources
___	Agricultural Resources	___	Noise
___	Air Quality	___	Population and Housing
✓	Biological Resources	___	Public Services
✓	Cultural Resources	___	Recreation
___	Geology and Soils	___	Transportation/Traffic
___	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	___	Utilities and Service Systems
___	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	✓	Mandatory Findings of Significance
___	Hydrology and Water Quality	___	None Identified
___	Land Use and Planning		

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the project-specific mitigation measures described in Section III have been added to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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

☐ I find that the 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.

☐ I find that although the 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.

Signature: **Date:**

Name and Title: Janet Postlewait, Principal Planner

6. Report Preparation and References

6.1 Report Preparation

El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division– CEQA Lead Agency

Janel Gifford, P.E.	Senior Civil Engineer
Chandra Ghimire, P.E.	Associate Civil Engineer
Janet Postlewait	Principal Planner

Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Jeffery Little	Project Manager, Vice President
Adam Forbes	Biologist
Aramis Respall	CAD/GIS Analyst

Tremaine & Associates, Inc.

Kim Tremaine, M.A., Ph.C., RPA	Principal Investigator
Trish Fernandez, M.A	Principal Investigator

6.2 References

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Appendix A: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN

SILVER FORK ROAD AT SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER BRIDGE (25C0113) REHABILITATION PROJECT

CEQA LEAD AGENCY:

El Dorado County

PREPARED:

August 2014

ADOPTED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON: _____

Introduction

Purpose

The El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division, (Transportation) intends to rehabilitate the existing Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge (25C0113) located in unincorporated El Dorado County. The Project is located along Silver Fork Road approximately 0.1 mi south of U.S. Highway 50 in the community of Kyburz.

As described in the IS/MND, the Project itself incorporates a number of measures to minimize adverse effects on the environment. The IS/MND also identified several mitigation measures that are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to levels that are less than significant. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) describes a program for ensuring that these mitigation measures are implemented in conjunction with the Project. El Dorado County Transportation, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is responsible for overseeing the implementation and administration of this MMRP. The County will designate a staff member to manage the MMRP. Duties of the staff member responsible for program coordination will include conducting routine inspections and reporting activities, coordinating with the Project construction contractor, coordinating with regulatory agencies, and ensuring enforcement measures are taken.

Regulatory Framework

California Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15097 require public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting plans when they approve projects under a MND. The reporting and monitoring plans must be adopted when a public agency makes its findings pursuant to CEQA so that the mitigation requirements can be made conditions of Project approval.

Format of This Plan

The MMRP summarizes the impacts and mitigation measures identified and described in the Project IS/MND. Each of the impacts discussed within this MMRP is numbered based on the sequence in which they are discussed in the IS/MND. A summary of each impact with the corresponding specific mitigation measures are provided. Mitigation measures are followed by an implementation description, the criteria used to determine the effectiveness of the mitigation, the timeframe for implementation, and the party responsible for monitoring the implementation of the measure.

Implementation of mitigation measures is ultimately the responsibility of Transportation; during construction, the delegated responsibility is shared by Transportation's contractors. Each mitigation measure in this plan contains a "Verified By" signature line, which will be signed by the Transportation Project manager when the measure has been fully implemented and no further actions or monitoring are necessary for the implementation or effectiveness of the measure.

Impacts and Associated Monitoring or Reporting Measures

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Impact (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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF, Rana boylii)

The South Fork American River in the Project area provides habitat for FYLF. BIO-1 will be implemented to protect FYLF and will reduce potential impact Less Than Significant.

Measure BIO-1

- *A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for FYLF within 48 hours prior to the start of construction activities within the riparian and aquatic habitat in the Project area.*
- *A qualified biologist will be present during grubbing and clearing activities in the riparian and aquatic habitat in the Project area to monitor for FYLF.*
- *During construction, if a FYLF is observed in the active construction zone, construction will cease and a qualified biologist will be notified. Construction may resume when the biologist has either relocated the FYLF to nearby suitable habitat outside the construction zone, or, after thorough inspection, determined that the FYLF has moved away from the construction zone.*

Implementation:	The County will implement the measures as described above.
Effectiveness Criteria:	The County will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above-referenced measures.
Timing:	Pre-Construction and Construction Phases
Verified By:	_____ Date: _____ County Project Manager

Pallid bat (Antrozous pallidus)

Trees and structures in and near the Project area provide marginal roosting habitat for Pallid bat. BIO-2 will be implemented to protect Pallid bat and will reduce potential impact Less Than Significant.

Measure BIO-2

- *A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for roosting bats within 2 weeks prior to the start of construction. If roosting is occurring, the County will contact*

CDFW for additional guidance on bat avoidance and impact minimization during bridge rehabilitation activities.

Implementation:	The County will implement the measures as described above.
Effectiveness Criteria:	The County will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above-referenced measures.
Timing:	Pre-Construction Phase (Potential Construction Phase)
Verified By:	_____ Date: _____ County Project Manager

Birds Of Prey and Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Project area provides potential nesting habitat for birds of prey and birds listed by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-711). BIO-3 will be implemented to avoid impacts to birds of prey and birds listed by the MBTA.

Measure BIO-3

Under the MBTA, nests that contain eggs or unfledged young are not to be disturbed during the breeding season. Nesting or attempted nesting by migratory birds and birds-of-prey is anticipated from February 15 to September 1.

Bridge-Nesting Birds

In California, bridge-nesting swallows typically arrive in mid-February, increase in numbers until late March, and remain until October. Nesting begins in April, peaks in June, and continues into August. Although swallows are unlikely to nest on the Silver Fork Road Bridge, other migratory birds may attempt to nest under the bridge. Black phoebes and Stellar's jays occur in the area and are known to nest on bridges. Measures should be taken to prevent establishment of nests prior to construction. Techniques to prevent nest establishment include using exclusion devices, removing and disposing of partially constructed and unoccupied nests of migratory or nongame birds on a regular basis to prevent their occupation, or perform any combination of these. This can be done by:

- *The contractor or County can visit the site weekly and remove partially completed nests using either hand tools or high pressure water; and/or*
- *Hang netting from the bridge before nesting begins. If this technique is used, netting should be in place from late February until project construction begins.*

Birds of Prey and Birds Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

- *If construction begins outside the 15 February to 1 September breeding season, there will be no need to conduct a preconstruction survey for active nests.*
- *Trees scheduled for removal should be removed during the non-breeding season from 2 September to 14 February. Vegetation removal includes trees and vegetation within the stream zone. Vegetation may be removed using hand tools, including chain saws and*

mowers, and may be trimmed several inches above the ground with the roots left intact to prevent erosion.

- *If construction or vegetation removal begins between 15 February and 1 September, a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey for active bird of prey nests within 250 ft and active MTBA bird nests within 100 ft of the Project Study Area from publicly accessible areas within two weeks prior to construction. The measures listed below shall be implemented based on the survey results.*

No Active Nests Found:

- *If no active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is found, then no further avoidance and minimization measures are necessary.*

Active Nests Found:

- *If an active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is discovered that may be adversely affected by construction activities or an injured or killed bird is found, immediately:*
    4. *Stop all work within a 100-ft radius of the discovery.*
    5. *Notify the Engineer.*
    6. *Do not resume work within the 100-ft radius until authorized.*
- *The biologist shall establish a minimum 250-ft Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) around the nest if the nest is of a bird of prey, and a minimum 100-ft ESA around the nest if the nest is of an MBTA bird other than a bird of prey.*

Bird Species Protection Areas

Protected Bird Type	***Size of Protection Area (ESA)***
Bird of prey	*250 ft no-disturbance buffer*
MBTA protected bird (not bird of prey)	*100 ft no-disturbance buffer*

- *Activity in the ESA will be restricted as follows:*
    4. *Do not enter the ESA unless authorized.*
    5. *If the ESA is breached, immediately:*
        c. *Secure the area and stop all operations within 60 feet of the ESA boundary.*
        d. *Notify the Engineer.*
    6. *If the ESA is damaged, County determines what efforts are necessary to remedy the damage and who performs the remedy.*

- *No construction activity will be allowed in the ESA until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active, or unless monitoring determines that a smaller ESA will protect the active nest.*
- *The size of an ESA may be reduced if the biologist monitors the construction activities and determines that no disturbance to the active nest is occurring. Reduction of ESA size depends on the species of bird, the location of the nest relative to the project, project activities during the time the nest is active, and other project-specific factors.*
- *Between 15 February and 1 September, if additional trees or shrubs need to be trimmed and/or removed after construction has started, a survey will be conducted for active nests in the area to be affected. If an active nest is found, the above measures will be implemented.*
- *If an active nest is identified in or adjacent to the construction zone after construction has started, the above measures will be implemented to ensure construction is not causing disturbance to the nest.*

Implementation:	The County will implement the measures as described above.
Effectiveness Criteria:	The County will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above-referenced measures.
Timing:	Pre-Construction Phase (Potential Construction Phase)
Verified By:	_____ Date: _____ County Project Manager

Impact (c): Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Waters of the U.S.

Implementation of BIO-4 as well as will reduce Project impacts to potential water of the U.S. including wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Measure BIO-4

- *Mark the limits of construction with temporary fencing to prevent affecting South Fork American River, Channel 1, the wetland, and alder riparian unnecessarily.*
- *Prior to construction, fencing will be installed around the protected wetland.*
- *Trucks and other vehicles will not be allowed to park beyond, nor shall equipment be stored beyond, the fencing.*
- *No vegetation removal, ground disturbing activities, or burning will be permitted beyond the fencing.*
- *Contract provisions will require implementation of best management practices (BMPs) consistent with the Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbooks to protect water quality and minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation.*

- *Areas temporarily disturbed will be revegetated and reseeded with native grasses and other native herbaceous annual and perennial species in accordance with Appendix E of the Project NES. Reseeded areas will be covered with a biodegradable erosion control fabric to prevent erosion and downstream sedimentation. The project engineer will determine the specifications needed for erosion control fabric (e.g., shear strength) based on anticipated maximum flow velocities and soil types. The seed type will consist of commercially available native grass and herbaceous species. No seed of nonnative species will be used unless certified to be sterile.*

Implementation:	The County will implement the measures as described above.
Effectiveness Criteria:	The County will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above-referenced measures.
Timing:	Pre-Construction Phase (Potential Construction Phase)
Verified By:	_____ Date: _____ County Project Manager

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Previously Recorded Cultural Resource

One previously recorded cultural resource is located adjacent to the Project area. As a precautionary measure to ensure avoidance of the previously recorded cultural resource outside the disturbance footprint the County will implement the measure below.

Measure CULT-1

- *The County will install ESA fencing as shown in the Caltrans approved ESA Action Plan.*

Implementation:	The County will implement the measures as described above.
Effectiveness Criteria:	The County will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above-referenced measures.
Timing:	Pre-Construction and Potential Construction Phases
Verified By:	_____ Date: _____ County Project Manager

Appendix B: Comments and Responses

Appendix B: Comments and Responses

Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge (25C0113) Rehabilitation Project (SCH #2014022075)

Section 1. List of Comment Letters Received

Five comment letters were received. Table 1 lists the names of the individuals, organizations, and agencies that provided comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. The letters are included, followed by a response to the comment(s).

Table 1. Comment Letters Received

Letter	Commenter
1	California State Lands Commission
2	California Department of Fish & Wildlife (North Central Region)
3	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
4	El Dorado Irrigation District
5	State Clearinghouse

Section 2. Responses to Comments

Comment Letter 1: California State Lands Commission

From: Crunk, Warren@SLC <Warren.Crunk@slc.ca.gov>
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2014 10:43 AM
To: Adam C. Forbes
Cc: Wyer, Holly@SLC
Subject: RE: SCH #2014102024: Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge Rehabilitation Project, El Dorado County
Attachments: 2014102024 Silver Fork Road Bridge_MND.pdf

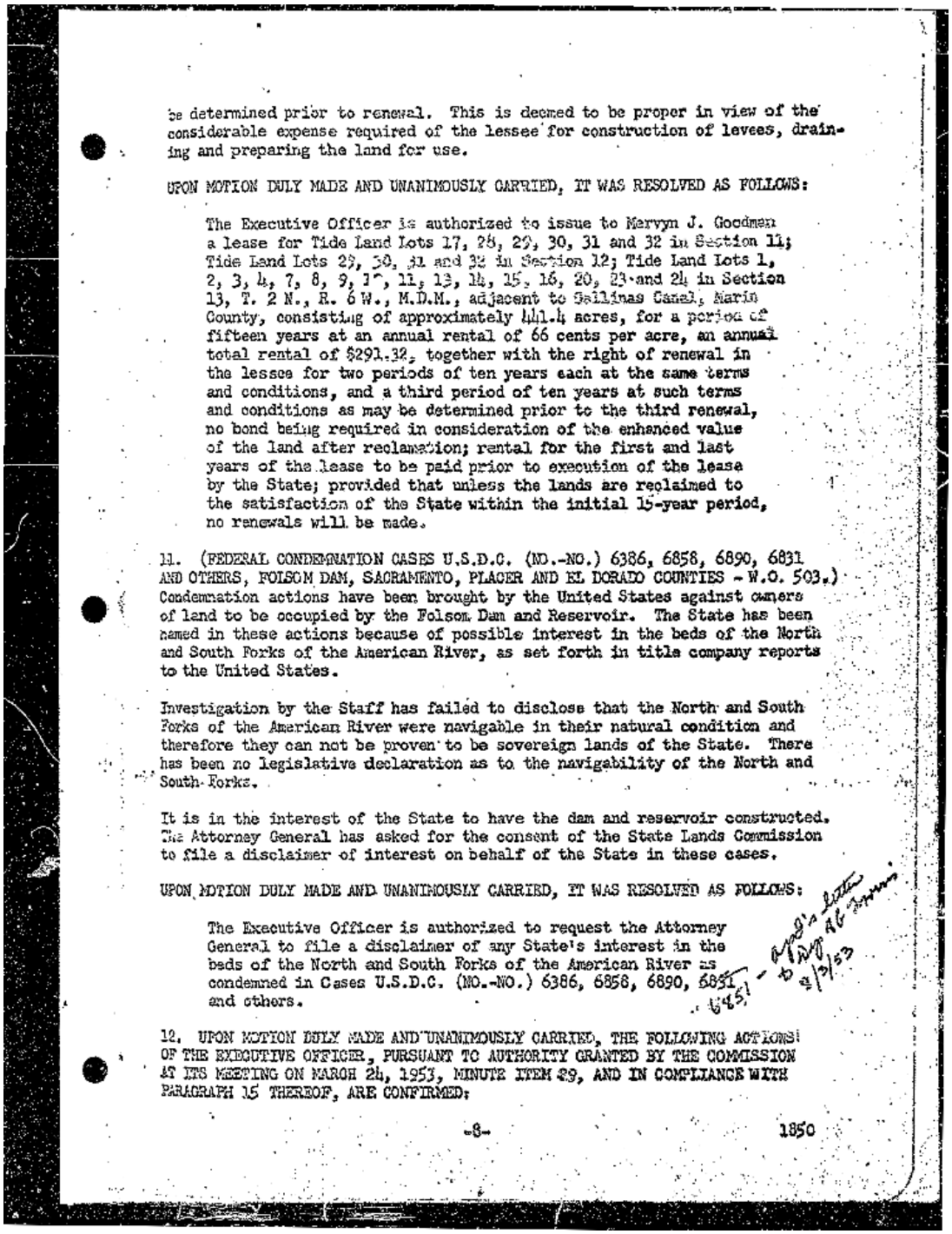
Mr. Forbes,
This email is to follow up on our telephone conversation earlier today. It came to my attention that the California State Lands Commission sent a comment letter dated November 5, 2014, a copy of which is attached to this email for your reference. This letter incorrectly states that the Commission has sovereign ownership of the bed of the American River in the vicinity of the proposed project. The Commission does not, in fact, have jurisdiction in the area of your project and no lease from the Commission will be required. Please consider this email a withdrawal of the November 5, 2014 letter.

Sincerely,
Warren L. Crunk
Staff Attorney
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202
Phone: (916) 574-1935
Fax: (916) 574-1855
Email: warren.crunk@slc.ca.gov

Response 1: California State Lands Commission

Please see email above from Mr. Warren Crunk, Staff Attorney, California State Lands Commission (CSLC), withdrawing the November 5, 2014 CSLC comment letter. The Project area does not contain state sovereign lands. A lease and or formal authorization will not be required from the CSLC. The CSLC verified that the attached 1953 disclaimer of jurisdiction (Exhibit 1 below) for the North and South Forks of the American River is valid.

See below: Source - http://archives.slc.ca.gov/Meeting_Summaries/1953_Documents/07-27-53/Items/072753C11.pdf (See Item 11- FEDERAL CONDEMNATION CASES…)



be determined prior to renewal. This is deemed to be proper in view of the considerable expense required of the lessee for construction of levees, draining and preparing the land for use.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, IT WAS RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The Executive Officer is authorized to issue to Mervyn J. Goodman a lease for Tide Land Lots 17, 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32 in Section 11; Tide Land Lots 29, 30, 31 and 32 in Section 12; Tide Land Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 23 and 24 in Section 13, T. 2 N., R. 6 W., M.D.M., adjacent to Gallinas Canal, Marin County, consisting of approximately 441.4 acres, for a period of fifteen years at an annual rental of 66 cents per acre, an annual total rental of $291.32, together with the right of renewal in the lessee for two periods of ten years each at the same terms and conditions, and a third period of ten years at such terms and conditions as may be determined prior to the third renewal, no bond being required in consideration of the enhanced value of the land after reclamation; rental for the first and last years of the lease to be paid prior to execution of the lease by the State; provided that unless the lands are reclaimed to the satisfaction of the State within the initial 15-year period, no renewals will be made.

11. (FEDERAL CONDEMNATION CASES U.S.D.C. (ND.-NO.) 6386, 6858, 6890, 6831 AND OTHERS, FOLSOM DAM, SACRAMENTO, PLACER AND EL DORADO COUNTIES - W.O. 503.) Condemnation actions have been brought by the United States against owners of land to be occupied by the Folsom Dam and Reservoir. The State has been named in these actions because of possible interest in the beds of the North and South Forks of the American River, as set forth in title company reports to the United States.

Investigation by the Staff has failed to disclose that the North and South Forks of the American River were navigable in their natural condition and therefore they can not be proven to be sovereign lands of the State. There has been no legislative declaration as to the navigability of the North and South Forks.

It is in the interest of the State to have the dam and reservoir constructed. The Attorney General has asked for the consent of the State Lands Commission to file a disclaimer of interest on behalf of the State in these cases.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, IT WAS RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The Executive Officer is authorized to request the Attorney General to file a disclaimer of any State's interest in the beds of the North and South Forks of the American River as condemned in Cases U.S.D.C. (NO.-NO.) 6386, 6858, 6890, 6831 and others.

12. UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PURSUANT TO AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE COMMISSION AT ITS MEETING ON MARCH 24, 1953, MINUTE ITEM 29, AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15 THEREOF, ARE CONFIRMED:

-8-

1850

Comment Letter 2: California Department of Fish & Wildlife (North Central Region)

State of California -The Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
North Central Region/Region 2
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, CA 95667
(916) 358-2900
http://www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

November 10, 2014

Janet Postlewait
El Dorado County
Community Development Agency, Transportation Division
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667
janet.postlewait@edcgov.us

Subject: Comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge (25C0113) Rehabilitation Project (SCH No.2014102024)

Dear Ms. Postlewait:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is providing comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge (25C0113) Rehabilitation Project (project) as both a trustee agency and responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). As trustee for the State's fish and wildlife resources, the Department has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and the habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of such species (Guidelines § 15386). The Department may also be a responsible agency for a project affecting biological resources where we will exercise our discretion after the lead agency to approve or carry out a proposed project or some facet thereof (CEQA Guidelines § 15096).

The El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division, in conjunction with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), intends to rehabilitate the existing Silver Fork Road Bridge (25C0113) over South Fork American River located in unincorporated El Dorado County. The existing 60-foot 10-inch long, 24-foot 3-inch wide, two-lane single span, welded-steel plate girder bridge with a concrete deck was constructed in 1953. The project proposes to rehabilitate the existing bridge structure to improve roadway safety and comply with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidelines and El Dorado County standards. The County will replace the bridge deck with a wider, cast-in-place, reinforced concrete deck; install approach slabs on each side of the bridge; install new railings; repair localized scour at the north abutment, and reposition the existing girders and refurbish the existing paint system.

1 The Department has concerns that the IS/MND does not adequately analyze impacts to biological resources and for some impacts to biological resources does not provide mitigation measures that would reduce these impacts to a less-than-significant level. The IS/MND also
2 relies on future surveys and consultation for mitigation (see mitigation measures BIO-1 and BIO-2).

Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog

The IS/MND states that suitable habitat for foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylii;* species of special concern) is present but they were not observed during the general biological surveys (IS/MND, page 24); however the document does not mention Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (SNYLF; *Rana sierrae*), which is federally endangered and State-threatened. The species was eliminated from further consideration because it was believed that the project site was outside of the known elevation. The Natural Environment Study (NES) prepared for the project states that the project site is below the lower elevation limit for the species (Table 2, page 17); however the range map identifies the project site as part of the SNYLF range (see **Attachment A**). Although the elevation of the project site is 4,080 feet above mean sea level and the species' account for SNYLF states it was distributed "at elevations *mostly* above 1,820 meters (6,000 feet)" (emphasis added; CDFW 2014a). A CNDDB search of the nine 7.5-minute United States Geologic Survey (USGS) quadrangles surrounding the project site revealed that the SNYLF have been recorded within a five-mile radius of the project and a record for SNYLF is located less than three (3) miles to the southeast of the project on Middle Creek, a tributary to the South Fork American River at around 5,100 feet in elevation (see **Attachments B and C;** CDFW 2014b). SNYLF inhabits lakes, ponds, meadow streams, isolated pools, and sunny riverbanks in the Sierra Nevada. 3

If suitable habitat exists within the area of impact, the Department recommends that a minimum of three (3) amphibian surveys are conducted during July and August in accordance with the Amphibian Visual Encounter Surveys (VES) protocols (see **Attachment D**). Otherwise, the project proponent may assume presence. The impact assessment should include the reasonably foreseeable direct and indirect changes (temporary and permanent) that may occur with implementation of the project. The SNYLF is a State-listed species and therefore the Department recommends that the project proponent consult with the Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding impacts to this species and update the IS/MND as appropriate. Even so, consultation is not mitigation. CEQA Guidelines §15126.4 (a)(1)(B) states that formulation of mitigation measures should not be deferred until some future time. Mitigation measure BIO-1 refers to future surveys for foothill yellow-legged frog 48 hours prior to project construction. This is not enforceable and does not provide avoidance, minimization, nor mitigation that will occur if the species is found. In addition, the project may remove suitable habitat for this State and federally listed species without adequate compensation. 4 5 6

California Endangered Species Act

The Department has regulatory authority pursuant to California Endangered Species Act (CESA) over projects that have the potential to result in the take[1] of any species of wildlife designated by the California Fish and Game Commission as an endangered, threatened, or candidate species. Take of species protected pursuant to CESA is prohibited (Fish and Game Code [FGC] § 2080). However, the Department, may authorize the take of these species by permit if the conditions set forth in FGC Section 2081, subdivisions (b) and (c) are met (See also Cal. Code Regs., title 14, § 783.4).

The Department has concern that the project may adversely affect and may have the potential to take a State-listed species' as there is potential for listed species to occur on the site while the projects is occurring. If the project has the potential to result in the take of any species protected pursuant to CESA, an incidental take permit can be requested from the Department, before the take occurs. If the Department issues an incidental take permit, the Department must rely on the CEQA document to prepare and issue its own findings regarding the project (CEQA 7

[1] Take is defined in Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill."

Guidelines §§15096 and 15381). The CEQA document needs to adequately address the potential effects of the project activities and including appropriate site-specific and species-specific avoidance, minimization and mitigation required to fully minimize the potential take. 8

Nesting Birds and Raptors

The project has the potential to disturb bird species or nests protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), FGC §3503 and 3503.5. Construction is planned for the summer of 2016. Since project activities will occur during the nesting season (determined by region, species, and climate), construction activities could result in disturbance to nesting raptors and other migratory birds. Raptors and other migratory birds are protected under the MBTA and FGC §3503.5. Construction activities should avoid the nesting season or propose mitigation measures to avoid take of nests and nesting birds. 9 If nests are identified on or adjacent to the project site, implementation of the project may adversely impact the success of the nest. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 states specifications for the removal of "partially completed nests" and advocates for the use of netting to deter birds from nesting on the bridge. 10 This is not sufficient to avoid or minimize the impacts to nesting birds and nests. The term "partially completed nests" is not defined, nor is it stated who will determine if a nest is complete or partially complete. Nets have been known to cause mortality of birds through entrapment in the nets. 11 The Department does not recommend the use of nets. The Department recommends that the project proponent prepare a Migratory Bird Protection Plan with approval from the Department and County to determine the necessary steps to avoid and minimize impacts to nests and nesting birds throughout the project for the duration of the project and to define when removal of partially completed nests is appropriate. 12

In addition, BIO-3 identifies non-disturbance buffers between 100 and 250 feet. For particularly sensitive birds, 100 feet may not be the appropriate distance depending on the project activity and level of disturbance. All measures to protect raptors should be performance-based. While some birds may tolerate disturbance within 250 feet of construction activities, other birds may have a different disturbance threshold and "take" (FGC §2081 and §3503.5) could occur if the temporary disturbance buffers are not designed to reduce stress to that individual pair. 13 The Department recommends including performance-based protection measures for avoiding all nests protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and FGC §3503.5. A 250-foot non-disturbance buffer may be sufficient; however, that buffer may need to be increased based on the birds' tolerance level to the disturbance. Below is an example of a performance-based protection measure:

Should project activities cause the nesting bird to vocalize, make defensive flights at intruders, get up from a brooding position, or fly off the nest, then the non-disturbance buffer will be increased to ensure that activities are far enough from the nest to stop the agitated behavior by the raptor. The exclusionary buffer should remain in place until the chicks have fledged as determined by a qualified biologist.

Rare Plants

Rare plant surveys were not conducted according to established protocol, such as the *Protocol for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/survey_monitor.html). 14 According to the Natural Environment Study (NES), botanical surveys were conducted May 2, 2013, and July 17, 2013. The report does not state if the protocol was followed or if reference sites were checked. In addition, drought and other adverse conditions may mean that some plant taxa will not be evident or identifiable this year. This may be particularly true for annual and short-lived perennial plant taxa and plants with persistent long-lived seed banks that are known not to germinate every year. 15 Because of these conditions, the failure to locate a plant during the floristic surveys of one field season does not constitute evidence that the plant is absent from

the surveyed location. The timing and number of visits necessary to conduct a floristic survey should be determined by geographic location, the natural communities present and the weather patterns of the year, with the understanding that more than one field visit or field season may be necessary to accurately survey the floristic diversity of a site and detect the presence of special status plant taxa.

To make the most out of this field season the Department recommends that:

- Botanical surveys be floristic in nature (every plant taxon that occurs on a site is identified to the taxonomic level necessary to determine rarity and listing status);
- Surveys be conducted in the field at the time of year when target plant taxa are both evident and identifiable (usually during flowering or fruiting), and multiple visits to a site be made (e.g. in early, mid, and late-season) to accurately survey the floristic diversity of the site and detect the presence of all special status plant taxa that are evident and identifiable;
- Nearby reference populations be visited whenever possible to determine if known special status plant populations are evident and identifiable this year, and to obtain a visual image of the target species, associated habitat, and associated natural community. Reference populations may be particularly important this year to ensure that the timing of surveys is appropriate and to help substantiate negative findings in adverse conditions caused by drought.

Again, additional field seasons of surveys may be necessary to accurately survey the floristic diversity of a site and substantiate negative findings. This may be particularly true when surveying for annual or short-lived perennial plant taxa during drought conditions, and in years where an evident and identifiable reference population could not be referenced.

Reports for surveys that are conducted this year should include a discussion of how the drought affects the comprehensiveness of the surveys, and the potential for false negative surveys. The size, condition, and phenological development of any special-status plant reference populations that were visited should also be described.

16 If suitable habitat is present, the Department recommends that surveys are conducted in accordance with the protocol identified above to determine whether these and any other rare plants which are either State or federally listed, or meet the criteria pursuant to Guidelines Section 15380(b) are present. A full discussion of the determination and timing of species-specific mitigation to avoid impacts to sensitive plant species present within the vicinity of project site should be included in the CEQA analysis. CEQA guidelines Section 15021 establishes a duty for public agencies to avoid or minimize environmental damage where feasible. CEQA also requires that lead agencies give major consideration to preventing

17 environmental damage, and should not approve a project as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or mitigation measures available that would substantially lessen any significant effects that the project would have on the environment. The Department recommends that the County evaluate and demonstrate the project's ability to avoid and minimize both direct and indirect impacts to rare plants and their habitat, and require project modifications as necessary to accomplish these tasks. For those locations of the proposed project site where impacts to sensitive plants are unavoidable, mitigation for this project should be established off-site in accordance with the above off-site mitigation program elements. The mitigation plan should be

18 developed that demonstrates specific details designed to accomplish these off-site mitigation program elements. The Department recommends that the County condition the project to require Department's review and approval of a mitigation plan, as necessary.

Riparian Habitat

The South Fork American River, associated wetlands and riparian habitat are under the jurisdiction of the Department. Figure 3 shows area of permanent and temporary impacts and includes a table listing the acreages of each impact to each habitat type. The project includes widening of the Bridge and the impacts to riparian habitat are described as 0.0026 acre of temporary impact and 0.001 acre of permanent impact. An entity (any person, State, local government agency, or public utility) should consider and analyze whether implementation of the proposed project will result in reasonably foreseeable potentially significant impacts subject to regulation by the Department under Section 1600 et seq. of the FGC. In general, such
19 impacts result whenever a proposed project involves work undertaken in or near a river, stream, or lake that flows at least intermittently through a bed or channel, including ephemeral streams and watercourses. The Department recommends that a Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA) be submitted by the project applicant to the Department (pursuant to FGC §1602). This agreement would include measures to minimize and restore riparian habitat. As a responsible agency under CEQA, the Department must rely on the CEQA analysis for the project when exercising our discretion after the lead agency to approve or carry out some facet of a proposed project, such as the issuance of a LSAA. Therefore, the IS/MND should include specific, enforceable measures to be carried out onsite or within the same stream system that will avoid, minimize and/or mitigate for project impacts to the natural resources.

Summary

In summary, the Department finds that the IS/MND may not adequately analyze the impacts to
20 biological resources from the proposed project. An adequate impact analysis and formulation of any necessary mitigation measures should be provided prior to project approval.

Thank you for considering our comments. Department personnel are available for consultation regarding biological resources and strategies to minimize impacts. If you have questions please contact Angela Calderaro, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), by e-mail at Angela.Calderaro@wildlife.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 358-2920.

Sincerely,

Tina Bartlett
Regional Manager

Attachments

ec: Jeff Drongesen, Jeff.Drongesen@wildlife.ca.gov
Jennifer Nguyen, Jennifer.Nguyen@wildlife.ca.gov
Angela Calderaro, Angela.Calderaro@wildlife.ca.gov
Shelly Blair, Shelly.Blair@wildlife.ca.gov

State Clearinghouse

Attachments:

Attachment A – Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Range Map

Attachment B - Nine-quad search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Centered on *Kyburz, California* USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle.

Attachment C – BIOS map

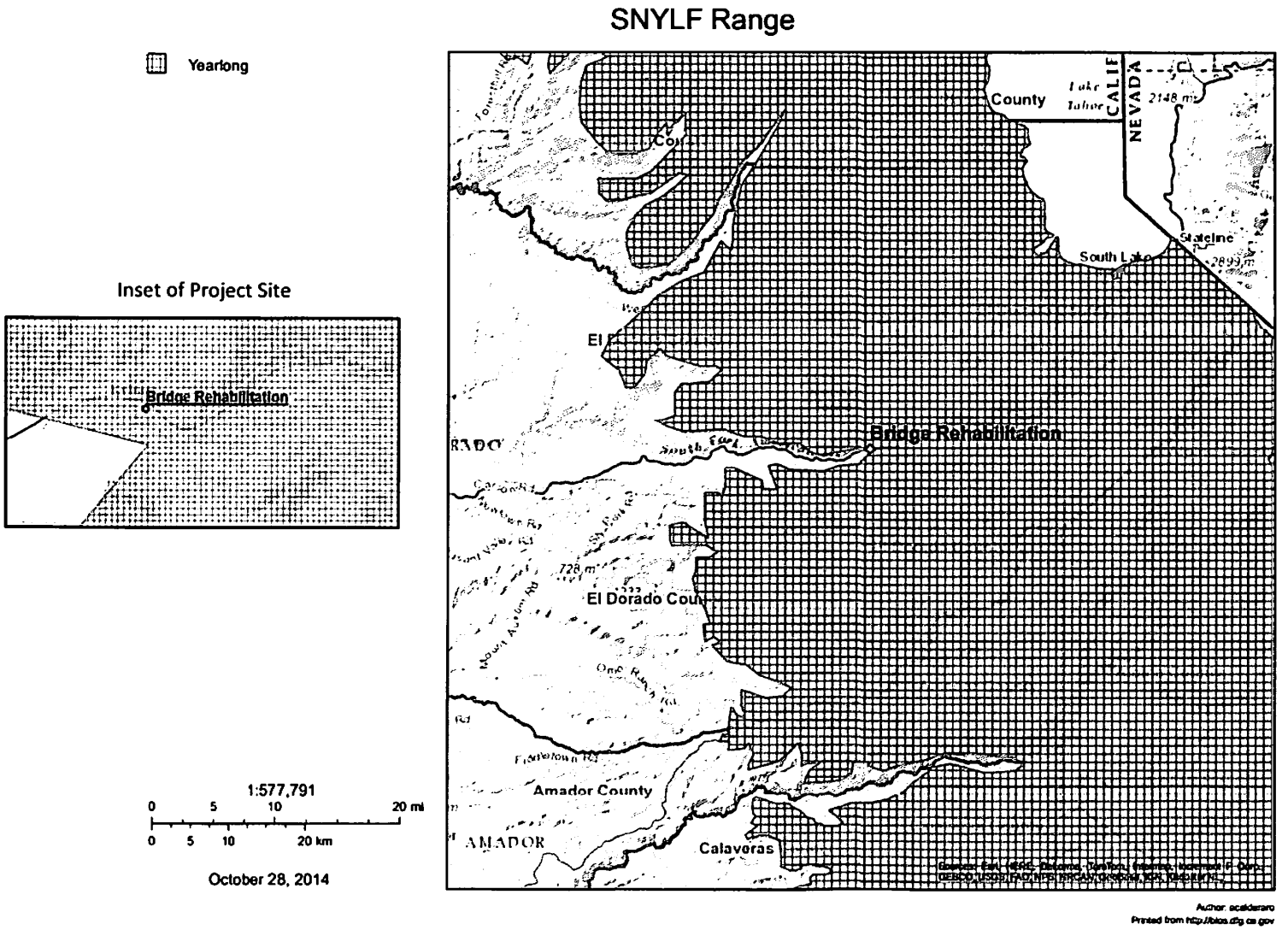
Attachment D – Amphibian Visual Encounter Surveys

References:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2014a. Species Account for Mountain yellow-legged frog. Accessed online November 3, 2014 at https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Regions/6/Amphibians/Mountain-Yellow-legged-Frog

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2014b. Nine-quad search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) Centered on *Kyburz, California* USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle. Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch, Rarefind Version 3.1.1. Government version dated August 1, 2014. Data expires February 1, 2015.

Attachment A – Sierra Nevada Mountain Yellow-legged Frog Range Map



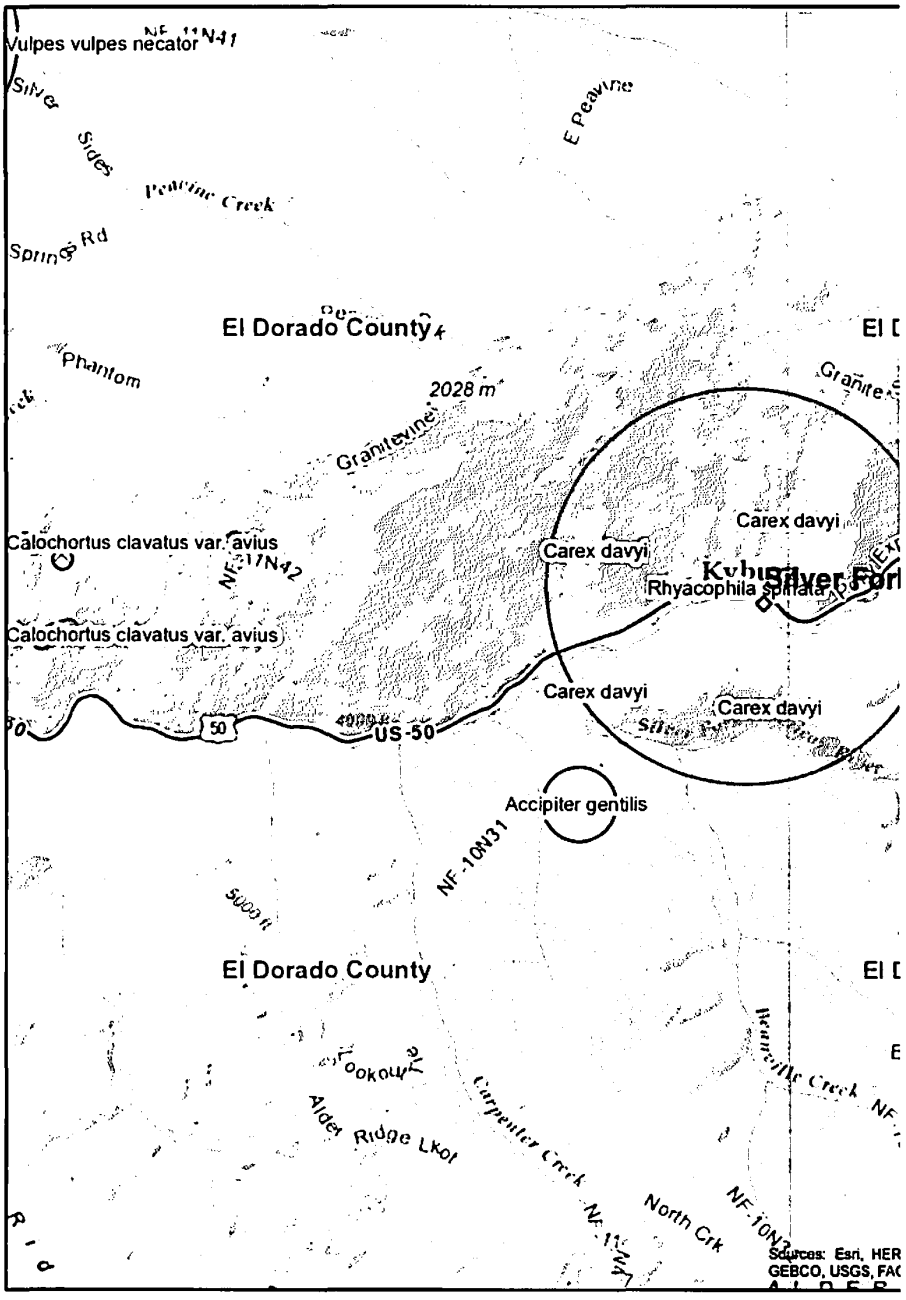
California Department of Fish and Game
Natural Diversity Database
Selected Elements by Scientific Name - Landscape
Attachment - Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge Rehabilitation Project

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	CNPS	CDFG
1	***Accipiter gentilis***	northern goshawk	ABNKC12060			G5	S3		SC
2	***Accipiter striatus***	sharp-shinned hawk	ABNKC12020			G5	S3		
3	***Antrozous pallidus***	pallid bat	AMACC10010			G5	S3		SC
4	***Aplodontia rufa californica***	Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	AMAFA01013			G5T3T4	S2S3		SC
5	***Aquila chrysaetos***	golden eagle	ABNKC22010			G5	S3		
6	***Arctostaphylos nissenana***	Nissenan manzanita	PDERI040V0			G1	S1	1B.2	
7	***Astragalus austiniae***	Austin's astragalus	PDFAB0F120			G2G3	S2S3	1B.3	
8	***Botrychium crenulatum***	scalloped moonwort	PPOPH010L0			G3	S2	2B.2	
9	***Botrychium minganense***	mingan moonwort	PPOPH010R0			G4G5	S2	2B.2	
10	***Botrychium montanum***	western goblin	PPOPH010K0			G3	S2	2B.1	
11	***Calochortus clavatus var. avius***	Pleasant Valley mariposa-lily	PMLIL0D095			G4T2	S2	1B.2	
12	***Carex davyi***	Davy's sedge	PMCYP033H0			G2	S2	1B.3	
13	***Carex limosa***	mud sedge	PMCYP037K0			G5	S3	2B.2	
14	***Central Valley Drainage Resident Rainbow Trout Stream***	Central Valley Drainage Resident Rainbow Trout Stream	CARA2421CA			GNR	SNR		
15	***Central Valley Drainage Spring Stream***	Central Valley Drainage Spring Stream	CARA2413CA			GNR	SNR		
16	***Chaenactis douglasii var. alpina***	alpine dusty maidens	PDAST20065			G5T5	S2	2B.3	
17	***Cosumnoperla hypocrena***	Cosumnes stripetail	IIPLE23020			G2	S2		
18	***Empidonax traillii***	willow flycatcher	ABPAE33040		Endangered	G5	S1S2		
19	***Gulo gulo***	California wolverine	AMAJF03010	Proposed Threatened	Threatened	G4	S1		
20	***Haliaeetus leucocephalus***	bald eagle	ABNKC10010	Delisted	Endangered	G5	S2		
21	***Hydromantes platycephalus***	Mount Lyell salamander	AAAAD09020			G4	S4		SC
22	***Lasionycteris noctivagans***	silver-haired bat	AMACC02010			G5	S3S4		
23	***Lasiurus cinereus***	hoary bat	AMACC05030			G5	S4?		
24	***Lewisia longipetala***	long-petaled lewisia	PDPOR040K0			G3	S3	1B.3	
25	***Lewisia serrata***	saw-toothed lewisia	PDPOR040E0			G2	S2	1B.1	
26	***Margaritifera falcata***	western pearlshell	IMBIV27020			G4G5	S1S2		
27	***Martes caurina sierrae***	Sierra marten	AMAJF01014			G5T3	S3		
28	***Monadenia mormonum buttoni***	Button's Sierra sideband	IMGASC7071			G2T1	S1		
29	***Myotis thysanodes***	fringed myotis	AMACC01090			G4	S4		
30	***Myotis yumanensis***	Yuma myotis	AMACC01020			G5	S4?		
31	***Nebria darlingtoni***	South Forks ground beetle	IICOL6L100			G1	S1		

	Scientific Name	Common Name	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	CNPS	CDFG
32	***Ochotona princeps schisticeps***	gray-headed pika	AMAEA0102H			G5T2T4	S2S4		
33	***Ophioglossum pusillum***	northern adder's-tongue	PPOPH020F0			G5	S1	2B.2	
34	***Orobittacus obscurus***	gold rush hanging scorpionfly	IIMEC07010			G1	S1		
35	***Phacelia stebbinsii***	Stebbins' phacelia	PDHYD0C4D0			G3	S3	1B.2	
36	***Picoides arcticus***	black-backed woodpecker	ABNYF07090			G5	SNR		
37	***Potamogeton epihydrus***	Nuttall's ribbon-leaved pondweed	PMPOT03080			G5	S2S3	2B.2	
38	***Rana boylii***	foothill yellow-legged frog	AAABH01050			G3	S2S3		SC
39	***Rana sierrae***	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	AAABH01340	Proposed Endangered	Threatened	G1	S1		SC
40	***Rhyacophila spinata***	spiny rhyacophilan caddisfly	IITRI19080			G1G2	S1S2		
41	***Viola tomentosa***	felt-leaved violet	PDVIO04280			G3	S3.2	4.2	
42	***Vulpes vulpes necator***	Sierra Nevada red fox	AMAJA03012		Threatened	G5T1T2	S1		

Silver Fork Road Bridge

- Plant (80m)
- Plant (specific)
- Plant (non-specific)
- Plant (circular)
- Animal (80m)
- Animal (specific)
- Animal (non-specific)
- Animal (circular)
- Terrestrial Comm. (80m)
- Terrestrial Comm. (specific)
- Terrestrial Comm. (non-specific)
- Terrestrial Comm. (circular)
- Aquatic Comm. (80m)
- Aquatic Comm. (specific)
- Aquatic Comm. (non-specific)
- Aquatic Comm. (circular)
- Multiple (80m)
- Multiple (specific)
- Multiple (non-specific)
- Multiple (circular)



1:72,224

0 0.5 1 2 mi

0 1 2 4 km

October 27, 2014

2013 Sierra Nevada Fish and Amphibian Inventory Protocols
Version 2.52 May, 10 2013

California Department of Fish & Wildlife
HML-Fish/Amphibian Survey Protocols

Overview

Fill out a separate data sheet (substitute "Palm entry" for "data sheet" as necessary) for **every** lake and pond that has a Site ID, regardless of how un-lake like the site is. If the site is dry, frozen , inaccessible, not found or on private property indicate why a full datasheet was not filled out on the map portion of the datasheet or the condition field and comment field of survey main (e.g., "pond was dry"). Some data subforms will still need to be filled out in the Palm unit (see below). If you encounter ponds not shown on the 7.5' maps, fill out a complete data sheet and assign the site a new ID# from the site IDs list. Meadows, marshes, and spring seeps should always be surveyed, even if they do not have Site IDs. When you visit non-lake habitat such as marshes that contain extensive ponded water, complete a single survey for the entire area. It is critical that all relevant portions of each data sheet be filled out, and that non-relevant portions be indicated as such, not simply left blank. Remember, if the data sheet is improperly filled out, the visit was a complete waste of time and money. At the very least a VES should be conducted, an overview photo (with GPS location) taken and sketch made and recorded in the appropriate portions of the datasheet. If you are using a Palm, enter ALL survey data in your notebook. Digital data is not infallible.

When you complete surveys in habitats that do not contain ponded water (e.g., streams), record the start and end UTM coordinates in the amphibian/reptile visual survey section and complete all other pertinent sections. Many stream sections that will be surveyed are associated with other Site IDs (e.g., 200 m of each inlet and outlet) and the survey data should be entered on the associated Site ID's data sheet. Record all observations in ball point pen.

Recording Numbers: Use the dot-line method for recording the number of "hits" in fields that require a count (4 hits: ⁘; 8 hits: ⧈ 10 hits: ⊠), instead of the more typical four vertical lines and a slash. The dot-line method is much more space-efficient and is easier to read. In addition to categorizing the substrate type at each spot, record the presence or absence of aquatic vegetation at each spot (record hits using the dot-line method).

Gen. Lake Descript ('Review/Update Lake' and 'New Lake' Buttons/'New Survey' Button

Site ID: This is a *critical* number, as it will be used to link the data sheet to a particular body of water and to identify all samples. This ID is written on the 7.5' maps available for crews to take into the field. Check the Site ID carefully before recording it on the data sheet. If you encounter a lake or pond that is not shown on the 7.5' map or a marsh, meadow or spring seep that does not have a Site ID, its Site ID will be taken from a list of available IDs. Each crew member will have a list of unique numbers issued to them. Keep track of your list and do not use numbers more than once.

Location: This description should **always** be provided, and must be detailed enough to allow someone not familiar with the area to pinpoint the lake on a topographic map. This information is particularly critical for unnamed lakes because the GPS point is the only other reference for the location of the water body. Do not leave this space blank, no matter how obvious the lake feature is. At a minimum, give the distance and the compass direction from the site to two nearby prominent named geographical features (e.g., lakes, peaks, etc.). Lake and peak names, distances, and compass directions should be taken from 7.5' maps. Palm - Use the survey main comment field to note location.

Date: Write as month-day-year (Aug-10-01) and always use the three letter abbreviation for month. Palm- ensure this field auto-populates correctly. If your palm's date is incorrect this field will also be incorrect. If entering data in a palm after the survey was conducted, be sure to change the value of this field to the appropriate survey date!

Lake name: Lake names generally originate from the 7.5' topo map. However, CDFW has also implemented its own naming system for the stocking program. Field crews should have a pre-generated field lake checklist with the proper CDFW lake name and corresponding Site ID. Use this list to populate the Lake name field (data sheet only).

Palm - Lake names should be auto-populated based upon the names from the high_mountain_lakes.shp in the GIS data framework.

Note – consecutively numbered lakes (i.e. Big Pine Lake 1, Big Pine Lake 2, etc.) are numbered starting from lowest elevation and ending at the highest elevation lake.

Water type: Make a comment in the "Survey Main" comment field listing water type as one of these ONLY: Lake, Stream, Marsh/meadow, Spring seep, POAW, Snowfield or Reservoir).

Lakes should always receive the full protocol and have all applicable fields filled out.

Any unmapped lentic water body that is surveyed, regardless of size, falls under the category of LAKE. Unmapped ponds should be completely surveyed as lakes. Visual fish surveys are **not** acceptable if fish are present even if the site is small and unmapped. A GPS track of the entire perimeter and all inlets and outlets should be recorded.

Stream sites (lotic) should have a complete VES (with GPS track), visual fish survey, shrimp survey, sketch and photo, but do not require littoral and shoreline habitat surveys or inlet and outlet surveys. Palm - Remember to record the start and end GPS points of the stream reach surveyed in the amphibian header subform. The auto populated GPS point in the palms refers always to the downstream start point. Survey upstream and record in the survey comments where you ended the reach. Note that the crew leader should have a list available showing the end reach GPS point. If fish are seen a fish data subform should be filled out to indicate fish presence on a GIS coverage. If possible record fish species and an estimated length for one fish of each species identified. If fish species is unknown record as UKN. Remember to include a descriptive comment on fish numbers and type. (IE: "Saw one unknown trout species."; "Pool filled with BK".)

Marsh/Meadow sites should be surveyed as a single site. Collect a GPS track of the perimeter of the site and any surveyed areas. These will be used to generate a GIS polygon for the site. Alternatively, record as many points as needed to characterize the general shape of the marsh/meadow and enter these into the comment field. Usually less than 10 points will suffice. Complete a VES, visual fish survey, shrimp survey, sketch, and photo. Littoral and shoreline habitat surveys do not apply. If fish are seen a fish data subform should be filled out (see above-stream sites).

Spring seep sites should have a VES (with GPS track), visual fish survey, shrimp survey, sketch and overview photo. Littoral and shoreline habitat surveys do not apply. If fish are seen a fish data subform should be filled out (see above-stream sites).

Seasonality: The determination of whether a water body is perennial or ephemeral should be made based on field determination. Cues such as grass or terrestrial vegetation on the lake bottom; undecomposed duff; obvious bath tub ring; or low lake level can be used to assess status. 7.5' maps may help the surveyor make a call. Perennial lakes and ponds are shown in dark blue, ephemeral lakes and ponds are shown in white with blue diagonal lines, and marshes are indicated by a marsh symbol.

Condition: If the water body indicated on the map is frozen, dry, not found, inaccessible, or on private property your sampling will be limited. Circle the appropriate reason from the list above why the water body was not fully sampled.

Frozen water bodies of two types can be encountered. Completely frozen sites offer little to no opportunity to survey for animals, thus indicate the site is frozen in the appropriate check box and comment fields, take an overview photo with GPS point and move on. Partially frozen sites may offer some opportunity to VES for amphibians, furthermore, this is often the time when high mountain species begin breeding. List the condition as "surveyable" and indicate in the comments that the site is partially frozen (%), take an overview photo with GPS point, and conduct a VES.

Dry sites can often have newly metamorphed Bufo species and Hyla regilla. VES the site, including any tributaries, and take an overview photo with GPS point.

Sites that are not found should have only the top box of the data sheet filled out, indicating that the site was not found in the "Location" box. Palm – fill out a survey main and choose "not found" from the pick list for condition. If you are navigating to a site with given GPS point and find no evidence that a site exists at this location you should reconnoiter a circular area of 50m from this point to attempt to locate the site. GPS accuracy may be as poor as 30m or more due to satellite locations, tree cover, steep canyons, etc.
Stream widenings are those water bodies shown as perennial ponds but that have more than 10% of their surface area with noticeable current, i.e., these are more like stream pools than ponds. A VES and photo should still be taken.

If the water body of interest is actually part of another water body (**POAW**), sample and complete a data sheet for the larger water body, and fill out only the top box of the data sheet for the smaller water body, indicating that it is actually part of the larger water body in the "Location" box. In other words, the site that is considered part of another waterbody will receive a full survey under the Lake ID of the larger site. Palm – fill out a survey main for the site but indicate in the comments that the full data set is associated with a different site and list the site ID in the comments of the survey main. Example: Survey main for site 123.00 states in the comments, "This site is POAW with 127.00, all data associated with site 127.00". Survey main for site 127.00 states in the comments "Includes data for site 123.00, site is POAW with 127.00".

Planning Watershed: The watershed name for all lakes is given on the "Lakes Checklist." Do not use the name of the outlet creek given on the 7.5' map as the drainage name, as this may not be a complete description.
Palm - The watershed name should be auto-populated for all pre-identified site IDs. If a new site is being surveyed, use your survey map to identify which planning watershed the new site is located in, and pick the appropriate watershed name from the picklist.

County: For NEW SITES ONLY record the county (from 7.5' map) in which the lake feature lies into the Ref Lakes Subform".

Elevation: For NEW SITES and BASELINES ONLY record the elevation from the 7.5' map, or a calibrated altimeter (such as the altimeter feature in the Garmin GPS) into the Ref Lakes Subform (NewLake button on Palm). When using the map look for labeled contour lines to determine contour interval distance and units. Be aware that maps generated in the office by GIS software that span multiple 7.5' quads may display intervals in both meters and feet. The lake elevation is the average of the contour line below the lake and the contour line above the lake. Thus, if a lake is between the 9860' contour and the 9900' contour, the lake elevation should be recorded as 9880'. A common mistake is to assume that the proximity of a lake to a contour line indicates that the elevation of the lake is close to the value of that contour line. The horizontal distance between two points on a topographic map bears no relationship to the vertical distance between those same two points.

If the lake has a water level elevation (i.e. WL 9832), use this number. (note- water level elevations are a good source to calibrate an altimeter).

UTM Coordinates: This is a pair of numbers that are basically x and y coordinates. In our area, they are North and East. These numbers need only be obtained for lakes not shown on the 7.5' maps or for those lakes lacking a Site ID. Use a GPS unit to obtain the UTM coordinates. Also record the UTM zone that you are in. **Make sure your GPS is setup in UTM NAD83.** These coordinates are critical as they will be used to map the lake.

Maximum lake depth: Measure maximum lake depth with the Speedtech SM-5 Depthmate Portable Sounder. Do not spend inordinate amounts of time sounding every part of the lake to find exactly the deepest part. By sounding the deepest-looking area of the lake, you will quickly get a feel for where the deepest spot actually is. Precise measurements of "maximum depth" are not very important in large deep lakes. However, in shallow lakes (< 5 m) a precise depth (± 0.5 m) is very important. Plan to take maximum depths when setting or retrieving gill nets, but the data must still be collected even when nets are not set. **This data field was ignored too often in the past but is very important for determining future management options!** Enter this value on the Fish Data Form at the top of page 3, or at the bottom on page 2 if no gill net fish survey was completed for a site. In the Palms the Max Depth field is located in the Ref Lakes Subform under the Review/Update Lakes tab. Maximum lake depth should be measured even when field crews are not equipped with a depth sounder. There are many methods to improvise and collect depth measurement, but the simplest is often a known length of cord and a rock.

Team Members: Palm - All crew involved in data collection should be recorded in the Surveyors Subform. Only crew members involved in the VES should have the VES box checked.

Lake Characteristics

The habitat characterization is perhaps the most subjective of the measurements made using this protocol and we hope to reduce the potentially high observer bias by stressing the need for survey consistency. In other words, it is important to practice the protocol, calibrate visual estimates with real measurements, check each other's data, and maintain consistent survey methods.

Littoral zone substrate composition: While walking around the lake perimeter during the VES survey (see Amphibian/Reptile Surveying, below), stop after a set number of paces (see below) and categorize the **dominant** substrate at the lake edge as one of the following: silt, sand (<2mm), gravel (2-32mm), small cobble (32-64mm),

large cobble (64-256mm), boulder (>256mm), bedrock, or woody debris (pine needles and pine cones = "woody debris").

Categorize the substrate along an imaginary transect line starting at the lake edge, extending perpendicular from shore, and lying along the first **3 meters** (10 feet) of the lake bottom. Record the number of hits for each substrate category in the appropriate field. Record a "0" for categories with no hits. Only record aquatic vegetation hits on transect with at least 10% coverage. This avoids over-representing aquatic vegetation in the lake characterization. Record this information under "Substrate transects with aquatic vegetation". Only GSF vegetation should be counted; it does not matter if the vegetation is aquatic or terrestrial. Increase the number of paces between transects when surveying large lakes and decrease the number of paces for small ponds. Shoot for fifty transects, as this is a sufficient number to provide an accurate description of the littoral zone of lakes. Lake perimeter (auto-populated in survey main for existing sites, or estimated) can be divided by 50 for number of meters between transects.

For very small sites where you can observe the entire littoral zone substrate from a single location, it is permissible to estimate the littoral substrate composition by size category visually, and then to record your estimates as percent values for each size category (make sure the total of all substrate categories equals 100%). If the lake contains large numbers of amphibians, conduct the amphibian/reptile survey first and then walk around the lake a second time to measure substrate composition.

Littoral zone depth: At each of the littoral zone transects, also record the water depth at **one meter** from the shoreline and record in one of the following depth categories (in centimeters): 0-15, 16-30, 31-45, 46-60, >60. As with the littoral zone substrate composition for very small sites, it is permissible to estimate the water depth at one meter visually, and then to record your estimates as percent values for each size category (make sure the total of all depth categories equals 100%).

Shoreline terrestrial substrate composition: At each of the littoral zone transects, also record the dominant substrate along an imaginary line starting at the lake shore (or the top of the "bath tub ring" if the lake's water level is below full pool) and running for **1.5 meters** (5 feet) perpendicular and away from the lake shoreline. The substrate categories are silt-64mm, 65-256mm, bedrock, grass/sedge/forb, brush and woody debris. As with the littoral zone substrate composition for very small sites, it is permissible to estimate the terrestrial substrate composition by size category visually, and then to record your estimates as percent values for each size category (make sure the total of all substrate categories equals 100%). Note: brush = willows and other woody plants; forbs = non-woody plants.

Percentage Method: if you are able to stand in one spot and view the entire lake shore, substrate, etc. you may estimate the above categories using percentages of the entire lake, rather than the transect method. This can save time on small water bodies. Make sure the percentage check box is checked on your datasheet or palm and that the numbers for one category add up to 100%. If you use this method you should be looking at all littoral zone habitat, not just habitat 3 meters from shore.

Tributary Characteristics

Each significant tributary to the water body should be surveyed for 200 meters for fish and amphibians. In addition general characteristics of each tributary should be recorded, see below.

Any tributary displayed on a 7.5' map should generally be surveyed and inlet/outlet information completed. Small rills should be surveyed for amphibians, but not necessarily included as a distinct tributary. Within the continuum of tributary sizes and complexities, field crews will be required to distinguish "significant" tributaries from those which do not warrant full tributary surveys. Keep in mind the primary purpose of tributary information is to assess important habitat for fish and amphibians, but not to be bogged down with intense micro-habitat analysis.

Palm – It is very important that palm users realize there is no inherent method of tracking barrier photo data to a specific tributary. Thus, ALWAYS assign a number for each tributary (i.e. Inlet 2, or Outlet 1) even if there is only one tributary. It is important to make sure the same tributary number is listed on the barrier photo subform. Also, tributary numbers must be recorded on lake sketches.

Tributary GPS points: Record a GPS point where each tributary joins the lake. Also record a GPS point at the end of your tributary survey. This will help to match inlet/outlet data to the correct tributary.

Tributary number: Record number assigned for each tributary (i.e. Inlet 1, Inlet 2, or Outlet 1). This same number is to be recorded on lake sketch and included in barrier information, so that the correct barrier can be

associated with the correct tributary. NOTE: Tributaries ARE NOT meadow rills, snowmelt rills, or anything that might in good conscious be called a rill.

Width and depth of inlets & outlets: While conducting the VES of inlets and outlets estimate the average width and depth of each tributary **at bank full**, even if dry. Inlets generally are widest at the point at which they enter the lake, so obtain the average width and depth upstream of this point. If there are no inlets, circle "no inlets". If inlet is dry check "Dry" and continue to survey for barriers and amphibians. If there are no outlets, circle "no outlets". If outlet is dry enter "Dry" and continue to survey for barriers and amphibians.
Palm – The presence or absence of inlets and outlets will need to be entered into the "Ref Lakes Subform" (Found by hitting "Review/Update Lake" button). Use your reference Lakes spreadsheet to determine if opening the Ref Lakes subform is necessary.

Presence of fish in inlets and outlets: Record whether there are fish present in the first 200 m of each inlet and outlet stream by circling "Y" or "N" for each feature. If there are no inlets or outlets, leave this section blank. If inlets and outlets are dry, fish may be present in isolated pools and this is data that needs to be captured.

Distance to first barrier on inlets and outlets: Pace off 200 meters of each tributary, recording the distance from the lake to the first impassable barrier. Dry tributaries should still be surveyed. The barrier location should be recorded as the number of meters from the lake. Barriers are falls >0.75 m high if there is no pool at the base, falls >1.5 m if there is a pool at the base, or steep cascades higher than approximately 1.5 m. Logjams can float during high water, and should generally not be considered barriers. Because fish can often get over remarkable obstacles, be conservative in what you call a barrier. Provide a description of each barrier on page 2 of the data sheet (see Detailed lake and inlet/outlet description, below) or in the barrier subform in the Palm. If there are no barriers check the "Barriers not present" box.

Description of fish barrier(s), UTM coordinates, photo number: Provide GPS UTM coordinates, photo number, and a brief description of each barrier in the spaces provided. If additional space is needed, use page 2 of the data sheet (see Detailed lake and inlet/outlet description, below). In the Palm enter all photo data (photo #, camera #, Time and photo type) into the "Photo Documents Subform". It is important to read the appropriate protocols for camera setup and file naming information. Make sure your GPS is setup with the proper settings referenced in the appropriate protocol.

Spawning habitat in inlets and outlets: Up to the first barrier of each inlet and outlet or to the end of the survey reach if no barrier exists, make a visual estimate of the amount of the streambed **between the lake and the first barrier** that is suitable trout spawning habitat. The amount of spawning habitat should be recorded in terms of the number of square meters of stream bottom with the following characteristics: gravel 0.5-4 cm in diameter and not cemented into the streambed, water depths of 10-50 cm, and water velocities of 20-60 cm/s for successful spawning.

Spawning habitat data is used to estimate whether fish populations are self-sustaining. Use good calibration techniques and real measurements as necessary to assure accuracy.

Evidence of spawning in inlets and outlets: Check each inlet and outlet for evidence of spawning **between the lake and the first barrier**, if a barrier is present. This could be spawning trout, redds (nests), or newly-hatched fry (20-30 mm). Redds are often very obvious, being patches of freshly cleaned gravel 0.5-1 m in length. If you aren't sure if what you are seeing is in fact a redd, dig into the downstream portion of the disturbed gravel while holding a net downstream. If it is a redd, you should find eggs in the net after disturbing the gravel. For each inlet and outlet, circle all types of evidence that you find. If you don't find any evidence of spawning, circle "None".

Area of in-lake spawning habitat: Estimate the amount of suitable spawning habitat (using the spawning habitat criteria given above) in the lake at the mouth of each inlet and outlet. Look for the presence of spawning trout and completed redds. Note any significant habitat of this sort in the Fish Header comments.

Description of other in-lake spawning habitat: Restrict your description of "other in-lake spawning habitat" to areas where you observe spawning fish, redds, or large numbers of fry in areas of the lake away from inlets and outlets.

Fairy Shrimp

During the amphibian survey, be on the look out for schools of fairy shrimp. The distribution of these 2-3 cm crustaceans is poorly known for the Sierra Nevada, so we are interested in describing localities. Look for them in all

bodies of water you sample. When walking around a lake, take a few minutes to also look in small pools and ponds adjacent to the lake.

If you find fairy shrimp either in your samples or during the survey of lake characteristics, indicate this on the data sheet by circling "Y" or "N" to the questions about fairy shrimp locations ("Present in lake?", "In lake-associated pools?", "Other locations?"). "Lake associated pools" are pools within 2 m of the lake. Be specific in your location descriptions, and provide a brief description of these locations (e.g., "1 m^2 pool 0.5 m from lakeshore on N side of lake 70675, pool is 10 cm deep"). Information on the fairy shrimp populations should include, at a minimum, location, surface area, and depth of the habitats.

Palm – If fairy shrimp are not found open the subform and write "NO SHRIMP" in the comment field.

Amphibian Surveying

Introduction: We will be conducting amphibian surveys at all bodies of water shown on 7.5' topographic maps, streams, and at sites not shown on the map but found during surveys and while traveling between sites. Each surveyor should have a timepiece to record the duration of time spent surveying, a notebook to record data, a dipnet and GPS unit. Be aware that many sites have more areas of potential habitat or inlets than are shown on a map. Generally we are not targeting reptiles but are identifying species and recording garter snake sightings. These animals are amphibian predators and may indicate amphibian presence when none are seen.

To conduct an amphibian survey, walk **slowly** around the perimeter of the site, or along the stream, counting the number of adults, sub-adults, metamorphs, larvae, and egg masses you find of each species. Pause often to look ahead for basking animals. Use your dip net to sweep habitat and banks in an effort to spook animals. When surveying a lake, VES all inlets and outlets (see above) and lump with the lake VES data. Meadow/marsh sites should be surveyed systematically with multiple surveyors in an effort to survey the entire site. As needed, use the sterilized D-net or aquarium net to catch amphibians and reptiles for identification. Consult the field guide provided for adult and larval identification.

Record total numbers of individuals observed by species and life stage in the appropriate field. If no animals are seen during the VES, record "none" in the field. Species abbreviations are given on the data sheet. Palm- use the pick lists for species abbreviations. If no animals are seen make sure that the "Amphibians NOT Present" checkbox is checked on the amphibian header subform and do not fill out an amphibian data subform.

Under "Comments", record any interesting observations made during the survey (e.g., mountain yellow-legged frog larvae found only in shallow lagoon on NW side of lake). Also record locations of interesting observations on the map of the lake that you draw (see below). If you are surveying inlets or outlets of a lake and encounter amphibian species, record your observations on a separate line on the data sheet and note the approximate locations and species on the inlet and/or outlet diagrams on page two. Palm – use the comment field in amphibian header to note interesting or important observations, or the numbers of animals seen in inlets/outlets, or numbers of multi-age class tads observed.

Time of day, temperature, and weather are important factors affecting the quality of any VES survey. Time your surveys to be during the warm portions of the day (roughly 9am – 5pm, however time window can vary depending upon time of year and local conditions). If the weather is too cold or stormy, VES surveys can be very inaccurate and should not be conducted.

Survey start time and end time: Record the time at which the survey began and ended. The start time is the time the amphibian survey began, not the time you arrived at the site. The end time is the time you finished the VES. Palm – Times MUST be in 24 hour format. Double check them since the palms auto populate to current time.

Total survey duration: Record the total time spent searching for amphibians/reptiles. Do not include time spent surmounting lake-side obstacles (e.g., cliffs), identifying specimens, or recording notes. If two people survey the same site by walking in opposite directions around the lake perimeter, the total survey duration should include the time spent surveying by each person. This data tells how much effort went into the survey.

Weather/wind/color/turbidity: Circle the appropriate descriptor for each.

Stream survey: Using the GPS unit, record the UTM locations at the beginning and end of your stream survey.

Response 2: California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW North Central Region)

Response to CDFW Comments 3, 4, 5, and 7

The Project area is not within the known range of SNYLF. The Eldorado National Forest was contacted regarding the distribution of SNYLF in El Dorado County. Eldorado National Forest fisheries staff stated in an email dated 2 December 2014 that the South Fork American River has been surveyed by Eldorado Irrigation District for foothill yellow-legged frogs and fish. Based on the survey data Eldorado National Forest fisheries staff indicates that SNYLF are known from Middle Creek and the upstream reaches of Soldier Creek. Eldorado National Forest fisheries staff states that SNYLF would not occur in the South Fork American River proper.

The three CNDDB records for SNYLF within 6 miles of the Project site all occur above 5,000 ft in elevation; over 1,000 ft above the 4,080 ft elevation of the Project area. SNYLF use stream habitats as well as high mountain lakes, ponds, and tarns, according to the CDFW species account. The CDFW species account also states that breeding habitat consists of ponds, lakes and streams that do not dry out in summer, are deep enough to prevent freezing to the bottom in winter, and do not contain fish. The South Fork American River is occupied by both native and introduced fish species. The recently published U. S. Forest Service publication *Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog Conservation Assessment for the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California* (July 2014) corroborates the CDFW species account for SNYLF. Both documents indicate that SNYLF are not typically associated with large main stem rivers such as the South Fork American River.

Given the Project's location outside the known range of SNYLF, on a large main stem river, and that predatory fish are present in the South Fork American River, the Project will not affect SNYLF. No Amphibian Visual Encounter Surveys (VES) are warranted.

The Project's Natural Environment Study (NES) and the November 2011 CDFW *Status Review of the Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog* (*Rana sierrae* and *R. muscosa*) report that SNYLF occur at elevations ranging from 1,400 to 3,690 meters (approximately 4,590 to 12,100 ft) in the Sierra Nevada. At 4,080 ft, the Project area is approximately 500 ft below the lower elevation limit of this species.

There are 2 SNYLF records within 5 miles of the Project area and a third record approximately 6 miles away. The occurrence report for the record at Middle Creek reports an elevation of 5,300 ft. The record at Alder Creek occurs at 5,600 ft. A record located approximately 6 miles northwest of the Project area is reported to occur at 6,700 ft. All three of these existing CNDDB records occur above 5,000 ft in elevation; over 1,000 ft above the 4,080 ft elevation of the Project area and within the described range of this species.

The project will have no effect on a federal-listed species. Caltrans, acting as the Federal Highway Administration's NEPA delegate, conducted a field review and approved the NES. The federal lead agency determined the Project does not require consultation with USFWS. The Project will not result in 'take' of a State-listed species. No California Endangered Species Act Section 2081 Incidental Take Permit is needed. The IS/MND includes biological mitigation measures and does not rely on future consultations as mitigation.

Response to CDFW Comments 1, 2, 6 and 8

Per §15126.4 (a) (2)of the CEQA guidelines:

Mitigation measures must be fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other legally binding instruments. In the case of the adoption of a plan, policy, regulation, or other public project, mitigation measures can be incorporated into the plan, policy, regulation, or project design.

The NES and IS/MND include a description of project impacts and describes measures appropriate for the species with potential to occur. The South Fork American River provides potential habitat for FYLF. Measure BIO-1 in the IS/MND are contained in the *Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan* as Appendix A to the MND. Per §15097 (a) of the CEQA guidelines:

"…In order to ensure that the mitigation measures and project revisions identified in the EIR or negative declaration are implemented, the public agency shall adopt a program for monitoring or reporting on the revisions which it has required in the project and the measures it has imposed to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects…."

The preconstruction survey required by BIO-1 is enforceable per the CEQA guidelines. BIO-1 contains provisions that avoid impacts to FYLF if found during the Project. BIO-1 says, in part:

'During construction, if a FYLF is observed in the active construction zone, construction will cease and a qualified biologist will be notified. Construction may resume when the biologist has either relocated the FYLF to nearby suitable habitat outside the construction zone, or, after thorough inspection, determined that the FYLF has moved away from the construction zone.'

BIO-1 does not defer mitigation by relying on future surveys or consultations. The IS/MND discloses the potential for impacts to FYLF individuals and habitat for FYLF without implementation of BIO-1. BIO-1 defines performance criteria and identifies the actions to reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

The Project will not permanently impact the South Fork American River. The Project will temporarily impact 0.099 acre of the South Fork American River. In order to repair the bridge approximately 0.001 acre (44 sq. ft) of the riparian community adjacent to the South Fork American River will be permanently affected and 0.026 acre (1,113 sq. ft) would be temporarily disturbed. BIO-4 describes measures to avoid and minimize impacts to these communities, including revegetating temporarily impacted areas and provides roughly proportional mitigation for potential impacts. Measures to protect the South Fork American River and adjacent riparian community also protect FYLF habitat. The IS/ MND document addresses the potential effects of the project activities and includes appropriate site-specific and species specific measures to fully minimize the potential take.

Response to CDFW Comments 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13

Construction will take several months and in-water work periods are restricted to the low flow season (15 April to 15 October), which coincides with the nesting season. It is not possible for construction of the bridge to occur outside the nesting season. BIO-3 provides recommendations to prevent the establishment of nests on the bridge prior to construction. The measure identifies two techniques to prevent nest establishment that CDFW has approved on prior bridge projects in El Dorado County.

The introduction to BIO-3 states: '*….nests that contain eggs or unfledged young are not to be disturbed during the breeding season.*' A partially completed nest is one that is still being constructed and does not yet have eggs. This determination will be made by the person removing the nest; likely the County or a contractor. Nest starts will be removed starting at the beginning of the nesting season and will continue on a weekly basis (as stated in BIO-3). This will prevent nests from being completed.

Many companies manufacture netting specifically for the purpose of bird exclusion. If properly installed, the risk of entrapment is minimal. No nests were observed on the bridge during the biological surveys. It is not expected that many, if any, birds will attempt to nest on the bridge.

BIO-3 states that a *minimum* 250 ft ESA will be established around the nest of a bird of prey, and a *minimum* 100-ft ESA around the nest of a MBTA bird other than a bird of prey. The buffers are based on site specific conditions and take into account the existing level of human activity adjacent to the bridge and the type, intensity, and duration of construction. BIO-3 identifies criteria and procedures equivalent to a stand-alone Migratory Bird Protection Plan. The avoidance and minimization measures in the IS/MND are sufficient to reduce potential impacts to less than significant for birds protected by the MBTA and FGC.

Response to CDFW Comments 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18

Botanical surveys were conducted on 2 May and 17 July 2013 and followed, as applicable, the 2009 CDFW *Protocol for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities.* Survey preparation included the following activities:

- Defining a survey area based on proposed design and construction methods (the biological study area, or 'BSA', as used in the NES, called the Project area here)
- Review of the USFWS quad and County lists, the CNDDB database query for the project quad and all adjacent quads, Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH 2013) records, and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) database query to determine special-status plants that could occur in the area
- Aerial photographs and other site photographs were reviewed to determine the potential habitat types that could occur in the Project area,
- Review of the phenology, ecology, range, and morphology of the special-status plant species on the USFWS list and in the CNDDB and CNPS database queries.

The botanical surveys were floristic in nature and included 100% coverage of the Project area during both field surveys. Qualified botanists surveyed the entire BSA on foot and all plant species observed in the Project area were identified to the taxonomic level necessary to determine rarity and listing status

Reference sites are typically visited when there is some reason why a special-status plant species might not be evident and identifiable. For the proposed Project, all plants with potential to occur were expected to be evident and identifiable based on:

- Climate conditions preceding the survey
- Existing site conditions
- The qualified botanists' professional experience and judgment.

As stated in Section 2.5 of the NES, '*No problems or limitations were encountered that may have influenced the results*'. Specifically, no adverse environmental conditions, including drought or disturbance, were present that would have reduced the detectability of special-status plant species identified as having potential to occur in the Project area. No inconspicuous or ephemeral plants were identified as having potential to occur in the Project area.

Drought conditions were not present during the surveys. Precipitation for the growing season preceding surveys was between 80-85% of normal for both the 2 May 2013 and 17 July 2013 surveys.

All plant species with potential to occur in the Project area, bloom or are otherwise evident and identifiable in either May and/or July. Six of the seven plants species with potential to occur are perennials. The one annual plant, Stebbins' Phacelia (*Phacelia stebbinsii*), was noted in the NES as having only marginal habitat in the Project area. Stebbins' Phacelia grows to 15.7 inches in height, blooms from May through July, and would have been detected and reported if it occurred in the Project area.

An analysis of which natural communities are present at the Project site, which special-status plants have the potential to occur, and when those plants would be expected to be evident and identifiable was conducted and is documented in the NES. Evident and identifiable periods for special-status plants with potential to occur are reported in the NES. Plant discussions include a determination regarding whether species were observed during the evident and identifiable period or not. All plants with potential to occur were surveyed for during their evident and identifiable period.

The CEQA IS for the Project discloses the following information regarding rare plants and cites the Project NES as the source document:

- The Project area provides suitable habitat for 7 special-status plants ranked by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS).
- The Project area does not provide habitat for federal-listed plant species. There is no critical habitat in the Project area and the Project will not affect critical habitat.
- The Project area does not provide habitat for State-listed plant species.
- No special-status plants were observed in the Project area during botanical surveys conducted during the evident and identifiable period.

No special-status plants species occur in the Project area based on the results of botanical surveys conducted during the evident and identifiable period. The Project will not affect rare plants and no further avoidance or minimization measures are required for rare plants. No mitigation plan is necessary.

Response to CDFW Comment 19

The Project requires a 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFW, as stated in the IS/MND and the Project NES. This comment reiterates standard requirements that are included in the MND document. No further response is necessary.

Response to CDFW Comment 20

The IS/MND discloses potential impacts to biological resources (as well as all other CEQA resource topics), adequately evaluates potential impacts, and as applicable, provides enforceable measures to reduce potential project impacts to less than significant.

Comment Letter 3: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

6 November 2014

Janet Postlewait
El Dorado County
Community Development Dept., Transportation Division
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

CERTIFIED MAIL
7014 1200 0000 7154 3465

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, SILVER FORK ROAD AT SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER BRIDGE (25C0113) REHABILITATION PROJECT, SCH# 2014102024, EL DORADO COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 10 October 2014 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Mitigated Negative Declaration* for the Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge (25C0113) Rehabilitation Project, located in El Dorado County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml.

Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits[1]

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/.

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 97-03-DWQ.

For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml.

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACOE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements.

If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACOE at (916) 557-5250.

[1] Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACOE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications.

Waste Discharge Requirements

If USACOE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., "non-federal" waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project will require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation.

For more information on the Water Quality Certification and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/business_help/permit2.shtml.

Regulatory Compliance for Commercially Irrigated Agriculture

If the property will be used for commercial irrigated agricultural, the discharger will be required to obtain regulatory coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.
There are two options to comply:

1. **Obtain Coverage Under a Coalition Group.** Join the local Coalition Group that supports land owners with the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The Coalition Group conducts water quality monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of its growers. The Coalition Groups charge an annual membership fee, which varies by Coalition Group. To find the Coalition Group in your area, visit the Central Valley Water Board's website at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/app_approval/index.shtml; or contact water board staff at (916) 464-4611 or via email at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.

2. **Obtain Coverage Under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Individual Growers, General Order R5-2013-0100**. Dischargers not participating in a third-party group (Coalition) are regulated individually. Depending on the specific site conditions, growers may be required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit a notice of intent, farm plan, and other action plans regarding their actions to comply with their General Order. Yearly costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 10-100 acres are currently $1,084 + $6.70/Acre); the cost to prepare annual monitoring reports; and water quality monitoring costs. To enroll as an Individual Discharger under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory

Program, call the Central Valley Water Board phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.

Low or Limited Threat General NPDES Permit

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for *Dewatering and Other Low Threat Discharges to Surface Waters* (Low Threat General Order) or the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges of Treated/Untreated Groundwater from Cleanup Sites, Wastewater from Superchlorination Projects, and Other Limited Threat Wastewaters to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete application must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under these General NPDES permits.

For more information regarding the Low Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0074.pdf

For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0073.pdf

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4684 or tcleak@waterboards.ca.gov.

Trevor Cleak
Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento

Response 3: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

This letter reiterates standard requirements that are included in the MND document and mitigation measures. No response is necessary.

Comment Letter 4: El Dorado Irrigation District.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **Corcoran, Daniel** <dcorcoran@eid.org>
Date: Thu, Nov 6, 2014 at 4:13 PM
Subject: Silver Fork Bridge MND
To: "janet.postlewait@edcgov.us" <janet.postlewait@edcgov.us>
Cc: "Deason, Brian" <bdeason@eid.org>

Janet,

Just wanted to let you know Brian of my staff confirmed with our hydro operations divisions that we do not have any gaging equipment or other infrastructure that would be affected by the bridge replacement. Therefore, we won't have any comments. We do have a gage located about a mile downstream of the bridge so we can provide some historical gage data if that would help your design staff. This stretch of river is affected by Lake Aloha releases mid summer and Echo Lake releases late summer so it may provide your staff some insight as to anticipated stream flows during the time of construction. Brian can coordinate that information if needed. Thanks and have a great day.

Dan Corcoran
Environmental Manager
El Dorado Irrigation District
2890 Mosquito Road
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 642-4082
(530) 642-4382 fax

dcorcoran@eid.org

Please Note: *EID is currently in a Stage 2 Water Warning due to the ongoing drought. As a result all customers are requested to reduce their water usage by* ***30%****. For more information please visit* *http://www.eid.org/drought*

Response 4: El Dorado Irrigation District.

This email states that the El Dorado Irrigation District has no comments on the IS/MND. No response is necessary.

Comment Letter 5: State Clearinghouse.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Governor's Office of Planning and Research

State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Ken Alex
Director

November 12, 2014

Janet Postlewait
El Dorado County
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

Subject: Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge (25C0113) Rehabilitation Project
SCH#: 2014102024

Dear Janet Postlewait:

The State Clearinghouse submitted the above named Mitigated Negative Declaration to selected state agencies for review. On the enclosed Document Details Report please note that the Clearinghouse has listed the state agencies that reviewed your document. The review period closed on November 10, 2014, and the comments from the responding agency (ies) is (are) enclosed. If this comment package is not in order, please notify the State Clearinghouse immediately. Please refer to the project's ten-digit State Clearinghouse number in future correspondence so that we may respond promptly.

Please note that Section 21104(c) of the California Public Resources Code states that:

> "A responsible or other public agency shall only make substantive comments regarding those activities involved in a project which are within an area of expertise of the agency or which are required to be carried out or approved by the agency. Those comments shall be supported by specific documentation."

These comments are forwarded for use in preparing your final environmental document. Should you need more information or clarification of the enclosed comments, we recommend that you contact the commenting agency directly.

This letter acknowledges that you have complied with the State Clearinghouse review requirements for draft environmental documents, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. Please contact the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613 if you have any questions regarding the environmental review process.

Sincerely,

Scott Morgan
Director, State Clearinghouse

Enclosures
cc: Resources Agency

1400 TENTH STREET P.O. BOX 3044 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95812-3044
TEL (916) 445-0613 FAX (916) 323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov

Document Details Report
State Clearinghouse Data Base

SCH# 2014102024
Project Title Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge (25C0113) Rehabilitation Project
Lead Agency El Dorado County

Type **MND** Mitigated Negative Declaration

Description The El Dorado County Community Development Agency intends to rehabilitate the existing Silver Fork Road Bridge (25C0113) over South Fork American River. The existing 60-ft-10-in-long, 24-ft-3-in-wide, 2-lane single span, welded-steel plate girder bridge with concrete deck was constructed in 1953. The bridge has been identified by Caltrans as structurally deficient (sufficiency rating of 64) and the concrete deck is in poor condition. The Project proposes to rehabilitate the existing bridge structure to improve roadway safety and comply with American Association of Highway and State Transportation Officials (AASHTO) guidelines and El Dorado County standards.

Lead Agency Contact

Name Janet Postlewait
Agency El Dorado County
Phone 530 621 5993 **Fax**
email
Address 2850 Fairlane Court
City Placerville **State** CA **Zip** 95667

Project Location

County El Dorado
City
Region
Lat / Long 38° 46' 25.6" N / 120° 17' 36.9" W
Cross Streets US Hwy 50
Parcel No. 012-302-18 & -08, -361-05 & -303-02
Township 11N **Range** 15E **Section** 27 **Base**

Proximity to:

Highways US 50
Airports
Railways
Waterways South Fork of the American River
Schools Silver Fork School
Land Use El Dorado County right-of-way; GPD: High-Density Residential (HDR), Z: One-Family Residential (R1)

Project Issues Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Vegetation; Wetland/Riparian

Reviewing Agencies Resources Agency; Department of Conservation; Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region 2; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Office of Emergency Services, California; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 3 S; Caltrans, Division of Transportation Planning; Air Resources Board, Transportation Projects; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Sacramento); Native American Heritage Commission; State Lands Commission

Date Received 10/10/2014 **Start of Review** 10/10/2014 **End of Review** 11/10/2014

CLEAR
11-10-14
E

California Water Boards

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

Matthew Rodriquez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

6 November 2014

CERTIFIED MAIL
7014 1200 0000 7154 3465

Janet Postlewait
El Dorado County
Community Development Dept., Transportation Division
2850 Fairlane Court
Placerville, CA 95667

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, SILVER FORK ROAD AT SOUTH FORK AMERICAN RIVER BRIDGE (25C0113) REHABILITATION PROJECT, SCH# 2014102024, EL DORADO COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 10 October 2014 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Mitigated Negative Declaration* for the Silver Fork Road at South Fork American River Bridge (25C0113) Rehabilitation Project, located in El Dorado County.

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http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2013-0073.pdf

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4684 or tcleak@waterboards.ca.gov.

Trevor Cleak
Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento

Response 4: State Clearinghouse.

This letter transmits to El Dorado County comment letters the State Clearinghouse received. No response is necessary.