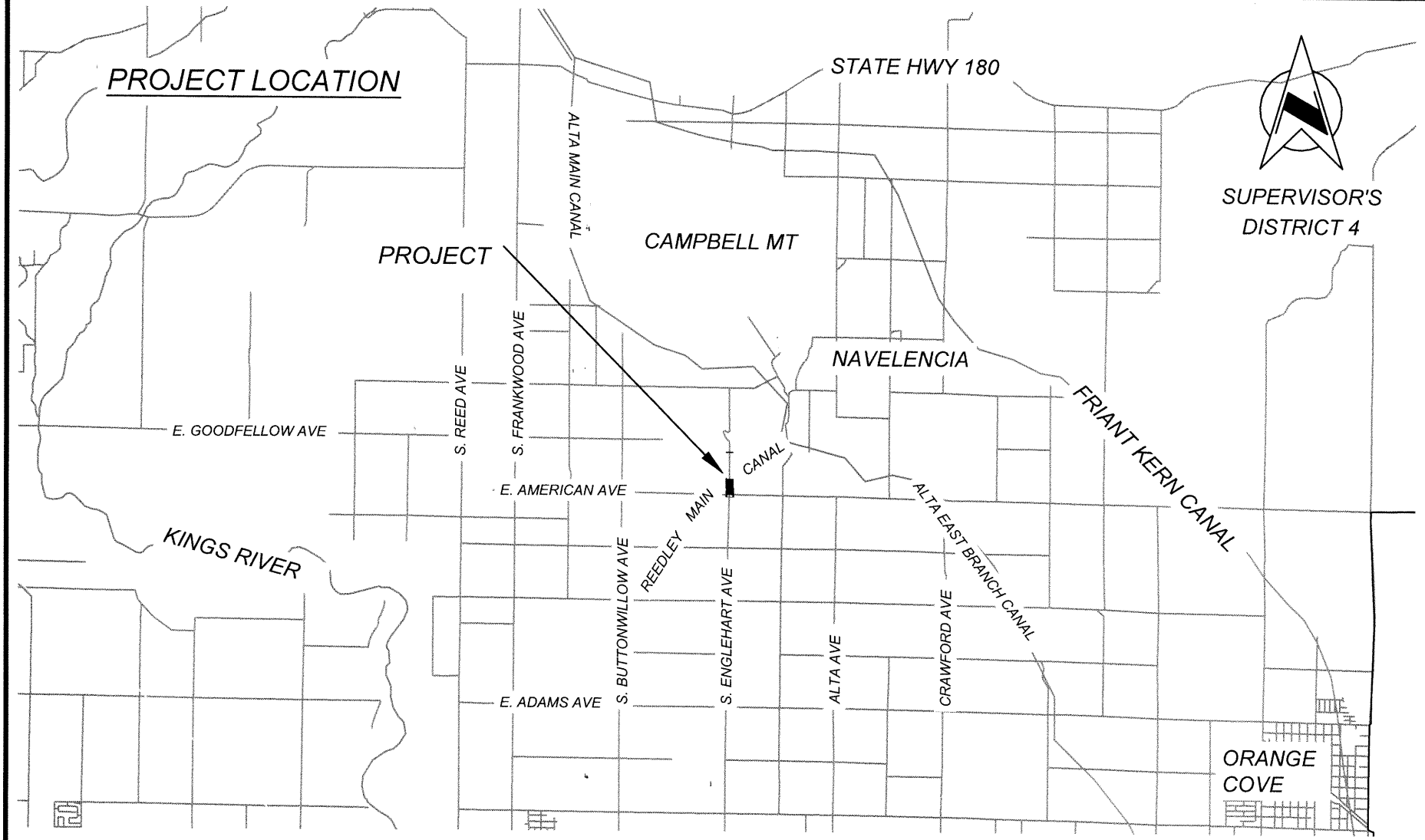

		DATE
DESIGNED	M.Y.S.	01/14
DRAWN	J.M.	01/14

SCALE NONE

BRIDGE NO. 42C0276 / 10-044

THE COUNTY OF FRESNO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING

REEDLEY MAIN CANAL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ON ENGLEHART AVE

County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

DATE: September 16, 2020

TO: Department of Public Works and Planning, Attn: Steven E. White, Director
Department of Public Works and Planning, Attn: Bernard Jimenez, Assistant Director
Development Services and Capital Projects, Attn: William M. Kettler, Division Manager
Development Services and Capital Projects, Attn: Chris Motta, Principal Planner

Development Engineering, Attn: Nadia Leon, Grading/Mapping
Road Maintenance and Operations, Attn: Randy Ishii/Frank Daniele/Nadia Lopez
Design Division, Attn: Mohammad Alimi/Dale Siemer
Community Development Division, Attn: Kristi Johnson
Water and Natural Resources Division, Attn: Glenn Allen, Division Manager
Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division, Attn: Kevin Tsuda/Deep Sidhu/Steven Rhodes
Sheriff's Office, Attn: Captain John Zanoni, Lt. John Reynolds, Lt. Louie Hernandez, Lt. Kathy Curtice, Lt. Ryan Hushaw
Fresno County Historical Landmarks Commission, Attn: Karen Coletti
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, San Joaquin Valley Division, Attn: Holley Kline
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Applications, Attn: Zac Appleton
CA Regional Water Quality Control Board, Attn: Matt Scroggins
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Attn: Craig Bailey
CA Department of Toxic Substance Control (CEQA unit), Attn: Dave Kereazis
CA Department of Water Resources, Attn: Kevin Faulkenberry
State Historic Preservation Office, Attn: Lucinda Woodward
Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), Attn: Katy Sanchez
San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District (PIC-CEQA Division), Attn: PIC Supervisor
Alta Irrigation District, Attn: Chad B. Wegley
Kings River Conservation District, Attn: Rick Hoelzel
Sierra Resource Conservation District, Attn: Terry Sandridge
Fresno County Fire Protection District, Attn: Chris Christopherson, Battalion Chief
Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: Kathleen Dadey

FROM: David Randall, Senior Planner
Development Services Division, Current Planning Unit

SUBJECT: Recirculated Initial Study Application No. 7321 – Reedley Main Canal Bridge Replacement

APPLICANT: The County of Fresno, Public Works and Planning

DUE DATE: October 20, 2020

PROJECT: The subject application proposes to replace an existing two-lane, concrete-slab bridge with a two-lane box culvert bridge. The proposed bridge is fifty-seven feet long and fifty-five feet wide with two twelve-foot travel lanes and two four-foot wide shoulders. It will replace a twenty-nine-foot-long and nineteen-foot-wide bridge with nine-foot travel lanes, and no shoulders. 285 feet of the existing road north of the bridge and 158 feet south of the bridge will be improved and taper widened, and up to 10 feet of additional right-of-way may be acquired on either side of the project area. Overhead utilities will be relocated, and additional utility facilities such as guy wires, anchors, and poles may be installed in or near the project area. A coffer dam will be built for construction purposes, channel work will occur, and four orange trees and ruderal vegetation in the existing right-of-way will be removed. The project site is located on Englehart Avenue, approximately 0.3 miles north of the intersection of Englehart Avenue and American Avenue in Fresno County. (SUP. DIST. 4).

This initial study is being recirculated after receiving verification that the canal is not waters of the US. It was also updated to reflect the recent changes in CEQA Exhibit G which now separately addresses the categories of Energy, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire.

The Department is reviewing for environmental effects, as mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and for conformity with plans and policies of the County. Please review the attached environmental documents and provide any feedback that your department or agency may have.

We must have your comments by **October 20, 2020**. Any comments received after this date may not be used. If your agency has no comments, please respond with a "no comments" response.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (559) 600-4052 or DRandall@FresnoCountyCA.gov.

G:\4360Devs&Pln\PROJSEC\PROJDOCS\Environmental\Initial Studies - Environmental Assessments\7000-7999\IS 7321 Reedley Main Canal Bridge Replacement\Recirculated IS Sept 2020\IS 7321 IS Rtg (Recirculated).doc

Activity Code (Internal Review): 2335

Enclosures

File original and one copy with:	Space Below For County Clerk Only.
Fresno County Clerk **2221 Kern Street** **Fresno, California 93721**	CLK-2046.00 E04-73 R00-00

Agency File No:	**LOCAL AGENCY PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**	County Clerk File No:
IS 7321		**E-**

Responsible Agency (Name):	Address (Street and P.O. Box):	City:	Zip Code:
Fresno County	2220 Tulare St. Sixth Floor	Fresno	93721

Agency Contact Person (Name and Title):	Area Code:	Telephone Number:	Extension:
Danielle Crider, Planner	559	600-9669	N/A

Applicant (Name):	Project Title:
County of Fresno	Reedley Main Canal Bridge Replacement (Recirculated)

Project Description:

The subject application proposes to replace an existing two-lane, concrete-slab bridge with a two-lane box culvert bridge. The proposed bridge is fifty-seven feet long and fifty-five feet wide with two twelve-foot travel lanes and two four-foot wide shoulders. It will replace a twenty-nine-foot-long and nineteen-foot-wide bridge with nine-foot travel lanes, and no shoulders. 285 feet of the existing road north of the bridge and 158 feet south of the bridge will be improved and taper widened, and up to 10 feet of additional right-of-way may be acquired on either side of the project area. Overhead utilities will be relocated, and additional utility facilities such as guy wires, anchors, and poles may be installed in or near the project area. A coffer dam will be built for construction purposes, channel work will occur, and four orange trees and ruderal vegetation in the existing right-of-way will be removed. The project site is located on Englehart Avenue, approximately 0.3 miles north of the intersection of Englehart Avenue and American Avenue in Fresno County. (SUP. DIST. 4).

Justification for Negative Declaration:

Based upon the Initial Study prepared, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and recreation.

Potential impacts related to aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality noise, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems have been determined to be less than significant.

Potential impacts relating to biological resources and cultural resources have been determined to be less than significant with compliance with the mitigation measures.

FINDING:

The proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment.

Newspaper and Date of Publication:	Review Date Deadline:
Fresno Business Journal – September 20, 2020	Board of Supervisors – October 20, 2020

Date:	Type or Print Signature:	Submitted by (Signature):
	David Randall Senior Planner	

State 15083, 15085

County Clerk File No.:_____

LOCAL AGENCY
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Print Form

Appendix C

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: Reedley Main Canal Bridge Replacement (Recirculated)

Lead Agency: County of Fresno | Contact Person: David Randall
Mailing Address: 2220 Tulare St. 6th Floor | Phone: (559) 600-4052
City: Fresno, CA | Zip: 93721 | County: Fresno

Project Location: County: Fresno | City/Nearest Community: Reedley
Cross Streets: American Avenue and Englehart Avenue | Zip Code: 93654
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 36 ° 39 ′ 44.93″ N / 119 ° 24 ′ 45.32″ W | Total Acres: N/A
Assessor's Parcel No.: N/A | Section: 14S | Twp.: 24E | Range: 31 | Base: Mt. Diablo
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: | Waterways: Reedley Main Canal
Airports: Reedley Municipal Airport | Railways: | Schools: Great Western Elementa

Document Type:

CEQA: ☐ NOP ☐ Early Cons ☐ Neg Dec ☒ Mit Neg Dec ☐ Draft EIR ☐ Supplement/Subsequent EIR (Prior SCH No.) ☐ Other:
NEPA: ☐ NOI ☐ EA ☐ Draft EIS ☐ FONSI
Other: ☐ Joint Document ☐ Final Document ☐ Other:

Local Action Type:

☐ General Plan Update ☐ General Plan Amendment ☐ General Plan Element ☐ Community Plan
☐ Specific Plan ☐ Master Plan ☐ Planned Unit Development ☐ Site Plan
☐ Rezone ☐ Prezone ☐ Use Permit ☐ Land Division (Subdivision, etc.)
☐ Annexation ☐ Redevelopment ☐ Coastal Permit ☐ Other:

Development Type:

☐ Residential: Units ____ Acres ____
☐ Office: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
☐ Commercial: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
☐ Industrial: Sq.ft. ____ Acres ____ Employees ____
☐ Educational:
☐ Recreational:
☐ Water Facilities: Type ____ MGD ____
☒ Transportation: Type Bridge Replacement
☐ Mining: Mineral
☐ Power: Type ____ MW ____
☐ Waste Treatment: Type ____ MGD ____
☐ Hazardous Waste: Type
☐ Other:

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

☒ Aesthetic/Visual ☒ Agricultural Land ☒ Air Quality ☒ Archeological/Historical ☒ Biological Resources ☐ Coastal Zone ☒ Drainage/Absorption ☐ Economic/Jobs
☐ Fiscal ☒ Flood Plain/Flooding ☒ Forest Land/Fire Hazard ☒ Geologic/Seismic ☒ Minerals ☒ Noise ☒ Population/Housing Balance ☒ Public Services/Facilities
☒ Recreation/Parks ☒ Schools/Universities ☒ Septic Systems ☒ Sewer Capacity ☒ Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading ☒ Solid Waste ☒ Toxic/Hazardous ☒ Traffic/Circulation
☒ Vegetation ☒ Water Quality ☒ Water Supply/Groundwater ☒ Wetland/Riparian ☒ Growth Inducement ☒ Land Use ☒ Cumulative Effects ☐ Other:

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Existing road right-of-way, AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size), Agricultural

Project Description: *(please use a separate page if necessary)*
Please see attached.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "**X**".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "**S**".

X	Air Resources Board	X	Office of Historic Preservation
X	Boating & Waterways, Department of		Office of Public School Construction
X	California Emergency Management Agency		Parks & Recreation, Department of
	California Highway Patrol		Pesticide Regulation, Department of
X	Caltrans District #6		Public Utilities Commission
	Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	X	Regional WQCB #5
	Caltrans Planning		Resources Agency
X	Central Valley Flood Protection Board	X	Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of
	Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy		S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm.
	Coastal Commission		San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy
	Colorado River Board		San Joaquin River Conservancy
	Conservation, Department of		Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy
	Corrections, Department of		State Lands Commission
	Delta Protection Commission		SWRCB: Clean Water Grants
	Education, Department of		SWRCB: Water Quality
	Energy Commission		SWRCB: Water Rights
X	Fish & Game Region #4		Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
X	Food & Agriculture, Department of	X	Toxic Substances Control, Department of
X	Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of	X	Water Resources, Department of
	General Services, Department of		
	Health Services, Department of		Other:
	Housing & Community Development		Other:
X	Native American Heritage Commission		

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date September 20, 2020 Ending Date October 20, 2020

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm:
Address:
City/State/Zip:
Contact:
Phone:

Applicant: County of Fresno
Address: 2220 Tulare St. 6th Floor
City/State/Zip: Fresno, CA 93721
Phone: (559) 600-9669

Signature of Lead Agency Representative: David A. Randall **Date:**

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Initial Study Application No. 7321

(Recirculated)

Project Description:

The subject application proposes to replace an existing two-lane, concrete-slab bridge with a two-lane box culvert bridge. The proposed bridge is fifty-seven feet long and fifty-five feet wide with two twelve-foot travel lanes and two four-foot wide shoulders. It will replace a twenty-nine-foot-long and nineteen-foot-wide bridge with nine-foot travel lanes, and no shoulders. 285 feet of the existing road north of the bridge and 158 feet south of the bridge will be improved and taper widened, and up to 10 feet of additional right-of-way may be acquired on either side of the project area. Overhead utilities will be relocated, and additional utility facilities such as guy wires, anchors, and poles may be installed in or near the project area. A coffer dam will be built for construction purposes, channel work will occur, and four orange trees and ruderal vegetation in the existing right-of-way will be removed. The project site is located on Englehart Avenue, approximately 0.3 miles north of the intersection of Englehart Avenue and American Avenue in Fresno County. (SUP. DIST. 4). The Initial Study was also updated to reflect the recent changes in CEQA Exhibit G which now separately addresses the categories of Energy, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire.

E20201000321 **County of Fresno**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

FILED
SEP 15 2020 TIME 2:35pm
FRESNO COUNTY CLERK
By Jessica Munoz DEPUTY
For County Clerk's Stamp

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Notice is hereby given that the County of Fresno has prepared Initial Study Application (IS) No. 7321 pursuant to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act for the following proposed project:

> **INITIAL STUDY APPLICATION NO. 7321 (Recirculated)** filed by **THE COUNTY OF FRESNO**, proposes to replace an existing two-lane, concrete-slab bridge with a two-lane box culvert bridge. The proposed bridge is fifty-seven feet long and fifty-five feet wide with two twelve-foot travel lanes and two four-foot wide shoulders. It will replace a twenty-nine-foot-long and nineteen-foot-wide bridge with nine-foot travel lanes, and no shoulders. 285 feet of the existing road north of the bridge and 158 feet south of the bridge will be improved and taper widened, and up to 10 feet of additional right-of-way may be acquired on either side of the project area. Overhead utilities will be relocated, and additional utility facilities such as guy wires, anchors, and poles may be installed in or near the project area. A coffer dam will be built for construction purposes, channel work will occur, and four orange trees and ruderal vegetation in the existing right-of-way will be removed. The project site is located on Englehart Avenue, approximately 0.3 miles north of the intersection of Englehart Avenue and American Avenue in Fresno County. (SUP. DIST. 4).

(hereafter, the "Proposed Project")

The County of Fresno has determined that it is appropriate to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project. The purpose of this Notice is to (1) provide notice of the availability of IS Application No. 7321 and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration, and request written comments thereon; and (2) provide notice of the public hearing regarding the Proposed Project.

Public Comment Period

The County of Fresno will receive written comments on the Proposed Project and Mitigated Negative Declaration from September 20, 2020 through October 20, 2020.

Email written comments to DRandall@FresnoCountyCA.gov, or mail comments to:

Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning
Development Services and Capital Projects Division
Attn: David Randall
2220 Tulare Street, Suite A
Fresno, CA 93721

E20201000321

IS Application No. 7321 and the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration may be viewed at the above address Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (except holidays), or at www.co.fresno.ca.us/initialstudies. An electronic copy of the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Project may be obtained from Danielle Crider at the addresses above.

Public Hearing

The Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing to consider approving the Proposed Project and the Mitigated Negative Declaration on December 15, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as possible, in Room 301, Hall of Records, 2281 Tulare Street, Fresno, California 93721. Interested persons are invited to appear at the hearing and comment on the Proposed Project and draft Mitigated Negative Declaration.

For questions please call David Randall at (559) 600-4052.

Published: September 20, 2020

County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

APPLICANT: County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, Design Division

APPLICATION NOS.: Initial Study Application No. 7321 (Recirculated)

DESCRIPTION: The subject application proposes to replace an existing two-lane, concrete-slab bridge with a two-lane box culvert bridge. The proposed bridge is fifty-seven feet long and fifty-five feet wide with two twelve-foot travel lanes and two four-foot wide shoulders. It will replace a twenty-nine-foot-long and nineteen-foot-wide bridge with nine-foot travel lanes, and no shoulders. 285 feet of the existing road north of the bridge and 158 feet south of the bridge will be improved and taper widened, and up to 10 feet of additional right-of-way may be acquired on either side of the project area. Overhead utilities will be relocated, and additional utility facilities such as guy wires, anchors, and poles may be installed in or near the project area. A coffer dam will be built for construction purposes, channel work will occur, and four orange trees and ruderal vegetation in the existing right-of-way will be removed.

LOCATION: The project site is located on Englehart Avenue, approximately 0.3 miles north of the intersection of Englehart Avenue and American Avenue in Fresno County. (SUP. DIST. 4).

I. AESTHETICS

A. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposed bridge will be replacing an existing bridge, and the site is surrounded by other development, including houses, fences, and above ground utility lines. No scenic vistas will be impacted.

B. Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway; or

C. Would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The proposed project is not located on a state scenic highway or a roadway designated as scenic by the Fresno County General Plan (Figure OS-2). No buildings or rock outcroppings will be affected. Four orange trees and ruderal vegetation within the right-of-way will be removed to accommodate construction. Some PG&E facilities may be relocated, and the appearance of the bridge will be different than it is currently. None of these activities are expected to degrade the existing visual character of the area.

D. Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No lighting is proposed. Construction activities will take place during the day and should not require temporary lighting.

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

A. Would the project convert prime or unique farmlands or farmland of state-wide importance to non-agricultural use; or

B. Would the project conflict with existing agricultural zoning or Williamson Act Contracts?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The properties surrounding the project site, APN's: 333-310-15, 185-160-92, and 185-160-91, are subject to Agricultural Land Conservation Contract No. 5167, and are located in an area designated as having prime farmland. This area is designated for agricultural land use according to the Fresno County General Plan and is located in the AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District. The proposed construction will occur in existing right-of-way, but up to 10 feet of right-of-way on each side of the project site could be permanently acquired. The acquisition of right-of-way could convert land from prime farmland and agricultural zoning to a non-agricultural use. However, the maximum area that could be converted is 8,860 square-feet because the project area only extends 285 feet to the north of the bridge and 158 feet south of the bridge, and the maximum right-of-way acquisition would be 10-feet on either side of the road. The project will require the removal of four productive orange trees. Overall, the project will result in a minor conversion of farmland into non-farmland use that is determined to be less than significant.

C. Would the project conflict with existing zoning for or cause rezoning of forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production; or

D. Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposed project is not located in a forested area, nor is it designated as a Timberland area by any local plans and policies. No forests or timberland production will be affected.

E. Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural uses or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposed project will only replace an existing bridge and will not contribute to population growth or increased traffic. It will not contribute indirectly to the conversion of farmland or forestland to other uses.

III. AIR QUALITY

A. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan; or

B. Would the project violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation; or

C. Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under a Federal or State ambient air quality standard; or

D. Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The only emissions expected to result from the proposed project are emissions related to construction activities. The County of Fresno is a non-attainment area for PM-2.5 and Ozone. However, short-term emission contributions from the proposed project will be minor and will not conflict with applicable Air Quality Plans or contribute to the continued violation of air quality standards in the area.

E. Would the project create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

No odors will be produced as a result of the proposed bridge project.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

A. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any candidate, sensitive, or special-status species; or

B. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project was reviewed by the Southern San Joaquin Valley Environmental Branch of the California Department of Transportation, and it was determined that no special status species or sensitive habitats are expected to be affected by the proposed project. Previous ground disturbance, various biological databases, and knowledge of the surrounding habitats contributed to this conclusion.

C. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on federally-protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption or other means?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Per the EPA Rule change of April 21, 2020 (effective June 22, 2020), it was clarified that the canal is not "Waters of the United States", and there are no federally-protected wetlands. The project will occur when the seasonal flows within the canal are not present and as such would not cause hydrological interruption. Any temporary impacts on the dry canal from construction during the project would be temporary and the site would be restored to its original condition prior to flows reoccurring in the canal.

D. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

The project is not expected to disturb the movement of any native or migratory fish or wildlife if the work window of September 1 – February 1 is used. However, outside of this construction window, nesting swallows at the bridge and nesting birds/raptors in trees could be impacted.

* **Mitigation Measure**

1. In order to avoid impacts to nesting raptors and birds, project activities will occur, where possible, outside the nesting season. The nesting season is generally September 1 – February 1. If project activities must occur during the nesting season (September 1 – February 1), a qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys within the Biological Study Area (BSA) for active raptor and bird nests within 30 days of the onset of these activities. If no active nests are found within the BSA, no further mitigation is required.

2. Should any active nests be discovered within the BSA, the biologist shall determine the appropriate construction setback distances based on applicable CDFW guidelines and/or the biology of the affected species. Construction-free buffers will be identified on the ground with flagging, fencing, or by other easily visible means, and will be maintained until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged.

E. Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or

F. Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

No conflicts have been identified between the proposed project and local plans or policies that protect natural resources or habitats.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. Would the project Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

B. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

C. Would the project cause a conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

This project was reviewed by an archaeologist that meets the Professionally Qualified Staff (PQS) Standards set forth in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In this review, it was concluded that the proposed project activities have a low potential to affect historic properties, and it was noted that the area had a high level of previous ground disturbance.

Additionally, this project was routed to all tribes that had expressed interest in the region that this project is located in, and none of the tribes requested consultation with the County on the proposed project. The proposed project is not expected to impact any cultural resources, but the following mitigation measure will ensure that if any cultural resources are discovered, that their presence will be handled properly.

* **Mitigation Measure(s)**

In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, all work shall be halted in the area of the find, and an Archeologist shall

be called to evaluate the findings and make any necessary mitigation recommendations. If human remains are unearthed during ground-disturbing activities, no further disturbance is to occur until the Fresno County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition. If such remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner must notify the Native American Commission within 24 hours.

VI. ENERGY

Would **the Project:**

A. Result in potential significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project Construction or operation?

B. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Direct Energy Use

The project involves replacing the existing bridge with a new bridge. The project is not a capacity increasing project, as no bypass, new or expanded highways, new interchanges, additional lanes, interchange reconfiguration or auxiliary lanes are planned. While energy use would be required for vehicles using the bridge, the project would not result in increased traffic volumes or VMT. The project would not add new roadway lighting or other features requiring electricity which is an ongoing and permanent source of direct energy consumption.

Direct energy use would occur during construction. Energy in the form of gas and diesel would be consumed by construction vehicles and equipment operating on site, trucks delivering equipment and supplies, and construction workers driving to and from the project site. Construction energy would be a necessary commitment or expenditure that is associated with any major infrastructure improvement project. Compared to other roadway projects, this project is fairly small in scope and would not create a noticeable or adverse impact on short-term energy demand during the construction period. Energy consumption during project construction would be temporary and minimized to the maximum extent practicable. As such, the project would not result in an inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy. Furthermore, various methods would be employed that would conserve energy and nonrenewable resources during construction. Thus, project construction would not have substantial energy effects.

Indirect Use

Indirect impacts represent factors such as the energy consumed to produce materials for construction and ongoing maintenance of the bridge. The project would utilize typical materials to construct bridges, roads, retaining walls and guardrails. All of these materials require energy to make. However, the project is relatively small in scope and

would use these materials in an efficient way. While energy would be consumed during maintenance activities, these activities would not result in an inefficient, wasteful and unnecessary consumption of energy. Furthermore, various methods would be employed that would conserve energy and nonrenewable resources during maintenance activity.

Renewable Energy Plans

The Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, on behalf of the U.S. Department of Transportation have issued final rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve fuel economy by regulating the minimum acceptable miles-per-gallon ratio and other improvements such as air conditioner performance. Since these regulations apply to the manufacture of vehicles, they will be phased in as consumers replace old vehicles, leading to a general increase in fuel efficiency.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

A. Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury or death involving:

1. Rupture of a known earthquake?

2. Strong seismic ground shaking?

3. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

4. Landslides?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposed project will not increase the number of people in the area. No structures will be built in addition to the bridge replacement. The project is located in an area of very low seismic hazard probability (Fresno County General Plan Background Report [FCGPBR] Figure 9-5) and is not located in an area of steep slopes that could experience landslides (Figure 7-2).

B. Would the project result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil; or

C. Would the project result in on-site or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Excavation and some stream channel work is included in the scope of work. All applicable regulations will be adhered to in an effort to minimize substantial erosion or loss of topsoil during this process. The proposed project is not in an area of high risk for seismic or landslide activity.

D. Would the project be located on expansive soils, creating substantial risks to life or property?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

According to the Fresno County General Plan Background Report (FCGPBR) Figure 7-1, the proposed project is not in an area of expansive soils.

E. Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative disposal systems where sewers are not available for wastewater disposal?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There are no septic tanks or alternative disposal systems proposed as a part of this project.

F. Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There are no known or anticipated a unique paleontological resource at the project site the existing canal channel is a previously disturbed excavation with no history of unique resources or geologic features.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

A. Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or

B. Would the project conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

During construction activities, greenhouse gas emissions will be released by construction vehicles. After construction is complete, there will be no emissions impact because the bridge will not produce any emissions, and the capacity and level of service of the road will not be affected by the proposed project. Additionally, the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District (SJAPCD) had no concerns about this project.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

A. Would the project create a significant public hazard through routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials; or

B. Would the project create a significant public hazard involving accidental release of hazardous materials into the environment?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

According to the Central Region Hazardous Waste and Paleontology Branch of the California Department of Transportation's assessment of the proposed project, the potential of encountering any hazardous waste materials during this project is minimal. The only possibility of hazardous waste is in the demolition and excavation process, if building materials or soil contains asbestos, lead, heavy metals, or other hazardous materials. The painted guardrails may have been painted or treated with hazardous materials. Additionally, there is no data available that indicates a concentration of heavy metals in the soil, but there are procedures in place to ensure that this is the case. Compliance with the hazardous waste standards set forth by Caltrans, including Non-Standard Special Provision (NSSP) 14-9.02, 14-11.09 and 14-11.11, and Standard Special Provision (SSP) 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii), will ensure that any hazardous waste materials encountered during construction are identified and handled appropriately.

C. Would the project create hazardous emissions or utilize hazardous materials, substances or waste within one quarter-mile of a school?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There are no schools within one quarter-mile of project site. The nearest schools are approximately 2 miles west and 2 miles northeast of the proposed project site.

D. Would the project be located on a hazardous materials site?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The Central Region Hazardous Waste and Paleontology Branch reviewed the proposed project and did not identify any hazardous waste issues. They concluded that the possibility of encountering hazardous waste materials was minimal.

E. Would a project located within an airport land use plan or, absent such a plan, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The nearest airport is Reedley Municipal Airport, which is approximately two miles west of the project site. The project site is not located within the airport's planning area, and the replacement of the Reedley Main Canal Bridge will not change the number of individuals who use the bridge or how exposed they are to hazardous waste from the municipal airport.

F. Would a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

G. Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted Emergency Response Plan or Emergency Evacuation Plan?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The project was reviewed by the County of Fresno Fire Protection Department and Sherriff's Office, and neither agency expressed any concerns regarding the project and Emergency Response or Emergency Evacuation Plans.

H. Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is located in a non-wildland/non-urban fire hazard area. No concerns regarding wildland fires were expressed by the Fresno County Fire Department during their review of this project. The bridge replacement will not generate additional traffic, development, or population growth, therefore no additional people could be exposed to any possible fire risk as a result of this project.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

A. Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise degrade water quality; or

B. Would the project Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin; or

C. Would the project Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?

i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;

iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

D. Would the project In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation ; or

E. Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Demolition of the existing bridge will occur over the canal, a coffer dam will be built for construction purposes, and the canal will be excavated as a part of the proposed project. These activities do not have a significant potential to degrade water quality, alter drainage patterns, and pollute runoff.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

A. Will the project physically divide an established community?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will only replace an existing bridge, and it is located in a rural area. No communities will be divided.

B. Will the project conflict with any Land Use Plan, policy or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project; or

C. Will the project conflict with any applicable Habitat Conservation Plan or Natural Community Conservation Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There are no conflicts between the proposed project and existing Fresno County plans and policies or applicable Habitat and Natural Community Conservation Plans.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

A. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource; or

B. Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site designated on a General Plan?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project is not located in an area with known mineral resources (Fresno County General Plan [FCGP] figure 7-7). Additionally, the project is only replacing an existing bridge, and will not further inhibit the extraction of any resources that may be present in the area.

XIII. NOISE

A. Would the project result in Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies; or

B. Would the project cause Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

Construction activities will produce noise and vibration. This disturbance will be temporary, intermittent, and primarily during daylight hours. Construction activities will conform to standards set forth by the County of Fresno and Caltrans regarding the regulation of noise during construction activities, and this will minimize any temporary impacts to the surrounding community. After the bridge is complete, it will not produce noise or vibration above and beyond the noise and vibration produced by vehicles crossing over the existing bridge.

C. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The nearest airport in Reedley Municipal Airport, which is approximately two miles west of the project site. The project site is not located within the airport's planning area, and noise should not be excessive at that distance from a small airport. Additionally, the replacement of the Reedley Main Canal Bridge will not change the number of individuals who use the bridge or how exposed they are to noise from the municipal airport.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

A. Would the project Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure); or

B. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The replacement of the Reedley Main Canal Bridge will improve safety for bridge users, not increase usage of Englehart Avenue. Population growth will not be influenced by the proposed project. No one will be displaced from existing housing. The project will not contribute to the construction of new homes.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

A. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered public facilities in the following areas:

1. Fire protection;

2. Police protection;

3. Schools;

4. Parks; or

5. Other public facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposed bridge replacement will not affect any existing public facilities or future need for additional public facilities.

XVI. RECREATION

A. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks; or

B. Would the project require the construction of or expansion of recreational facilities?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The project will not change the number of lanes or expected capacity of the road. It will not lead to increased traffic in the area or population growth. The use of parks and recreational activities will not be impacted.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

A. Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; or

B. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:

The proposed project will not alter the capacity or expected use of the existing roadway, and will have no long-term impacts on traffic circulation. The average daily trips (ADT) generated for this stretch of road is 200. Due to this low ADT, traffic will be detoured during construction; the total detour is 3 miles. The proposed project will not conflict with any relevant plans, ordinances, or policies, as there will be minimal short-term circulation impacts and no long-term circulation impacts.

The proposed project would add 4-foot-wide shoulders on both sides of the road across the new bridge and widen the existing lanes. This change will help facilitate the shared use of the roadway by both automobiles and pedestrians, and should increase pedestrian safety. The proposed project will not conflict with any pedestrian-related plans, policies, or programs.

C. Would the project Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

There are no distracting design features proposed by this project. The bridge replacement is not expected to pose any traffic hazards.

D. Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The Fresno County Fire Protection District and Sheriff's Office both reviewed the project and expressed no concerns.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

A. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

FINDING: NO IMPACT

This project was reviewed by an archaeologist that meets the Professionally Qualified Staff (PQS) Standards set forth in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In this review, it was concluded that the proposed project activities have a low potential to affect historic properties, and it was noted that the area had a high level of previous ground disturbance.

Additionally, this project was routed to all tribes that had expressed interest in the region that this project is located in, and none of the tribes requested consultation with the County on the proposed project. The proposed project is not expected to impact any cultural resources, but the following mitigation measure will ensure that if any cultural resources are discovered, that their presence will be handled properly.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

A. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects; or

B. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years ; or

C. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

FINDING: NO IMPACT

There will be no new wastewater or storm water produced as a result of the proposed project, and the proposed bridge will not impact the availability, consumption, or supply of water resources. Existing utilities and resource availability will not be affected.

D. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste ?

FINDING: NO IMPACT

Solid waste will be produced during the demolition of the existing bridge, but the project will not have any long-term solid waste production impacts. The waste that is produced will be disposed of in a manner that complies with federal, state, and local regulations.

XX. WILD FIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

A. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

B. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

C. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

D. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

FINDING: NO IMPACT

The project does not increase any risks of wild fire danger or impede any emergency services. The Fresno County Fire Protection District and Sheriff's Office both reviewed the project and expressed no concerns.

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

A. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California prehistory or history?

FINDING: LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT WITH MITIGATION INCORPORATED:

With the incorporation of the mitigation measures indicated in Section IV (Biological Resources) and Section V (Cultural Resources), any impacts on cultural or biological resources are not expected to be significant according to the project analysis.

B. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable; or

C. Does the project have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

FINDING: NO IMPACT:

The proposed replacement bridge will be functionally superior to the existing bridge but will not serve a greater number of people or lead to additional development in the area. No cumulative impacts, such as traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, water

quality, or aquifer depletion will be impacted by the approval of the proposed project. Additionally, this project will not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

XXI. CONCLUSION/SUMMARY

Based upon the Initial Study prepared, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and recreation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and services systems, wildfires.

Potential impacts related to aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, transportation and traffic, and have been determined to be less than significant.

Potential impacts relating to biological resources and cultural resources have determined to be less than significant with compliance with the mitigation measures.

A Mitigated Negative Declaration is recommended and is subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Street Level, located on the southeast corner of Tulare and "M" Street, Fresno, California.

DTC
\\Pacific\pwp\4360Devs&Pln\PROJSEC\PROJDOCS\Environmental\Initial Studies - Environmental Assessments\7000-7999\IS 7321 Reedley Main Canal Bridge Replacement\Recirculated IS Sept 2020\IS 7321 wu (Recirculated).docx

County of Fresno

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND PLANNING
STEVEN E. WHITE, DIRECTOR

INITIAL STUDY
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

1. **Project Title:** *Reedley Main Canal Bridge Replacement Project, Initial Study Application No. 7321(Recirculated)*

2. **Lead agency name and address:** *Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning*
   2220 Tulare Street, Sixth Floor
   Fresno, California, 93721

3. **Contact person and phone number:** *David Randall, (559) 600-4052*

4. **Project location:** *The project site is located on Englehart Avenue, approximately 0.3 miles north of the intersection of Englehart Avenue and American Avenue in Fresno County. (SUP. DIST. 4).*

5. **Project Applicant's name and address:** *County of Fresno, Design Division*

6. **General Plan designation:** *Agricultural*

7. **Zoning:** *AE-20 (Exclusive Agricultural, 20-acre minimum parcel size) Zone District*

8. **Description of project:** *The subject application proposes to replace an existing two-lane, concrete-slab bridge with a two-lane box culvert bridge. The proposed bridge is fifty-seven feet long and fifty-five feet wide with two twelve-foot travel lanes and two four-foot wide shoulders. It will replace a twenty-nine-foot-long and nineteen-foot-wide bridge with nine-foot travel lanes, and no shoulders. 285 feet of the existing road north of the bridge and 158 feet south of the bridge will be improved and taper widened, and up to 10 feet of additional right-of-way may be acquired on either side of the project area. Overhead utilities will be relocated, and additional utility facilities such as guy wires, anchors, and poles may be installed in or near the project area. A coffer dam will be built for construction purposes, channel work will occur, and four orange trees and ruderal vegetation in the existing right-of-way will be removed. This initial study is being recirculated after receiving verification that the canal is not waters of the US. It was also updated to reflect the recent changes in CEQA Exhibit G which now separately addresses the categories of Energy, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire.*

9. **Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:** *Adjacent land uses include low-density single-family residences and active agricultural production fields.*

10. **Other public agencies whose approval is required (g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.):** Fresno County Department of Public Works and Planning

11. **Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?**

    Participating California Native American tribes were notified of the subject application under the provisions of Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) and were given the opportunity to enter into consultation with the County. No participating California Native American tribe expressed concerns with the application to indicate the presence of cultural resources.

NOTE: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- ☐ Aesthetics
- ☐ Agriculture and Forestry Resources
- ☐ Air Quality
- ☐ Biological Resources
- ☐ Cultural Resources
- ☐ Energy
- ☐ Geology/Soils
- ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- ☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- ☐ Hydrology/Water Quality
- ☐ Land Use/Planning
- ☐ Mineral Resources
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Population/Housing
- ☐ Public Services
- ☐ Recreation
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
- ☐ Utilities/Service Systems
- ☐ Wildfire
- ☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION OF REQUIRED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment. **A NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED**.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the Mitigation Measures described on the attached sheet have been added to the project. **A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.**

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

☐ I find that as a result of the proposed project, no new effects could occur, or new Mitigation Measures would be required that have not been addressed within the scope of a previous Environmental Impact Report.

PERFORMED BY:

David Randall, Senior Planner

Date: 9.15.20

REVIEWED BY:

Chris Motta, Principal Planner

Date: 9/16/2020

INITIAL STUDY
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM
(Initial Study Application No. 7677 and Variance Application No. 4065)

The following checklist is used to determine if the proposed project could potentially have a significant effect on the environment. Explanations and information regarding each question follow the checklist.

1 = No Impact

2 = Less Than Significant Impact

3 = Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

4 = Potentially Significant Impact

I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

2 a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

2 b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

1 c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

1 d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

II. AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

2 a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

2 b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?

1 c) Conflict with existing zoning for forest land, timberland or timberland zoned Timberland Production?

1 d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

1 e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

2 a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Plan?

2 b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

2 c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

2 d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

1 e) Would create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

2 a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

2 b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

2 c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally-protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

3 d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

1 e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

1 f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan?

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

3 a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

3 b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

3 c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

2 a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

2 b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

1 i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?

1 ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

1 iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

1 iv) Landslides?

2 b) Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil?

2 c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

1 d) Be located on expansive soil as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

1 e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

1 f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

2 a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

2 b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

2 a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

2 b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

1 c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

2 d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

2 e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

1 f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

1 g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

2 a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

2 b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

2 c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site?

2 i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

2 ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;

2 iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

2 iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

2 d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

2 e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

1 a) Physically divide an established community?

1 b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

1 a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

1 b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local General Plan, Specific Plan or other land use plan?

XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

2 a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

2 b) Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?

2 c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

1 a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

1 b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

1 a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically-altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically-altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

1 i) Fire protection?

1 ii) Police protection?

1 iii) Schools?

1 iv) Parks?

1 v) Other public facilities?

XVI. RECREATION

Would the project:

1 a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

1 b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

2 a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

2 b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

1 c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

1 d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

1 a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

1 i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

1 ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

1 a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

1 b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

1 c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

1 d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

1 e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

1 a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

1 b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

1 c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

1 d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

1 a) Have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

1 b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)

1 c) Have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Documents Referenced:

This Initial Study is referenced by the documents listed below. These documents are available for public review at the County of Fresno, Department of Public Works and Planning, Development Services and Capital Projects Division, 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Fresno, California (corner of M & Tulare Streets).

Fresno County General Plan and Policy Document
Fresno County Zoning Ordinance
Important Farmland 2010 Map, State Department of Conservation

DTC
\\Pacific\pwp\4360Devs&Pln\PROJSEC\PROJDOCS\Environmental\Initial Studies - Environmental Assessments\7000-7999\IS 7321 Reedley Main Canal Bridge Replacement\Recirculated IS Sept 2020\IS 7321 IS Checklist (Recirculated).docx

Print From

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Initial Study No. 7321 - Reedley Main Canal Bridge Replacement - Initial Study No. 7321 (Recirculated)

Lead Agency: County of Fresno

Contact Name: David Randall

Email: DRandall@FresnoCountyCA.gov Phone Number: 559 600-4052

Project Location: Unincorporated Fresno County, on Englehart Avenue , 0.3 miles North of American Avenue.

City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

Project Description: The subject application proposes to replace an existing two-lane, concrete-slab bridge with a two-lane box culvert bridge. The proposed bridge is fifty-seven feet long and fifty-five feet wide with two twelve-foot travel lanes and two four-foot wide shoulders. It will replace a twenty-nine-foot-long and nineteen-foot-wide bridge with nine-foot travel lanes, and no shoulders. 285 feet of the existing road north of the bridge and 158 feet south of the bridge will be improved and taper widened, and up to 10 feet of additional right-of-way may be acquired on either side of the project area. Overhead utilities will be relocated, and additional utility facilities such as guy wires, anchors, and poles may be installed in or near the project area. A coffer dam will be built for construction purposes, channel work will occur, and four orange trees and ruderal vegetation in the existing right-of-way will be removed. The project site is located on Englehart Avenue, approximately 0.3 miles north of the intersection of Englehart Avenue and American Avenue in Fresno County. (SUP. DIST. 4). The Initial Study was also updated to reflect the recent changes in CEQA Exhibit G which now separately addresses the categories of Energy, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Based upon the Initial Study prepared, staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. It has been determined that there would be no impacts to land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and recreation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and services systems, wildfires.

Potential impacts related to aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, transportation and traffic, and have been determined to be less than significant.

Potential impacts relating to biological resources and cultural resources have determined to be less than significant with compliance with the mitigation measures.

A Mitigated Negative Declaration is recommended and is subject to approval by the decision-making body. The Initial Study is available for review at 2220 Tulare Street, Suite A, Street Level, located on the southeast corner of Tulare and "M" Street, Fresno, California.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

No known areas of controversy exist for this project.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Department of Transportation
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Alta Irrigation District
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
State Water Resources Control Board