

Attachment B  
Response to Comments

Green Valley Road/ Weber Creek Bridge  
Replacement Project  
(CIP #77114)

# ATTACHMENT B

## Comments and Responses on the Green Valley Road at Weber Creek Replacement Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration

### 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 comments.

**Table 1. Comment Letters Received**

Letter	Commentor
1	Fields, Donald and Beverly
2	Marianos, Stephen
3	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
4	U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers
5	State Clearinghouse

The response to comments includes the separately bound Natural Environment Study (September 2010), the Biological Assessment (September 2010), and the Noise Study (July 2011). Several figures from those reports are included with this response for ease of reference. They are:

- *NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STUDY, FIGURE 4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES MAP*
- *TREE REMOVAL MAP BY SPECIES*
- *APPENDIX G. CONCEPTUAL PLANTING PLAN*
- *NOISE-1 MAP*

## **Section 2. Responses to Comments**

Comment Letter: Fields, Donald W. and Beverly A.

**Input from Donald W. & Beverly A. Fields on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Green Valley Road Bridge (25C-088) at Weber Creek Replacement Project. (Input dated 8-20-2011)**

**7301 Green Valley Road, Placerville, CA 95667 – APN32511047**

- 1a 1. **Item 2.3 Project Description-MND-2:** The increase of the 20mph. speed limit increased to 25 mph. is a serious safety concern. First of all a large percentage of the current posted 20 mph speed limit is exceeded which makes it very difficult to enter and leave our driveway. Secondly several accidents have occurred in the area of our property. The multi-mail boxes have been destroyed two times this past year; the boxes are currently being replaced. There have been two vehicles off the road and down in our spring creek valley. These accidents have been caused by excessive speed and losing control. Widening this area will only get worse with the increase of the speed limit. Currently the narrow bridge did require and resulted in the vehicles slowing down to some extent, but will instigate in an increase in speed, including the increase in the amount of excess speed. This will increase the hazard of entering and leaving our property. (Also for others that access Green Valley Road). The widening of the road and the new wide bridge with the increase in the speed limit will no doubt invite a higher density of traffic and allow larger truck usage.
- 1b
- 1c
- 2a 2. **Item 2.3 Project Description-MND-3:** The statement “All native riparian trees in the white alder-Oregon ash riparian forest that are removed will be replaced at a 2:1 ratio. Willow and/or alder canes will be planted in disturbed upland areas” is very confusing to the readers! What is defined as a native riparian tree? What is the white alder-Oregon ash riparian forest? What is considered as “upland areas”? There are further questions on the tree removal and replacement further in this document.
- 2b
- 3a 3. **Item 2.4 Construction Methods-MND-3:** The subject of temporary access roads on the north and south banks are a concern as to what permanent impacts are not defined such as access roads, tree removal, and easy access to our lower property and the creek. We have had numerous trespassers and having permanent maintenance roads and paths would increase this problem. This situation is a major concern to my wife and me in the area of our safety and privacy! There doesn't appear to be a figure #7 in the package I received. I may not have the latest or the complete package.
- 3b
- 4 4. **Item 3.2 Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures-MND-24:** Aesthetics –(C) The statement “Substantially degrades the existing visual character or/and quality of the site and its surroundings” is under rated. It is viewed by the owners that the removal of the great amount of tree and the raising of the road and the bridge 11 feet will have major negative permanent impact from our home, back deck, lawn, 30 ft. fish pond, with multiple water features, sanctuary. The removal of the major numbers of large tree removal and replaced by the minimal sized trees will have a major negative impact that will not be recovered in our life time. Be realistic in this area!
- 5 5. **Item 3.2 Potential Environmental Effects-MND-31:** Removal of 0.145 acres of the riparian forest along Weber Creek, which includes the removal of approximately 23 riparian trees. What other trees are included in the 0.145 forest removal along with the 23 riparian trees? If there are other specified trees removed during the diversion procedure, do they have the same replacement procedure?

6. **Item 3.2 Mitigation Measure BIO-1-MND-31:** I have several concerns relating to the replacement of trees being removed. There are 23 trees referenced that will be replaced 2:1 for 46 trees of unspecified size and that there is a success rate of approximately 60% which yields approximately 28 trees will survive. 28 unspecified sized little trees for replacement of 23 full sized trees is a very negative impact. (More on tree removal to come up later in this document)
7. **Item 3.2 Mitigation Measure BIO-1-MND-34:** Canyon Live Oak Forest – “Approximately 1.462 ac of canyon live oak forest will be temporarily disturbed due to construction. Project will result in the permanent loss of 0.636 ac of canyon live oak forest. Estimated total of 101 native trees five inches diameter at breast height or greater would be removed from the canyon live oak forest. Eighty nine of the trees are oaks. What is the number of trees fewer than five inch diameter that will be removed? Why should the smaller diameter trees not be counted, they are probably larger than the replacement size which have a 60% chance of survival. The El Dorado County Oak Woodland Management Plan evidently states that this project meets the criteria that state all these trees can be removed with exemption to no compensatory mitigation is required for this upland biological community. If I understand this item, that all of my oak trees can be removed without any compensatory mitigation, I am not in acceptance of this section!
8. **Item 3.2 Mitigation Measure BIO-1-MND-34:** White Alder-Oregon Ash Riparian Forest: The Project will result in the permanent loss of 0.145 ac of white alder-Oregon ash riparian. A total of 0.086 ac of the riparian forest permanent impacts and 0.266 ac of the riparian forest temporary impact. It doesn't indicate the position on the compensatory mitigation. Again if no compensatory mitigation, I am not in acceptance of this section!
9. **Item 3.2 Mitigation Measure BIO-1-MND-36:** Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protection biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? Once again the oak plan states that it is exempt from compensatory mitigation. It goes on to state “Nevertheless, the preferred alternative would result in the removal of approximately 96 protected oaks, including one located within the riparian zone along Weber Creek by planting replacement trees. No doubt with the same 60% survival rate.
10. **Item 3.2 Mitigation Measure BIO-1-MND-46:** Environmental Setting: I have several questions/issues relating to the testing procedure. They are listed as follows:
- a. I would assume that the noise data represent not just the nominal road noise but also the high levels of noise from trucks, motorcycles, loud automobiles.
  - b. I had requested to be informed when the testing was to be conducted. This was to know when individuals were going to be on site. My wife is concerned on being alone and she wanted me to be home when they would be on site. This was not done!
  - c. I was concerned as to the location, the number of testing receivers, and duration of the data recording for this test procedure. Figure 4, Project Vicinity and Noise Measurement Sites, show short-term monitoring site, Long-Term monitoring site, Receiver locations, but do not give any data relating to the duration of data recording for each of them. Depending on the duration of data gathering on the short-term, I would think that our site would have a long term data recording. This may not be an issue.
  - d. I would think that the data gathering would have been also taken at the upper windows level. There would be a higher db level due to less filtering through the trees. The readings from the ground level would show a lower db level due to the tree filtering, and would be somewhat higher once the designated trees are removed.

10e

e. The noise level is critical in our bedroom, living room, spa room, workout room, as well as the deck area. No interior readings taken. The assumption that the interior reading are not an issue is not realistic.

10f

f. The general noise reduction techniques suggestions in two of the three cases are not functional. Our home has dual pain windows throughout the whole house. The idea that a six foot fence around the total deck is not acceptable (the deck is approximately five feet high).

10g

g. The purpose of the deck is to enjoy the beautiful park like environment our outdoors dinning, and evening relaxing time, as well the multiple social events with our friends.

**4.0 Determination-MND-55:** The Environmental Factors Potentially Affected: There are two additional categories that should be identified as being impacted.

11.1

1. Mineral Resources: Approximately 50% Weber Creek access ownership will be taken away impacting the gold panning area.

11.2

2. Recreation: Approximately 50% Weber Creek access ownership will be taken away impacting the fishing area.

11.3

3. A third impact will be the aesthetics and the impact from the project which will have a severe impact on our resale ability.

On behalf of Donald W. and Beverly A. Fields we would like to thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration Document. We hope that the comments will assist you in understanding our questions/concerns.

## Response: Fields, Donald W. and Beverly A.

### *Fields-1a*

There is no posted speed limit on Green Valley Road from the Placerville City Limits to the intersection of Missouri Flat Road. The yellow signs that say “20 mph” are advisory signs. An advisory speed sign is not the same as a posted speed limit. Traffic speeds are controlled by the California Vehicle Code Section 22350, the “Basic Speed Law” provision, says:

“No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the highway, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property.”

### *Fields-1b*

The proposed project, which includes the bridge and approaches to the bridge, is designed for a 25 mph design speed within a safer road alignment that meets current safety and engineering standards. This project also includes road widening in the driveway area mentioned by the commenter, resulting in improved sight distance for residents using these driveways, and relocating the mail boxes further away from Green Valley Road.

### *Fields-1c*

The project is not capacity increasing. It does not change land use patterns nor does it create conditions that allow larger truck usage.

### *Fields-2a*

The comment incorrectly states that willow and/or alder canes will be planted in *disturbed upland areas* [emphasis added]. Page MND-3 states: “Willow and/or alder canes will be planted in *the rock slope protection.*” [emphasis added].

### *Fields-2b*

Figure 4 of NES shows the limits of the different biological communities in the project area. It is attached to this response. The NES, page 46, describes the white alder-Oregon ash riparian forest as follows:

This riparian community occurs along the segment of Weber Creek in the BSA. Most of the riparian trees in this community are located within the OHWM of Weber Creek, outside of the low flow channel...

Dominant tree species are white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*) and Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*). The dominant shrub species is nonnative, invasive Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*; Cal-IPC 2006). Other species in the shrub layer include California wild grape (*Vitis californica*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and rose (*Rosa* sp.).

### *Fields-3a*

The temporary access roads on the north and south bank will be constructed and used to cross the creek during construction. The temporary access roads will be removed and the area restored at the end of construction. The trees removed for the temporary access roads are included in the number of trees to be

removed. These areas are considered temporary impacts since vegetation will be allowed to grow back in these areas after construction is complete. Permanent impacts occur in areas that vegetation cannot grow back, such as at the bridge abutments and roadways.

The permanent maintenance road and path along Gabion Wall No. 1 and No. 2 will be located within the County ROW to be acquired. The permanent maintenance road will be blocked by a gate or bollards to limit public access.

### *Fields-3b*

The figure names, figure numbers, and page numbers are listed in the Table of Contents. The labels identifying the actual figures were inadvertently omitted, but can be found on page 19 and 21, respectively, of the ISMND. Please note that several other figures are also not labeled, but do correspond to their page number listed in the table of contents. Figure #7 is the General Plan – MSE Gabion Wall No. 1. – 30% Design. Figure #8 is the – MSE Gabion Wall No. 2 – 30% Design.

A copy of the complete Initial Study can be found on the County's website:

<http://www.edcgov.us/Government/DOT/CEQA.aspx>

### *Fields-4*

The Initial Study discloses the potential aesthetic impacts to viewers (adjacent property owners and drivers) in the immediate project area. The project minimizes the visual impact by minimizing the tree removal in the project area to the greatest extent feasible. The anticipated tree removals are documented on Figure 5, Sheets 1 – 6 of the Natural Environment Study. The trees anticipated to be removed and preserved are individually numbered on that figure.

The attached "Tree Removal Map by Species" shows, on a single map, the anticipated tree removal information that was shown on the six sheets of Figure 5. The attached map labels the tree species. The map shows that mature trees will remain between the road and the house from the driveway down to the creek. The retained mature trees will continue to provide a visual screen between the road and the house, back deck, lawn, and fish pond. Most of the trees to be removed are located on the south side of Weber Creek.

The project further identifies mitigation measures, including revegetation and an aesthetic treatment of the retaining walls, to reduce the aesthetic impacts. These measures reduce the aesthetic impacts to less than significant.

### *Fields-5*

All native trees in the riparian forest are counted as riparian trees. The number of riparian trees listed as removed on page 31 of the MND is an error. Forty (40) riparian trees will be removed. The potential diversion/dewatering of Weber Creek will not result in the additional removal of trees.

### *Fields-6*

Forty (40) riparian trees will be replaced at a 2:1 ratio; eighty (80) trees will be replanted. Two replacement trees will be Northern California black walnut. Forty-eight replacement trees will be Oregon ash. Twenty-eight replacement trees will be white alder and two willows will be planted. At least 30 additional willows and white alders have been proposed to be planted as pole cuttings in areas of rock slope protection area along Weber Creek and under the new bridge. A minimum of ten (10) canyon live



oaks will be planted in the uplands that have been disturbed by grading. Therefore, a minimum of 120 trees will be replanted. The overall planting ratio is 3:1. The success criterion for the replacement trees is 60 percent, or seventy-two (72) trees survive for five years. The project may experience a higher rate of success and natural recruitment may increase the number of trees.

Trees that are planted inside the rock slope protection areas will be canes. The majority of the trees are not planted in RSP. These trees will be container grown stock of at least one-gallon size. Please see the attached Appendix G, Conceptual Planting Plan from the Biological Assessment.

### *Fields-7a*

The County determined that 5” diameter at breast height (dbh) is an appropriate size for evaluation. The County has the discretion to use other sizes for evaluations and does so. General Plan Policy 7.4.5.2 considers single trunk trees that are 6” dbh or greater or multi-trunk aggregate of at least 10” dbh. County Ordinance 16.68.060 requires the mapping of trees that are 20” dbh or larger. The County uses canopy, rather than diameter size, for the purposes of implementing the County Ordinance, Chapter 17.73, entitled “Oak Woodland Conservation”. For this project, trees 5” dbh and greater were included.

### *Fields-7b*

The Board of Supervisors adopted the Oak Woodland Management Plan (OWMP) in May 2006. The OWMP has a County-wide, overall land acquisition mitigation fee program to preserve, conserve, and create oak woodlands. In this manner, safety projects are mitigated in the long term on a County-wide basis. The OWMP governs the conservation of native oaks as a biological resource. The OWMP says:

Public Road and Public Utility Projects Exempt from Policy 7.4.4.4 – Oak canopy removal necessary to complete County capital improvement projects are exempt from the canopy retention and replacement standards, when the new alignment is dependent on the existing alignment. This exemption applies to road widening and realignments which are necessary to increase capacity, to protect the public’s health, and to improve the safe movement of people and goods in existing public road rights-of-way, as well as acquired rights-of-way necessary to complete the project. This exemption shall also apply to removal of oak canopy necessary to comply with the safety regulations of the Public Utilities Commission and necessary to maintain a safe operation of utility facilities. The County shall minimize, where feasible, the impacts to oaks through the design process and right-of-way acquisition for such projects.

The County Ordinance, Chapter 17.73, entitled “Oak Woodland Conservation”, includes the following exemption at 17.73.030:

C. Public Road and Public Utility Projects – Oak canopy removal necessary to complete County capital improvement projects when the new alignment is dependent on the existing alignment. This exemption applies to road widening and realignments which are necessary to increase capacity, to protect the public’s health, and to improve the safe movement of people and goods in existing public road rights-of-way, as well as acquired rights-of-way necessary to complete the project. This exemption shall also apply to removal of oak canopy necessary to comply with the safety regulations of the Public Utilities Commission and necessary to maintain a safe operation of utility facilities. The Director of Transportation shall have the authority to make the determination when an existing alignment restricts alternatives that would otherwise avoid oak canopy loss.

Due to the narrow, existing alignment, there is no alternative that would otherwise avoid oak canopy loss. There is limited room to replace the trees on the project site. The County has minimized the impacts to oaks to the extent feasible during the design process.

#### *Fields-8*

The Initial Study identifies replacement through mitigation for White Alder-Oregon Ash Riparian Forest. Page MND-35 says: "Implementation of BIO-1 will reduce potential impacts to white alder-Oregon ash riparian forest in the project area to a level of less than significant."

#### *Fields-9*

This comment correctly summarizes the discussion as to why the project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

#### *Fields-10.a.*

The noise study used employed the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) Traffic Noise Model (TNM), Version 2.5, for the prediction of existing and future traffic noise levels. The model is based upon reference noise emission factors for automobiles, medium trucks, and heavy trucks, with consideration given to traffic volume, vehicle speed, roadway configuration, distance to the receiver, and the acoustical characteristics of the site.

#### *Fields-10.b.*

Noise measurements were collected on two different days. The first noise measurement included a short-term (15 minute sample) and a long-term (24-hr sample). Measurements were taken from adjacent to the road. The second time in February 2009, Mr. Buntin, from Brown-Buntin Associates (BBA), took short-term measurements on your property at the main (upper) level of the house and at the ground floor level below the deck. Ms. Duchscherer with El Dorado County contacted you both times and attended the meeting with you on your property.

#### *Fields-10.c.*

Short-term traffic noise level measurements were conducted for 15 minutes at three locations along Green Valley Road on March 7, 2008, and February 27, 2009. To quantify overall ambient noise levels, BBA performed a continuous noise measurement over a 47-hour period on March 7, 2008 from 12 p.m. to March 9, 2008 at 8:30 a.m., at the north edge of the driveway at 7280 Lode Road. The purpose of the noise measurements was to determine the accuracy of the TNM in predicting traffic noise at the project site.

#### *Fields-10.d.*

Exterior noise measurements were taken adjacent to the southwest corner of the house by the deck at the first floor (the ground level or lower level) and at the easternmost corner of the house at the main floor (the upper level). The project retains mature trees between the road and the house. The Initial Study explains that traffic noise levels at elevated receivers may be 2 to 3 dB higher than at ground level. Mitigation is identified to reduce project noise impacts to less than significant.

#### *Fields-10.e.*

The USDOT TNM does not require interior measurements. Interior measurements can be adequately modeled with the software.

*Fields-10.f.*

The noise consultants observed the dual pane windows and concluded that, due to their age and design, were unlikely to be acoustically-rated dual pane windows.

Mitigation Measure NOISE-1 identifies two options that reduce the noise impacts to less than significant. The first option is the use of alternative pavement materials and the replacement of the main (upper) floor windows facing Green Valley Road with acoustically rated, dual pane windows. The second option is to construct a noise barrier ad that is at least 6-feet high around the backyard deck and replace the all (upper and lower) floor windows facing Green Valley with acoustically rated, dual pane windows. Either option can be chosen.

A noise barrier would need to be constructed at the southeast and southwest facing sides of the deck. The house is on the northeast side of the deck. There is no need to construct a barrier on the northwest or northeast sides of the deck. The required barrier height would need to be 6 feet above the deck. The barrier height would be measured from the deck floor, not from the ground, as the deck is elevated.

The barrier would block line of sight to the majority of the roadway. Suitable materials for such a barrier would include 2-inch (nominal) thickness wood, a 4-inch thick wood stud wall with wood paneling or stucco on both sides, or clear acrylic or laminated glass panels. The use of clear panels, either for the entire barrier or the upper half of the barrier, would block the noise transmission while allowing views of the yard.

*Fields-10.g.*

The Initial Study considers the deck to be the primary outdoor activity area.

*Fields-11.1.*

The project includes the acquisition of rights- of- way along Weber Creek. The project does not reduce public access for gold panning. The project does not deplete a mineral resource.

*Fields-11.2.*

The project includes the acquisition of rights- of- way along Weber Creek. The project does not reduce public access for fishing. The project does not affect recreational fishing.

*Fields-11.3.*

The Initial Study identifies potential aesthetic impacts and provides mitigation for the impact. CEQA addresses a project's effects of the physical environment. Economic issues, such as the determination of fair market value, are not under the purview of CEQA.

Comment Letter: Marianos, Stephen.

*(Follows Response)*

Response: Marianos, Stephen.

*Marianos-1*

The project will construct driveway improvements along Green Valley Road, including 7288 Green Valley Road and 5545 Old Green Valley Road. The driveway improvements do not create prescriptive easements for public use or parking on your driveway.

Stephen Marianos  
7288 Green Valley Road  
Placerville, CA 95667

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2011 SEP -7 AM 11:26

September 4, 2011

Janet Postlewait, Principal Planner  
El Dorado County Department of Transportation  
2850 Fairlane Court  
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Ms. Postlewait:

I own two adjoining parcels of land at 7288 Green Valley Road and 5545 Old Green Valley Road, which will be impacted by the Weber Creek Bridge replacement project. I fear the impacts will be negative but I am not writing to object to the project. The bridge is clearly unsafe and not designed to handle the volume of traffic that it sees today. I am writing to you to express a concern I have about increased traffic onto my property as a result of the project. Over sixty years ago El Dorado county abandoned a short section of Green Valley Road which formed an awkward loop which they bypassed, I assume, to straighten out the road and eliminate a sharp turn right after crossing the bridge. The abandoned section appears on the county maps as "Old Green Valley Road" (abandoned) and runs through my two parcels. By the time I moved into my house in 1979, Old Green Valley Road had pretty much eroded away, forming a dirt road with chuck holes in it, leading back to my neighbor's house at 5545 Old Green Valley Road. About 20 years ago I gave him permission to pave the road. Today it appears as a single lane driveway leading back to the house. The house was built in 1949 at a time after the road had been abandoned as Old Green Valley Road runs right smack dab in front of the garage and house which would be a very dangerous situation if the road were in use. The paved area stops right in front of the house and there is no remaining evidence of Old Green Valley Road continuing up to the present Green Valley Road. The road is just dirt and I have to weed whack it every year for fire safety. Occasionally some curious motorist will drive up the driveway and then turn around when they see the house and no more road. So, the old abandoned road hasn't been a problem in the past. My concern is that this will change with construction of the new bridge.

In 2008 Dwight Anderson, an Associate Civil Engineer with D.O.T., sent me a copy of the conceptual map of the proposed project. The map shows a two pronged off ramp with one ramp leading to my current driveway and a second ramp extending up Old Green Valley Road leading to the house which I bought in 2004. My concern is that the public will see the creek and what looks like a county road and come driving onto my property to see where it goes. I consulted a real estate attorney, Mr. David Johnson of Cameron Park, to look at my property documents regarding the easement on Old Green Valley Road and he said it was not clear to him that any "general public easement" existed permitting people to come onto the abandoned section of Old Green Valley Road other than for the property owner to get to their house. I have an elderly tenant living in the house who drives a lot and backs out of her garage right onto the old road. The paved section is just a single lane which would be unsafe for any serious traffic. I understand that fire, police, PG&E etc have a need to have access to Old Green Valley Road and that has never been a problem. So, that is my concern and I hope that you can work with me on this. If I could put an unlocked gate at some point beyond the off ramp so people would see that this wasn't a public road or perhaps signage to discourage people from driving onto my property. Mr. Johnson advised me to contact you as he thought that you may have already

considered this situation. My property is just a couple miles from your county office and I would encourage you to drive down and right before you get to the bridge, turn left onto the paved driveway and on up to the house where there is plenty of room to turn around. I want to cooperate with the county in any way I can as I know this project is for the common good of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Marianos".

Steve Marianos

(530) 621-4064

email dracoblanco@comcast.net

Comment Letter: CVRWQCB.  
(Follows Response)

Response: CVRWQCB.

*RWQCB*

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



**California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region  
Katherine Hart, Chair**



**Matthew Rodriguez**  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114  
(916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

**Edmund G. Brown Jr.**  
Governor

15 August 2011

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

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**COMMENTS TO DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, GREEN VALLEY ROAD BRIDGE (25C-008) AT WEBER CREEK REPLACEMENT PROJECT, SCH NO. 2011072048, EL DORADO COUNTY**

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 21 July 2011 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration* for the Green Valley Road Bridge (25C-088) at Weber Creek Replacement 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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml)



### **Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits<sup>1</sup>**

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/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/)

### **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](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 for 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.

### **Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification**

If an USACOE permit, or any other federal permit, 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. Water Quality Certification must be obtained prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**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/water\\_issues/water\\_quality\\_certification/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/water_quality_certification/)

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4745 or [gsparks@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gsparks@waterboards.ca.gov).



Genevieve (Gen) Sparks  
Environmental Scientist  
401 Water Quality Certification Program

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

Comment Letter: USACOE.  
*(Follows Response)*

Response: USACOE.

*USACOE*

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



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
1325 J STREET  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

August 24, 2011

2011 AUG 31 AM 11:59  
RECEIVED  
DOT

Regulatory Division SPK-2011-00804

Ms. Janet Postlewait  
El Dorado County Department of Transportation  
2850 Fairlane Court  
Placerville, California 95667

Dear Ms. Postlewait:

We are responding to your July 20, 2011, request for comments on the Green Valley Road Bridge at Weber Creek Replacement Project. The project is located on Section 14, Township 10 North, Range 10 East, Mount Diablo Meridian, Latitude 38.7223666939877°, Longitude -120.845326102748°, Placerville, El Dorado County, California. Your identification number is SPK-2011-00804.

The Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction within the study area is under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. Waters of the United States include, but are not limited to, rivers, perennial or intermittent streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, marshes, wet meadows, and seeps. Project features that result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will require Department of the Army authorization prior to starting work.

To ascertain the extent of waters on the project site, the applicant should prepare a wetland delineation, in accordance with the "Minimum Standards for Acceptance of Preliminary Wetland Delineations", under "Jurisdiction" on our website at the address below, and submit it to this office for verification. A list of consultants that prepare wetland delineations and permit application documents is also available on our website at the same location.

The range of alternatives considered for this project should include alternatives that avoid impacts to wetlands or other waters of the United States. Every effort should be made to avoid project features which require the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States. In the event it can be clearly demonstrated there are no practicable alternatives to filling waters of the United States, mitigation plans should be developed to compensate for the unavoidable losses resulting from project implementation.

Please refer to identification number SPK-2011-00804 in any correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Peck Ha at our California North Branch Office, Regulatory Division, Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 650 Capitol Mall, Suite 5-200, Sacramento, California 95814, email [Peck.Ha@usace.army.mil](mailto:Peck.Ha@usace.army.mil), or telephone 916-557-6617. For more information regarding our program, please visit our website at [www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/regulatory.html).

Sincerely,

Nancy Arcady Haley  
Chief, California North Branch

Comment Letter: State Clearinghouse.  
(*Follows Response*)

Response: State Clearinghouse.

*State Clearinghouse*

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



Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse and Planning Unit



Ken Alex  
Director

August 23, 2011

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

Subject: Green Valley Road Bridge (25C-088) at Weber Creek Replacement Project  
SCH#: 2011072048

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 August 22, 2011, 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

RECEIVED  
DOT  
2011 AUG 29 AM 10:14

**Document Details Report  
State Clearinghouse Data Base**

**SCH#** 2011072048  
**Project Title** Green Valley Road Bridge (25C-088) at Weber Creek Replacement Project  
**Lead Agency** El Dorado County

---

**Type** **MND** Mitigated Negative Declaration

**Description** This project is a 20-foot-wide, two-lane, concrete "T" beam structure. Green Valley Road is one of three east-west arterials in the West Slope area of El Dorado County, extending from the County line in El Dorado Hills to Placerville. The existing bridge, constructed in 1926, has been identified by Caltrans as structurally deficient (sufficiency rating of 22.5). The existing bridge also does not meet current standards of roadway width. The bridge must be replaced because it cannot be rehabilitated. Associated improvements for the approaches and bridge include an improved horizontal alignment with a larger radius curve, improved vertical alignment, wider lanes and shoulder, and retaining walls. The new bridge will be located to the west of the existing bridge, which will be removed after the new bridge is constructed.

---

**Lead Agency Contact**

**Name** Janet Postlewait  
**Agency** El Dorado County  
**Phone** 530 621 5900 **Fax**  
**email**  
**Address** 2850 Fairlane Court  
**City** Placerville **State** CA **Zip** 95667

---

**Project Location**

**County** El Dorado  
**City** Placerville  
**Region**  
**Lat / Long** 38.7° N / 120° W  
**Cross Streets** two tenths mile east of Green Valley and El Dorado Roads  
**Parcel No.**  
**Township** 10N **Range** 10E **Section** 14 **Base** MDB&M

---

**Proximity to:**

**Highways** U.S. 50  
**Airports**  
**Railways**  
**Waterways** Weber Creek  
**Schools** Indian Creek ES  
**Land Use** Road project - bridge replacement - surrounding land use is medium density residential

---

**Project Issues** Aesthetic/Visual; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Biological Resources; Drainage/Absorption; Noise; Public Services; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Wetland/Riparian

---

**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Department of Fish and Game, Region 2; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Caltrans, Division of Aeronautics; California Highway Patrol; Caltrans, District 3; Air Resources Board, Transportation Projects; Regional Water Quality Control Bd., Region 5 (Sacramento); Native American Heritage Commission

---

**Date Received** 07/21/2011 **Start of Review** 07/22/2011 **End of Review** 08/22/2011

---



California Regional Water Quality Control Board  
Central Valley Region  
Katherine Hart, Chair



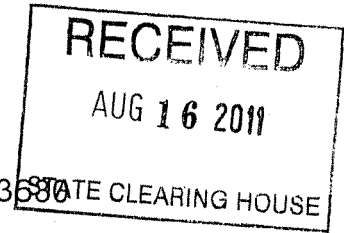
Matthew Rodriguez  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

11020 Sun Center Drive, #200, Rancho Cordova, California 95670-6114  
(916) 464-3291 • FAX (916) 464-4645  
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley>

Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

15 August 2011

clear  
8/22/2011  
e



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

CERTIFIED MAIL  
7010 3090 0001 4843 3637

**COMMENTS TO DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, GREEN VALLEY ROAD BRIDGE (25C-008) AT WEBER CREEK REPLACEMENT PROJECT, SCH NO. 2011072048, EL DORADO COUNTY**

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 21 July 2011 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration* for the Green Valley Road Bridge (25C-088) at Weber Creek Replacement 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](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml)



Green Valley Road Bridge (25C-088) at  
Weber Creek Replacement Project  
SCH No. 2011072048  
El Dorado County

### **Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits<sup>1</sup>**

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/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/)

### **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](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 for 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.

### **Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification**

If an USACOE permit, or any other federal permit, 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. Water Quality Certification must be obtained prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

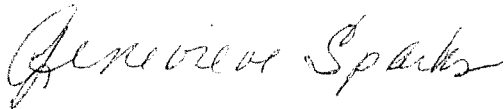
**Waste Discharge Requirements**

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:

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If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4745 or [gsparks@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:gsparks@waterboards.ca.gov).



Genevieve (Gen) Sparks  
Environmental Scientist  
401 Water Quality Certification Program

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

## Figures References in Responses

*NATURAL ENVIRONMENT STUDY, FIGURE 4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES MAP*






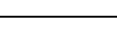
*TREE REMOVAL MAP BY SPECIES*

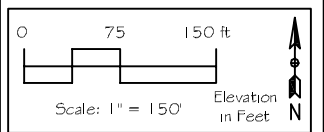
*APPENDIX G. CONCEPTUAL PLANTING PLAN*

*NOISE-1 MAP*

Green Valley Road Bridge (25C-0088) at Weber Creek Replacement Project El Dorado County, CA 3 September 2010

Figure 4. Biological Resources Map

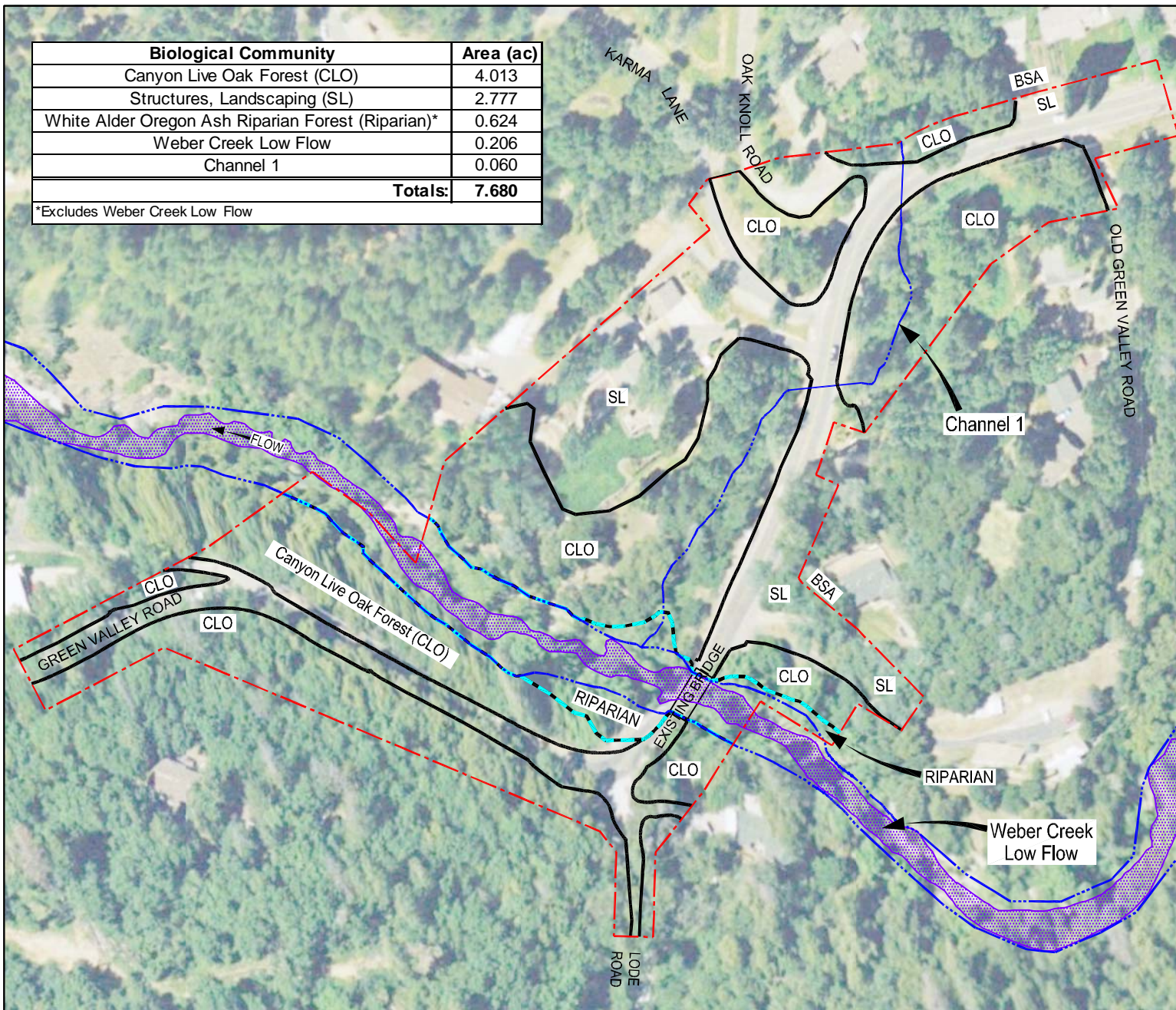
-  = Biological Study Area (BSA)
-  = Biological Community Boundary
-  = Riparian Corridor
-  = Channel 1
-  = Weber Creek (OHWM)
-  = Weber Creek Low Flow

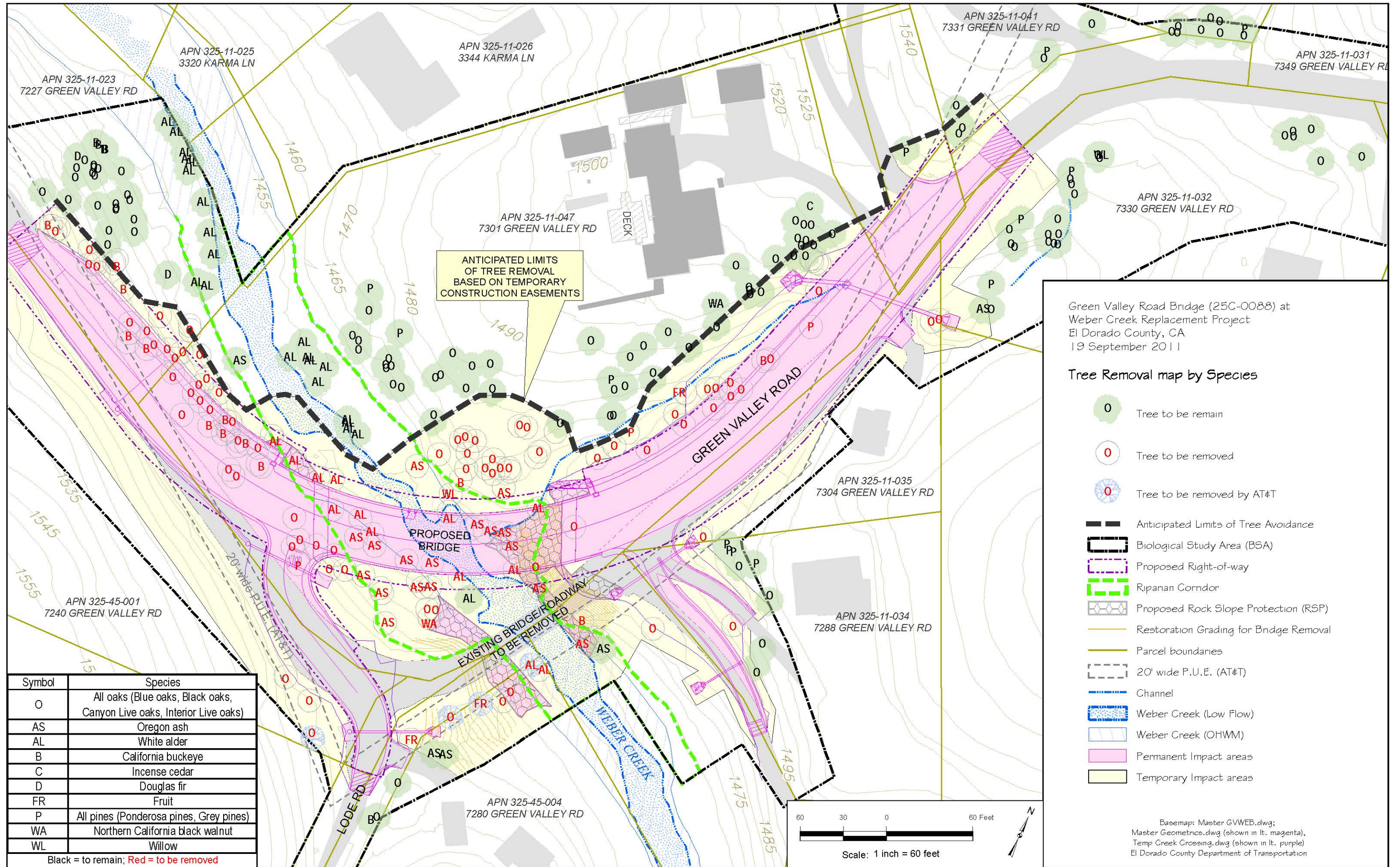


Basemap: Study ROW.dwg, Property Net.dwg, Master GVWEB.dwg; El Dorado County Department of Transportation  
 Aerial: 1 May 2006 Image, Copyright 2008. DigitalGlobe, Inc. All rights reserved.

Biological Community	Area (ac)
Canyon Live Oak Forest (CLO)	4.013
Structures, Landscaping (SL)	2.777
White Alder Oregon Ash Riparian Forest (Riparian)*	0.624
Weber Creek Low Flow	0.206
Channel 1	0.060
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>7.680</b>

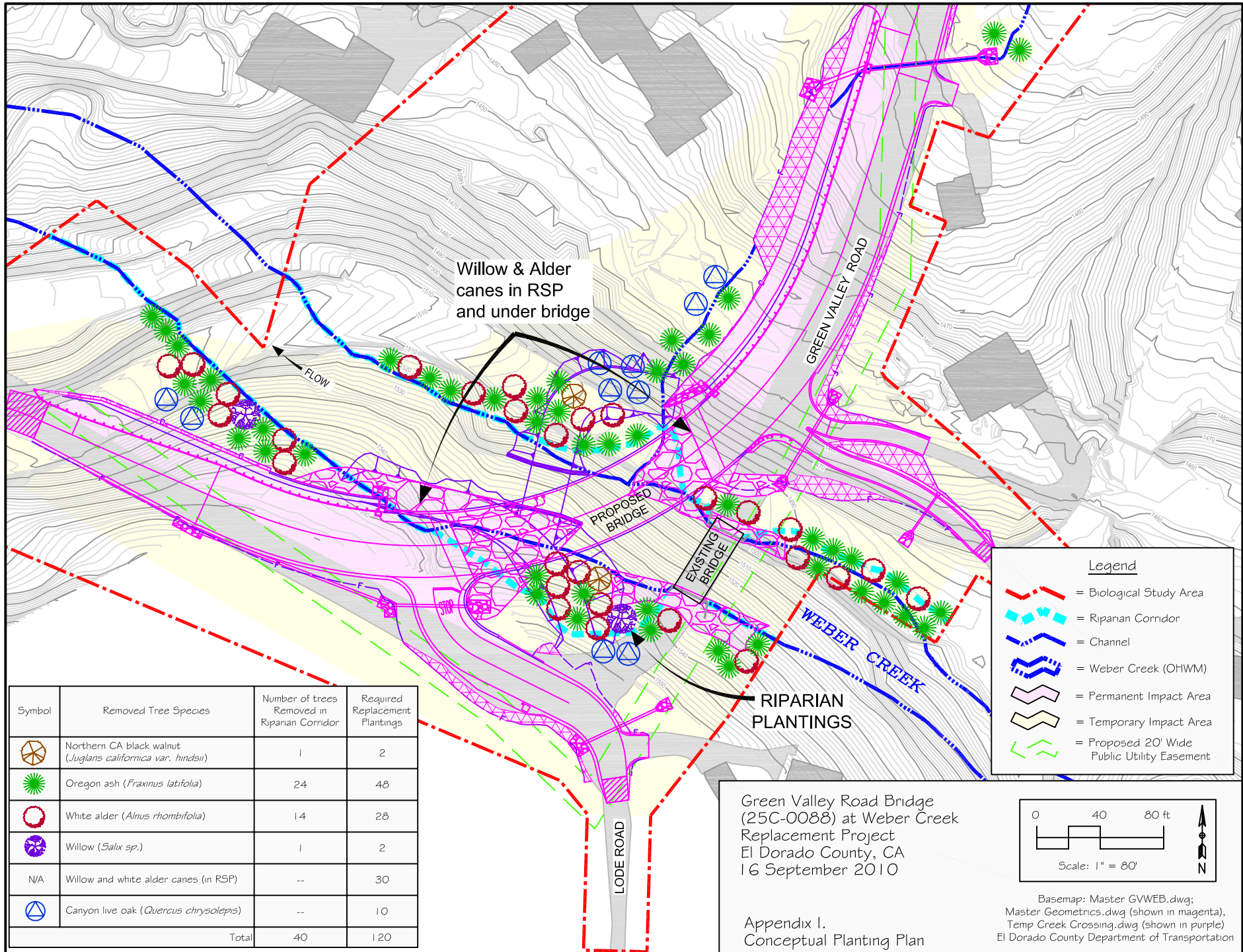
\*Excludes Weber Creek Low Flow





Symbol	Species
○	All oaks (Blue oaks, Black oaks, Canyon Live oaks, Interior Live oaks)
AS	Oregon ash
AL	White alder
B	California buckeye
C	Incense cedar
D	Douglas fir
FR	Fruit
P	All pines (Ponderosa pines, Grey pines)
WA	Northern California black walnut
WL	Willow

Black = to remain; Red = to be removed



Willow & Alder canes in RSP and under bridge

FLOW

GREEN VALLEY ROAD

WEBER CREEK

PROPOSED BRIDGE

EXISTING BRIDGE

RIPARIAN PLANTINGS

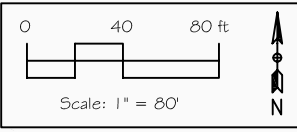
LODE ROAD

**Legend**

- = Biological Study Area
- = Riparian Corridor
- = Channel
- = Weber Creek (OHWM)
- = Permanent Impact Area
- = Temporary Impact Area
- = Proposed 20' Wide Public Utility Easement

Symbol	Removed Tree Species	Number of trees Removed in Riparian Corridor	Required Replacement Plantings
	Northern CA black walnut ( <i>Juglans californica</i> var. <i>hindsii</i> )	1	2
	Oregon ash ( <i>Fraxinus latifolia</i> )	24	48
	White alder ( <i>Alnus rhombifolia</i> )	14	28
	Willow ( <i>Salix</i> sp.)	1	2
N/A	Willow and white alder canes (in RSP)	--	30
	Canyon live oak ( <i>Quercus chrysolepis</i> )	--	10
Total		40	120





Green Valley Road Bridge  
 (25C-0088) at Weber Creek  
 Replacement Project  
 El Dorado County, CA  
 16 September 2010

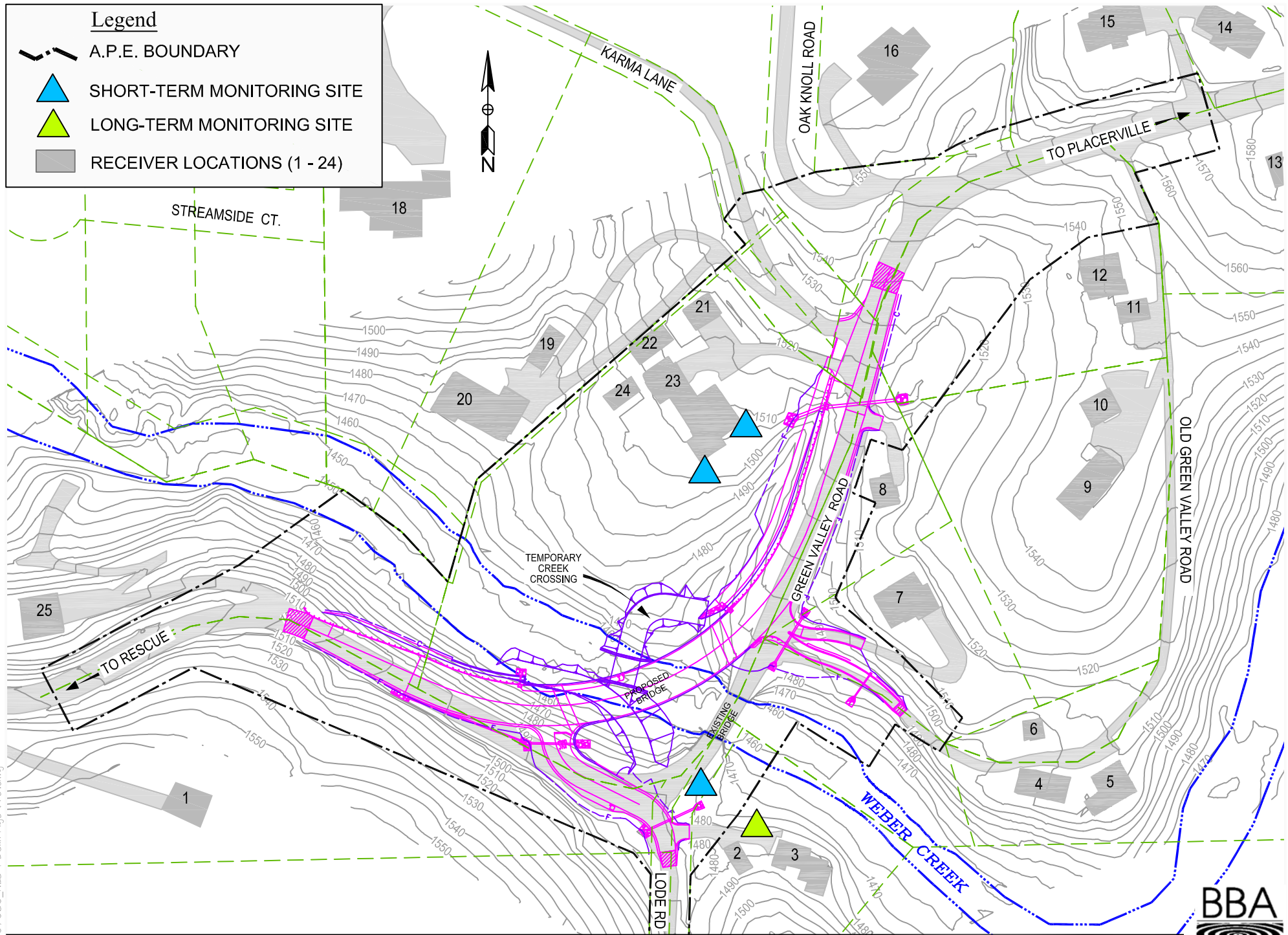


Appendix I.  
 Conceptual Planting Plan

Basemap: Master GVWEB.dwg;  
 Master Geometrics.dwg (shown in magenta),  
 Temp Creek Crossing.dwg (shown in purple)  
 El Dorado County Department of Transportation

**Legend**

-  A.P.E. BOUNDARY
-  SHORT-TERM MONITORING SITE
-  LONG-TERM MONITORING SITE
-  RECEIVER LOCATIONS (1 - 24)



07030\_NES & Delim Figs-v.19.dwg

Basemap: Master GVWEB.dwg;  
 Master Geometrics.dwg (shown in magenta), Temp  
 Creek Crossing.dwg (shown in purple)  
 El Dorado County Department of Transportation

Figure 4. Project Vicinity and Noise Measurement Sites

