

**ERRATA SHEET FOR THE
Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Blair Road at EID Canal — Bridge
Replacement (Bridge No. 25c0077) (CIP #77119)**

CEQA REQUIREMENTS

State CEQA Guidelines §15073.5(a) requires that a lead agency re-circulate a negative declaration “when the document must be substantially revised.” A “substantial revision” includes: (1) identification of a new, avoidable significant effect requiring mitigation measures or project revisions and/or (2) determination that proposed mitigation measures or project revisions will not reduce potential effects to less than significance and new measures or revisions must be required. Recirculation is not required when new information is added to the negative declaration which merely clarifies, amplifies, or makes insignificant modifications to the negative declaration.

In response to the concerns set forth by the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), the following minor text changes are made to the Initial Study and incorporated as part of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration.

None of these changes substantially modify the analysis or conclusions of the document, but instead simply clarify aspects of the previously circulated document.

Changes to the text are noted with underline (for added text) or ~~strikeout~~ type (for deleted text).

2.6 Construction Schedule

The project is anticipated to be constructed within a single construction season (approximately between September 16 and the end of December). Blair Road would be closed within the limits of the project area **for approximately three months** during construction. During this period, traffic would be detoured to Forebay Road, an adjacent county road, for an approximately 5-mile detour.

EID is planning to implement the El Dorado Forebay Dam Modification Project (Forebay Project) beginning in summer of 2015 and ending in winter 2017. Construction of the Fore bay Project will require the use of Blair Road for equipment vehicle access and will be utilized as an alternative route for residents in the event of heavy construction traffic on Forebay Road during particular phases of the Forebay Project.

The County will communicate and coordinate closely with EID to ensure no conflicts will occur during construction of these projects.

2.7 Related Project

2.7.1 El Dorado Irrigation District Main Ditch Piping

EID is planning to pipe the EID 3-mile-long Main Canal located in El Dorado County near the communities of Pollock Pines and Camino, including the portion of the canal that is crossed by Blair Road. EID is applying for federal funds for this project. ~~The purpose of this project would be to conserve and use water more efficiently by preventing seepage and evaporation losses~~

~~from the currently earthen, unlined ditch.~~ The purpose of implementing the Main Ditch Piping Project is not only to conserve water by preventing seepage and evaporation losses, but also to: (1) protect public health by protecting the raw water flowing through the open unlined ditch from sediment and impurities, and (2) reduce the resulting chemical treatment costs. At the Blair Road crossing, EID proposes to install a large diameter 36-inch to 42-inch pipe within the proposed culvert.

2.7.2 El Dorado Forebay Dam Modification Project (Forebay Project)

EID is planning to implement the El Dorado Forebay Dam Modification Project (Forebay Project) beginning in summer of 2015 and ending in winter 2017. The Forebay Project Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was certified by the EID Board of Directors on March 24, 2014. Construction of the Fore bay Project will require the use of Blair Road for equipment vehicle access and will be utilized as an alternative route for residents in the event of heavy construction traffic on Forebay Road during particular phases of the Forebay Project. Construction times may overlap. The County will coordinate and cooperate closely with EID to ensure no conflicts will occur during construction of these projects.

The following changes are made under **Environmental Setting, Biological Conditions in the Study Area**, Page 3-14

Canal

The EID canal is a water of the state and, therefore, considered a natural community of special concern for the purpose of biological analysis. Natural communities of concern are generally regulated by agencies and are considered sensitive because of their high species diversity, high productivity, unusual nature, limited distribution, or declining status.

A total of approximately 0.07 acre of the EID canal crosses the study area. The canal bisects the study area and is approximately 10 feet wide at the bridge. It had 3-6 inches of standing water at the time of the December field survey. The canal has a soil bottom with steep/vertical banks with sparse grasses, forbs, and small patches of blackberry. The canal contains no emergent vegetation but had small amounts of floating and submerged dead vegetation and debris. The canal waters flow from the EID Forebay located upstream to a water treatment facility downstream. Generally the canal contains flowing water at an average rate of 12–15 cubic feet per second (cfs) and up to 40 cfs, but the flow is stopped for approximately two and half months during October to December.

A 3-mile long section of the EID canal (the main ditch) was delineated by EN2 Resources, Inc. on October 2 and 7, 2012. The delineation was conducted in the study area, as well as in the upstream section to the EID Forebay and downstream for approximately 0.5 mile. The USACE conducted a field visit of the delineation area on January 30, 2013 and preliminarily concluded that the canal is non-jurisdictional because it does not return flows to a water of the U.S. Although the canal is not a water of the United States, it is a water of the state, regulated by the RWQCB under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act. ~~Because this section of the canal carries water and is regulated by the state, it is considered a natural community of concern.~~ However, the canal does not meet the definition of a river, stream or lake that is subject to regulation under Section 1600 of the Fish and Game Code.

Wildlife use of canals is dependent on several factors including the extent of vegetation within and along the canal, whether or not the canal is concrete lined, the period of time that water remains within the canal, and the velocity of flow. Concrete-lined canals or those with high flow velocities typically have low value for wildlife, although large ditches/canals with slower flows can be used by waterfowl. Canals with vegetation within and along the banks and adequate duration of water can provide food, water, cover, and dispersal corridors for various wildlife species, such as Sierran treefrog (*Pseudacris sierra*), California newt (*Taricha torosa*), great egret (*Ardea alba*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*).