



NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

DIST-CO-RTE: Mon-156
PM/PM: R1.4-2.1/1.0-1.6
EA or Fed-Aid Project No.: 05-31601 / 0518000120
Other Project No. (specify): 05-31600 / 0500000497 (parent project)
Project Title: Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project
Environmental Approval Type: EIR/EA with FONSI
Date Approved: January 31, 2013
Reason for Consultation (23 CFR 771.129), check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Project proceeding to next major federal approval <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change in scope, setting, effects, mitigation measures, requirements <input type="checkbox"/> 3-year timeline (EIS only) <input type="checkbox"/> N/A (Re-Validation for CEQA only)
Description of Changed Conditions: <i>Additional information on page 2.</i>

NEPA CONCLUSION - VALIDITY

Based on an examination of the changed conditions and supporting information: (*Check ONE of the three statements below, regarding the validity of the original document/determination (23 CFR 771.129). If document is no longer valid, indicate whether additional public review is warranted and whether the type of environmental document will be elevated.*)

- The original environmental document or CE remains valid. No further documentation will be prepared.**
- The original environmental document or CE is in need of updating; further documentation has been prepared and is included on the continuation sheet(s) or is attached. With this additional documentation, the original ED or CE remains valid.**
Additional public review is warranted (23 CFR 771.111(h)(3)) Yes No
- The original document or CE is no longer valid.**
Additional public review is warranted (23 CFR 771.111(h)(3)) Yes No
Supplemental environmental document is needed. Yes No
New environmental document is needed. Yes No (If "Yes," specify type:)

CONCURRENCE WITH NEPA CONCLUSION

I concur with the NEPA conclusion above.

Matt Fowler		<u>6/7/22</u>
Signature: Environmental Branch Chief		Date
Mike Lew		<u>06/07/2022</u>
Signature: Project Manager/DLAE		Date

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

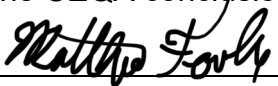

CEQA CONCLUSION (Only mandated for projects on the State Highway System.)

Based on an examination of the changed conditions and supporting information, the following conclusion has been reached regarding appropriate CEQA documentation: *(Check ONE of the five statements below, indicating whether any additional documentation will be prepared, and if so, what kind. If additional documentation is prepared, attach a copy of this signed form and any continuation sheets.)*

- Original document remains valid. No further documentation is necessary.
- Only minor technical changes or additions to the previous document are necessary.
 An addendum has been or will be prepared and is included on the continuation sheets or will be attached. It need not be circulated for public review. (CEQA Guidelines, §15164)
- Changes are substantial, but only minor additions or changes are necessary to make the previous document adequate. A Supplemental environmental document will be prepared, and it will be circulated for public review. (CEQA Guidelines, §15163)
- Changes are substantial, and major revisions to the current document are necessary. A Subsequent environmental document will be prepared, and it will be circulated for public review. (CEQA Guidelines, §15162)
(Specify type of subsequent document, e.g., Subsequent FEIR):
- The CE is no longer valid. New CE is needed. Yes No

CONCURRENCE WITH CEQA CONCLUSION

I concur with the CEQA conclusion above.

Matt Fowler		<u>6/7/22</u>
Signature: Environmental Branch Chief		Date
Mike Lew		<u>06/07/2022</u>
Signature: Project Manager/DLAE		Date

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET(S)

Address only changes or new information since approval of the original document and only those areas that are applicable. Use the list below as section headings as they apply to the project change(s). Use as much or as little space as needed to adequately address the project change(s) and the associated impacts, minimization, avoidance and/or mitigation measures, if any.

Changes in project design, e.g., scope change; a new alternative; change in project alignment.

Design

The State Route 156 West Corridor Project (EA 05-31600) originally proposed to reconstruct State Route 156 West and reconstruct the interchange at State Route 156 West and U.S. Route 101. The project's original postmile limits were from postmile R1.6 to postmile T5.2 on State Route 156 West and from postmile 94.6 to postmile to postmile 96.8 on U.S. Route 101. Due to funding constraints, project construction was planned to occur in two phases. Phase 1 would have occurred on State Route 156 West between postmile 1.6 to postmile T4.81, from just west of Castroville Boulevard to Prunedale North Road. Phase 1 would have involved the construction of State Route 156 West on a new alignment, converting the existing State Route 156 West to a frontage road, construction of a bridge over the Moro Cojo Slough, and construction of an interchange at the intersection of State Route 156 West and Castroville Boulevard. Phase 2 would have occurred on State Route 156 West and U.S. Route 101 interchange, from postmile 94.6, near Pesante Road, to postmile 96.8, near Messick Road. Phase 2 would have involved construction of new interchange transition ramps, new freeway on-ramp and off-ramps, new bridges, and new frontage roads. The State Route 156 West Corridor Project has now been divided into three segments due to funding constraints. This document only addresses Segment 1 which is going forward now.

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project (05-31601) will construct a portion of the State Route 156 West Corridor Project (05-31600) that was originally proposed for construction during Phase 1 of the State Route 156 West Corridor Project. The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project is being treated as a child project of the State Route 156 West Corridor Project. Caltrans and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) are responsible for funding the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project. Investigations and construction for the project is possible due to the availability of Monterey County's approved Transportation Safety and Investment Plan (Measure X).

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will focus on the construction of a new interchange to replace the existing Castroville Boulevard and State Route 156 West at grade intersection in order to address the existing safety issues at the location. The current project limits of the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project are entirely within the original project limits of the State Route 156 West Corridor Project and are within the footprint of the proposed Phase 1 segment of the State Route 156 West Corridor Project. The limits of the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project are restricted to only what is necessary to accommodate the new interchange design and the postmile limits have been reduced. The current project limit is from postmile R1.4, approximately 0.4 miles west of Castroville Boulevard, to postmile R1.6, approximately 0.3 miles east of Monte Del Lago. The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will replace the existing at-grade signalized intersection on State Route 156 West at

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

Castroville Boulevard with a new grade-separated interchange. High rates of vehicle collisions have been recorded at the existing at-grade intersection. The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project is intended to reduce traffic congestion, minimize vehicle collisions and reduce collision severity at the intersection. The alignment of State Route 156 West will be shifted southward to accommodate the new design of the grade-separated interchange. The new interchange will place Castroville Boulevard on a bridge over State Route 156 West. Interchange ramps will be constructed to provide access between State Route 156 West and Castroville Boulevard. Roundabouts will be installed at on-ramp and off-ramp intersections. The west bound lanes on State Route 156 West will maintain the existing two lanes. The east bound lane on State Route 156 West will be expanded to two-lanes from postmile R1.4 to postmile 1.4. Castroville Boulevard will remain two-lanes. New frontage roads will connect existing property access to Castroville Boulevard. Roundabouts will be constructed at intersections of Castroville Boulevard and frontage roads. Bike lanes will be installed on Castroville Boulevard and frontage roads. The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will require additional State right-of-way for completion.

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will not include the following work that was originally part of Phase 1 segment of the State Route 156 West Corridor Project:

- Converting the current State Route 156 West into a frontage road.
- Construction of the Moro Cojo Slough Bridge (postmile 1.48).
- Install soundwalls for noise abatement.

The other two segments of the State Route 156 West Corridor Project are not addressed in this document, and they will be evaluated and constructed at a later date as funding becomes available.

Offsite Mitigation

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will now include offsite mitigation for wetland impacts associated with Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project. An Offsite Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring Plan was prepared in August 2021 for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project. Offsite mitigation is proposed at Elkhorn Highlands Reserve to offset permanent wetland impacts from the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project. The Elkhorn Highlands Reserve is located within the Moro Cojo Slough sub-watershed, which is part of the Lower Salinas watershed. The offsite mitigation proposes to re-establish and rehabilitate wetland conditions in areas of the Elkhorn Highlands Reserve that had been altered by past land use practices, and restore riparian habitat as well.

Approximately 3.75 acres of wetland re-establishment and rehabilitation are proposed within the 5.0 acres of potential wetland restoration areas that were identified in the 2016 Long-Term Management Plan for Elkhorn Highlands Reserve. Although approximately 3.75 acres of the 5.0 acres from the Long-Term Management Plan for Elkhorn Highland Reserve was identified as most suitable for wetland restoration, additional studies were conducted on the entire 5.0 acres of potential restoration areas to determine the most effective approach to re-establishing wetlands and restoring riparian habitats within the Elkhorn Highlands Reserve.

Onsite Enhancement

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will now include onsite enhancement to address wetland impacts as a result of the project. An Onsite Wetland Enhancement Plan was

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

prepared in August 2021 for the Castroville Interchange Project. The onsite enhancement would improve wetland functions near culvert outlets that are within the project limits.

Changes in environmental setting, e.g., new development affecting traffic or air quality.

No changes in environmental setting.

Changes in environmental circumstances, e.g., a new law or regulation; change in the status of a listed species.

On September 28, 2020, an act to amend Section 5050 of, and to add Section 2081.5 to, the Fish and Game Code, relating to endangered species was approved as Senate Bill No 1231. The bill would permit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to authorize, by permit, the take of the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum*) resulting from impacts attributable to the construction along the State Route 156 corridor through Moro Cojo Slough in the County of Monterey County for the purpose of enhancing safety and access, if certain conditions are satisfied. This bill would allow for an exception to the fully protected status of Santa Cruz long-toed salamander under very specific conditions and with approval from CDFW.

Changes to environmental impacts of the project, e.g., a new type of impact, or a change in the magnitude of an existing impact.

Design

Land Use

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange project will require additional partial property acquisition for new State right-of-way to accommodate current project design. The current design of the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will result in approximately 9.79 acres of additional property take when compared to the design of the Castroville Boulevard interchange that was originally proposed for the State Route 156 West Corridor Project.

Natural Communities and Habitats

The design of the new interchange for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project contains additional features that were not included in the interchange design that was proposed in the original State Route 156 West Corridor Project. The interchange design for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will result in additional permanent and temporary impacts to natural communities and/or habitats when compared to the interchange design that was originally proposed for the State Route 156 West corridor Project.

The interchange design proposed for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will result in a total of approximately 20.89 acres of permanent impacts and approximately 52.20 acres of temporary impacts.

Within the Biological Study Area specific to the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project, there are no designated critical habitats. Impacts to sensitive natural communities will be limited to wetland habitats.

Jurisdictional Waters

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

The design of the new interchange for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project has a larger footprint than the interchange that was designed for the State Route 156 West Corridor Project. The interchange design for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will result in additional temporary and permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters when compared to the interchange design that was proposed for the State Route 156 West Corridor Project.

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will result in 0.92 acre of permanent impacts and the wetland enhancement will result in 0.35 acres of temporary impacts.

Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander

It has been determined that potential habitat for Santa Cruz long-toed salamander is present within the project area. Upland habitat is adjacent to potential aquatic breeding habitat in the Moro Cojo Slough and may also include adjacent fallow agriculture lands. During project investigation of the State Route 156 West Corridor Project, it was initially anticipated that Santa Cruz long-toed salamander would not be found around the existing Castroville Boulevard and State Route 156 West intersection due to the presence of the urban environment and active agricultural practice. During coordination with CDFW for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange project, CDFW asserted that there are additional habitats within the project area. Habitats identified in the project area now includes farmlands that has been retired and could contain vegetation to support habitat conditions. It is now anticipated that Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders may be present within the project area due to the presence of key habitat requirements for the species.

If Santa Cruz long-toed salamander is present within the project area, it could be indirectly and/or directly impacted by project construction. The project will install temporary fencing to keep Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders from entering the project area and to minimize species mortality from construction activities. However, the temporary fencing would also keep the species from entering potential upland habitat, fragmenting available habitat in the area and potentially causing stress and/or mortality to individual species. Alternatively, installation of the temporary fencing may also prevent the species from entering agricultural fields, which may also minimize species mortality from agricultural activities. The installation of the temporary fencing does have the potential to minimize species mortality and increase species population in the project area by preventing the species from entering sites with human activities. The project may require relocation of Santa Cruz long-toed salamander found within the project limits. Relocation activities could cause stress and/or result in mortality to any species involved. Alternatively, individual species not relocated from the project area would be exposed to construction activities that could cause stress, injury and/or mortality of the species. Project construction activities can also have the potential to indirectly impact Santa Cruz long-toed salamander by disrupting normal species behavior, which can cause, stress and/or increase rates of species mortality.

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will permanently and temporarily impact habitat for Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders. The project will result in approximately 23 acres of temporary impacts and approximately 8.5 acres of permanent impacts to habitat for Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders.

It is anticipated that with the implementation of appropriate avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures proposed for the project, the project will result in a net increase of habitat for the species. The requirement to fully mitigate for take of the species will ensure that more

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

suitable habitat is conserved and/or enhanced in the Moro Cojo Slough area than what was impacted by project activities. This will be a benefit to the species which is imperiled due to extreme habitat fragmentation.

California Tiger Salamander

During coordination with CDFW for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange project, CDFW asserted that there are additional habitats for California tiger salamander within the project area. Habitat in the project area now includes farmlands that has been retired and could contain vegetation to support marginal habitat conditions. The habitat identified for California tiger salamander is the same habitat identified for the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander. This increases the area of potential presence for California tiger salamander within the project area.

The California tiger salamander would experience similar impacts from project construction as the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander due to similar life cycles, habitat needs, and behavior pattern of the species. It is anticipated that project construction activities would result in stress and/or mortality of individual species.

The project will result in approximately 23 acres of temporary impacts and approximately 8.5 acres of permanent impacts to habitat for California tiger salamanders.

Migratory Nesting Birds

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange project has the potential to temporarily impact migratory nesting birds. Temporary impacts to potential nesting habitat will occur due to temporary construction activities that may involve vegetation removal. The removal of vegetation could directly impact active bird nest and any eggs or young residing in the nest if vegetation or nests are removed during nesting bird season (February 1 to September 30). Vegetation removal will temporarily reduce the availability of nesting and roosting habitats. Indirect temporary impacts to nesting birds could also result from noise, and dust generated by construction activities, which can alter normal perching, foraging and/or nesting behaviors.

It is anticipated that the relatively high ambient noise in the project area caused by the existing urban environment would dissuade birds from nesting in the project area. Due to the level of existing disturbed and urbanized condition of the project area, nesting birds are not expected to be found within the project limits or the birds would be acclimated to high disturbance levels.

Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 Effect Determination

For the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project:

- The project will have no effect on any critical habitat, as none are present in the Biological Study Area.
- The project will have no effect on the following listed plants : marsh sandwort, Menzies' wallflower, Monterey gilia, Monterey spineflower, Santa Cruz tarplant and Yadon's rein-orchid.
- The project will have no effect on the following listed animals: California clapper tail, California Ridgeway's rail, California condor, California least tern, least Bell's vireo, marbled murrelet, southwestern willow flycatcher, western snowy plover, monarch butterfly, tidewater goby, and vernal pool fairy shrimp.

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

- As described in the Final EIR for the State Route 156 West Corridor Project, the Castroville Interchange project may affect and is likely to adversely affect California red-legged frog, California tiger salamander, and Santa Cruz long-toed salamander.

Visual Impact

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project would result in a substantial alteration of the existing visual setting, and would increase potential visual impacts at the Castroville Boulevard and State Route 156 West intersection when compared to the intersection design that was proposed in the State Route 156 West Corridor project. The new Castroville Boulevard and State Route 156 West interchange will include three roundabouts, one at the intersection of Castroville Boulevard and the new frontage roads, and one at each of the new on-ramps and off-ramps. The roundabouts would be a relatively new type of traffic configuration within the area. However, the casual observer would not view the roundabouts as an unexpected visual element in the current rural/suburban highway setting.

The roundabouts would increase the extent of pavement and the visual scale of the roadway facilities. In addition, signage, light poles, and pavement markings would increase in the project area, resulting in additional visual clutter, and contributing to a reduction in visual quality. The project's addition of the three roundabouts, lights, signage, striping, and other project features would contribute to an urbanizing influence in the area. The potential for viewer sensitivity would be somewhat moderated since many of the changes proposed by the project would likely not be considered uncharacteristic of other highway elements seen throughout Monterey County. The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project would result in additional potential impacts related to the roundabout configurations and will require additional mitigation measures.

Offsite Mitigation

The Offsite Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring Plan proposes wetland and riparian restoration on up to 5.0 acres of the Elkhorn Highland Reserve that will result in temporary and permanent impacts to the Elkhorn Highland Reserve property.

Wetlands

Rehabilitation work will involve disturbance to existing wetlands. These temporary impacts will be minor compared to the long-term benefit of improving wetland quality. Wetland re-establishment and rehabilitation will require re-grading to widen wetland areas in the basin at Elkhorn Highlands Reserve. Where the surrounding topography allows, wetland areas will be re-graded and contoured to support seasonal ponding. Following the re-grading, wetland areas will be planted with native vegetation using a combination of seeding, cuttings, and plugs. The outcome would be a wet meadow mosaic, intermixed with small areas of seasonal ponding and patches of scrub-shrub wetland. Once the re-grading and plantings are complete, and jurisdictional agencies deem the mitigation successful, the Elkhorn Slough Foundation will manage the new wetland areas for invasive species as part of their continued management of the Elkhorn Highlands Reserve. Irrigation systems for re-establishment of the new wetland areas are not anticipated. However, if conditions are abnormally dry, supplemental irrigation systems could be implemented during the first two years after initial planting. Temporary irrigation is proposed for the riparian habitat restoration area.

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

Wetlands, other waters, and coastal wetlands under the jurisdiction of USACE, RWQCB, CDFW, and Monterey County will be impacted by the proposed restoration project. The proposed project will be included in the following permits for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project: CWA Section 404 permit from USACE, a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from RWQCB, a Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW, and a Coastal Permit issued by Monterey County.

Plant Species

Eight sensitive plant species were identified during botanical surveys of the property. Several California Rare Plants were identified within the Elkhorn Highlands Reserve property boundaries. Two federally listed plant species were detected during property surveys: the threatened Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*) and the endangered Yadon's rein orchid (*Piperia yadonii*). Additionally, this project is adjacent to Yadon's Piperia (*Piperia yadonii*) final critical habitat. No work would occur on or adjacent to these occurrences or within critical habitat; therefore, there would be no effect to these species. Harlequin lotus (*Hosackia gracilis*) has been identified in areas of potential ground disturbance. Harlequin lotus is not a state or federally listed species. However, impacts to the species would be avoided to the extent feasible. Additional botanical surveys would be performed prior to the start of work.

Amphibian Species

The site provides suitable upland and aquatic habitat for the federally and state threatened California tiger salamander (CTS) (*Ambystoma californiense*) and the federally threatened California red-legged frog (CRLF) (*Rana draytonii*).

The mitigation property contains suitable breeding, upland, and dispersal habitat for CTS and CRLF, with project activities taking place within suitable upland dispersal habitats. Project activities are estimated to result in temporary impacts to up to 5 acres of CTS and CRLF breeding, upland, or dispersal habitat; however, the final wetland restoration will create and enhance suitable habitat for CTS and CRLF and result in long-term benefits to both species.

Caltrans will not impact or indirectly affect the nearby CTS breeding pond and project activities will occur outside of the CTS and CRLF breeding season therefore, no eggs will be impacted. All other CTS and CRLF life stages may be present in the action area during project activities. Injury or mortality could occur from equipment during grading or other project activities.

The wetland restoration project component of the State Route 156 West Corridor Improvement project will have a Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 finding of may affect, likely to adversely affect for CTS and CRLF. However, it would result in a long-term benefit to both species and their habitat. The Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 findings of for CTS and CRLF are the same for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project.

The proposed restoration project has the potential to result in take of CTS as defined by the California Endangered Species Act, and therefore will require a 2081 Incidental Take Permit. The restoration project will not impact any other California Endangered Species Act listed species.

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 Effect Determination

For the Offsite Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring Plan:

- The project will have no effect on any critical habitat, as none are present in the Biological Study Area.
- The project will have no effect on the following listed plants: Marsh sandwort, Monterey gilia, Monterey spineflower, Santa Cruz tarplant, and Yadon's Piperia.
- The project will have no effect on the following listed animals: California clapper rail, California condor, least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, Santa Cruz long-toed salamander, monarch butterfly, South-Central California Coast steelhead distinct population segment, and vernal pool fairy shrimp.
- The project may affect, likely to adversely affect the following listed species: California tiger salamander, and California red-legged frog.

Onsite Enhancement

Onsite enhancement activities will enhance 0.35 acre of wetland hydraulic geomorphic, and vegetative function. Grading will be conducted to create shallow ponded areas near outlets of three culverts to help increase hydraulic and geomorphic diversity and help attenuate any high flows from the culverts. Non-native plant species predominate the existing wetland, and the area would be restored with native vegetation. Irrigation is not anticipated within the restored wetland area. If conditions are abnormally dry, supplemental irrigation could be provided during the first two years of initial planting.

Changes to avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures since the environmental document was approved.

Design

Land Use

- Any land that is designated for farmland use and is converted to non-farmland use as a result of the project will be offset at a minimum ratio of 1 to 1. Land that is used to offset the conversion will be of similar or better status than the original.
- Infill materials used in the project shall not be obtained from borrow sites comprised of prime agricultural soils.
- Areas adjacent to farmland properties disturbed during construction will be re-stabilized utilizing native vegetation and soils clear of invasive plant species at end of construction. Soil amendments, if used, must comply with the requirement of the California Food and Agricultural Codes. Soil amendment must not contain paint, petroleum products, pesticides or any other chemical residues harmful to animal life or plant growth.
- The Construction contract will include provisions to protect against the spread of invasive species.
- When selecting sites for project related mitigation, the project will try to avoid negatively impacting parcels containing prime agricultural soils.

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

- Any property acquisition is anticipated to follow Caltrans standard property acquisition process. The Caltrans standard property acquisition process requires Caltrans right-of-way agent to coordinate and negotiate with property owners to develop appropriate compensation. Appropriate and adequate compensation will be provided for each property acquisition, including relocation assistance for residences and business as required by the law. Caltrans right-of-way agents will work with the affected property's owner to address issues of concern and negotiate a compensation for their property's fair market value and any temporary loss of production due to the project.
- Projects involved with Williamson Act contracts will need to comply with all conditions of the act including, but not limited to the following:
 - California Government Code Section 5129(c) – When land in an agricultural preserve is acquired by a public entity, the public entity shall notify the Director of Conservation within 10 working days. The notice shall include a general explanation of the decision and the findings made pursuant to Section 51292.
 - California Government Code Section 51291(d) – If, after giving the notice required under subdivision (c) and before the project is completed within an agricultural preserve, the public agency or person proposes any significant change in the public improvement, it shall give notice of the changes to the Director of Conservation and the local governing body responsible for the administration of the preserve. Within 30 days thereafter, the Director of Conservation and the local governing body may forward to the public agency or person their comments with respect to the effect of the change to the public improvement on the land within the preserve and compliance of the change public improvement with this article. Those comments shall be considered by the public agency or person, if avoidable within the time limits set by this subdivision.

Natural Communities, Habitats and Jurisdictional Waters

- During construction, all project-related hazardous materials spills within the project site will be cleaned up immediately. Readily accessible spill prevention and cleanup materials will be kept by the contractor on-site at all times during construction.
- During construction, erosion control measures will be implemented. Fiber rolls, and appropriate best management barriers will be installed as needed between the project site and jurisdictional areas, as defined by the jurisdictional delineation report.
- During construction, the cleaning and refueling of equipment and vehicles will occur only within a designated staging area. This area will either be a minimum of 100 feet from jurisdictional areas or if the area is less than 100 feet from aquatic areas the area must be surrounded by barriers (e.g. fiber rolls or equivalent). The staging areas will conform to Caltrans Construction Site BMPs (Caltrans 2017).
- Each season after construction has been completed in jurisdictional areas, contours will be restored as close as possible to their original condition.
- Compensatory mitigation is required for the project's permanent impacts to wetlands, streams, one-parameter wetlands and coastal Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas, and riparian areas. The mitigation efforts are consistent with federal and state regulatory requirements and will be amended with any regulatory permit conditions, as required. All temporary impacts will be restored. All permanent impacts will be fully mitigated with a

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

combination on of onsite enhancement and offsite rehabilitation and reestablishment. The final mitigation strategy will be approved by all permitting agencies before construction activities begin on the project.

Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander

- Before any activities begin, the approved biologist shall conduct an education program for all persons employed or otherwise working on the project site prior to performing any work on-site. The program shall include a discussion of the biology of the Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders and project-specific avoidance and minimization measures. Upon completion of the program, employees shall sign a form stating they attended the program and understand all protection measures.
- Exclusion fence will be constructed along the border of suitable habitat for Santa Cruz long-toed salamander and the Area of Potential Impact, in coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and CDFW.
- All Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders will be relocated outside of the project footprint on the Environmentally Sensitive Area side of the exclusion fence by designated Biologists and Monitors before any project activities can begin.
- All vegetation removal and initial ground disturbing work will be supervised by an approved biological monitor after the exclusion fence has been installed. Any vegetation removal required to install the fence will also be done by hand and will be supervised by a designated Biologist or Monitor.
- All vegetation removal within suitable Santa Cruz long-toed salamander and California tiger salamander habitat will occur by hand with chainsaws and hand tools. A thorough inspection of suitable habitat will be conducted as vegetation is removed and again directly after vegetation is removed. Only after the habitat is cleared by a biologist will machinery be allowed to enter the previously suitable habitat to grub vegetation roots and conduct earthwork.
- The exclusion fencing will be removed after all work is completed.
- Effects to Santa Cruz long-toed salamander shall be minimized during rainy weather at night. Between November 1 and April 1, when the change of rainfall within 24 hours is predicted to be 70 percent or greater, the project site shall be surveyed nightly by the designated Biologist or designated Monitor prior to any night work. Only critical project activities will be allowed on nights that have a 70 percent chance of rain or higher in areas that are marginal Santa Cruz long-toed salamander habitat, and no activities can occur within appropriate Santa Cruz long-toed salamander habitat at night, until no further rain is forecast.
- Copies of all relevant agreements/permits (e.g., Biological Opinions, Section 2081 Incidental Take Permit) shall be maintained at the worksite.
- Work activities, when conducted in potential habitat for California red-legged frogs, California tiger salamander, and Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders, will be completed between May 1 and November 1. If activities need to occur outside this period, Caltrans will seek approval from USFWS.

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

- To ensure that disease are not conveyed between work sites by USFWS approved biologist, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force will be followed at all times
- During project activities, all trash that may attract predators will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris will be removed from work areas.
- Compensatory mitigation is required as a result of indirect and direct impacts to the species. Any impacts to Santa Cruz long-toed salamander will be fully mitigated in coordination with the USFWS and CDFW through the Biological Opinion and 2081 Incidental Take Permit process. Mitigation will occur through a combination of on-site right-of-way habitat restoration and enhancement, off-site habitat conservation and restoration. The mitigation will be as close to the project impacts as feasible to ensure the population of Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders that is impacted is the same population that is benefited by the mitigation effort. Additionally, the mitigation will include aquatic and/or upland resources that will be restored onsite and conserved offsite through land acquisition or conservation easement. Coordination will continue with CDFW, and the USFWS to finalize mitigation requirements during final permitting process. Project activities will not begin until mitigation for Santa Cruz long-toed salamander has been secured.

California Tiger Salamander

- Measures to avoid and minimize potential impacts to Santa Cruz long-toed salamander would also apply for potential impacts to California tiger salamander.
- Compensatory mitigation is required as a result of indirect and direct impacts to the species. Any impacts to California tiger salamander will be fully mitigated in coordination with the USFWS and CDFW through the Biological Opinion and 2081 Incidental Take Permit processes. Mitigation will occur through a combination of onsite right-of-way habitat restoration and enhancement, and offsite habitat conservation and/or restoration. The mitigation will be as close to the project impacts as feasible to ensure the population of California tiger salamander that is impacted is the same population that is benefited by the mitigation effort. Additionally, the mitigation will include aquatic and/or upland resources that will be restored onsite and conserved offsite through land acquisition and/or conservation easement. Coordination will continue with CDFW, and the USFWS to finalize mitigation requirements during final permitting process.

California Red-Legged Frog

- No specific compensatory mitigation for California red-legged frog is required and none is proposed. It is anticipated that compensatory mitigation proposed for jurisdictional areas, Santa Cruz long-toed salamander and California tiger salamander will also benefit California red-legged frog species and habitat.

Migratory Nesting Birds

- Avoidance and minimization measures listed for jurisdictional areas, would also apply to all bird nesting habitat impacted by the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project.

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

- If feasible, vegetation removal and tree trimming shall be schedule to occur between October 1 and January 31, outside of the typical nesting bird season, which is February 1 to September 30.
- If vegetation removal are proposed to occur during the nesting season (February 1 to September 30), a nesting bird survey will be conducted by a Caltrans biologist no more than 7 days prior to construction.
- If an active nest is found a qualified biologist shall determine an appropriate Environmental Sensitive Area buffer (typically 100 feet around active passerine nests and 500 feet for active bird of prey or raptor nest) or monitoring strategy based on the habits and needs of the species. The buffer areas shall be avoided or monitoring strategy implemented until a qualified biologist has determined that juveniles have fledged.
- Trees to be removed will be noted on design plans, prior to any ground-disturbing activities, high visibility fencing, or flagging will be installed around the dripline of trees to be protected within project limits.
- No rodent control pesticides shall be used, including anticoagulant rodenticides such as brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, and difenacoum. This is a necessary precaution to avoid secondary poisoning to raptors that hunt and feed on rodents and other small animals.
- A Caltrans biologist or qualified representative will provide a worker training and/or informational material to be used in identifying raptors, protocols for responding to their presence within the construction site and notification procedures.
- If a white-tailed kite is seen nesting within 500 feet of the project area, all work in the area will immediately stop. Caltrans will immediately notify CDFW. A biological monitor will be called to monitor the kite weekly until it has fledged the nest. Work within the 500-foot buffer will only commence once the kite's offspring have fledged the nest, as confirmed by both the biological monitor and with approval of CDFW.

Visual Impacts

- Roundabout splitter islands, center island components, pedestrian areas and roadside paved elements shall receive aesthetic treatments as determined by the District Landscape Architect with input from the local community.
- Aesthetic design and treatment shall be incorporated into the overcrossing structure, bridge rail, abutment, slope paving and other associated elements. Aesthetic treatments shall reduce graffiti potential, reduce the urban appearance, and result in the project being more consistent with community aesthetic values.
- Landscaping shall be included in the proximity of the bridge structure. Landscaping shall mitigate the urban appearance of the project by using natural elements to reduce the perceived scale of the bridges, filter cumulative views of the ramps and other project features where applicable, and provide a natural transition from the adjacent landscape to the project.
- Landscaping shall be included in the proximity of the roundabouts. No Landscaping is recommended within the center or splitter islands, however roadside landscaping shall

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

be designated to mitigation the visual clutter and urban appearance of the roundabouts, and provide a natural transition from the adjacent landscape to the project.

- When feasible, all overhead utility lines affected by the project along State Route 156 West shall be placed underground per State Scenic Highway policy and State Streets and Highway Code.
- All street lights shall be directed downward and shall include cut-off lens fixture to limit visibility of point source lighting as seen from adjacent parcels.
- All new slopes created by the project shall include contour grading and slope rounding where such measures would not cause additional tree removal or adverse effects to other resources.
- Where applicable, the location and appearance of stormwater basins and other visible stormwater prevention measures shall be determined in consultation with the Caltrans Landscape Architect representative. To the greatest extent possible considering their function, all such stormwater features shall be sited and designed to appear natural and to minimize their effect on existing vegetation as well as on planting opportunities. Associated fencing shall be minimized. Planting shall be included in the design of storm water elements to screen views from public and make the elements visually blend with the surroundings.
- All new and replaced guardrail post and beams shall be darkened.
- If pedestrian and/or bicycle rail is required, it shall be architecturally treated

Offsite Mitigation

Wetlands

- Areas of temporary impacts will be restored. This project is solely for mitigation and will therefore result in an increase of and improvement to approximately 3.5 acres of wetland.

Plant Species

- Additional botanical surveys would be performed prior to the start of work. If state or federally listed plant species are identified in the project area, they would either be avoided, or Caltrans would coordinate with CDFW and/or USFWS to determine appropriate avoidance and minimization measures and evaluate the need for permits.
- If impacts to special status plant species occur, species-specific seeding, planting, and/or relocation would be done, as feasible, in coordination with the Elkhorn Slough Foundation nursery.
- Preconstruction surveys would be conducted for special status plant species. Prior to any ground disturbing activities, high visibility fencing or flagging will be installed around special status plants identified adjacent to work activities. No work will be allowed within the designated area.

Amphibian Species

- To avoid and minimize effects to CTS and CRLF, Caltrans has agreed to implement all applicable conservation measures described in the Programmatic Biological Opinion for

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

California Red-Legged Frog, California Tiger Salamander, and Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander on Issuance of Recovery Permits and Recovery Projects in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties, California (PBO; 08EVEN00-2017-F-0584) (Service 2018).

Onsite Enhancement

Wetlands

- Areas of temporary impacts will be restored. Measures to avoid and minimize potential impacts to wetlands for the main project would also apply for onsite enhancement activities.

Changes to environmental commitments since the environmental document was approved, e.g., the addition of new conditions in permits or approvals. When this applies, append a revised Environmental Commitments Record (ECR) as one of the Continuation Sheets.

Offsite Mitigation

The Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project will now include environmental commitments associated with the Offsite Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. The following commitments apply to the work proposed by the Offsite Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. The following commitments are a component of the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project and the State Route 156 West Corridor Project.

The following commitments will be conducted as part of the wetland re-establishment and rehabilitation as described in the Offsite Compensatory Mitigation and Monitoring Plan prepared in August 2021 for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project:

OCP-1 Caltrans will conduct annual monitoring for a five-year period or until performance standards have been achieved. Vegetation monitoring will be performed each year between June 1 and September 1.

OCP-2 Annual post construction monitoring reports will be submitted to the permitting agencies for a period of five years. The monitoring reports will include information such as planting plans, delineation maps, data forms, and photographs that assess site conditions quantitatively and qualitatively to determine whether the implemented mitigation has met the established performance standards. In the first year's monitoring report, a map will be submitted that shows the actual planted area. A wetland delineation will be completed in the final year of monitoring to verify successful re-establishment of the mitigation wetland area.

OCP-3 Caltrans Biology staff will monitor the success of the re-established and rehabilitated areas, and mitigation success will be confirmed through achievement of the Year-5 performance standards.

- a. Wetland hydrology will be confirmed through either shallow groundwater monitoring wells or manual verification using a shovel at established locations throughout the mitigation site during successive visits in the early spring.

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

- b. Percent cover of native and invasive vegetation will be estimated for each mitigation site using line-intercept methodology for woody vegetation and CDFW-CNPS releve approach for herbaceous vegetation.
- c. Photo monitoring will also be established to track the mitigation progress of the site. Photo points will be established at locations throughout the mitigation site and a map prepared showing the photo point locations and viewing orientation. Photos will be taken annually at the photo point locations and included in the annual monitoring reports to photo-document progress of preservation and enhancement of the mitigation site.

OCP-4 If performance standards are not met after the 5-year monitoring period, additional plantings, seedings, or exotic species control may be necessary. Caltrans would be responsible for implementing this work and any other unforeseen challenges within the monitoring period.

OCP-5 The mitigation site is designed to be self-sustaining once performance standards have been met to ensure long-term sustainability. Occasional weeding will be employed along with supplemental plantings (if necessary).

The following commitments will be included to avoid and minimize potential impact to biological resources as described in the Biological Memorandum for the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Offsite Wetland Mitigation prepared on February 24,2022.

Plant Species

PS-1 If impacts to special-status plant species occur, species-specific seeding, planting, and/or relocation would be done, as feasible, in coordination with the Elkhorn Slough Foundation nursery.

PS-2 Preconstruction surveys would be conducted for special status plant species. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, high visibility fencing or flagging will be installed around special-status plants identified adjacent to work activities. No work will be allowed within the designated area.

Amphibian Species

The following will be implemented for California tiger salamanders (CTS) and California red-legged frogs (CRLF). In addition, Caltrans has agreed to implement all applicable conservation measures described in the *Programmatic Biological Opinion for California Red-Legged Frog California Tiger Salamander, and Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander*.

AMP-1 Prior to the start of work, an educational program regarding the sensitivity of the covered species and their habitat will be conducted for all personnel. The educational program will include visual materials on species identification, procedures to follow when encountering any covered species in the work area, penalties for take, and all work restrictions within the project area.

AMP-2 A chain of command for field crews and other on-site personnel will be established prior to commencement of all activities. This program will establish the biological monitors as the persons in charge of, and responsible for, all facets of project implementation. The

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

specific chain-of-command will be defined at the pre-activity meeting to be held immediately prior to the initiation of work.

AMP-3 Biological monitors will have the full responsibility and authority of stopping work activities, if any crews or personnel are not complying with the provisions outlined in this document and/or conditions in any other authorization from the USFWS.

AMP-4 Prior to the start of work, areas will be identified by the qualified biologist and approved by the USFWS as acceptable locations to which covered species may be relocated if encountered within a work area. Covered species will not be removed from the work area or maintained in captivity overnight without prior notification and approval by the USFWS, unless the animal is in need of emergency medical assistance. In coordination with the USFWS, medical assistance may be provided to injured animals by a certified wildlife veterinarian familiar with amphibian care.

AMP-5 Only biologists specifically authorized by the USFWS to handle covered species will be allowed to handle, transport, and relocate individuals of these species. When transporting individuals, precautions will be taken to ensure that the animals are not over-stressed and are maintained in safe conditions. Such measures include: keeping animals in a cool, dark, and safe location, providing adequate hydration, maintaining a stable cool temperature to avoid over-heating, and ensuring holding tanks are kept clean to prevent the spread of disease.

AMP-6 Biological monitors will check for any covered species under vehicles and equipment that are parked for more than 30 minutes.

AMP-7 To maintain safety and limit the chance of take or habitat disturbance, communication systems consisting of a simple system of hand signals or handheld radios will be utilized to ensure proper communication between the monitors, truck drivers, equipment operators, and field personnel to use during habitat enhancement and related activities.

AMP-8 The USFWS will be notified immediately if any of the covered species are injured or killed during the course of any project related activity. All other incidental observations will be recorded in the daily field monitoring forms or notes.

AMP-9 Refueling of equipment will be conducted at least 49 feet (15 meters) from aquatic or riparian habitats, and be accomplished using chemically resistant polypropylene or other impervious material with vertical sides for spill containment. These containment tarps will be set up under the equipment prior to servicing or refueling. Once the work is completed, the tarp and its contents must be immediately removed from the property and all contaminants properly disposed of off-site. If refueling is proposed to take place within the work site, a spill prevention and cleanup plan must be developed.

AMP-10 All trash that may attract predators will be properly contained, removed from the site, and disposed of regularly. Following work activities, all trash and debris will be removed from work areas.

AMP-11 Prior to conducting non-native plant removal or treatments (e.g., spraying with herbicide, cutting, pulling, digging out), the permittee will make every reasonable attempt to

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

ensure that covered species are not hidden within the plant or the residual plant matter to be treated.

AMP-12 Aquatic and upland enhancement activities will be described in the work plan and will specify the areas where work will be performed, the dates during which the work will be performed, and a description of the work to be performed.

AMP-13 Aquatic and upland enhancement activities could include but are not necessarily limited to: vegetation removal, including non-native tree stumps and roots; basin deepening or recontouring; sediment removal; berm repair and strengthening; and planting vegetation, all of which may be performed manually or using heavy machinery. Draining of ponds to perform the authorized work should only occur during part of the year when the larval life stage has been completed and before the subsequent breeding season. Within 2 days of the start of work on a pond, that pond will be sampled by a qualified biologist to ensure that all covered species from that pond are in the post metamorphic stage and will be minimally affected by draining of the pond.

AMP-14 To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between work sites, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force will be followed at all times. The Service-approved biologist or permitted person may substitute a bleach solution (0.5 to 1.0 cup of bleach to 1.0 gallon of water) for the ethanol solution. Care must be taken so that all traces of the disinfectant are removed before entering the next aquatic habitat.

AMP-15 For all habitat management activities, a monitor will be present before and during the activity and will conduct surveys and species monitoring as needed and determined in coordination with the USFWS. Surveys and monitors may not be required for small scale maintenance activities using hand tools; the need for surveys and monitoring will be coordinated with the Service prior to the start of project activities.

AMP-16 Activities including the use of mechanical equipment, heavy machinery, excavating, and bulldozing may require pre-activity visual surveys as well as monitoring during the activities. Pre-activity surveys would take place the day prior to the proposed activity. Visual surveys will determine routes to be marked for off-pavement vehicle travel and staging areas, areas of ground disturbance where exclusion fencing will be required, and how many biological monitors will be required during the actions, based on the size of the affected area and potential density of covered species.

AMP-17 Exclusion fencing may be required based on specific project requirements and determined in coordination with the USFWS. Monitors are required to temporarily stop any work that they believe may harm individuals of the covered species. Work will not resume until a satisfactory method is agreed upon to minimize take of the covered species.

Nesting Migratory Birds

The following commitments will apply to all birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

NMB-1 If feasible, vegetation removal and tree trimming shall be scheduled to occur between October 1 and January 31, outside of the typical nesting bird season, which is February 1 to September 30.

NEPA/CEQA RE-VALIDATION FORM

NMB-2 If vegetation removal is proposed to occur during the nesting season (February 1 to September 30), a nesting bird survey will be conducted by a Caltrans biologist no more than 7 days prior to start of work.

NMB-3 If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist shall determine an appropriate buffer (typically 100 feet around active passerine nests and 500 feet for active bird of prey or raptor nests) or monitoring strategy based on the habits and needs of the species. The buffer area shall be avoided, or monitoring strategy implemented until a qualified biologist has determined that juveniles have fledged.

NMB-4 Trees to be removed will be noted on design plans. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, high visibility fencing, or flagging will be installed around the dripline of trees to be protected within project limits.

The following commitment will be included to avoid and minimize potential impacts associated with possible contaminated soils that could be encountered during activities described in the Hazardous Waste Memorandum prepared on March 24, 2022.

HAZ-1 If soil is exported from the Elkhorn Highlands Reserve Property it will be managed appropriately following Caltrans standards and in compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and the conditions of the receiving facility. Further investigation that includes soil sampling for pesticides and petroleum hydrocarbons may be required.



Environmental Commitments Record (ECR)

DIST-CO-RTE: 05 - MON - 156 **PM/PM:** 0.000/0.000 **EA/Project ID:** 05-31601_ / 0518000120

Project Description: Construct a new interchange at Castroville Boulevard and Highway 156.

Date (Last modification): 6/6/2022

Environmental Planner: Geramaldi Geramaldi

Phone: 805-542-4785

Construction Liaison: Michael Thomas

Phone: 805-549-3023

Resident Engineer:

Phone:

PERMITS

Permit	Agency	Application Submitted	Permit Received	Permit Expiration	Permit Requirements Completed by	Permit Requirements Completed on	Comments
1600	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	12/9/21					
2081 - Incidental Take Permit	California Department of Fish & Wildlife	8/30/21					
401	Regional Water Quality Control Board	7/9/21					
404 Standard Individual Permit (SIP)	US Army Corps of Engineers	7/9/21					
BO (FWS)	US Fish and Wildlife	2/25/21	8/12/21				
Coastal Development Permit - Local	Coastal Commission	8/28/20					
NOI/NOT (Stormwater)	State Water Quality Board						
Programmatic BO	US Fish and Wildlife		2/24/22				

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

PS&E/BEFORE RTL

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Biology	CRLF The project will include all applicable measures from the Programmatic Biological Opinion for California red-legged frog.	NES		Bio, Permit Coordinator	Obtain relevant permits					

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
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RIGHT OF WAY PURCHASING

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
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Community Impact Assessment	Any land that is designated for farmland use and is converted to non-farmland use as a result of the project will be offset at a minimum ratio of 1 to 1. Land that is used to offset the conversion will be of similar or better status than the original.	CIA		ROW, Generalist	Any lands used for offset should be managed and protected appropriately.					yes
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Community Impact Assessment	When selecting sites for project related mitigation, the project will try to avoid negatively impacting parcels containing prime agricultural soils.	CIA		PDT	Project mitigation will avoid negative impacts to prime agricultural lands.					
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Community Impact Assessment	Any property acquisition is anticipated to follow Caltrans standard property acquisition process. The Caltrans standard property acquisition process requires Caltrans right-of-way agent to coordinate and negotiate with property owners to develop appropriate compensation. Appropriate and adequate compensation will be provided for each property acquisition, including relocation assistance for residences and business as required by the law. Caltrans right-of-way agents will work with the affected property's owner to address issues of concern and negotiate a compensation for their property's fair market value and any temporary loss of production due to the project.	CIA		ROW	CT right of way agents will at minimum follow CT standard procedures.					
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Community Impact Assessment	<p>Projects involved with Williamson Act contracts will need to comply with all conditions of the act including, but not limited to the following:</p> <p>* California Government Code Section 5129(c) – When land in an agricultural preserve is acquired by a public entity, the public entity shall notify the Director of Conservation within 10 working days. The notice shall include a general explanation of the decision and the findings made pursuant to Section 51292.</p> <p>* California Government Code Section 51291(d) – If, after giving the notice required under subdivision (c) and before the project is completed within an agricultural preserve, the public agency or person proposes any significant change in the public improvement, it shall give notice of the changes to the Director of Conservation and the local governing body responsible for the administration of the preserve. Within 30 days thereafter, the Director of Conservation and the local governing body may forward to the public agency or person their comments with respect to the effect of the</p>	CIA		ROW, Generalist	CT to notify appropriate government offices in charge of Williamson Act contracts.					
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Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
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change to the public improvement on the land within the preserve and compliance of the change public improvement with this article. Those comments shall be considered by the public agency or person, if avoidable within the time limits set by this subdivision.

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
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CONSTRUCTION

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
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Biology	<p>AMP-1 Prior to the start of work, an educational program regarding the sensitivity of the covered species and their habitat will be conducted for all personnel. The educational program will include visual materials on species identification, procedures to follow when encountering any covered species in the work area, penalties for take, and all work restrictions within the project area.</p> <p>AMP-2 A chain of command for field crews and other on-site personnel will be established prior to commencement of all activities. This program will establish the biological monitors as the persons in charge of, and responsible for, all facets of project implementation. The specific chain-of-command will be defined at the pre-activity meeting to be held immediately prior to the initiation of work.</p> <p>AMP-3 Biological monitors will have the full responsibility and authority of stopping work activities, if any crews or personnel are not complying with the provisions outlined in this document and/or conditions in any other authorization from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).</p> <p>AMP-4 Prior to the start of work, areas will be identified by the qualified biologist and approved by the USFWS as acceptable locations to which covered species may be relocated if encountered within a work area. Covered species will not be removed from the work area or maintained in captivity overnight without prior notification and approval by the USFWS, unless the animal is in need of emergency medical assistance. In coordination with the USFWS, medical assistance may be provided to injured animals by a certified wildlife veterinarian familiar with amphibian care.</p> <p>AMP-5 Only biologists specifically authorized by the USFWS to handle covered species will be allowed to handle, transport, and relocate individuals of these species. When transporting individuals, precautions will be taken to ensure that the animals are not over-stressed and are maintained in safe conditions. Such measures include: keeping animals in a cool, dark, and safe location, providing adequate hydration, maintaining a stable cool temperature to avoid over-heating, and ensuring holding tanks are kept clean to prevent the spread of disease.</p> <p>AMP-6 Biological monitors will check for any covered species under vehicles and equipment that are parked for</p>	<p>Re-validation Offsite Compensatory MMP</p>		<p>Biologist, Permit Coordinator</p>	<p>Biologist and Permit Coordinator to coordinate with Elkhorn Slough Foundation on Offsite Compensatory MMP</p>						
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Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
	more than 30 minutes.									
Biology	<p>AMP-7 To maintain safety and limit the chance of take or habitat disturbance, communication systems consisting of a simple system of hand signals or handheld radios will be utilized to ensure proper communication between the monitors, truck drivers, equipment operators, and field personnel to use during habitat enhancement and related activities.</p> <p>AMP-8 The USFWS will be notified immediately if any of the covered species are injured or killed during the course of any project related activity. All other incidental observations will be recorded in the daily field monitoring forms or notes.</p> <p>AMP-9 Refueling of equipment will be conducted at least 49 feet (15 meters) from aquatic or riparian habitats, and be accomplished using chemically resistant polypropylene or other impervious material with vertical sides for spill containment. These containment tarps will be set up under the equipment prior to servicing or refueling. Once the work is completed, the tarp and its contents must be immediately removed from the property and all contaminants properly disposed of off-site. If refueling is proposed to take place within the work site, a spill prevention and cleanup plan must be developed.</p> <p>AMP-10 All trash that may attract predators will be properly contained, removed from the site, and disposed of regularly. Following work activities, all trash and debris will be removed from work areas.</p> <p>AMP-11 Prior to conducting non-native plant removal or treatments (e.g., spraying with herbicide, cutting, pulling, digging out), the permittee will make every reasonable attempt to ensure that covered species are not hidden within the plant or the residual plant matter to be treated.</p> <p>AMP-12 Aquatic and upland enhancement activities will be described in the work plan and will specify the areas where work will be performed, the dates during which the work will be performed, and a description of the work to be performed.</p>	<p>Re-validation Offsite Compensatory MMP</p>		<p>Re-validation Offsite Compensatory MMP Coordinator Offsite Compensatory MMP</p>	<p>Biologist and Permit Coordinator to coordinate with Elkhorn Slough Foundation on Offsite Compensatory MMP</p>					
Biology	<p>AMP-13 Aquatic and upland enhancement activities could include but are not necessarily limited to: vegetation removal, including non-native tree stumps and roots; basin deepening or recontouring; sediment removal; berm repair and strengthening; and planting vegetation, all of which may be performed manually or using heavy machinery. Draining of ponds to perform the authorized work should only occur during part of the year when the larval life stage has been completed and before the subsequent breeding</p>									

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
	season. Within 2 days of the start of work on a pond, that pond will be sampled by a qualified biologist to ensure that all covered species from that pond are in the post metamorphic stage and will be minimally affected by draining of the pond.									
Biology	CTS Measures to avoid and minimize potential impacts to Santa Cruz long-toed salamander would also apply for potential impacts to California tiger salamander. CEQA	NES		Bio, ECL	Appropriate measures and monitoring are in place during construction.					yes
Biology	Migratory Nesting Birds Avoidance and minimization measures listed for jurisdictional areas, would also apply to all bird nesting habitat impacted by the Castroville Boulevard Interchange Project.	NES		Bio, ECL	Appropriate measures and monitoring are in place during construction.					
Biology	Migratory Nesting Birds If feasible, vegetation removal and tree trimming shall be schedule to occur between October 1 and January 31, outside of the typical nesting bird season, which is February 1 to September 30.	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Contractor, RE and ECL to coordinate with Bio.					
Biology	Migratory Nesting Birds If vegetation removal are proposed to occur during the nesting season (February 1 to September 30), a nesting bird survey will be conducted by a Caltrans biologist no more than 7 days prior to construction	NES		Bio ECL, RE	Contractor, RE and ECL to coordinate with Bio.					
Biology	Migratory Nesting Birds If an active nest is found a qualified biologist shall determine an appropriate Environmental Sensitive Area buffer (typically 100 feet around active passerine nests and 500 feet for active bird of prey or raptor nest) or monitoring strategy based on the habits and needs of the species. The buffer areas shall be avoided or monitoring strategy implemented until a qualified biologist has determined that juveniles have fledged.	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Contractor, RE and ECL to coordinate with Bio.					
Biology	Migratory Nesting Birds Trees to be removed will be noted on design plans, prior to any ground-disturbing activities, high visibility fencing, or flagging will be installed around the dripline of trees to be protected within project limits.	NES		Bio, Design, ECL, RE	Appropriate measures and monitoring are in place during construction					
Biology	Migratory Nesting Birds No rodent control pesticides shall be used, including anticoagulant rodenticides such as brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone, and difenacoum. This is a necessary precaution to avoid secondary poisoning to	NES		Bio ECL, RE	Appropriate measures and monitoring are in place during construction					

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
	raptors that hunt and feed on rodents and other small animals.									
Biology	Migratory Nesting Birds A Caltrans biologist or qualified representative will provide a worker training and/or informational material to be used in identifying raptors, protocols for responding to their presence within the construction site if they arrive and notification procedures.	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Contractor, RE and ECL to coordinate with Bio.					
Biology	Migratory Nesting Birds If a white-tailed kite is seen nesting within 500 feet of the project area, all work in the area will immediately stop. Caltrans will immediately notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. A biological monitor will be called to monitor the kite weekly until it has fledged the nest. Work within the 500-foot buffer will only commence once the kite's offspring have fledged the nest, as confirmed by both the biological monitor and with approval of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Contractor, RE and ECL to coordinate with Bio.					
Biology	Natural Communities, Habitats and Jurisdictional Waters During construction, all project-related hazardous materials spills within the project site will be cleaned up immediately. Readily accessible spill prevention and cleanup materials will be kept by the contractor on-site at all times during construction.	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Appropriate measures and monitoring are in place during construction					
Biology	Natural Communities, Habitats and Jurisdictional Waters During construction, erosion control measures will be implemented. Fiber rolls, and appropriate best management barriers will be installed as needed between the project site and jurisdictional areas, as defined by the jurisdictional delineation report.	NES		WQ, ECL, RE	Appropriate measures and monitoring are in place during construction					
Biology	Natural Communities, Habitats and Jurisdictional Waters During construction, the cleaning and refueling of equipment and vehicles will occur only within a designated staging area. This area will either be a minimum of 100 feet from jurisdictional areas or if the area is less than 100 feet from aquatic areas the area must be surrounded by barriers (e.g. fiber rolls or equivalent). The staging areas will conform to Caltrans Construction Site BMPs (Caltrans 2017).	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Appropriate measures and monitoring are in place during construction					
Biology	Natural Communities, Habitats and Jurisdictional Waters Each season after construction has been completed in jurisdictional areas, contours will be restored as close as possible to their original condition.	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Appropriate measures and monitoring are in place during construction					
Biology	Amphibian Species	Revalidation		Biologist, ECL	Bio and ECL to					

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
	To avoid and minimize effects to CTS and CRLF, Caltrans has agreed to implement all applicable conservation measures described in the Programmatic Biological Opinion for California Red-Legged Frog, California Tiger Salamander, and Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander on Issuance of Recovery Permits and Recovery Projects in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties, California (PBO; 08EVEN00-2017-F-0584) (Service 2018).				enforce accordingly.					
Biology	<p>Plant Species Additional botanical survey would be performed prior to the start of work. If state or federally listed plant species are identified in the project area, they would either be avoided, or Caltrans would coordinate with CDFW and/or USFWS to determine appropriate avoidance and minimization measures and evaluate the need for permits. If impacts to special status species occur, species specific seeding, planting and/or relocation would be done, as feasible, in coordination with the Elkhorn Slough Foundation nursery. Preconstruction surveys would be conducted for special status plant species. Prior to any ground disturbing activities. No work will be allowed within the designated area.</p>	Revalidation		Biologist, ECL	Bio and ECL to enforce accordingly.					
Biology	<p>SCLTS Before any activities begin, the approved biologist shall conduct an education program for all persons employed or otherwise working on the project site prior to performing any work on-sit. The program shall include a discussion of the biology of the Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders and project-specific avoidance and minimization measures. Upon completion of the program, employees shall sign a form stating they attended the program and understand all protection measures. CEQA</p>	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Contractor, RE and ECL to coordinate with Bio.					yes
Biology	<p>SCLTS Work activities, when conducted in potential habitat for California red-legged frogs, California tiger salamanders, and Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders, will be completed between May 1 and November 1. If activities need to occur outside this period, Caltrans will seek approval from USFWS. CEQA</p>	Revalidation		Biologist, ECL	To enforce as appropriate					yes
Biology	<p>SCLTS To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between work sites</p>	Revalidation		Biologist, ECL	To enforce as appropriate					

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
	by USFWS approved biologist, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force will be followed at all times.									
Biology	SCLTS Exclusion fence will be constructed along the border of suitable habitat for Santa Cruz long-toed salamander and the Area of Potential Impact, in coordination with USFWS and CDFW. CEQA	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Appropriate measures and monitoring are in place during construction					yes
Biology	SCLTS All Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders will be relocated outside of the project footprint on the Environmentally Sensitive Area side of the exclusion fence by designated Biologists and Monitors before any project activities can begin. CEQA	NES		Bio, ECL	Contractor, RE and ECL to coordinate with Bio.					yes
Biology	SCLTS All vegetation removal and initial ground disturbing work will be supervised by an approved biological monitor after the exclusion fence has been installed. Any vegetation removal required to install the fence will also be done by hand and will be supervised by a designated Biologist or Monitor. CEQA	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Contractor, RE and ECL to coordinate with Bio.					yes
Biology	SCLTS All vegetation removal within suitable Santa Cruz long-toed salamander and California tiger salamander habitat will occur by hand with chainsaws and hand tools. A thorough inspection of suitable habitat will be conducted as vegetation is removed and again directly after vegetation is removed. Only after the habitat is cleared by a biologist will machinery be allowed to enter the previously suitable habitat to grub vegetation roots and conduct earthwork. CEQA	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Contractor, RE and ECL to coordinate with Bio.					yes
Biology	SCLTS The exclusion fencing will be removed after all work is completed.	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	RE and ECL to confirm completed action.					yes
Biology	SCLTS Effects to Santa Cruz long-toed salamander shall be minimized during rainy weather at night. Between November 1 and April 1, when the change of rainfall within 24 hours is predicted to be 70 percent or greater, the project site shall be surveyed nightly by the designated Biologist or designated Monitor prior to any night work. Only critical project activities will be allowed on nights that have a 70 percent chance of rain or higher in areas that are	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Contractor, RE and ECL to coordinate with Bio.					yes

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
	marginal Santa Cruz long-toed salamander habitat, and no activities can occur within appropriate Santa Cruz long-toed salamander habitat at night, until no further rain is forecast. CEQA									
Biology	SCLTS Copies of all relevant agreements/permits (e.g., Biological Opinions, Section 2081 Incidental Take Permit) shall be maintained at the worksite.	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Contractor, RE and ECL to coordinate with Bio.					yes
Biology	SCLTS During project activities, all trash that may attract predators will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris will be removed from work areas.	NES		Bio, ECL, RE	Appropriate measures and monitoring are in place during construction					yes
Community Impact Assessment	Infill materials used in the project shall not be obtained from borrow sites comprised of prime agricultural soils.	CIA		ECL, RE	Ensure soil source location no designated as a prime agricultural property.					
Community Impact Assessment	The Construction contract will include CT provisions to protect against the spread of invasive species.	CIA		Bio, ECL, RE	Appropriate measures and monitoring are in place during construction					
Cultural Resources	Native American monitoring will be required during initial ground disturbance during construction	404 Permit		Cultural	Archaeologist will write task order prior to construction - to include a Monitoring Plan, and provide Native American monitor during construction	8/1/22				
Visual Resources	Roundabout splitter islands, center island components, pedestrian areas and roadside paved elements shall receive aesthetic treatments as determined by the District Landscape Architect with input from the local community.	Env Doc		Landscape, RE	RE to coordinate with Landscape and Visual					yes
Visual Resources	If pedestrian and/or bicycle rail is required, it shall be architecturally treated.	Env Doc		Landscape, RE	RE to coordinate with Landscape and Visual					
Visual Resources	Aesthetic design and treatment shall be incorporated into the overcrossing structure, bridge rail, abutment, slope paving and other associated elements. Aesthetic treatments shall reduce graffiti potential, reduce the urban appearance, and result in the project being more consistent with community aesthetic values. CEQA	Env Doc		Landscape	RE to coordinate with Landscape and Visual					yes

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Visual Resources	When feasible, all overhead utility lines affected by the project along State Route 156 shall be placed underground per State Scenic Highway policy and State Streets and Highway Code.	Env Doc		Landscape, RE	RE to coordinate with Landscape and Visual					
Visual Resources	All street lights shall be directed downward and shall include cut-off lens fixture to limit visibility of point source lighting as seen from adjacent parcels.	Env Doc		Landscape, RE	RE to coordinate with Landscape and Visual					
Visual Resources	All new slopes created by the project shall include contour grading and slope rounding where such measures would not cause additional tree removal or adverse effects to other resources.	Env Doc		Landscape, RE	RE to coordinate with Landscape and Visual					yes
Visual Resources	Where applicable, the location and appearance of stormwater basins and other visible stormwater prevention measures shall be determined in consultation with the Caltrans Landscape Architect representative. To the greatest extent possible considering their function, all such stormwater features shall be sited and designed to appear natural and to minimize their effect on existing vegetation as well as on planting opportunities. Associated fencing shall be minimized. Planting shall be included in the design of storm water elements to screen views from public and make the elements visually blend with the surroundings.	Env Doc		Landscape, WQ, RE	RE to coordinate with Landscape and Visual					
Visual Resources	All new and replaced guardrail post and beams shall be darkened.	Env Doc		Landscape, ECL, RE	RE to coordinate with Landscape and Visual					

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

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POST-CONSTRUCTION

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
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Biology	<p>AMP-14 To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between work sites, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force will be followed at all times. The Service-approved biologist or permitted person may substitute a bleach solution (0.5 to 1.0 cup of bleach to 1.0 gallon of water) for the ethanol solution. Care must be taken so that all traces of the disinfectant are removed before entering the next aquatic habitat.</p> <p>AMP-15 For all habitat management activities, a monitor will be present before and during the activity and will conduct surveys and species monitoring as needed and determined in coordination with the USFWS. Surveys and monitors may not be required for small scale maintenance activities using hand tools; the need for surveys and monitoring will be coordinated with the Service prior to the start of project activities.</p> <p>AMP-16 Activities including the use of mechanical equipment, heavy machinery, excavating, and bulldozing may require pre-activity visual surveys as well as monitoring during the activities. Pre-activity surveys would take place the day prior to the proposed activity. Visual surveys will determine routes to be marked for off-pavement vehicle travel and staging areas, areas of ground disturbance where exclusion fencing will be required, and how many biological monitors will be required during the actions, based on the size of the affected area and potential density of covered species.</p> <p>AMP-17 Exclusion fencing may be required based on specific project requirements and determined in coordination with the USFWS. Monitors are required to temporarily stop any work that they believe may harm individuals of the covered species. Work will not resume until a satisfactory method is agreed upon to minimize take of the covered species.</p>	<p>Re-validation Offsite Compensatory MMP</p>		<p>Re-validation Offsite CompBiologist, PerRe-validation Offsite Compensatory MMPmit Coordinatorensa tory MMP</p>	<p>Biologist and Permit Coordinator to coordinate with Elkhorn Slough Foundation on Offsite Compensatory MMP</p>					
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Biology	<p>CRLF No specific compensatory mitigation for California red-legged frog is required and none is proposed. It is anticipated that compensatory mitigation proposed for jurisdictional areas, Santa Cruz long-toed salamander and California tiger salamander will also benefit California red-legged frog species and habitat.</p>	NES		Bio, Landscape, ECL, RE	Bio to determine sufficient compensatory mitigation.					
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Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Biology	<p>CTS</p> <p>Compensatory mitigation is required as a result of indirect and direct impacts to the species. Any impacts to California tiger salamander will be fully mitigated in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife through the Biological Opinion and 2081 Incidental Take Permit processes. Mitigation will occur through a combination of onsite right-of-way habitat restoration and enhancement, and offsite habitat conservation and/or restoration. The mitigation will be as close to the project impacts as feasible to ensure the population of California tiger salamander that is impacted is the same population that is benefitted by the mitigation effort. Additionally, the mitigation will include aquatic and/or upland resources that will be restored onsite and conserved offsite through land acquisition and/or conservation easement. Coordination will continue with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to finalize mitigation requirements during final permitting process.</p>	NES		Bio, Landscape, ECL, RE	Bio to determine sufficient compensatory mitigation.					yes
Biology	<p>HAZ-1 If soil is exported from the Elkhorn Highlands Reserve Property it will be managed appropriately following Caltrans standards and in compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and the conditions of the receiving facility. Further investigation that includes soil sampling for pesticides and petroleum hydrocarbons may be required.</p>	Re-validation Offsite Compensatory MMP		Biologist, Permit Coordinator, Hazardous Waste	Biologist, Permit Coordinator and Hazardous Waste to coordinate with Elkhorn Slough Foundation on Offsite Compensatory MMP					
Biology	<p>Natural Communities, Habitats and Jurisdictional Waters</p> <p>Compensatory mitigation is required for the project's permanent impacts to wetlands, streams, one-parameter wetlands and coastal Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas, and riparian areas. The mitigation efforts are consistent with federal and state regulatory requirements and will be amended with any regulatory permit conditions, as required. All temporary impacts will be restored. All permanent impacts be fully mitigated with a combination on of onsite enhancement and offsite rehabilitation and reestablishment. The final mitigation strategy will be approved by all permitting agencies before construction activities begin on the project.</p>			Bio, Landscape, ECL, RE	Bio to determine sufficient compensatory mitigation.					yes
Biology	<p>NMB-1 If feasible, vegetation removal and tree trimming shall be scheduled to occur between October 1 and January 31, outside of the typical nesting bird season, which is February 1 to September 30.</p> <p>NMB-2 If vegetation removal is proposed to occur during the nesting season (February 1 to September 30), a nesting bird survey will be conducted by a Caltrans biologist no</p>	Re-validation Offsite Compensatory MMP		Biologist, Permit Coordinator	Biologist and Permit Coordinator to coordinate with Elkhorn Slough Foundation or Offsite Compensatory MMP					

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

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	<p>more than 7 days prior to start of work.</p> <p>NMB-3 If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist shall determine an appropriate buffer (typically 100 feet around active passerine nests and 500 feet for active bird of prey or raptor nests) or monitoring strategy based on the habits and needs of the species. The buffer area shall be avoided, or monitoring strategy implemented until a qualified biologist has determined that juveniles have fledged.</p> <p>NMB-4 Trees to be removed will be noted on design plans. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, high visibility fencing, or flagging will be installed around the dripline of trees to be protected within project limits.</p>									
Biology	Caltrans will conduct annual monitoring for a five-year period or until performance standards have been achieved. Vegetation monitoring will be performed each year between June 1 and September 1.	Offsite Compensatory MMP		Bio, ECL	To be carried out appropriately					
Biology	Annual post construction monitoring reports will be submitted to the permitting agencies for a period of five years. The monitoring reports will include information such as planting plans, delineation maps, data forms, and photographs that assess site conditions quantitatively and qualitatively to determine whether the implemented mitigation has met the established performance standards. In the first year's monitoring report, a map will be submitted that shows the actual planted area and delineates areas for emergent versus woody vegetation monitoring. A wetland delineation will be completed in the final year of monitoring to verify successful re-establishment of the mitigation wetland area.	Offsite Compensatory MMP		Bio, ECL	To be carried out appropriately					
Biology	<p>Caltrans Biology staff will monitor the success of the re-established and rehabilitated areas, and mitigation success will be confirmed through achievement of the Year-5 performance standards.</p> <p>a. Wetland hydrology will be confirmed through either shallow groundwater monitoring wells or manual verification using a shovel at established locations throughout the mitigation site during successive visits in the early spring.</p> <p>b. Percent cover of native and invasive vegetation will be estimated for each mitigation site using line-intercept methodology for woody vegetation and the CDFW-CNPS releve approach for herbaceous vegetation.</p> <p>c. Photo monitoring will also be established to track the mitigation progress of the site. Photo points will be established at locations throughout the mitigation site and a map prepared showing the photo point locations and</p>	Offsite Compensatory MMP		Bio, ECL	To be carried out appropriately					

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

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	viewing orientation. Photos will be taken annually at the photo point locations and included in the annual monitoring reports to photo-document progress of preservation and enhancement of the mitigation site.									
Biology	If performance standards are not met after the 5-year monitoring period, additional plantings, seedings, or exotic species control may be necessary. Caltrans would be responsible for implementing this work and any other unforeseen challenges within the monitoring period.	Offsite Compensatory MMP		Bio, ECL	Landscape and Bio to confirm results					
Biology	The mitigation site is designed to be self-sustaining once performance standards have been met to ensure long-term sustainability. Occasional weeding will be employed along with supplemental plantings (if necessary).	Offsite Compensatory MMP		Bio, ECL	Landscape and Bio to confirm results					
Biology	Wetlands Areas of temporary impacts will be restored. This project is solely for mitigation and will therefore result in an increase of and improvement to approximately 3.5 acres of wetland.	Revalidation		Biologist, Landscape, ECL, RE.	To be carried out appropriately.					
Biology	Wetlands Areas of temporary impacts will be restored. Measures to avoid and minimize potential impacts to wetlands for the main project would also apply for onsite enhancement activities.	Revalidation		Bio, ECL, RE	To be carried out appropriately.					
Biology	PS-1 If impacts to special-status plant species occur, species-specific seeding, planting, and/or relocation would be done, as feasible, in coordination with the Elkhorn Slough Foundation nursery. PS-2 Preconstruction surveys would be conducted for special status plant species. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, high visibility fencing or flagging will be installed around special-status plants identified adjacent to work activities. No work will be allowed within the designated area.	Re-validation Offsite Compensatory MMP		Biologist, PerRe-validation Offsite Compensatory MMPmit Coordinator	Biologist and Permit Coordinator to coordinate with Elkhorn Slough Foundation on Offsite Compensatory MMP					
Biology	SCLTS Compensatory mitigation is required as a result of indirect and direct impacts to the species. Any impacts to Santa Cruz long-toed salamander will be fully mitigated in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife through the Biological Opinion and 2081 Incidental Take Permit process. Mitigation will occur through a combination of on-site right-of-way habitat restoration and enhancement, off-site habitat conservation and restoration. The mitigation will be as close to the project impacts as feasible to ensure	NES		Bio, Landscape	Bio to determine sufficient compensatory mitigation.					yes

Environmental Commitments Record for Castroville Boulevard Interchange

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	the population of Santa Cruz long-toed salamanders that is impacted is the same population that is benefited by the mitigation effort. Additionally, the mitigation will include aquatic and/or upland resources that will be restored onsite and conserved offsite through land acquisition or construction easement. Coordination will continue with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to finalize mitigation requirements during final permitting process. Project activities will not begin until mitigation for Santa Cruz long-toed salamander has been secured.									
Community Impact Assessment	Areas adjacent to farmland properties disturbed during construction will be re-stabilized utilizing native vegetation and soils clear of invasive plant species at end of construction. Soil amendments, if used, must comply with the requirement of the California Food and Agricultural Codes. Soil amendment must not contain paint, petroleum products, pesticides or any other chemical residues harmful to animal life or plant growth.	CIA		Landscape, ECL, RE	Landscape to determine appropriate vegetation and contours.					yes
Visual Resources	Landscaping shall be included in the proximity of the bridge structure. Landscaping shall mitigate the urban appearance of the project by using natural elements to reduce the perceived scale of the bridges, filter cumulative views of the ramps and other project features where applicable, and provide a natural transition from the adjacent landscape to the project. CEQA	Env Doc		Landscape, RE	Landscape to determine appropriate vegetation and contours.					
Visual Resources	Landscaping shall be included in the proximity of the roundabouts. No Landscaping is recommended within the center or splitter islands, however roadside landscaping shall be designated to mitigation the visual clutter and urban appearance of the roundabouts, and provide a natural transition from the adjacent landscape to the project.	Env Doc		Landscape, RE	Landscape to determine appropriate vegetation and contours.					



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, CA 93003-7726
Phone: (805) 644-1766 Fax: (805) 644-3958

In Reply Refer To:

February 11, 2022

Project Code: 2022-0006853

Project Name: Castroville Blvd. Interchange Offsite Wetland Mitigation

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed list identifies species listed as threatened and endangered, species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, designated and proposed critical habitat, and species that are candidates for listing that may occur within the boundary of the area you have indicated using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information Planning and Conservation System (IPaC). The species list fulfills the requirements under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the species list should be verified after 90 days. We recommend that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists following the same process you used to receive the enclosed list. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any correspondence about the species list.

Due to staff shortages and excessive workload, we are unable to provide an official list more specific to your area. Numerous other sources of information are available for you to narrow the list to the habitats and conditions of the site in which you are interested. For example, we recommend conducting a biological site assessment or surveys for plants and animals that could help refine the list.

If a Federal agency is involved in the project, that agency has the responsibility to review its proposed activities and determine whether any listed species may be affected. If the project is a major construction project*, the Federal agency has the responsibility to prepare a biological assessment to make a determination of the effects of the action on the listed species or critical habitat. If the Federal agency determines that a listed species or critical habitat is likely to be adversely affected, it should request, in writing through our office, formal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve conflicts with respect to threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat prior to a written request for formal consultation. During this review process, the Federal agency may

engage in planning efforts but may not make any irreversible commitment of resources. Such a commitment could constitute a violation of section 7(d) of the Act.

Federal agencies are required to confer with the Service, pursuant to section 7(a)(4) of the Act, when an agency action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10(a)). A request for formal conference must be in writing and should include the same information that would be provided for a request for formal consultation. Conferences can also include discussions between the Service and the Federal agency to identify and resolve potential conflicts between an action and proposed species or proposed critical habitat early in the decision-making process. The Service recommends ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects of the action. These recommendations are advisory because the jeopardy prohibition of section 7(a)(2) of the Act does not apply until the species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated. The conference process fulfills the need to inform Federal agencies of possible steps that an agency might take at an early stage to adjust its actions to avoid jeopardizing a proposed species.

When a proposed species or proposed critical habitat may be affected by an action, the lead Federal agency may elect to enter into formal conference with the Service even if the action is not likely to jeopardize or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. If the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated after completion of the conference, the Federal agency may ask the Service, in writing, to confirm the conference as a formal consultation. If the Service reviews the proposed action and finds that no significant changes in the action as planned or in the information used during the conference have occurred, the Service will confirm the conference as a formal consultation on the project and no further section 7 consultation will be necessary. Use of the formal conference process in this manner can prevent delays in the event the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated during project development or implementation.

Candidate species are those species presently under review by the Service for consideration for Federal listing. Candidate species should be considered in the planning process because they may become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. Preparation of a biological assessment, as described in section 7(c) of the Act, is not required for candidate species. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to affect a candidate species, you may wish to request technical assistance from this office.

Only listed species receive protection under the Act. However, sensitive species should be considered in the planning process in the event they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. We recommend that you review information in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base. You can contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 324-3812 for information on other sensitive species that may occur in this area.

[*A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)).

For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
-

Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Ventura Fish And Wildlife Office

2493 Portola Road, Suite B

Ventura, CA 93003-7726

(805) 644-1766

Project Summary

Project Code: 2022-0006853
Event Code: None
Project Name: Castroville Blvd. Interchange Offsite Wetland Mitigation
Project Type: Restoration / Enhancement - Wetland
Project Description: Wetland mitigation for the Castroville Blvd. Interchange project on SR 156

Project Location:

Approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: <https://www.google.com/maps/@36.80556225,-121.68835181263219,14z>



Counties: Monterey County, California

Endangered Species Act Species

There is a total of 14 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries¹, as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

-
1. [NOAA Fisheries](#), also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Clapper Rail <i>Rallus longirostris obsoletus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4240	Endangered
California Condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> Population: U.S.A. only, except where listed as an experimental population There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8193	Endangered
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6749	Endangered

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891	Threatened
California Tiger Salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> Population: U.S.A. (Central CA DPS) There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2076	Threatened
Santa Cruz Long-toed Salamander <i>Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum</i> There is proposed critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7405	Endangered

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS
Marsh Sandwort <i>Arenaria paludicola</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2229	Endangered
Monterey Gilia <i>Gilia tenuiflora ssp. arenaria</i> No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/856	Endangered
Monterey Spineflower <i>Chorizanthe pungens var. pungens</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/396	Threatened
Santa Cruz Tarplant <i>Holocarpha macradenia</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. The location of the critical habitat is not available. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6832	Threatened
Yadon's Piperia <i>Piperia yadonii</i> There is final critical habitat for this species. Your location overlaps the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4205	Endangered

Critical habitats

There is 1 critical habitat wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction.

NAME	STATUS
Yadon's Piperia <i>Piperia yadonii</i> https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4205#crithab	Final

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