

County File Number: ED10-141 (300397)

SCH Number: _____

**COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
LA PANZA ROAD WIDENING PROJECT
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
SUBSEQUENT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION & INITIAL STUDY**

Abstract

The Project is a proposal by the County Department of Public Works to construct improvements to La Panza Road between Ryan Road and Hord Valley Road including: widen La Panza Road from two 12-foot travel lanes to two 12-foot travel lanes with 4-foot paved shoulders, improve horizontal alignment of the two curves located at either end of the Project limits, replace existing culverts, and flatten side slopes on the west side of the road. The Project also includes reconstructing a jurisdictional roadside drainage ditch. The Project's goal is to improve safety by decreasing collision rates along La Panza Road. Most of the work will be conducted within the County right of way; however, 12 adjacent parcels will be subject to disturbance. The Project is anticipated to permanently impact 0.84 acre (new pavement and shoulders) and temporarily impact 4.26 acres, totaling 5.1 acres of total disturbance. The proposed project is within the Agriculture land use category in the El Pomar/Estrella planning area, Fifth Supervisorial district. Comments on this document should be sent to Katie Drexhage, County Department of Public Works, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

Katie Drexhage, Environmental Programs Division
or
Michael Britton, Project Manager
County Department of Public Works
County Government Center, Room 207
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 788-2318

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration has been issued by:

Nov. 21, 2011
Date

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

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

11/15/2011
Date

Paavo Ogren
Paavo Ogren, Director of Public Works
County of San Luis Obispo



Initial Study Summary – Environmental Checklist

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING
976 OSOS STREET • ROOM 200 • SAN LUIS OBISPO • CALIFORNIA 93408 • (805) 781-5600

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Project Title & No. Public Works - La Panza Road Widening Project **ED10-141 300397**

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The proposed project could have a "Potentially Significant Impact" for at least one of the environmental factors checked below. Please refer to the attached pages for discussion on mitigation measures or project revisions to either reduce these impacts to less than significant levels or require further study.

<input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Hazards/Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Circulation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the Environmental Coordinator finds that:

- The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Katie Drexhage		11/17/11
Prepared by (Print)	Signature	Date
Steven McMasters		11/17/11
Reviewed by (Print)	Signature	Date
	Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator (for)	

Project Environmental Analysis

The County's environmental review process incorporates all of the requirements for completing the Initial Study as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The Initial Study includes staff's on-site inspection of the project site and surroundings and a detailed review of the information in the file for the project. In addition, available background information is reviewed for each project. Relevant information regarding soil types and characteristics, geologic information, significant vegetation and/or wildlife resources, water availability, wastewater disposal services, existing land uses and surrounding land use categories and other information relevant to the environmental review process are evaluated for each project. Exhibit A includes the references used, as well as the agencies or groups that were contacted as a part of the Initial Study. The Environmental Division uses the checklist to summarize the results of the research accomplished during the initial environmental review of the project.

Persons, agencies or organizations interested in obtaining more information regarding the environmental review process for a project should contact the County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Division, Rm. 200, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408-2040 or call (805) 781-5600.

A. PROJECT

DESCRIPTION: Request by the County of San Luis Obispo Public Works Department to construct improvements to La Panza Road between Ryan Road and Hord Valley Road including: widen La Panza Road from two 12-foot travel lanes to two 12-foot travel lanes with 4-foot paved shoulders, improve horizontal alignment of the two curves located at either end of the Project limits, replace existing culverts, and flatten side slopes on the west side of the road. The Project's goal is to improve safety by decreasing collision rates along La Panza Road. Most of the work will be conducted within the County right of way; however, adjacent parcels listed below will be subject to disturbance. The Project is anticipated to permanently impact 0.84 acre (new pavement and shoulders) and temporarily impact 4.26 acres, totaling 5.1 acres of total disturbance. The Project is located on an approximate 1.4 mile stretch of La Panza Road between Ryan Road and Hord Valley Road, approximately 1.8 miles south of State Route 41 to 6.6 miles north of State Route 58, east of the community of Creston (refer to attached map).

La Panza Road is a two-lane rural highway located one mile northeast of Creston. The average daily traffic count is 1145 trips (2008) and the maximum speed limit is 55 miles per hour per the California Vehicle Code. The section of La Panza Road between Ryan Road and Hord Valley Road has 23 feet of existing pavement with a striped centerline. The existing curve radii at the north and south end of the Project limits is 600 feet. To improve road safety, the proposed Project will widen La Panza Road to two (2) 12-foot travel lanes with 4-foot paved shoulders. The primary collision concentration is on the two curves at the north and south end of the Project limits. The proposed Project will also improve the horizontal alignment of the two curves.

A 2-to-4-foot deep drainage channel runs adjacent to the southbound travel way. In some areas, the ditch is offset from the existing travel way by less than 6 inches with 1.5:1 or greater side slope. The ditch was initially constructed in 1960's by the County to keep storm water from running down the middle of the road. During large storm events, insufficient ditch and driveway culvert capacity continue to erode the channel. The existing condition and location of the roadside ditch requires remediation to achieve the Project's safety goal.

In addition to widening and curve realignment, the proposed Project will construct a 4:1 (adjacent to roadway) to 1.5:1 ditch with a 3-foot unpaved shoulder. With the reconstructed ditch, guardrail is not warranted and would be more severe than traversing the embankment. The ditch reconstruction will increase the capacity of the channel and decrease the chance of storm water reaching the travel way. Approximately 14,700 cubic yards will be excavated as a result of roadway and ditch reconstruction

activities. ATTACHMENTS A1, A2, and A3 show the existing and proposed cross section as well as the two curve realignments. Approximately 8,400 cubic yards of material will be exported from the Project site.

Completion of the proposed Project will create a safer and more livable community. La Panza Road is currently a Class III Bike Route. Bike Route (D11-1) and Share the Road (W11-1 & W16-1) signage is currently installed. With the improvements bicycles will be able to use the 4-foot paved shoulder and 3-foot of shoulder will be available for pedestrians. Staging will occur at the southwest corner of the project site on private land that is a mixture of bare soil and non-native grassland. This site is currently used by residents as a turn-around and contains utility boxes and mail boxes. Materials and/or equipment will not block access to any residence or business. The staging area is approximately 1.02 acre in size.

Traffic will be maintained through the work area at all times during construction. When necessary, one-way traffic control with flagging will be provided. At all other times, two-way traffic shall be permitted. Access to private properties will also be permitted at all times. During construction, a minimum of one 12-foot wide lane with flagging shall be provided for public traffic. At all other times, a minimum of two 10-foot wide lanes which are reasonably smooth and satisfactory for public two-way traffic shall be provided and maintained by the Contractor irrespective of the state of construction. Construction is anticipated to take approximately 3 months.

Although the proposed Project is increasing the design speed for the two curves at the Project limits, the prevailing speed along the corridor is 55 miles per hour and the new curves will meet driver expectations. It is anticipate that the proposed Project will reduce the collision concentration and severity. The Project is anticipated to permanently impact 0.84 acre and temporarily impact 4.26 acres, adding up to 5.1 acres of total disturbance.

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER(S): 043-251-019, 043-251-013, 043-093-020, 043-251-010, 043-093-007, 043-243-006, 043-091-035, 043-091-036, 043-093-006, 043-091-037, 043-091-052, and 042-211-023.

Latitude: 35 degrees 30' 58" N Longitude: 120 degrees 29' 28" W SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT # 5

B. EXISTING SETTING

PLANNING AREA: El Pomar/Estrella, Rural

LAND USE CATEGORY: Agriculture , Residential Rural

COMBINING DESIGNATION(S): None

EXISTING USES: Agricultural uses (adjacent) residential (adjacent)

TOPOGRAPHY: Nearly level to gently sloping

VEGETATION: Grasses , vineyards

PARCEL SIZE: N/A; Project primarily within road right of way.

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

<i>North:</i> Agriculture; undeveloped	<i>East:</i> Agriculture; undeveloped
<i>South:</i> Agriculture; undeveloped	<i>West:</i> Residential Rural; agricultural uses

C. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

During the Initial Study process, several issues were identified as having potentially significant environmental effects (see following Initial Study). Those potentially significant items associated with the proposed uses can be minimized to less than significant levels.

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST**

1. AESTHETICS - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Create an aesthetically incompatible site open to public view?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Introduce a use within a scenic view open to public view?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Change the visual character of an area?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Create glare or night lighting, which may affect surrounding areas?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Impact unique geological or physical features?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) <i>Other: _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. The Project is located in the Huerhuero Valley and is surrounded by vineyards, open agricultural fields, and scattered residences. Vegetation within the Project area consists of vineyards, ruderal vegetation, and non-native grassland. The surrounding landscape is nearly level to gently sloping. Fifteen trees would be removed as a result of the Project, but will be replaced on a 3:1 basis. The Project is located along a public roadway, but no project feature would or silhouette against any ridgelines as viewed from public roadways. The Project is considered compatible with the surrounding uses.

Impact. The Project will take place within the County right-of-way and may slightly encroach on 12 adjacent properties (defined by Assessor Parcel Numbers). The improvements to the roadway will not significantly change the rural character of the surrounding area. No significant visual impacts are expected to occur.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts to aesthetics are anticipated, and no mitigation measures beyond tree replacement are necessary.

2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Convert prime agricultural land to non-agricultural use?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

- Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
b) <i>Impair agricultural use of other property or result in conversion to other uses?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Conflict with existing zoning or Williamson Act program?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Other:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Land Use Category: Agriculture, Rural Residential Historic/Existing Commercial Crops: Vineyards

State Classification: Prime Farmland if irrigated, Not Prime farmland In Agricultural Preserve? No

Under Williamson Act contract? Yes

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

Elder loam (0 - 5% slope). This nearly level to gently sloping soil is considered moderately drained.

The soil has moderate erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: slow percolation. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class I when irrigated.

Nacimiento-Los Osos complex (9 - 30 % slope).

Nacimiento. This moderately sloping, fine loamy soil is considered not well drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and moderate shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: steep slopes, shallow depth to bedrock, slow percolation. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class IV when irrigated.

Los Osos. This moderately sloping, fine loamy soil is considered not well drained. The soil has moderate erodibility and moderate shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: steep slopes, shallow depth to bedrock, slow percolation. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class IV when irrigated.

San Emigdio fine sandy loam (0 - 2% slope). This nearly level soil is considered moderately drained.

The soil has moderate erodibility and low shrink-swell characteristics, as well as having potential septic system constraints due to: no severe limitations identified. The soil is considered Class IV without irrigation and Class I when irrigated.

Impact. The Project area will impact 5.1 acres of farmland. This land is made up of bare soil or access roads adjacent to existing vineyards, non-native grassland, vineyards, and/or private driveways. Approximately 0.3 acre of the total 5.1 acres is in active agriculture (vineyard). The rest is non-native grassland that may be used for grazing purposes and access roads and/or private driveways. Delays in agricultural-related traffic are anticipated to be minimal due to the traffic plan which calls for one lane to remain open for traffic during Project construction.

This agricultural land is under Williamson Act contract and is subject to the Land Conservation Act (California Government Code § 51290). The Department of Conservation will be contacted and notified that this Project meets exemptions pursuant to the Land Conservation Act.

No significant impacts to prime agricultural soils are expected. Long term impacts to agricultural resources would be less than significant because disturbed areas would be revegetated and long-term operation of the drainage ditch and roadway would not affect current agricultural operations. Short term impacts to agriculture during construction could occur including potential impacts to surrounding crops related to project dust, and impacts to adjacent agriculture infrastructure. These impacts can be reduced or eliminated with the incorporation of mitigation.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Comments received from the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Agriculture (dated June 20, 2011) state that the Project would result in less than significant impacts to agricultural resources or operations with the incorporation of the following mitigation measures:

- [AG-1] Implement adequate dust control measures during the construction phase of the Project to preclude dust impacts to adjacent wine grape vineyards.
- [AG-2] Provide for infrastructure relocation as necessary.
- [AG-3] Prior to planned road closure or delays, the County should provide construction information to property owners and known agricultural leaseholders who utilize the road and associated access points.
- [AG-4] If acquisition of land under Williamson Act contract is required, public acquisition provisions of California Government Code Section 51290 *et. seq.* should be followed in order to ensure the integrity of the Land Conservation Act program.

3. AIR QUALITY - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Violate any state or federal ambient air quality standard, or exceed air quality emission thresholds as established by County Air Pollution Control District?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Expose any sensitive receptor to substantial air pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Create or subject individuals to objectionable odors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be inconsistent with the District's Clean Air Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has developed the [2009 CEQA Air Quality Handbook](#) to evaluate Project specific impacts and help determine if air quality mitigation measures are needed, or if potentially significant impacts could result. To evaluate long-term emissions, cumulative effects, and establish countywide programs to reach acceptable air quality levels, a Clean Air Plan has been adopted (prepared by APCD).

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The California Air Resources Board (CARB), the California Environmental Protection Agency, and other governmental agencies with jurisdiction are in the process of developing guidelines and thresholds to address a Project's cumulative contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG). Over the last few years, a series of related legislative acts have been made relating to this issue. There are seven greenhouse gases, as follows, and are in order of their global warming potential: Carbon dioxide, Methane, Nitrous oxide, Chlorofluorocarbons, Hydrofluorocarbons, Perfluorocarbons, and Sulfur hexafluoride.

Impact. As proposed, the Project will result in the disturbance of approximately 5.1 acres over a 3-month period. Implementation of the Project would not result in a long-term increase of traffic trips. The construction phase of the proposed Project will result in air emissions. These emissions are typically generated by construction related dust, the operation of construction equipment, and the production and transportation of construction materials such as asphalt and concrete. Standard specifications for all county road construction contracts require that "The Contractor shall comply with all air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances and statutes which apply to any work performed pursuant to the contract, including any air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances and statutes specified in Section 11017 of the Government Code. Unless otherwise provided in the special provisions, material to be disposed of shall not be burned, whether inside or outside the highway right-of-way." Implementation of the proposed Project would not generate air emissions exceeding thresholds requiring mitigation; however, because San Luis Obispo County is currently in non-attainment status for particulates (PM10) and ozone precursors (hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen), the APCD has developed a list of construction period air quality mitigation measures that are to be appropriately applied to all Projects through the environmental review process.

Construction Vehicle Emissions

The use of heavy-duty diesel vehicles would be required during the construction of the proposed Project. The CARB lists diesel exhaust as a toxic air contaminant, with no identified threshold below which no effects are expected. The release of emissions from vehicles during construction could result in potentially significant air quality impacts.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The Project's cumulative contribution to GHG emissions is limited to construction and is relatively very small and considered insignificant.

Implementation of the following standard mitigation measures would reduce air quality impacts to a less than significant level.

[AQ-1] During construction/ground disturbing activities, the contractor shall implement the following particulate (dust) control measures. These measures will be included in the contract special provisions. In addition, the contractor shall designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering, as necessary, to prevent transport of dust off site. Their duties shall include holiday and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD prior to commencement of construction.

- a. Reduce the amount of disturbed area where possible
- b. Prevent airborne dust from leaving the site.
- c. Control dust from all dirt stock pile areas.
- d. Implement revegetation (i.e., hydro seeding) as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities.
- e. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading shall be subject to dust control measures (watering, etc.) or shall be sown with a fast germinating native grass seed and watered until a temporary vegetative cover is established.

- f. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 23114.
- g. Ensure that trucks and equipment leaving the site do not carry soil material onto adjacent paved roads; clean adjacent paved roads at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried from the site onto those roads.

[AQ-2] During construction/ground disturbing activities, the contractor shall implement the following measures to reduce ozone precursor emissions. These measures will be included in the contract special provisions.

- a. Maintain all construction equipment in proper tune according to manufacturer's specifications.
- b. Fuel all off-road and portable diesel powered equipment, including but not limited to bulldozers, graders, cranes, loaders, scrapers, backhoes, generator sets, compressors, auxiliary power units, with ARB certified motor vehicle diesel fuel (non-taxed version suitable for use off-road).
- c. Maximize to the extent feasible, the use of diesel construction equipment meeting the ARB's 1996 or newer certification standard for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Result in a loss of unique or special status species or their habitats?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Reduce the extent, diversity or quality of native or other important vegetation?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Impact wetland or riparian habitat?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Introduce barriers to movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or factors, which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Other:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. The following are existing elements on or near the proposed Project relating to potential biological concerns:

On-site Vegetation: Ruderal/disturbed non-native grassland, scattered valley oaks, foothill pines, sycamores, and other planted/ornamental trees.

Name and distance from blue line creek(s): An unnamed "blue line" tributary to the Huerhuero Creek is approximately 350 feet east of the Project site.

The Project is located on La Panza Road in the Shedd Canyon USGS quadrangle. This area of San Luis Obispo County experiences arid climate. The Project site is surrounded by vineyards, open agricultural fields, and a few residences.

The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) was accessed for information on sensitive plant, invertebrate, and wildlife species known to occur in the action area and its vicinity (CNDDDB 2011). A search radius of the USGS Shedd Canyon Quadrangle and 8 surrounding quadrangles was used to create a list of sensitive species (federal or state listed, state species of concern, or CNPS 1.B.1, -2, or -3) with the potential to occur within or near the Project site. The habitat requirements of each species were considered and can be found in Appendix A.

The Project site was surveyed by County Public Works Environmental Resource Specialists in June of 2009, May of 2010, May of 2011, and July of 2011.

RESULTS

Typical grass species occurring within the Project site include wild oat (*Avena* sp.), various species of brome (*Bromus diandrus*, *Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*, *Bromus hordeaceus*), nodding needlegrass (*Nassella cernua*), and salt grass (*Distichlis spicata*). Typical forbs include purple owl's clover (*Castilleja exserta*), Jimson weed (*Datura wrightii*), turkey mullein (*Croton setigerus*), and vinegar weed (*Trichostema lanceolatum*). Non-native species include smallflower tamarisk (*Tamarix parviflora*), wild mustard (*Brassica* spp.), redstem filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), and burclover (*Medicago hispida*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), horseweed (*Conyza Canadensis*), and various chenopods including Russian thistle/tumbleweed (*Salsola tragus*).

Special Status Plant Species

The CNDDDB identified the following plant species potentially existing within approximately one mile of the proposed Project:

Chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*), Dwarf calycadenia (*Calycadenia villosa*), Moran's nosegay (*Navarretia fossalis*), San Bernardino aster (*Symphotrichum defoliatum*). None of these species were detected during floral surveys conducted during the blooming period.

Special Status Wildlife

Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*)

Occurrences of this species have been found 4.7 miles southeast and 10 miles west of the Project site. This species lives mostly underground, burrowing in loose sandy soil. They forage in loose soil, sand, and leaf litter during the day. It is unknown whether or not this species is present but it is possible that this species could inhabit the soils within the Project site.

Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*)

Vernal pool fairy shrimp have been found approximately 1 mile northwest of the Project site. Vernal pool fairy shrimp are federally threatened. This species is endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains, as well as found in rain-filled pools. The shrimp inhabits small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swales, earth slumps, or basalt-flow depression pools.

The Project site occurs within the Carrizo Vernal Pool Region, as designated by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Vernal pool habitat consists of seasonal wetlands (i.e. areas that pond water during the wet season and dry up during the summer months) that may provide habitat for sensitive aquatic plant and animal species. No vernal pool habitat was detected during field surveys within the Project site.

Western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*)

Western spadefoots have been found approximately 0.5 mile southwest of the Project site. Western spadefoots are a federal species of concern and a State species of Special Concern. The species occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools or stockpools are essential for breeding and egg-laying. No suitable habitat for this species was detected during field surveys.

San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*)

San Joaquin kit fox have been found approximately .45 mile northeast of the Project site. The San Joaquin kit fox is federally endangered and State threatened. The historic range of the San Joaquin kit fox included most of the San Joaquin Valley from San Joaquin County southward to southern Kern County (USFWS 1998). Currently, kit foxes occur in the remaining native valley and foothill grasslands and saltbush scrub communities of the valley floor and surrounding foothills from southern Kern County north to Merced County. Kit foxes use dens for protection, temperature regulation, and shelter from weather. They may dig their own dens, use those constructed by other animals, or use artificial structures (e.g. culverts, abandoned pipelines, or banks in sumps). Kit foxes often change dens and many dens may be used throughout the year. No potential habitat (i.e., burrows or dens) or kit foxes were detected during field surveys.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The Project will permanently impact a drainage that falls within the Army Corps of Engineer's (Corps) jurisdiction; therefore, authorization from the Corps is required. Impacts to this drainage may also require permits or agreements from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Fish and Game. Prior to commencement of work, permits from these agencies must be secured.

Impact. The Project will permanently impact a drainage that is considered jurisdictional by the Corps. Based on environmental surveys, it has been determined that the Project site does not support any sensitive native vegetation, significant wildlife habitats, or special status species. The Project is not located near vernal pools, will not result in changes to the hydrology of pools, and will not affect upland habitat of vernal pool areas.

Based on the location of the Project site, the proposed Project would permanently impact an area considered to be habitat for San Joaquin kit fox habitat. To mitigate for project impacts within this area, an agreement between the County Planning and Building Department and CDFG has been established. Within the project area, the County/CDFG has determined that projects would be required to compensate for impacts at a standard mitigation ratio of 1:1 (Sanderson, B. pers. communication, 5/31/11). Because the Project will result in the permanent disturbance of 0.84 acre of kit fox habitat, the County would therefore be required to compensate for a total acreage of 0.84 acre.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The following mitigation measures will reduce the identified biological impacts to a level of insignificance.

[BR-1] Prior to construction, the County shall obtain all necessary permits, approvals, and authorizations from jurisdictional agencies. These may include, but may not be limited to: (1) ACOE, Section 404 Nationwide Permit 43; (2) RWQCB, Section 401 Water Quality Certification; and (3) CDFG, Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement for activities within the unnamed drainage. The County shall adhere to all conditions included within these permits, approvals, and authorizations.

[BR-2] During Project activities, all trash that may attract predators shall be properly contained,

removed from the work sites and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris shall be removed from work areas.

[BR-3] All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. The County shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the County shall ensure that the contractor has prepared a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

[BR-4] Prior to site disturbance, the County shall print Best Management Practices (BMPs) on all applicable construction plans. BMPs shall be implemented prior to, during, and following construction activities. Measures shall include, but not be limited to the following:

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

[BR-5] To the extent practicable, construction activities shall be conducted during the dry season (May 1 through November 1). This will reduce potential impacts to semi-aquatic species that might be using nearby ponds and associated vegetation as movement/dispersal corridors.

[BR-6] If construction activities are conducted during the typical nesting bird season (February 15 – September 15th), preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by the County-approved biologist or County Environmental Resource Specialist prior to any construction activity or vegetation trimming to identify potential bird nesting activity, and:

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

[BR-7] A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan will be prepared and will include specific measures for restoration and revegetation of all temporarily disturbed areas. The Plan will include protection measures, standards for revegetation, a monitoring program to ensure proper implementation and maintenance of restored areas, and performance criteria to determine success.

[BR-8] With regards to the San Joaquin Kit Fox, the applicant will be required to mitigate the loss of 0.84 acre of kit fox habitat at ratio of 1:1 by one of the following ways:

- ✓ Deposit of funds to an approved in-lieu fee program;
- ✓ provide for the protection of kit foxes in perpetuity through acquisition of fee or conservation easement of suitable habitat in the kit fox corridor area; or
- ✓ purchase credits in an approved conservation bank.

If none of the other three alternatives are available, the applicant may enter into a Mitigation Agreement with the Department of Fish and Game, including depositing funds into an escrow

account (or other means of securing funds acceptable to the Department) which would assure the protection in perpetuity of suitable habitat in the kit fox corridor area and provide for a nonwasting endowment for management.

To prevent inadvertent harm to kit fox, the applicant has agreed to retain a biologist for a pre-construction survey, a pre-construction briefing for contractors, and monitoring activities in addition to implementing cautionary construction measures.

[BR-9] To avoid impacts to California red-legged frogs, a qualified biologist or County Environmental Resource specialist will conduct wildlife surveys prior to the onset Project activities each day that new earth disturbance will occur.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Disturb pre-historic resources?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Disturb historic resources?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Disturb paleontological resources?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Other:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Impact. A Phase I survey was conducted by the Public Works archaeologist in June 2009 and May 2010. No evidence of cultural materials was noted on the property. A literature search from the Central Coast Information Center revealed no known prehistoric sites within a one-mile radius of the project area. Impacts to historical or paleontological resources are not expected.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant cultural resource impacts are expected to occur, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Result in exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions, such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, ground failure, land subsidence or other similar hazards?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Be within a California Geological Survey "Alquist-Priolo" Earthquake Fault Zone"?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
c) <i>Result in soil erosion, topographic changes, loss of topsoil or unstable soil conditions from project-related improvements, such as vegetation removal, grading, excavation, or fill?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Change rates of soil absorption, or amount or direction of surface runoff?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Include structures located on expansive soils?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) <i>Change the drainage patterns where substantial on- or off-site sedimentation/ erosion or flooding may occur?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) <i>Involve activities within the 100-year flood zone?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) <i>Be inconsistent with the goals and policies of the County's Safety Element relating to Geologic and Seismic Hazards?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) <i>Preclude the future extraction of valuable mineral resources?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) <i>Other:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting

GEOLOGY - The following relates to the project's geologic aspects or conditions:

Topography: Nearly level to gently rolling

Within County's Geologic Study Area?: No

Landslide Risk Potential: Low to moderate

Liquefaction Potential: Low to moderate

Nearby potentially active faults?: Yes Distance? .7 miles to the southwest

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

Shrink/Swell potential of soil: Low to moderate

Other notable geologic features? None

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

Within the 100-year Flood Hazard designation? No

Closest creek? Unnamed tributary to Huerhuero Creek Distance? Approximately 350 feet

Impact. The Project does not propose the use of hazardous materials. The Project is not expected to conflict with any regional evacuation plan.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts as a result of hazards or hazardous materials are anticipated, and no mitigation measures beyond the fuel and lubricant handling precautions listed under the Biological Resources section are necessary (BR-3).

8. NOISE - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Expose people to noise levels that exceed the County Noise Element thresholds?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Generate increases in the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Expose people to severe noise or vibration?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Other:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. The Project is not within close proximity of loud noise sources, and will not conflict with any sensitive noise receptors (e.g., residences). Based on the Noise Element's projected future noise generation from known stationary and vehicle-generated noise sources, the Project is within an acceptable threshold area.

Impact. Noise impacts resulting from construction will be of a short duration, during normal work hours, and temporary in nature. It is not expected that County noise standards will be exceeded as a result of the Project. The Project is not expected to generate loud noises, nor conflict with the surrounding uses.

Mitigation/Conclusion.

[N-1] Construction activities will not take place before 7 a.m. or after 9 p.m. on any day except Saturday or Sunday, or before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday.

No significant noise impacts are anticipated, and no additional mitigation measures are necessary.

9. POPULATION/HOUSING - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Displace existing housing or people, requiring construction of replacement housing elsewhere?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

9. POPULATION/HOUSING - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
c) <i>Create the need for substantial new housing in the area?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Use substantial amount of fuel or energy?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Other: _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting The proposed Project involves widening and improving the alignment of an existing road. The proposed Project would not induce substantial population growth directly or indirectly. The proposed Project would not displace existing housing or people.

Impact. The Project will not result in a need for a significant amount of new housing, and will not displace existing housing. No direct or indirect impacts to population or housing are expected as a result of Project implementation.

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

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/UTILITIES - <i>Will the project have an effect upon, or result in the need for new or altered public services in any of the following areas:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Fire protection?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Police protection (e.g., Sheriff, CHP)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Schools?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Roads?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Solid Wastes?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) <i>Other public facilities?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) <i>Other: _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Police: County Sheriff

Location: Templeton (Approximately 12 miles to the west)

Fire: Cal Fire (formerly CDF)

Hazard Severity: High

Response Time: 5-10 minutes

Location: Approximately 1.5 miles to the west

School District: Atascadero Unified School District.

Impact. The project involves improvements to an existing road. This will not affect the demand for utilities or public services. One lane of the existing road will remain open to residents and emergency

services during Project construction. Effects on response time are anticipated to be minimal. No significant impacts to utilities or public services will result.

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

11. RECREATION - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Increase the use or demand for parks or other recreation opportunities?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Affect the access to trails, parks or other recreation opportunities?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Other _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. Based on the County Trails Map, the Project is within or near the California Valley to Creston Trail. La Panza Road is currently a Class III Bike Route. Bike Route (D11-1) and Share the Road (W11-1 & W16-1) signage is currently installed.

Impact. Completion of the proposed Project will create a safer situation along La Panza Road for bicyclists and pedestrians. With the improvements bicycles will be able to use the 4-foot paved shoulder and 3-foot of shoulder will be available for pedestrians. The proposed Project will not create a significant need for additional park, Natural Area, and/or recreational resources.

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

12. TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Increase vehicle trips to local or areawide circulation system?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Reduce existing "Levels of Service" on public roadway(s)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Create unsafe conditions on public roadways (e.g., limited access, design features, sight distance, slow vehicles)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Provide for adequate emergency access?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Result in inadequate parking capacity?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) <i>Result in inadequate internal traffic circulation?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**12. TRANSPORTATION/
CIRCULATION - Will the project:**

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
<i>g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., pedestrian access, bus turnouts, bicycle racks, etc.)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>h) Result in a change in air traffic patterns that may result in substantial safety risks?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>i) Other: _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. Construction vehicles and equipment may use La Panza Road, Hord Valley Road, and/or Ryan Road to access the Project site during work activities. It is not anticipated that these trips will affect traffic. Additionally, it is anticipated that passage will remain open as one lane of La Panza Road will remain open to traffic. Equipment will be staged in or adjacent to County Right-of-Way during the 2-month Project time-frame, further minimizing potential impacts to traffic. The Project will improve safety along this stretch of La Panza Road.

Impact. Construction vehicle access will be needed temporarily during Project construction. Otherwise, the Project may temporarily slow traffic but will have no negative effects on transportation or circulation.

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

13. WASTEWATER - Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
<i>a) Violate waste discharge requirements or Central Coast Basin Plan criteria for wastewater systems?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>b) Change the quality of surface or ground water (e.g., nitrogen-loading, day-lighting)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>c) Adversely affect community wastewater service provider?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>d) Other: _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting/Impact. The proposed Project involves widening and improving the alignment of an existing road which is not anticipated to generate waste or wastewater or affect wastewater facilities and solid waste capacity. No impacts resulting from wastewater would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

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

necessary.

14. WATER - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Violate any water quality standards?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Discharge into surface waters or otherwise alter surface water quality (e.g., turbidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Change the quality of groundwater (e.g., saltwater intrusion, nitrogen-loading, etc.)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Change the quantity or movement of available surface or ground water?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Adversely affect community water service provider?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) <i>Other:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting.

The topography of the project is nearly level to gently rolling. The closest unnamed tributary from the proposed development to Huerhuero Creek is approximately 350 feet away. As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the soil surface is considered to have low erodibility.

This Project will have more than one acre of disturbance and is subject to preparing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to minimize on-site sedimentation and erosion. When work is done in the rainy season, the County Ordinance requires that temporary sedimentation and erosion control measures be installed during the rainy season.

Impact. The Project will result in the disturbance of approximately 224,325 square feet/5.1 acres. The Project is not within close proximity to surface water sources. The proposed reconstructed drainage ditch would reduce or eliminate flooding of La Panza Road. Revegetation would ensure soil stability and avoidance of operational erosion and sedimentation impacts.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The County proposes to implement erosion control BMPs, and spill prevention and clean-up measures during construction. Based on implementation of these measures, potential impacts to surface water would be less than significant, and no additional mitigation measures are necessary.

15. LAND USE - Will the project:	Inconsistent	Potentially Inconsistent	Consistent	Not Applicable
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15. LAND USE - Will the project:	Inconsistent	Potentially Inconsistent	Consistent	Not Applicable
a) <i>Be potentially inconsistent with land use, policy/regulation (e.g., general plan [county land use element and ordinance], local coastal plan, specific plan, Clean Air Plan, etc.) adopted to avoid or mitigate for environmental effects?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Be potentially inconsistent with any habitat or community conservation plan?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Be potentially inconsistent with adopted agency environmental plans or policies with jurisdiction over the project?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Be potentially incompatible with surrounding land uses?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Other:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting/Impact. Surrounding uses are identified on Page 2 of the Initial Study. The proposed Project was reviewed for consistency with policy and/or regulatory documents relating to the environment and appropriate land use (e.g., County Land Use Ordinance, Local Coastal Plan, etc.). Referrals were sent to outside agencies to review for policy consistencies (e.g., CAL FIRE for Fire Code, APCD for Clean Air Plan, etc.). The Project was found to be consistent with these documents (refer also to Exhibit A on reference documents used).

The Project is not within or adjacent to a Habitat Conservation Plan area. The Project is consistent or compatible with the surrounding uses as summarized on page 2 of this Initial Study.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No inconsistencies were identified and therefore no mitigation measures are necessary.

- | 16. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE - <i>Will the project:</i> | Potentially Significant | Impact can & will be mitigated | Insignificant Impact | Not Applicable |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) <i>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?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) <i>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)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) <i>Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

For further information on CEQA or the county's environmental review process, please visit the County's web site at "www.sloplanning.org" under "Environmental Information", or the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System at: http://www.ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines for information about the California Environmental Quality Act.

Exhibit A - Initial Study References and Agency Contacts

The County Planning or Environmental Divisions have contacted various agencies for their comments on the proposed project. With respect to the subject application, the following have been contacted (marked with an) and when a response was made, it is either attached or in the application file:

<u>Contacted</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Response</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Public Works Department	Project Proponent
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Environmental Health Division	Not Applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Agricultural Commissioner's Office	In File**
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Airport Manager	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Airport Land Use Commission	Not Applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Air Pollution Control District	None
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Sheriff's Department	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional Water Quality Control Board	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	CA Coastal Commission	Not Applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA Department of Fish and Game	In File**
<input type="checkbox"/>	CA Department of Forestry (Cal Fire)	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	CA Department of Transportation	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Community Service District	Not Applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other <u>Creston Advisory Body</u>	None
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other <u>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</u>	None

** "No comment" or "No concerns"-type responses are usually not attached

The following checked ("") reference materials have been used in the environmental review for the proposed project and are hereby incorporated by reference into the Initial Study. The following information is available at the County Planning and Building Department.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project File for the Subject Application County documents <input type="checkbox"/> Airport Land Use Plans <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annual Resource Summary Report <input type="checkbox"/> Building and Construction Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Policies <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Framework for Planning (Coastal/Inland) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Plan (Inland/Coastal), including all maps & elements; more pertinent elements considered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Element <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation & Open Space Element (includes Energy, Conservation) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing Element <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise Element <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation Element <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety Element <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Real Property Division Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Solid Waste Management Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Circulation Study | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Area Plan and Update EIR Other documents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeological Resources Map <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Area of Critical Concerns Map <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Areas of Special Biological Importance Map <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Natural Species Diversity Database <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean Air Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Hazard Severity Map <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood Hazard Maps <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey for SLO County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional Transportation Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uniform Fire Code <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Quality Control Plan (Central Coast Basin – Region 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GIS mapping layers (e.g., Biology, geology, streams, slope, fire, hazards, transportation, water, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

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

(title, name, date of any reports used/referenced)

(any additional reference materials used)

County References

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), Biogeographic Data Branch, Department of Fish and Game. Version 3.1.0. February 10, 2011.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 1998. Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California. Region 1, Portland, OR. 319 opp.

Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary Table

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

- [AG-1] Implement adequate dust control measures during the construction phase of the Project to preclude dust impacts to adjacent wine grape vineyards.
- [AG-2] Provide for infrastructure relocation as necessary.
- [AG-3] Prior to planned road closure or delays, the County should provide construction information to property owners and known agricultural leaseholders who utilize the road and associated access points.
- [AG-4] If acquisition of land under Williamson Act contract is required, public acquisition provisions of California Government Code Section 51290 *et. seq.* should be followed in order to ensure the integrity of the Land Conservation Act program.

AIR QUALITY

- [AQ-1] During construction/ground disturbing activities, the contractor shall implement the following particulate (dust) control measures. These measures will be included in the contract special provisions. In addition, the contractor shall designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering, as necessary, to prevent transport of dust off site. Their duties shall include holiday and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the APCD prior to commencement of construction.
- a. Reduce the amount of disturbed area where possible
 - b. Prevent airborne dust from leaving the site.
 - c. Control dust from all dirt stock pile areas.
 - d. Implement revegetation (i.e., hydro seeding) as soon as possible following completion of any soil disturbing activities.
 - e. Exposed ground areas that are planned to be reworked at dates greater than one month after initial grading shall be subject to dust control measures (watering, etc.) or shall be sown with a fast germinating native grass seed and watered until a temporary vegetative cover is established.
 - f. All trucks hauling dirt, sand, soil, or other loose materials are to be covered or should maintain at least two feet of freeboard (minimum vertical distance between top of load and top of trailer) in accordance with California Vehicle Code Section 23114.
 - h. Ensure that trucks and equipment leaving the site do not carry soil material onto adjacent paved roads; clean adjacent paved roads at the end of each day if visible soil material is carried from the site onto those roads.
- [AQ-2] During construction/ground disturbing activities, the contractor shall implement the following measures to reduce ozone precursor emissions. These measures will be included in the contract special provisions.
- a. Maintain all construction equipment in proper tune according to manufacturer's specifications.
 - b. Fuel all off-road and portable diesel powered equipment, including but not limited to bulldozers, graders, cranes, loaders, scrapers, backhoes, generator sets, compressors, auxiliary power units, with ARB certified motor vehicle diesel fuel (non-taxed version suitable for use off-road).
 - c. Maximize to the extent feasible, the use of diesel construction equipment meeting the ARB's 1996 or newer certification standard for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- [BR-1] Prior to construction, the County shall obtain all necessary permits, approvals, and authorizations from jurisdictional agencies. These may include, but may not be limited to: (1) ACOE, Section 404 Nationwide Permit 43; (2) RWQCB, Section 401 Water Quality Certification; and (3) CDFG, Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement for activities within the unnamed drainage. The County shall adhere to all conditions included within these permits, approvals, and authorizations.
- [BR-2] During Project activities, all trash that may attract predators shall be properly contained, removed from the work sites and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris shall be removed from work areas.
- [BR-3] All fueling and maintenance of vehicles and other equipment and staging areas shall occur at least 20 meters from any riparian habitat or water body. The County shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the County shall ensure that the contractor has prepared a plan to allow a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.
- [BR-4] Prior to site disturbance, the County shall print Best Management Practices (BMPs) on all applicable construction plans. BMPs shall be implemented prior to, during, and following construction activities. Measures shall include, but not be limited to the following:
- Silt fencing shall be placed along the down-slope side of the construction zone.
 - A spill and clean-up kit shall be stored onsite at all times.
 - Temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation measures shall be implemented (e.g., silt fencing, hay bales, straw wattles, etc.).
- [BR-5] To the extent practicable, construction activities shall be conducted during the dry season (May 1 through November 1). This will reduce potential impacts to semi-aquatic species that might be using nearby ponds and associated vegetation as movement/dispersal corridors.
- [BR-6] If construction activities are conducted during the typical nesting bird season (February 15 – September 15th), preconstruction surveys shall be conducted by the County-approved biologist or County Environmental Resource Specialist prior to any construction activity or vegetation trimming to identify potential bird nesting activity, and:
- If active nest sites of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) are observed within the vicinity of the Project sites, then the Projects shall be modified and/or delayed as necessary to avoid direct take of the identified nests, eggs, and/or young;
 - If active nest sites of raptors and/or bird species of special concern are observed within the vicinity of either Project site, then CDFG shall be contacted to establish the appropriate buffer around the nest site. Construction activities in the buffer zone shall be prohibited until the young have fledged the nest and achieved independence; and
 - Active nests shall be documented by a qualified biologist and a letter-report shall be submitted to the County, USFWS, and CDFG, documenting Project compliance with the MBTA and applicable Project mitigation measures.
- [BR-7] A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan will be prepared and will include specific measures for restoration and revegetation of all temporarily disturbed areas. The Plan will include protection

measures, standards for revegetation, a monitoring program to ensure proper implementation and maintenance of restored areas, and performance criteria to determine success.

[BR-8] With regards to the San Joaquin Kit Fox, the applicant will be required to mitigate the loss of 0.84 acre of kit fox habitat at ratio of 1:1 by one of the following ways:

- ✓ Deposit of funds to an approved in-lieu fee program;
- ✓ provide for the protection of kit foxes in perpetuity through acquisition of fee or conservation easement of suitable habitat in the kit fox corridor area; or
- ✓ purchase credits in an approved conservation bank.

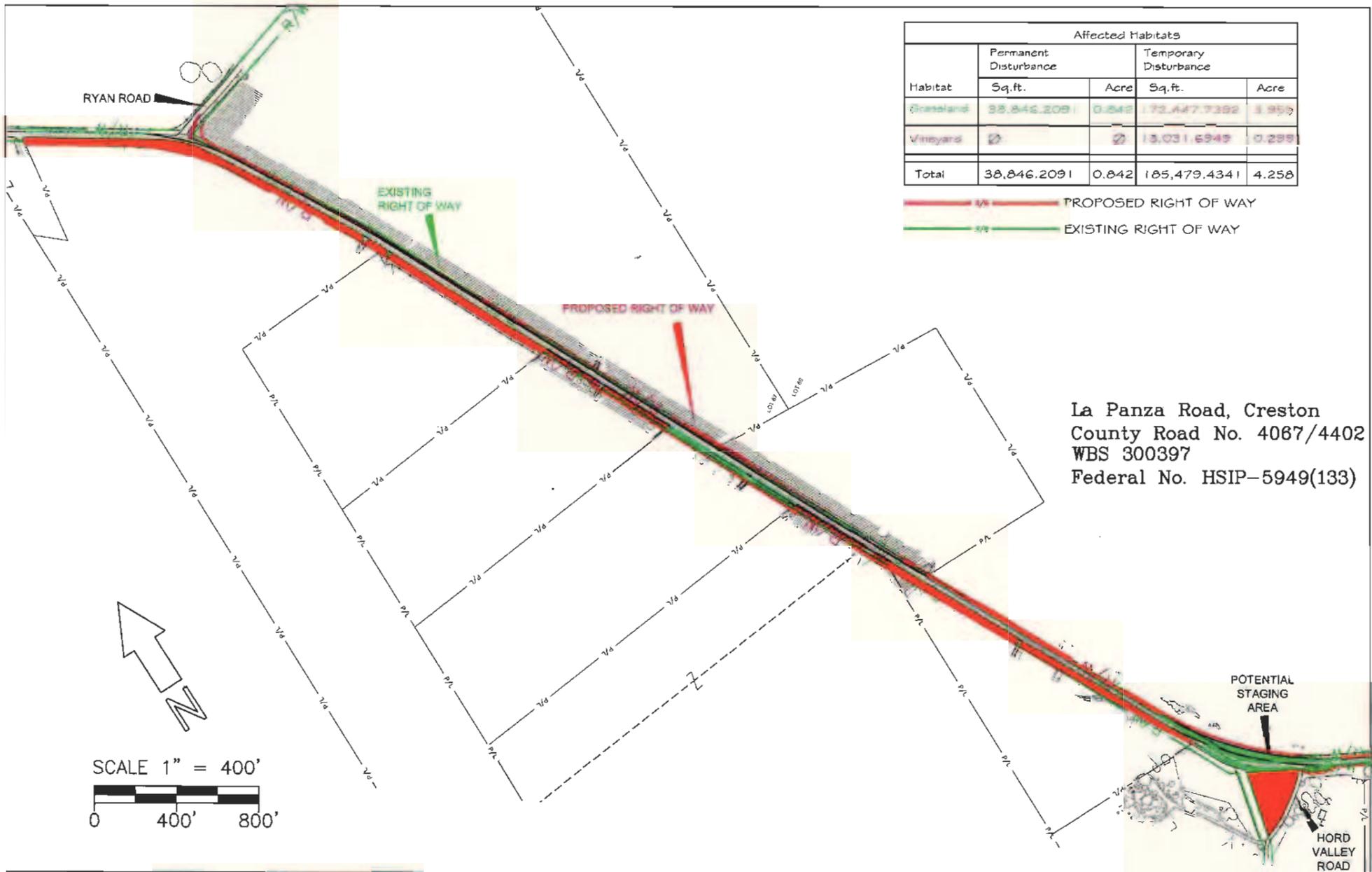
If none of the other three alternatives are available, the applicant may enter into a Mitigation Agreement with the Department of Fish and Game, including depositing funds into an escrow account (or other means of securing funds acceptable to the Department) which would assure the protection in perpetuity of suitable habitat in the kit fox corridor area and provide for a nonwasting endowment for management.

To prevent inadvertent harm to kit fox, the applicant has agreed to retain a biologist for a pre-construction survey, a pre-construction briefing for contractors, and monitoring activities in addition to implementing cautionary construction measures.

[BR-9] To avoid impacts to California red-legged frogs, a qualified biologist or County Environmental Resource specialist will conduct wildlife surveys prior to the onset Project activities each day that new earth disturbance will occur.

NOISE

[N-1] Construction activities will not take place before 7 a.m. or after 9 p.m. on any day except Saturday or Sunday, or before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m. on Saturday or Sunday.



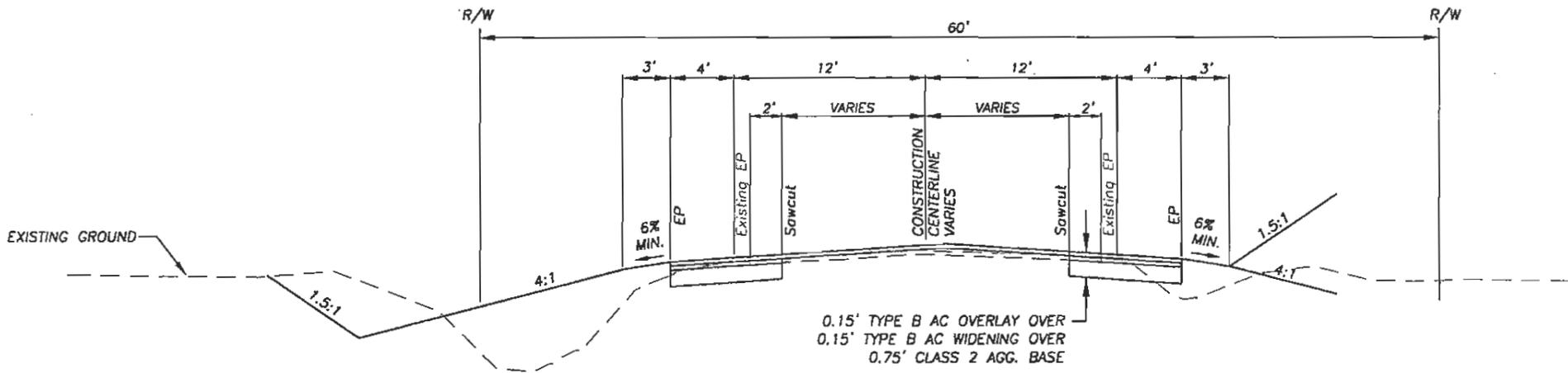
Appendix A: 9-quadrangle CNDDB search results for La Panza Road Widening Project, 300397

Species	Habitat Description	Habitat Presence/Absence	Details
<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i> grasshopper sparrow	Dense grasslands on rolling hills, lowland plains, in valleys and on hillsides on lower mountain slopes.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys. Potential to fly through but not nest within Project site.
<i>Ammospermophilus nelsoni</i> Nelson's antelope squirrel	Western San Joaquin Valley from 200-1200 ft elev. on dry, sparsely vegetated loam soils.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Anniella pulchra</i> silvery legless lizard	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation.	Present	Potentially present within Project area.
<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> var. <i>milesianus</i> Mile's milk-vetch	Coastal scrub.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> vernal pool fairy shrimp	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, central coast mtns, and south coast mtns, in astatic rain-filled pools.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>California macrophylla</i> round-leaved filaree	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Calochortus simulans</i> SLO mariposa-lily	Valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland, chaparral.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Calycadenia villosa</i> dwarf calycadenia	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, meadows and seeps.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Camissonia hardhamiae</i> Hardham's evening-primrose	Chaparral, cismontane woodland.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Caulanthus coulteri</i> var. <i>lemmonii</i> Lemmon's jewel-flower	Pinyon-juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Castilleja desiflora</i> ssp. <i>obispoensis</i> SLO owl's clover	Valley and foothill grassland.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Chorizanthe rectispina</i> Straight-awned spineflower	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub; often on granite in chaparral.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> Townsend's big-eared bat	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats, roosts in the open, very sensitive to human disturbance.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys. Likely too much human disturbance for this species to occur within Project site.
<i>Emys marmorata</i> western pond turtle	A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys. No ponded water within project area.
<i>Eriastrum luteum</i> Yellow-flowered eriastrum	Broadleaved upland forest, cismontane woodland, chaparral	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Eriogonum temblorense</i> Temblor buckwheat	Valley and foothill grassland.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.

Appendix A: 9-quadrangle CNDDB search results for La Panza Road Widening Project, 300397

Species	Habitat Description	Habitat Presence/Absence	Details
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> ssp. <i>puberula</i> mesa horkelia	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> ssp. <i>sericea</i> Kellogg's horkelia	Closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal scrub, chaparral; old dunes, coastal sandhills	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Juncus luciensis</i> Santa Lucia dwarf rush	Vernal pools, meadows, lower montane coniferous forest, chaparral, Great Basin scrub.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Layia heterotricha</i> pale-yellow layia	Cismontane woodland, pinyon-juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Lepidium jaredii</i> ssp. <i>jaredii</i> Jared's pepper-grass	Valley and foothill grassland.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Monolopia gracilens</i> woodland wollythreads	Chaparral, valley and foothill grasslands (serpentine), cismontane woodland, broadleaved upland forests.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Navarretia fossalis</i> Moran's nosegay	Vernal pools, chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps, playas.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Navarretia nigelliformis</i> ssp. <i>radians</i> shining navarretia	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Plagiobothrys uncinatus</i> hooked popcorn-flower	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland, coastal bluff scrub.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys.
<i>Rana boylii</i> Foothill yellow-legged frog	Partly-shaded, shallow streams and riffles with rocky substrate in variety of habitats.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys. No ponded water within project area.
<i>Rana draytonii</i> California red-legged frog	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys. No ponded water within project area.
<i>Spea hammondii</i> western spadefoot	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys. No ponded water within project area.
<i>Taxidea taxus</i> American badger	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soils; need sufficient food, friable soils & open, uncultivated ground.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys. No potential dens within project area.
<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> San Joaquin kit fox	Annual grasslands or grassy open stages with scattered shrubby vegetation.	Absent	Not detected during field surveys. No potential dens within project area.

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
DESIGN DIVISION



Typical Cross Section Lo Panzo Road 4:1 to 1.5:1 Reconstruct ditch on Left



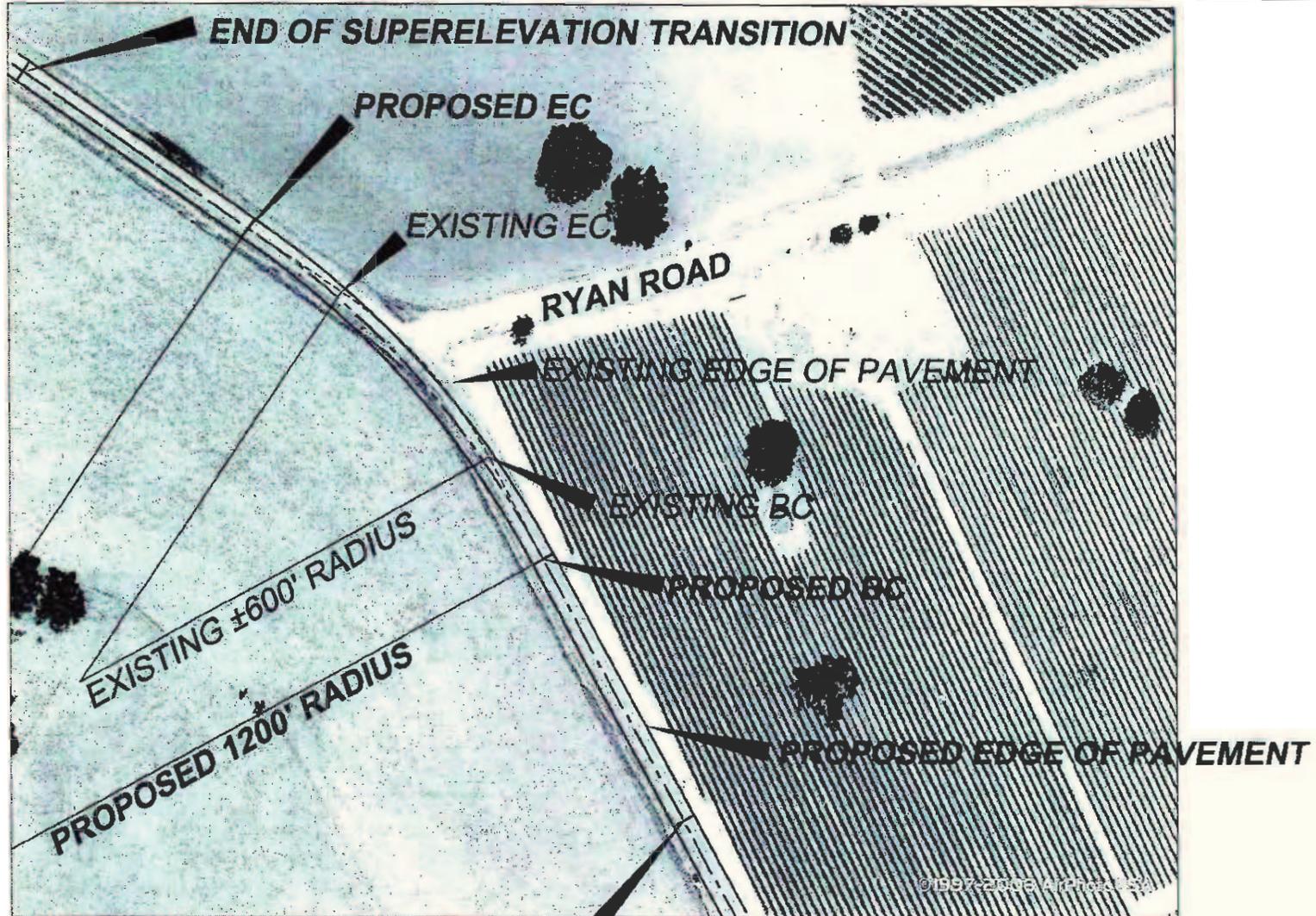
Dave Flynn
DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS – ENGINEERING SERVICES
R.C.E. 43933 (Exp. 6-31-2011)

COUNTY PROJECT NO. 300397

LA PANZA ROAD

ATTACHMENT B2

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
DESIGN DIVISION



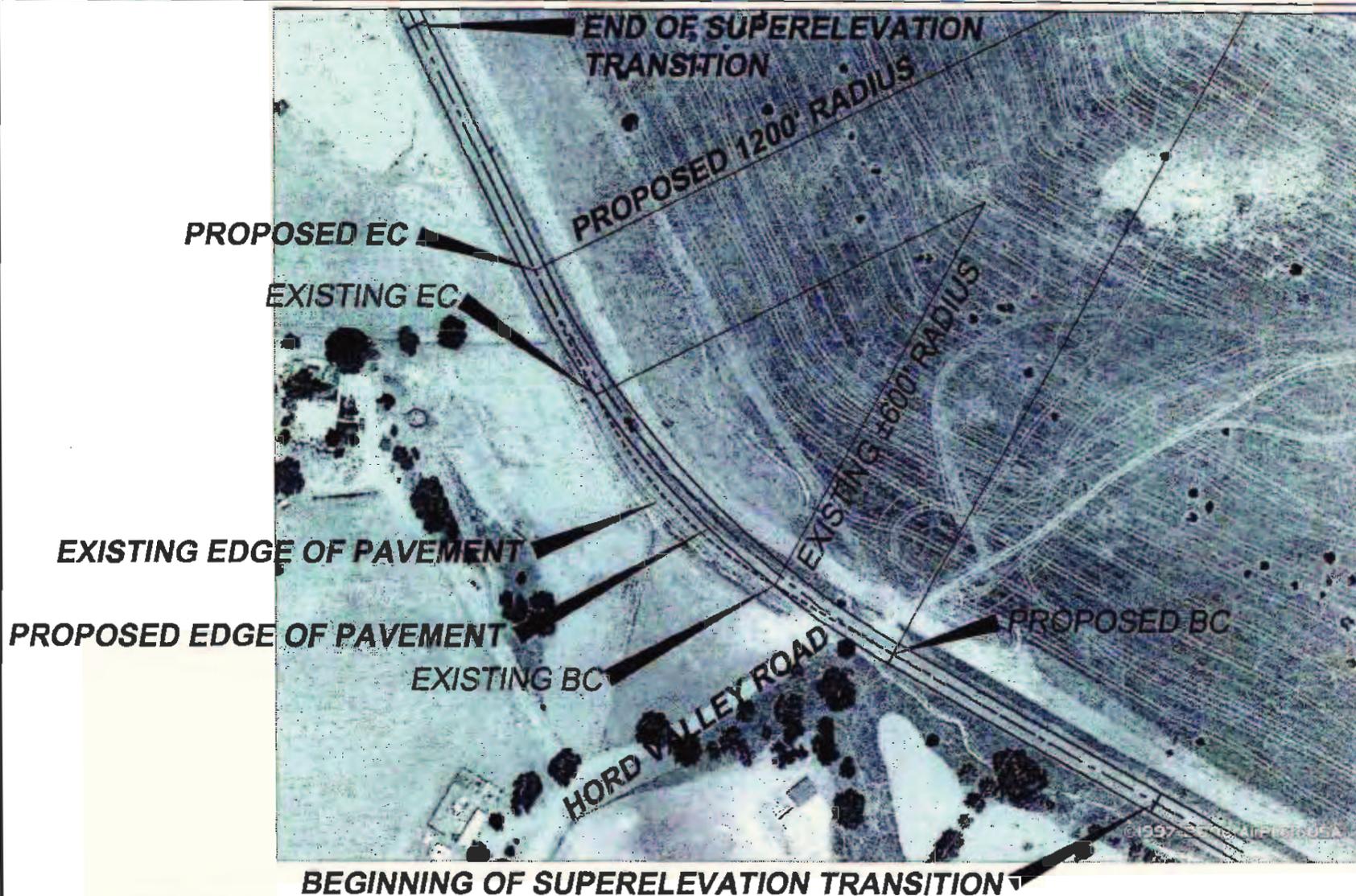
BEGINNING OF SUPERELEVATION TRANSITION

COUNTY PROJECT NO. 300397

CURVE CORRECTION AT LA PANZA RD AND RYAN RD INTERSECTION

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COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
DESIGN DIVISION



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COUNTY PROJECT NO. 300397

CURVE CORRECTION AT LA PANZA RD AND HORD VALLEY RD INTERSECTION