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**INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE  
DECLARATION**

**CITY OF SACRAMENTO CENTER PARKWAY AT ELDER CREEK BRIDGE  
REPAIR PROJECT CIP #RR16**

**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

**LSA**

June 2007

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REPAIR PROJECT**

**CIP# RR16**

**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

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LSA Project No. QCE430

**LSA**

June 2007

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## CITY OF SACRAMENTO CENTER PARKWAY AT ELDER CREEK BRIDGE REPAIR

### INITIAL STUDY / MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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#### **ORGANIZATION OF THE INITIAL STUDY.**

This Initial Study is organized into the following sections:

**Section I - Background:** Page 2 - Provides summary background information about the project name, location, sponsor, and when the Initial Study was completed.

**Section II - Project Description:** Page 3 - Includes a detailed description of the Proposed Project.

**Section III - Environmental Checklist and Discussion:** Page 8 - Contains the Environmental Checklist form together with a discussion of the checklist questions. The Checklist Form is used to determine the following for the proposed project: 1) "Potentially Significant Impacts," which identifies impacts that may not be mitigated with the inclusion of mitigation measures, 2) "Potentially Significant Impacts Unless Mitigated," which identifies impacts that could be mitigated with incorporation of mitigation measures, 3) "Less Than Significant Impacts," which identifies impacts that would be less than significant and do not require the implementation of mitigation measures, and 4) "No Impact," identifying areas in which the project would have no effect.

**Section IV - Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:** Page 39 - Identifies which environmental factors were determined to have either a "Potentially Significant Impact" or "Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated," as indicated in the Environmental Checklist.

**Section V - Determination:** Page 40 - Identifies the determination of whether impacts associated with development of the Proposed Project are significant, and what, if any, added environmental documentation may be required.

**References Cited:** Page 41

**Appendix A:** Page 42 – Caltrans' Construction Hazardous Waste Contingency Plan

## SECTION I - BACKGROUND

File Number, Project Name: City of Sacramento Bridge Repair

CIP# RR16

Project Location: Bridge #24C0219R/L is a bridge for Center Parkway over Elder Creek, north of Mack Road, and south of Seyferth Way.

Project Sponsor and Contact Persons: City of Sacramento Project Engineer, Ricky Chuck  
(916) 808-5050

Environmental Planner: City of Sacramento Senior Planner, Jennifer Hageman  
(916) 808-5538

Date Initial Study Completed: June 29, 2007

Introduction: The following Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration have been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Sections 15000 et seq.).

## SECTION II - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Project Location

The proposed bridge repair project is located in City of Sacramento. Bridge #24C0219R/L is a bridge for Center Parkway over Elder Creek, north of Mack Road and south of Seyferth Way (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

### Environmental Setting

The project site is located in the southern part of the City of Sacramento, Sacramento County and is surrounded by residential and commercial development. The terrain on the project site is flat and lies at an elevation of approximately 20 feet above sea level.

The project site is small and lies mostly within the banks of Elder Creek, which flows through the site. Elder Creek is contained within levees that are covered with predominantly ruderal vegetation that is regularly mowed and/or treated with herbicide.

Elder Creek originates approximately 10 miles northeast of the project site near Mather Air Force Base and flows westerly through the project site, reaching its confluence with Morrison Creek approximately 1.25 miles to the west. Historically, Morrison Creek flowed into the Sacramento River but currently is only connected to the Sacramento River via a pump.

The reach of Elder Creek within and adjacent to the project site conveys year-round flows (within the low flow channel) and is contained within levees. Flows in the low flow channel are shallow, less than 1 foot deep, and support dense wetland vegetation with only a few small areas of open water.

Wildlife usage of the project site is minimal due to the low quality habitat and frequent disturbances in Elder Creek. Species observed or expected to occur in this area are limited to those species adapted to nearby development and include: scrub jay, black phoebe, red-tailed hawk, great egret, opossum, striped skunk, raccoon, coyote, tree frog, bull frog, and western garter snake. The creek corridor is not a high value movement corridor due to the relatively low habitat value, frequent disturbances, and lack of connectivity between quality habitats.

### Project Background

The City of Sacramento Bridge Repair project consists of miscellaneous activities to repair bank erosion and slope instability occurring at the bridge's approach side slopes and to prevent further erosion in these areas. The slopes have continued to degrade since the initial inspection. Rock slope protection is required to mitigate further erosion concerns. Concrete slope paving will also be required in the median to prevent erosion due to roadway drainage.

### Project Purpose

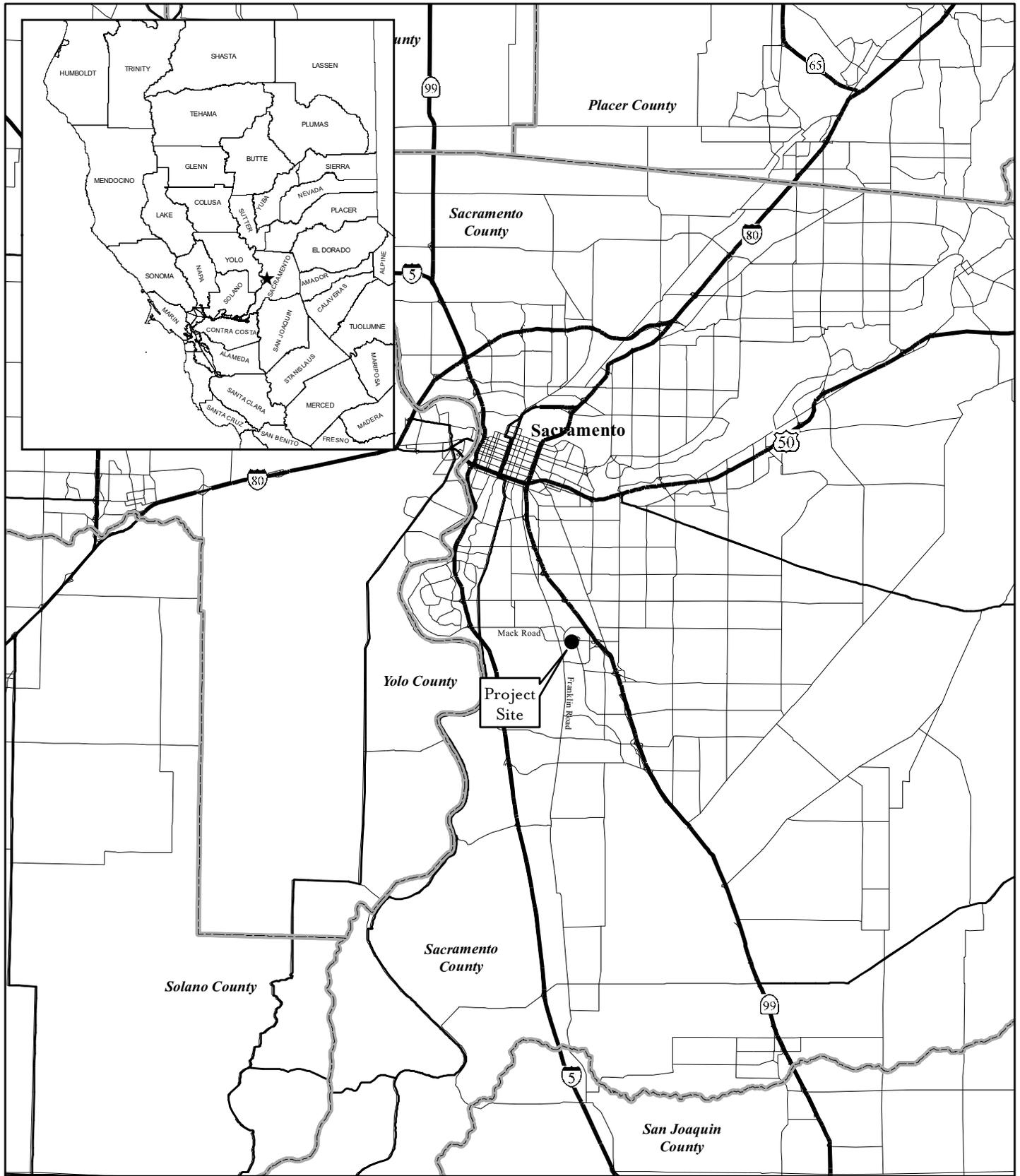
The purpose of the City of Sacramento Bridge Repair project is to prevent further erosion of the bridge's approach side slopes.

## **Project Components**

The repairs to bridge #24C0219R/L, a bridge for Center Parkway over Elder Creek, will consist of debris removal, armoring slopes beneath and adjacent to the existing bridge with rock slope protection (RSP), and compaction and slope paving in the abutment median to prevent further erosion (Figure 3). Debris removal and placement of RSP will occur below the bridge, extending approximately 108 feet along each bank. Slope paving will be placed in an approximately 16 foot by 10 foot section of the south bank of the creek, between the bridge abutment and the median.

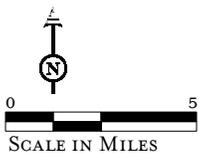
Primary access to the site will be via the median between the two existing bridge structures. The chain link fence will be removed so that crews can access both the south and north banks of Elder Creek. A temporary construction bridge will be installed to span the live channel. This bridge will be utilized to cross to the north bank of Elder Creek where RSP will be placed with a back hoe or a small bulldozer. Work will not encroach into the live channel of Elder Creek.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) will be designated along the live channel of Elder Creek within the project site, to protect aquatic habitat during construction. ESA limits will be marked using orange construction fencing or equivalent and will be maintained until construction is complete.



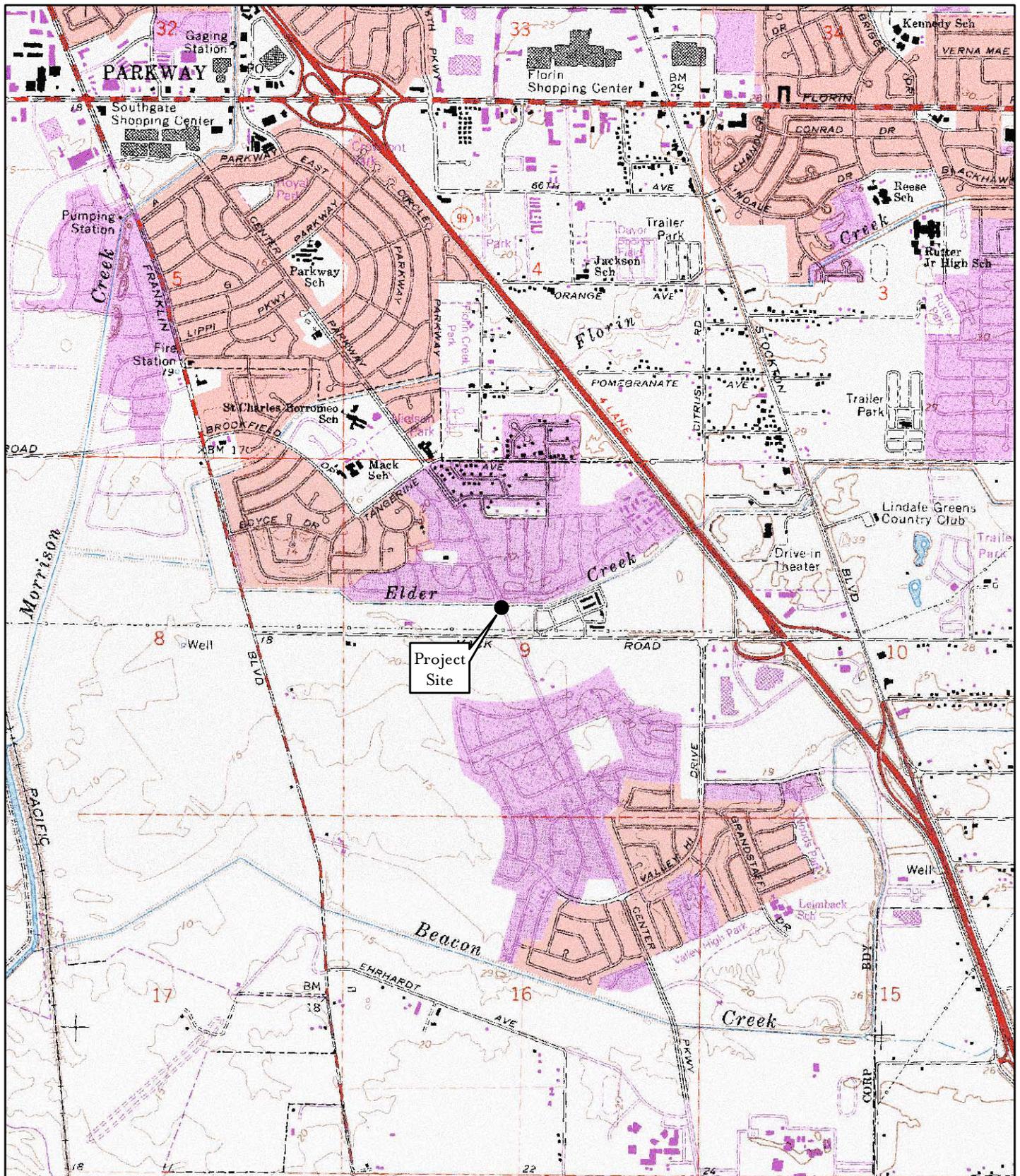
LSA

FIGURE 1



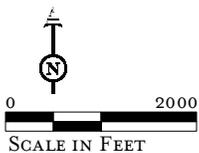
Center Parkway Bridge Repair at Elder Creek  
Project Location

SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU TIGER 2K (2002)  
F:\Qcc430\gis\center-elder\_fig1-proj\_loc.mxd (08/16/06)



LSA

FIGURE 2



SOURCE: USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP (SACRAMENTO COUNTY) (1988)  
 F:\Qcc430\gis\center-elder\_fig2-proj\_vic.mxd (08/16/06)

Center Parkway Bridge Repair at Elder Creek  
 Project Vicinity



FIGURE 3

LSA

**Legend**

 Project Boundary

 N

 SCALE IN FEET

## SECTION III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND DISCUSSION

### 1. LAND USE

| Issues:   | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated | Less-than-significant Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal:</i>  |                                |   |                              |
| A) Result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned use of an area?   |                                |   | X                            |
| B) Affect agricultural resources or operation (e.g., impacts to soils or farmlands, or impact from incompatible land uses?) |                                |   | X                            |

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project consists of erosion repair and slope stabilization activities to support the Center Parkway Bridge that is currently in place and in use. The project site is located in an urban area and is surrounded by residential and commercial development.

#### Standards of Significance

For the purposes of this analysis, an impact is considered significant if the project would substantially alter an approved land use plan that would result in a physical change to the environment. Impacts to the physical environment resulting from the proposed project are discussed in subsequent sections of this document.

### ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

#### Question A

The Center Parkway at Elder Creek Bridge is currently in place and in use. Therefore, repairs made to the bridge would not result in an alteration of the present or planned use of the area since it is already part of the present use of the area.

#### Question B

The bridge repair project would not affect agricultural resources or operation. The bridge is already in place and the environmental setting is urban, not agricultural.

### MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

## FINDINGS

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to land uses.

## 2. POPULATION AND HOUSING

| Issues:   | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated | Less-than-significant Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal:</i>  |                                |   |                              |
| A) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)? |                                |   | X                            |
| B) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing?  |                                |   | X                            |

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site is located in an urban area and is surrounded by commercial and residential development. The project consists of repairs to an existing bridge that is in place and in use. No new development would occur as a result of the proposed project.

### Standards of Significance

For the purposes of this analysis, an impact is considered significant if the project would induce substantial growth that is inconsistent with the approved land use plan for the area or displace existing affordable housing.

## ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

### Questions A and B

The proposed project bridge is in place and in use, therefore repairs would in no way induce substantial growth, nor would it displace any existing housing.

## MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

## FINDINGS

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to population and housing.

### 3. SEISMICITY, SOILS, AND GEOLOGY

| Issues:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated | Less-than-significant Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:</i> |                                |   | X                            |
| A) Seismic hazards?  |                                |   | X                            |
| B) Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions?                       |                                |   | X                            |
| C) Subsidence of land (groundwater pumping or dewatering)?                           |                                |   | X                            |
| D) Unique geologic or physical features?   |                                |   | X                            |

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is currently experiencing problems with bank erosion due to water draining from the bridge deck. High creek flows have resulted in erosion of the channel banks.

#### Standards of Significance

For the purposes of this analysis, an impact is considered significant if it allows a project to be built that will introduce geologic or seismic hazards by allowing the construction of the project on such a site without protection against those hazards.

### ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

#### Questions A, C, D

The proposed repairs to the Center Parkway at Elder Creek Bridge include measures to ease or stop bank erosion as well as slope reconstruction. Since the bridge is already in place, repairs to the bridge would not cause seismic hazards. No groundwater pumping or dewatering are included in the repair plans, and there will be no impact on unique geologic or physical features since the bridge is already in place.

#### Question B

The purpose of the proposed project is to repair existing erosion problems and to prevent further erosion of the bridge's approach side slopes. Placement of RSP and slope paving will eliminate the potential for scour of the streambank and for erosion of the slopes supporting the bridge abutments. Proposed repairs will also prevent eroded soils from contributing sediment to the creek. Overall, erosion and unstable soil conditions will be improved.

### MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

## FINDINGS

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to seismicity, soils, or geology.

### 4. WATER

| <b>Issues:</b>   | <b>Potentially Significant Impact</b> | <b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b> | <b>Less-than-significant Impact</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:</i>   |                                       |  |                                     |
| A) Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface/stormwater runoff (e.g. during or after construction; or from material storage areas, vehicle fueling/maintenance areas, waste handling, hazardous materials handling & storage, delivery areas, etc.)?   |                                       |  | X                                   |
| B) Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?   |                                       |  | X                                   |
| C) Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality that substantially impact temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity, beneficial uses of receiving waters or areas that provide water quality benefits, or cause harm to the biological integrity of the waters? |                                       |  | X                                   |
| D) Changes in flow velocity or volume of stormwater runoff that cause environmental harm or significant increases in erosion of the project site or surrounding areas?   |                                       |  | X                                   |
| E) Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements?   |                                       |  | X                                   |
| F) Change in the quantity of groundwater, either through direct additions or withdrawal, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability?  |                                       |  | X                                   |
| G) Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater?   |                                       |  | X                                   |
| H) Impacts to groundwater quality?   |                                       |  | X                                   |

### ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project consists of Center Parkway over Elder Creek. Elder Creek originates approximately 10 miles northeast of the project site near Mather Air Force Base and flows westerly through the project site, reaching its confluence with Morrison Creek approximately 1.25 miles to the west. Historically, Morrison Creek flowed into the Sacramento River but currently is only connected to the Sacramento River via a pump.

The reach of Elder Creek within and adjacent to the project site conveys year-round flows (within the low flow channel) and is contained within levees. Flows in the low flow channel are shallow, less than 1 foot deep, and support dense wetland vegetation with only a few small areas of open water. No riparian vegetation is present on or near the project site.

### **Standards of Significance**

*Water Quality.* For purposes of this environmental document, an impact is considered significant if the proposed project would substantially degrade water quality and violate any water quality objectives set by the State Water Resources Control Board, because of increased sediments and other contaminants generated by consumption and/or operation activities.

*Flooding.* Substantially increase exposure of people and/or property to the risk of injury and damage in the event of a 100-year flood.

## **ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS**

### **Question A**

Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface/stormwater runoff are not expected for the project. Repair to slopes will not result in an increase in impervious surface, nor will it result in an increase in the quantity of water runoff.

### **Question B**

The project will not result in exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding. The bridge is a roadway spanning a creek.

### **Questions C and D**

Construction activities associated with the proposed project would cause disruption and displacement of soil, which could adversely impact water quality. Sediments may be discharged into the creek during construction. Temporary sedimentation and erosion control mitigation will be required during construction, including compliance with the terms of Section 401 water quality certification.

In addition, requirements of the Department of Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Agreement shall be met. The notification requirement applies to any work undertaken in or near a river, stream, or lake that flows at least intermittently through a bed or channel. The Streambed Alteration Agreement restricts construction of the project to period of low stream flow and between the dates of April 15 and November 15.

The project would be required to comply with the City of Sacramento Code, Ordinance 15.88.250, Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC). The City shall require that the project employ BMPs before, during and after construction. Compliance with BMP provisions will ensure that development and use of the site will result in a less-than-significant impact to surface waters and will not result in the alteration of surface water quality. This ordinance will require project

applicants to prepare erosion, sediment, and pollution control plans for both during and after construction of a proposed project, and preliminary and final grading plans. Therefore, with compliance of the above requirements, impacts to surface water and change in water movements is less-than-significant.

**Question E**

Placement of RSP along the creek banks and slope paving in the abutment median will not create changes in currents, course, or direction of water movements.

**Question F - H**

The proposed project will not affect quality, rate of flow, or quantity of groundwater because no structures will be installed that are deep enough to encounter groundwater.

**MITIGATION MEASURES**

No mitigation measures are required.

**FINDINGS**

The proposed project would result in less than significant impacts to water resources.

**5. AIR QUALITY**

| <b>Issues:</b>   | <b>Potentially Significant Impact</b> | <b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b> | <b>Less-than-significant Impact</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal:</i>   |                                       |  |                                     |
| A) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? |                                       |  | X                                   |
| B) Exposure of sensitive receptors to pollutants?  |                                       |  | X                                   |
| C) Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate?                     |                                       |  | X                                   |
| D) Create objectionable odors?   |                                       |  | X                                   |

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

Air quality within the project area and surrounding region is largely influenced by urban emission sources. As there are minimal industrial emissions, these sources originate primarily from automobiles. Home fireplaces also contribute a significant portion of the air pollutants, particularly during the winter months. Air quality hazards are caused primarily by carbon monoxide (CO), particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), and ozone.

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) is responsible for

achieving federal and State air quality standards to ensure public health in Sacramento County, which is part of the Sacramento Federal Ozone Nonattainment Area (SFNA). With two exceptions, this area is in attainment for all State and national ambient air quality standards. However, Sacramento County is designated a “serious” nonattainment area for the federal eight hour standard, as well as for the State one hour ozone standard. In terms of the 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> standards, Sacramento County is designated a nonattainment area by State standards, and unclassified/attainment for federal standards.

### **Standards of Significance**

*Ozone and Particulate Matter.* A short-term (construction-related) increase of the ozone precursor nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) above 85 pounds per day would result in a significant impact. A long-term (operational phase) increase in either ozone precursor (nitrogen oxide or reactive organic gases/ROG) above 65 lbs per day would result in a significant impact. For PM<sub>10</sub>, a project would have a significant impact if it emits pollutants at a level equal to or greater than five percent of the CAAQS (50 micrograms/cubic meter for 24 hours) if there were an existing or projected violation; however, if a project is below the ROG and NO<sub>x</sub> thresholds, it can be assumed the project is below the PM<sub>10</sub> threshold as well.

*Carbon Monoxide.* The pollutant of concern for sensitive receptors is CO. Motor vehicle emissions are the dominant source of CO in Sacramento County (SMAQMD 2004). For purposes of environmental analysis, sensitive receptor locations generally include parks, sidewalks, transit stops, hospitals, rest homes, schools, playgrounds, and residences. Commercial buildings are generally not considered sensitive receptors. Carbon monoxide concentrations are considered significant if they exceed the 1-hour State ambient air quality standard of 20.0 parts per million (ppm) or the 8-hour State ambient standard of 9.0 ppm (State ambient air quality standards are more stringent than the federal counterparts). Emissions of CO from construction activities are not an issue of concern because SMAQMD does not consider construction activities to be a major source of CO, and the District is in attainment status for CO.

## **ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS**

### **Question A**

Construction-related emissions would result from site preparation and construction worker commute trips, mobile and stationary construction equipment exhaust, and gunite paving. Peak daily emissions associated with construction equipment exhaust for the proposed project are summarized in Table A below. As shown, construction equipment emissions would not exceed the daily operational thresholds established by SMAQMD.

Fugitive dust would be generated by from soil disturbance such as excavation and backfilling and from vehicle travel over unpaved surfaces. SMAQMD indicated that projects with a disturbed area of smaller than five acres would not be considered to have a significant impact on fugitive dust generation. Accordingly, construction on site would not result in significant impacts on fugitive dust.

The project will be required to comply with regional rules that assist in reducing regional air pollutant emissions. SMAQMD Regulation 403 requires that fugitive dust be controlled with best

available control measures and requires implementation of dust-suppression techniques to prevent fugitive dust from creating a nuisance off-site. In addition, the project will be required to comply with the City’s Dust Control Ordinance. Therefore, with compliance of the above requirements, impacts to air quality are less-than-significant.

**Table A: Peak Day Equipment Exhaust Emissions**

| Number and Equipment Type       | No. of Hours in Operation | Pollutants (lbs/day) |             |             |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                 |                           | ROG                  | NOx         | PM10        |
| 1 Dozer                         | 8                         | 1.4                  | 12.9        | 0.9         |
| Haul Trucks                     | 40 miles                  | 0.6                  | 3.8         | 0.1         |
| 10 Construction Worker Trips    | 50 miles/RT               | 0.2                  | 0.5         | 0.04        |
| <b>Total</b>                    |                           | <b>2.2</b>           | <b>17.2</b> | <b>1.04</b> |
| <b>SMAQMD Threshold</b>         |                           | <b>65</b>            | <b>85</b>   | <b>N/A</b>  |
| <b>Exceed SMAQMD Threshold?</b> |                           | <b>NO</b>            | <b>NO</b>   | <b>N/A</b>  |

Source: LSA Associates, Inc.

**Question B**

The project would not result in permanent air quality impacts. Any construction-related release of pollutants would be localized and temporary, occurring only during active construction. Compliance with dust control regulations (Regulation 403 and City of Sacramento Dust Control Ordinance) should further limit the exposure of sensitive receptors to pollutants. Therefore, any impacts would be less than significant.

**Question C**

The project would not result in the alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature or in any change in climate, either locally or regionally. Therefore, any impacts would be less than significant.

**Question D**

The project would not create permanent objectionable odors. Construction equipment and materials may emit odors perceptible to residents within the project vicinity. However, any construction-related odors would be localized to the immediate vicinity of construction operations and would be temporary, occurring only during active construction. Therefore, the impact is considered less than significant.

**MITIGATION MEASURES**

No mitigation measures are required.

**FINDINGS**

The proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts to air quality.

## 6. TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

| Issues:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated | Less-than-significant Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal result in:</i>   |                                | X   |                              |
| A) Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion?  |                                |   |                              |
| B) Hazards to safety from design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? |                                |   | X                            |
| C) Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses?   |                                |   | X                            |
| D) Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site?  |                                |   | X                            |
| E) Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists?  |                                |   | X                            |
| F) Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?                          |                                |   | X                            |
| G) Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts?  |                                |   | X                            |

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site includes a roadway and bridge feature.

### Standards of Significance

*Roadway Traffic.* An impact is considered significant for roadways or intersections when the project causes the facility to change from LOS C or better to LOS D or worse. For facilities that are, or will be worse than LOS C without the project, an impact is also considered significant if the project: 1) increases the average delay by 5 seconds or more at an intersection, or 2) increases the volume to capacity ratio by .02 or more on a roadway.

*Bikeways.* A significant bikeway impact would occur if a project hindered or eliminated an existing designated bikeway, or if the project interfered with the implementation of a proposed bikeway. A significant bikeway impact would occur if a project were to increase bicycle/pedestrian or bicycle/motor vehicle conflicts.

*Regional Transit.* A significant impact to the transit system would occur if normal operation of the project results in blockage to transit routes. A significant impact to the transit system would also occur where project generated ridership, when added to existing or future ridership, exceeds available or planned system capacity. Capacity is defined as the total number of passengers the system of busses and light rail vehicles can carry during the peak hour of operation.

*Parking.* A significant impact to parking would occur if the anticipated parking demand of the project exceeds the available or planned parking supply.

## ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

### Question A

During project construction hours, additional contractor vehicles will be using the bridge and parking in the area. Approximately 5-10 trips per day would be generated by construction workers commuting to/from the project site. This additional traffic would occur over the course of the construction period, approximately 2-3 weeks. The Contractor would be required to determine adequate staging for equipment during the construction period. It is expected that the contractor will temporarily close a travel lane during the daytime hours, and store construction equipment on the roadway. Once construction has been completed for that day, the equipment will be removed and the lane re-opened. The contractor may also store equipment on top of the levee structure or on nearby vacant lots (with permission) during the construction period.

## MITIGATION MEASURES

T/C 1. During construction, in order to avoid potential conflict with traffic in the public right-of-way, the construction contractor would be required to submit to the City of Sacramento and implement an approved traffic control plan as a component of the proposed project. The traffic control plan would include the following measures:

- Staging construction plans, a construction schedule, and a description of the City's noticing procedures, prepared prior to commencement of construction activities to avoid inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses.
- Statements on the improvement plans that:
  - Public safety and emergency services will be kept informed of construction activities for use in planning emergency response routing, if necessary.
  - Construction will occur during non-peak hours (i.e., 8:30-4:00) so as to not significantly impact traffic flow.
  - Only one lane of travel will be closed at one time; thereby, allowing controlled through access.

### Question B

The proposed bridge repair project would create no known hazards to safety since it is already in place and in use.

### Question C

Emergency access would not be permanently affected; however, construction activities could temporarily disrupt emergency access. Implementation of Mitigation Measure T/C 1, described above, would ensure that emergency access and access to nearby uses are maintained. Therefore, impacts related to emergency access and access to nearby uses would be considered less than significant.

### Question D

The project does not include parking; therefore the impact is less-than-significant.

**Question E**

The proposed project would not create hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists.

**Questions F and G**

The proposed project would not create conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation since the bridge is already in place and in use. For this same reason, there would be no rail, waterborne, or air traffic impacts.

**FINDINGS**

With the incorporation of the mitigation measure listed above, the proposed project would result in less than significant impacts related to transportation/circulation.

**7. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

| <b>Issues:</b>  | <b>Potentially Significant Impact</b> | <b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b> | <b>Less-than-significant Impact</b> |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal result in:</i>  |                                       |  |                                     |
| A) Endangered, threatened, or rare species or their habitats (including, but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)? |                                       | X  |                                     |
| B) Locally designated species (e.g., heritage or City street trees)?  |                                       |  | X                                   |
| C) Wetland habitat (e.g., marsh, riparian and vernal pool)?   |                                       | X  |                                     |

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The project site includes a roadway and bridge feature. A portion of Elder Creek flows through the project site. The surrounding terrain adjacent to the project site is flat; the elevation of the project site is approximately 20 feet above sea level.

The project site is small and mostly within the banks of Elder Creek. Elder Creek is contained within levees covered predominantly with ruderal vegetation regularly mowed and/or treated with herbicide.

The project site is surrounded by residential and commercial development.

**Special-Status Species**

Special-status species are those plants and animals, because of their recognized rarity or vulnerability to various causes of habitat loss or population decline, are recognized in some fashion by federal, State, or other agencies as deserving special consideration. Some of these species receive specific legal protection pursuant to federal or State endangered species legislation. Others lack such legal protection, but have been characterized as "sensitive" on the

basis of adopted policies and expertise of State resource agencies or organizations with acknowledged expertise, or policies adopted by local governmental agencies such as counties, cities, and special districts to meet local conservation objectives. These species are referred to collectively as "special status species" in this report, following a convention that has developed in practice but has no official sanction. The various categories encompassed by the term are presented below:

- Plants or animals listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA (50 Code of Federal regulations [CFR] 17.12 [listed plants], 17.11 [listed animals] and various notices in the Federal Register [FR] [proposed species]);
- Plants or animals candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the federal ESA (61 FR 40, February 28, 1996);
- Plants or animals designated as "special concern" (former C2 candidates) by Region 1 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS);
- Plants or animals listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the California ESA (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 670.5);P
- Plants listed as rare or endangered under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code, Section 1900 et seq.);
- Plants that meet the definitions of rare and endangered under CEQA ( State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15380);
- Plants considered under the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be "rare, threatened or endangered in California" (Lists 1A, 1B, and 2 in CNPS 2001);
- Plants listed by CNPS as plants about which more information is needed to determine their status and plants of limited distribution (Lists 3 and 4 in CNPS 2001), which may be included as special-status species on the basis of local significance or recent biological information;
- Animal species of special concern to CDFG; and
- Animals fully protected in California (California Fish and Game Code, Sections 3511 [birds], 4700 [mammals], and 5050 [reptiles and amphibians]).

### **Wetlands and Waters of the United States**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has primary federal responsibility for administering regulations concerning "Waters of the United States," including wetlands, within the Project Area. The Corps requires a permit be obtained if a project proposes placing structures within, over, or under navigable waters and/or discharging dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. below the ordinary high-water mark in non-tidal waters. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), and other State and local regulatory agencies may provide comment on Corps permit applications.

The State's authority in regulating activities in waters of the U.S. resides primarily with the CDFG and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). CDFG may provide comments on Corps permit actions under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. CDFG is also authorized under the California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1607 to develop mitigation measures and enter into Streambed Alteration Agreements (SAA) with applicants who propose projects that would obstruct the flow of, or alter the bed, channel, or bank of a river or stream in which there is a fish or wildlife resource, including intermittent and ephemeral streams. The SWRCB,

acting through the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), must certify that a Corps permit action meets State water quality objectives (Section 401, Clean Water Act). California Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1607 require the notification of CDFG for any activity that could affect the bank or bed of any stream of value to fish and wildlife. Upon notification, the CDFG has the responsibility to prepare a SAA, in consultation with the project proponent.

In a jurisdictional sense, there are two definitions of a wetland: one definition adopted by the Corps and a separate definition adopted by the State of California. Under normal circumstances, the federal definition of wetlands requires three wetland identification parameters (hydrology, soil, and vegetation) to be met, whereas the State adopted definition requires the presence of at least one of these parameters. For this reason, identification of wetlands by the CDFG consists of the union of all areas periodically inundated or saturated, or in which at least seasonal dominance by hydrophytes may be documented, or in which hydric soils are present. The CDFG does not normally have direct jurisdiction over wetlands unless they are subject to jurisdiction under an SAA or they support State-listed endangered species; however, the CDFG has trust responsibility for wildlife and habitats pursuant to California law.

### **Standards of Significance**

For purposes of this environmental document, an impact would be considered significant if any of the following conditions, or potential therefore, would result with implementation of the proposed project:

- Creation of a potential health hazard, or use, production or disposal of materials that would pose a hazard to plant or animal populations in the affected area;
- Substantial degradation of the quality of the environment, destruction of the habitat, reduction of the population below self-sustaining levels of threatened or endangered species of plant or animal; or
- Affect other species of special concern to agencies or natural resource organizations (such as regulatory waters and wetlands);
- Violate the City's Heritage Tree Ordinance (City Code 12.64.040).

## **ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS**

### **Question A**

Special status plant and wildlife observed or potentially occurring on the project site based on available habitat, are discussed below.

#### **Sanford's Arrowhead**

Sanford's arrowhead (*Sagittaria sanfordii*) is a CNPS List 1B species. This species is a perennial herb that grows in marshes, swamps, and other shallow freshwater habitats. It is endemic to California and occurs up to 2,000 foot elevation. Sanford's arrowhead has been extirpated from southern California, and mostly extirpated from the Central Valley. This species is threatened by grazing, development, and channel alteration.

During the September 2005 survey, a single plant was observed within the live channel near the north bank approximately 20 feet east (upstream) of the existing Center Parkway Bridge.

The project may inadvertently impact Sanford's arrowhead present in the live channel of Elder Creek. However, construction activities are not expected to encroach into the live channel. Since installation of ESA fencing along the banks of the live channel is proposed during project construction, no further mitigation is proposed.

#### **Central Valley Steelhead and Central Valley Fall-Run Chinook Salmon**

The project is located within the range of the Central Valley Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) of Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and the Central Valley ESU of fall-run chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). The Central Valley steelhead is a federally threatened species; it has no State status. The Central Valley fall-run chinook salmon is a federal candidate species and a State species of concern. Elder Creek is not designated critical habitat for Central Valley steelhead, but is EFH for Central Valley fall-run chinook salmon.

Steelhead and salmon are anadromous fish that spend part of their life cycle in freshwater and part in salt water. These species spawn in small, freshwater streams where the young remain from one to several years before migrating to the ocean to feed and grow. Adults return to their natal streams to spawn and complete their life cycle. Both species occur throughout portions of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries.

Per email coordination with John Baker of NMFS on April 14, 2004, anadromous salmonids are not present in Elder Creek. Elder Creek is a tributary to Morrison Creek, which historically confluenced with the Sacramento River. However, present day Morrison Creek is only connected with the Sacramento River via a pump. Consequently, anadromous salmonids cannot enter Morrison Creek or its tributaries.

#### **Western Pond Turtle**

The western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*) is a federal and State species of concern. This species occurs in permanent or nearly permanent bodies of water in a variety of habitats including ponds, marshes, rivers, and irrigation ditches. Suitable habitat must contain basking sites and adjacent upland habitat for egg-laying, usually sandy banks or open grassland.

No western pond turtles were observed in the project site during the September 2005 field survey, and there are no CNDDDB records for western pond turtle within 5 miles of the project site. The habitat within the project site is marginal due to the lack of deep water and suitable basking sites, but western pond turtles could occur on the project site.

The project will not encroach into the live channel of Elder Creek but construction activities could temporarily disturb any western pond turtles on or adjacent to the project site.

#### **Giant Garter Snake**

The giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*) is a federal and State threatened species. This species' current range extends from Fresno County, north through the Central Valley to near Gridley, Butte County (Hansen and Brode 1980). This snake inhabits areas in the vicinity of freshwater marshes, ponds, and slow moving streams with dense aquatic vegetation and prefers water depths of at least 1.0 foot. Adjacent upland habitat above flood elevations is also important.

The CNDDDB contains several records for giant garter snake in Sacramento County. The closest records are 3 to 4 miles south of the project in Laguna Creek and Beach Lake. Laguna Creek and Beach Lake are hydrologically connected to the project site (i.e., Elder Creek) via Morrison Creek, and therefore giant garter snake could potentially occur on the project site. The reach of Elder Creek flowing through the project site is relatively poor habitat for giant garter snake as the live channel is shallow (less than 1-foot deep) and often densely vegetated with water primrose, and the adjacent upland habitat is very limited and highly disturbed. However, giant garter snake cannot be ruled out from potentially occurring on the project site and, therefore, is considered potentially present.

The project could affect giant garter snake if they are present during construction. Direct effects to giant garter snake could include harassment and/or harm if individuals are present in the work area when construction begins or if giant garter snakes enter the work area during construction. The project will also result in permanent impacts to 152 square feet of garter snake habitat in Elder Creek during placement of RSP around two piers in the creek channel. These impacts are considered potentially significant.

The project will result in permanent impacts to 0.17 acre of suitable upland habitat for giant garter snake (ruderal/disturbed vegetation) adjacent to Elder Creek during placement of RSP. The project will not affect Elder Creek or any aquatic habitat for giant garter snake and no temporary impacts will occur.

Consultation with USFWS under Section 7 of the ESA will be required to evaluate project effects to giant garter snake. Consultation will likely be initiated during the Section 404 permitting process.

#### **Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle**

The valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) is a federally threatened species; it has no State status. This species known range extends from Redding to Bakersfield, into the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada and into the eastern foothills of the Coast Range. The beetle is dependent on its host plant, blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), which is a common component of Central Valley riparian forests. Valley elderberry longhorn beetle larvae feed and mature within elderberry stems 1 inch diameter or greater, and then exit prior to metamorphosing to the pupal stage. Exit holes created by the larvae are generally the only evidence of beetle use. Because the larval beetles cannot be detected within the stems until the adults emerge, the presence of valley elderberry longhorn beetle is inferred within stems of sufficient size (i.e., have stems 1 inch in diameter or greater) anywhere within the beetle's known range.

No elderberry plants were observed on the project site or within 100 feet. Consequently, valley elderberry longhorn beetle is considered absent from the project site.

### **MITIGATION MEASURES**

#### **Western Pond Turtle**

The project will implement the following measures to avoid and minimize impacts to western pond turtle:

BR 1. Prior to the start of construction activities, the reach of Elder Creek within the project site shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist for the presence of pond turtles. If turtles are observed in the project site, they shall be relocated outside of the work area.

### **Giant Garter Snake**

The project will implement the following measures to avoid and minimize impacts to giant garter snake. With the exception of providing compensatory mitigation, these measures are consistent with the "Standard Avoidance and Minimization Measures during Construction Activities in Giant Garter Snake Habitat" as required by USFWS:

- BR 2. Construction activity within habitat shall be conducted between May 1 and October 1. This is the active period for giant garter snakes and direct mortality is lessened because snakes are expected to actively move and avoid danger. Between October 2 and April 30 contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Sacramento Office to determine if additional measures are necessary to minimize and avoid take.
- BR 3. Clearing shall be confined to the minimum area necessary to facilitate construction activities. The contractor will be required to establish ESA fencing around giant garter snake habitat adjacent to the project impact area. This area shall be avoided by all construction personnel.
- BR 4. The work area for installation of RSP (rock slope protection) around pier footings shall be dewatered prior to the start of work. Dewatering shall consist of installation of a flow diversion upstream of the bridge to isolate the base of the pier footings from the live channel (area of active stream flow). The flow diversion shall consist of K-rail with visquine, sandbags, or an equivalent method to block flows upstream and downstream of the project site. Flows shall be temporarily diverted into a pipe through the work area and then returned to the live channel downstream of the project site.
- BR 5. Construction personnel shall receive U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-approved worker environmental awareness training. This training instructs workers to recognize giant garter snakes and their habitat(s).
- BR 6. Twenty-four hours prior to construction activities, the project area shall be surveyed for giant garter snakes. Survey of the project area shall be repeated if a lapse in construction activity of two weeks or greater has occurred. *If a snake is encountered during construction, activities shall cease and consultation with the Service shall be reinitiated.*
- BR 7. Following project completion, all areas temporarily disturbed during construction shall be restored following the "Guidelines for Restoration and/or Replacement of Giant Garter Snake Habitat" outlined below.
- Restoring of giant garter snake habitat includes minimizing impacts of project activities to the existing habitat, including using silt fencing, designating ESAs, using protective mats, preventing runoff, and providing worker awareness training.
  - Remove all construction debris and stockpiled materials.
  - Regrade area to preexisting contour, or a contour that would improve restoration potential of the site. Project will have minimal impact outside RSP area.
  - Replant and hydroseed the restoration area. Recommended plantings consist of a) wetland emergents, b) low-growing cover on or adjacent to banks, and c) upland plantings/hydroseeding mix to encourage use by other wildlife. Riparian plantings are

not appropriate because shading may result in lack of basking sites. Native plantings are encouraged except where nonnatives shall provide additional values to wildlife habitat and shall not become invasive in native communities. The applicant should obtain cuttings, plantings, plugs, or seeds, from local sources wherever possible. The applicant should attempt to restore conditions similar to that of adjacent or nearby habitats.

- Emergent wetland plants recommended for giant garter snake habitat are California bulrush (*Scirpus californicus*), cattail (*Typha* spp.), and water primrose. Additional wetland plantings may include common tule (*Scirpus acutus*), Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus*), or duckweed.
- Cover species on or adjacent to the bank may include California blackberry (*Rubus californica*), or wild grape, along with the hydroseeding mix recommended below.
- Upland plantings/hydroseeding mix: disturbed soil surfaces such as levee slopes should be hydroseeded to prevent erosion. The Service recommends a mix of at least 20-40 percent native grass seeds [such as annual fescue (*Vulpia* spp.), California brome (*Bromus carinatus*), blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), and needle grass (*Nassella* spp.)], 2-10 percent native forb seeds, five percent rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum*), and five percent alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*). Approximately 40-68 percent of the mixture may be non-aggressive European annual grasses [such as wild oats (*Avena sativa*), wheat (*Triticum* sp.), and barley (*Hordeum vulgare*)]. The Corps shall not include aggressive non-native grasses, such as perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), fescue (*Festuca* spp.), giant reed (*Arundo donax*), medusa-head (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), or Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) in the hydroseed mix. Endophyte-infected grasses shall not be used. Mixes of one-hundred percent native grasses and forbs may also be used, and are encouraged.

BR 8. All construction shall be conducted during daylight hours.

BR 9. Measures consistent with the current Caltrans' Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual (including the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan [SWPPP] and Water Pollution Control Program [WPCP] Manuals [[http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/Construction\\_Site\\_BMPs.pdf](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/construc/Construction_Site_BMPs.pdf)]) shall be implemented to minimize effects to giant garter snake (e.g., siltation, etc.) during construction.

BR 10. A Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) shall be prepared by the contractor in accordance with typical provisions associated with a Regional General Permit for Construction Activities (on file with the Central Valley RWQCB). The WPCP shall contain a Spill Response Plan with instructions and procedures for reporting spills, the use and location of spill containment equipment, and the use and location of spill collection materials.

## Question B

No locally designated species are present at the proposed project site.

### Question C

The project will result in 0.10 acre of permanent impacts to streambed and nonwetland waters associated with Elder Creek during placement of RSP on the slopes adjacent to and beneath the bridge. These waters are considered both waters of the U.S. and CDFG waters. No temporary impacts will occur during project construction (the temporary access road will be located where RSP will be placed). The project will not impact wetlands. These impacts are considered potentially significant.

The project will also result in an additional 0.10 acre of permanent impacts to waters regulated by CDFG during placement of RSP. These waters are not considered waters of the U.S. and are not regulated by the Corps. These impacts are considered potentially significant.

In summary, a total of 0.20 acres of waters will be permanently impacted from the project.

### MITIGATION MEASURES

The project will implement the following measures to avoid and minimize the 0.20 acres of impacts to waters of the U.S. and CDFG waters:

BR 11. Waters of the U.S. and CDFG waters permanently impacted during construction shall be compensated by one of the following methods, or by using a combination of the two methods, contingent upon approval by the Corps and CDFG, respectively:

- a. Through use of in-lieu fee mitigation in accordance with the Corps, Sacramento District's Interim Guidelines for In-Lieu Fee Mitigation. The interim guidelines include an estimated fee schedule based on a 2:1 mitigation ratio.
- b. Through purchase of credits at a Corps/CDFG-approved mitigation bank at a minimum 1:1 mitigation ratio.
- c. Preservation, creation and/or restoration of the impacted resources at a minimum of a 1:1 ratio.

BR 12. Prior to the start of construction, the applicant shall obtain all regulatory permits required from the Corps, RWQCB, and/or CDFG. Specific conditions and/or mitigation requirements, if different than described above, shall also become a condition(s) of project approval

### FINDINGS

With the incorporation of the mitigation measures listed above, the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts to biological resources.

## 8. ENERGY

| <b>Issues:</b>   | <b>Potentially Significant Impact</b> | <b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b> | <b>Less-than-significant Impact</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal result in impacts to:</i>  |                                       |  |                                     |
| A) Power or natural gas?   |                                       |  | X                                   |
| B) Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner?   |                                       |  | X                                   |
| C) Substantial increase in demand of existing sources of energy or require the development of new sources of energy? |                                       |  | X                                   |

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site consists of a roadway bridge in an urban area, surrounded by residential and commercial development. The proposed project consists of erosion repair and slope stabilization activities. No new development would occur as a result of the proposed project.

### Standards of Significance

*Gas Service.* A significant environmental impact would result if a project required PG&E to secure a new gas source beyond their current supplies.

*Electrical Services.* A significant environmental impact would occur if a project resulted in the need for a new electrical source (e.g., hydroelectric and geothermal plants).

## ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

### Questions A - C

The proposed project site is already established and in use. Therefore, there will be no impact to power or natural gas to complete bridge repairs. No non-renewable resources will be used and no increase in demand of existing sources of energy will occur.

## MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

## FINDINGS

The proposed project would not result in impacts to energy resources.

## 9. HAZARDS

| <b>Issues:</b>   | <b>Potentially Significant Impact</b> | <b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b> | <b>Less-than-significant Impact</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal involve:</i>   |                                       |  |                                     |
| A) A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)? |                                       |  | X                                   |
| B) Possible interference with an emergency evacuation plan?  |                                       |  | X                                   |
| C) The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard?   |                                       |  | X                                   |
| D) Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards?   |                                       |  | X                                   |
| E) Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees?   |                                       | X  |                                     |

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site consists of a roadway bridge spanning Elder Creek. The surrounding land uses include residential and commercial. The proposed project site is not located in an area known to contain hazardous materials or would expose people to potential health hazards.

### Standards of Significance

For the purposes of this document, an impact is considered significant if the proposed project would:

- Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated soil during construction activities;
- Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to asbestos-containing materials; or
- Expose people (e.g., residents, pedestrians, construction workers) to existing contaminated groundwater during dewatering activities.

## ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

### Question A

No significant amounts of hazardous materials are expected to be used or located within the project area during or after construction. As such, the risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) is considered less than significant.

### Question B and C

The proposed project will not interfere with an emergency response plan or an emergency

evacuation plan. The project will not result in the creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard. Therefore, the project is considered to have a less than significant impact of interference with emergency evacuation or creation of health hazards. Also refer to Mitigation Measure T/C 1 in Section 6, Transportation /Circulation.

**Question D**

There are no existing sources of potential health hazards known to exist within the project site. As is the case for any project involving excavation, there is the potential for unknown hazardous contamination to be revealed during project construction. For any previously unknown hazardous waste/material encountered during project construction, the procedures outlined in Caltrans' Hazardous Waste Contingency Plan for Construction shall be adhered to (Appendix A).

**Question E**

The dry nature of the project site during a typical northern California summer makes fire hazards a potential risk. During construction, the following mitigation measures will ensure construction related activities will be less than significant.

**MITIGATION MEASURES**

- H1. Machinery used during construction shall be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications to prevent accidental sparks.
- H2. Fire extinguishers shall be kept on-site during all construction activities.

**FINDINGS**

With the incorporation of the above-listed mitigation measures, the proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts regarding hazards.

**10. NOISE**

| <b>Issues:</b>  | <b>Potentially Significant Impact</b> | <b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b> | <b>Less-than-significant Impact</b> |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal result in:</i><br>A) Increases in existing noise levels?<br>Short-term<br>Long Term |                                       |  | X                                   |
| B) Exposure of people to severe noise levels?<br>Short-term<br>Long Term                                  |                                       |  | X                                   |

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Noise is defined as unwanted sound. Sound levels are usually measured and expressed in decibels (dB) with 0 dB being the threshold of hearing. Measurable decibel levels range from 0 to 140. Typical examples of decibel levels would be a low level of 50 dB for light traffic to a high level of 120 dB for a jet takeoff at 200 feet.

The proposed project site is an active roadway bridge spanning Elder Creek. The project area is north of Mack Road and south of Seyferth Way.

The City of Sacramento General Plan considers exterior noise levels of less than 60 dB  $L_{dn}$  (day/night average sound level) in common outdoor use areas as normally acceptable.

### Standards of Significance

Thresholds of significance are those established by the Title 24 standards and by the City's General Plan Noise Element and the City Noise Ordinance. Noise and vibration impacts resulting from the implementation of the proposed project would be considered significant if they cause any of the following results:

- Exterior noise levels at the proposed project which are above the upper value of the normally acceptable category for various land uses (SGPU DEIR AA-27) caused by noise level increases due to the project;
- Residential interior noise levels of 45 Ldn or greater caused by noise level increases due to the project;
- Construction noise levels not in compliance with the City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance;
- Occupied existing residential and commercial areas are exposed to vibration peak particle velocities greater than 0.5 inches per second due to project construction;

## ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

### Question A

*Short-term Construction Noise Impacts.* Temporary increases in noise levels would occur during construction hours of the proposed project. Generally, noise levels at construction sites can vary from 65 dBA to a maximum of nearly 90 dBA when heavy equipment is used nearby.

Construction noise would be intermittent, and noise levels would vary depending on the type of construction activity. However, construction noise is exempt from the City of Sacramento Noise Ordinance, provided construction is limited to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. A notation must be placed on the construction plans which indicate the operation of construction equipment shall be restricted to the hours listed above. All internal combustion engines in use on the project must be equipped with original manufacturers' silencers or their after market equivalents, in good working order (as required by City Ordinance).

*Long-term Operational Noise Impacts.* No long term increases in noise levels would occur after construction is complete.

**Question B**

There are no receptors in the immediate vicinity of the project site. Therefore, exposure to severe noise levels on a short-term or long-term basis will not occur.

**MITIGATION MEASURES**

No mitigation measures are required.

**FINDINGS**

The proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts concerning noise.

**11. PUBLIC SERVICES**

| <b>Issues:</b>   | <b>Potentially Significant Impact</b> | <b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b> | <b>Less-than-significant Impact</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas:</i> |                                       |  | X                                   |
| A) Fire protection?  |                                       |  | X                                   |
| B) Police protection?  |                                       |  | X                                   |
| C) Schools?  |                                       |  | X                                   |
| D) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?  |                                       |  | X                                   |
| E) Other governmental services?  |                                       |  | X                                   |

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The City of Sacramento Police Department provides police protection service within the project area. Duties of the City of Sacramento Police Department include law enforcement, crime prevention, and community relation services. The City of Sacramento provides fire protection and emergency medical services as well as first response hazardous materials services within the project area. The Fire department presently operates 25 stations spaced to provide a response time of four minutes and spaced at approximately a two-mile radius.

There are several schools in the vicinity of the proposed project site including: Las Flores High School, Samuel Jackman Middle School, St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School and Charles Mack Elementary School. The Elk Grove Unified School District has 61 schools: 38 elementary schools, eight middle schools, eight high schools, four alternative education schools, an adult school, a special education school, and one charter school.

**Standards of Significance**

For the purposes of this report, an impact would be considered significant if the project resulted in the need for new or altered services related to fire protection, police protection, school facilities, roadway maintenance, or other governmental services.

## ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

### Questions A - E

The proposed project would not require altered services to existing fire protection, police protection, schools, maintenance of public facilities or other governmental services. Nor would the project result in the need for any new facilities since the bridge is already established and in use. Therefore, a less than significant impact is expected to fire, police, school, and other public services.

## MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

## FINDINGS

The proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts to public services.

## 12. UTILITIES

| Issues:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated | Less-than-significant Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal result in the need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:</i> |                                |   | X                            |
| A) Communication systems?  |                                |   |                              |
| B) Local or regional water supplies?   |                                |   | X                            |
| C) Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities?   |                                |   | X                            |
| D) Sewer or septic tanks?  |                                |   | X                            |
| E) Storm water drainage?   |                                |   | X                            |
| F) Solid waste disposal?   |                                |   | X                            |

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site is an active roadway bridge spanning Elder Creek. Existing utility lines are suspended along the side of the existing bridge structure.

### Standards of Significance

For purposes of this environmental document, an impact is considered significant if the proposed project would result in the need for new utility systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to current utility systems or supplies.

## ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

**Question A - D**

Since the proposed project site is already established and in use, the planned repairs would have no impact on utilities including communication systems, water supplies, water treatment, or sewer and septic tanks. Existing utility lines would be protected in place during project construction activities. No impacts to existing utility lines would occur as a result of the proposed bridge repairs.

**Question E**

The proposed project site will have no negative impacts on stormwater drainage given the bridge is already established and in use. The project is proposed as a solution to resolve past erosion concerns on the channel slope that have previously occurred.

**Question F**

The proposed project will have no impact on solid waste disposal since it is already in place and in use.

**MITIGATION MEASURES**

No mitigation measures are required.

**FINDINGS**

The proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts to utilities.

**13. AESTHETICS, LIGHT AND GLARE**

| <b>Issues:</b>                                     | <b>Potentially Significant Impact</b> | <b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b> | <b>Less-than-significant Impact</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal:</i>                         |                                       |  |                                     |
| A) Affect a scenic vista or adopted view corridor? |                                       |  | X                                   |
| B) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect?  |                                       |  | X                                   |
| C) Create light or glare?                          |                                       |  | X                                   |
| D) Create shadows on adjacent property?            |                                       |  | X                                   |

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The existing setting reflects a combination of both manmade conditions, and natural conditions that have been significantly modified. Manmade conditions include the existing bridge structure and bridge piers in the Elder Creek channel. Adjacent manmade levees establish the Elder Creek channel. Surrounding land uses include residential and commercial development.

The natural conditions include the live stream resource and associated wetland vegetation that occurs within the limits of the channel. Several wildlife species are present or could be present

within the creek area. Overall, the manmade conditions are dominant over the natural conditions, particularly in light of the fact that the natural conditions have been modified to adapt to the manmade setting. The levees are predominantly covered with ruderal vegetation regularly mowed and/or treated with herbicide.

**Standards of Significance**

For purposes of this environmental document, an impact is considered significant if the proposed project would result in negative impacts to an aesthetically pleasing area, or create light, glare or shadows in an unpleasant manner.

**ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS**

**Question A - D**

The proposed project site consists of a bridge that is already in place and in use. Planned repairs would not result in substantial visual alterations to the project site and, therefore, will not negatively impact any scenic vistas, or create any new sources of light, glare, or shadow. Street lights are not proposed in the project improvements.

**MITIGATION MEASURES**

No mitigation measures are required.

**FINDINGS**

The proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts to aesthetics, light, or glare.

**14. CULTURAL RESOURCES**

| <b>Issues:</b>   | <b>Potentially Significant Impact</b> | <b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b> | <b>Less-than-significant Impact</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal:</i>   |                                       |  |                                     |
| A) Disturb paleontological resources?  |                                       |  | X                                   |
| B) Disturb archaeological resources?   |                                       | X  |                                     |
| C) Affect historical resources?  |                                       |  | X                                   |
| D) Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? |                                       |  | X                                   |
| E) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?                    |                                       |  | X                                   |

## ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site consists of a bridge that is already in place and in use. The project site has been previously disturbed due to initial construction of the bridge. No paleontological, archeological, or historic resources were found within or near the project site during the initial bridge construction.

### Regulatory Setting

Cultural resources can include historic and archaeological objects, structures, records, and sites which are associated with past human activities. Properties of historical significance in California are designated in one of three state registration programs: State Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, and the California Register of Historic Place. The California Department of Parks and Recreation Office of Historic Preservation is the governmental agency responsible for administering the historic preservation program in California including oversight of the designation program and maintenance of the list of registered sites. A substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource means the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of the historical resource would be materially impaired. (Section 15064.5 (b)(1), CEQA Guidelines).

Per the CEQA Guidelines, historical resources include the following:

- A resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (California Pub. Res. Code SS5024.1, Title 14 CCR, Section 4850 et seq.)
- A resource included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code
- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript, which:
  - a) is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
  - b) is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
  - c) embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic value; or
  - d) has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Per Public Resources Code Section 21983.2(g), an archaeological resource shall be considered unique if "it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person."

## Standards of Significance

Cultural resource impacts may be considered significant if the proposed project would result in one or more of the following:

- Cause a substantial change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 or
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

## ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

### Questions A - C

No paleontological, archeological, or historic resources were found within or near the project site during initial construction of the bridge. However, construction of the proposed project may involve some minor excavation. These activities could expose previously unidentified cultural resources, and would be considered potentially significant impacts. According to the Caltrans Historic Bridge Inventory, the existing bridge is a Category 5, Not Eligible for the National Register of Historic Places listing, and therefore has no historic association. The following mitigation measures would reduce any potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

## MITIGATION MEASURES

CR 1a In the event that any prehistoric subsurface archeological features or deposits, including locally darkened soil ("midden"), that could conceal cultural deposits, animal bone, obsidian and/or mortars are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities, all work within 50 meters of the resources shall be halted, and the City shall consult with a qualified archeologist to assess the significance of the find. Archeological test excavations shall be conducted by a qualified archeologist to aid in determining the nature and integrity of the find. If the find is determined to be significant by the qualified archeologist, representatives of the City and the qualified archeologist shall coordinate to determine the appropriate course of action. All significant cultural materials recovered shall be subject to scientific analysis and professional museum curation. In addition, a report shall be prepared by the qualified archeologist according to current professional standards.

CR 1b If a Native American site is discovered, the evaluation process shall include consultation with the appropriate Native American representatives.

If Native American archeological, ethnographic, or spiritual resources are involved, all identification and treatment shall be conducted by qualified archeologists, who are certified by the Society of Professional Archeologists (SOPA) and/or meet the federal standards as stated in the Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR 61), and Native American representatives, who are approved by the local Native American community as scholars of the cultural traditions.

In the event that no such Native American is available, persons who represent tribal governments and/or organizations in the locale in which resources could be affected shall be consulted. If historic archeological sites are involved, all identified treatment is to be carried out by qualified historical archeologists, who shall meet either Register of Professional Archeologists (RPA), or 36 CFR 61 requirements.

CR 2 If a human bone or bone of unknown origin is found during construction, all work shall stop in the vicinity of the find, and the County Coroner shall be contacted immediately. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who shall notify the person most likely believed to be a descendant. The most likely descendant shall work with the contractor to develop a program for re-internment of the human remains and any associated artifacts. No additional work is to take place within the immediate vicinity of the find until the identified appropriate actions have taken place.

**Questions D and E**

There are no existing ethnic cultural values or religious or sacred uses known to be present on or associated with the proposed project site. Therefore, the proposed project’s impacts to these resources would be less than significant.

**FINDINGS**

With the incorporation of the above mitigation measures, the proposed project is considered to have less-than-significant impacts to cultural resources.

**15. RECREATION**

| <b>Issues:</b>  | <b>Potentially Significant Impact</b> | <b>Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated</b> | <b>Less-than-significant Impact</b> |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the proposal:</i>  |                                       |  |                                     |
| A) Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities? |                                       |  | X                                   |
| B) Affect existing recreational opportunities?  |                                       |  | X                                   |

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

The proposed project site is located in an urban area of Sacramento and is surrounded by residential and commercial uses. The proposed project consists of erosion repairs and slope stabilization to protect the existing bridge. No new development would occur as a result of the proposed project.

**Standards of Significance**

Impacts to recreational resources are considered significant if the proposed project would do either of the following:

- Cause or accelerate substantial physical deterioration of existing area parks or recreational facilities; or
- Create a need for construction or expansion of recreational facilities beyond what was anticipated in the General or Community Plan.

## ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

### Questions A and B

The proposed project site will not impact recreational facilities in any way since it is already in place and in use.

### MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation measures are required.

### FINDINGS

The proposed project would result in less-than-significant impacts to recreational resources.

## 16. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

| Issues:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated | Less-than-significant Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 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 history or prehistory? |                                | X   |                              |
| B. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?  |                                |   | X                            |
| C. Does the project 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.)   |                                |   | X                            |

| Issues:  | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigated | Less-than-significant Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| D. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? Disturb paleontological resources? |                                | X   |                              |

## ANSWERS TO CHECKLIST QUESTIONS

### Question A

With the implementation of the mentioned mitigation measures, the project would not 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, or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community. The project would not impact rare or endangered wildlife species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

### Question B

The project will not contribute to any cumulative impacts and will not create additional impacts over and above those previously evaluated and overridden.

### Question C

The project does not have impacts individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Individual impacts will be mitigated to less-than-significant levels, resulting in no cumulative impacts for the project.

### Question D

With implementation of the mitigation measures described in this document, the project would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

## SECTION IV - ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would potentially be affected by this project.

|   |                              |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
|   | Land Use and Planning        | X | Hazards                            |
|   | Population and Housing       |   | Noise                              |
|   | Geological                   |   | Public Services                    |
|   | Water                        |   | Utilities and Service Systems      |
|   | Air Quality                  |   | Aesthetics                         |
| X | Transportation/Circulation   | X | Cultural Resources                 |
| X | Biological Resources         |   | Recreation                         |
|   | Energy and Mineral Resources | X | Mandatory Findings of Significance |
|   | None Identified              |   |                                    |

## SECTION V - DETERMINATION

### On the basis of the initial evaluation:

I find that the Proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and 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 project-specific mitigation measures described in Section III have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

I find that the Proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

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Signature

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Date

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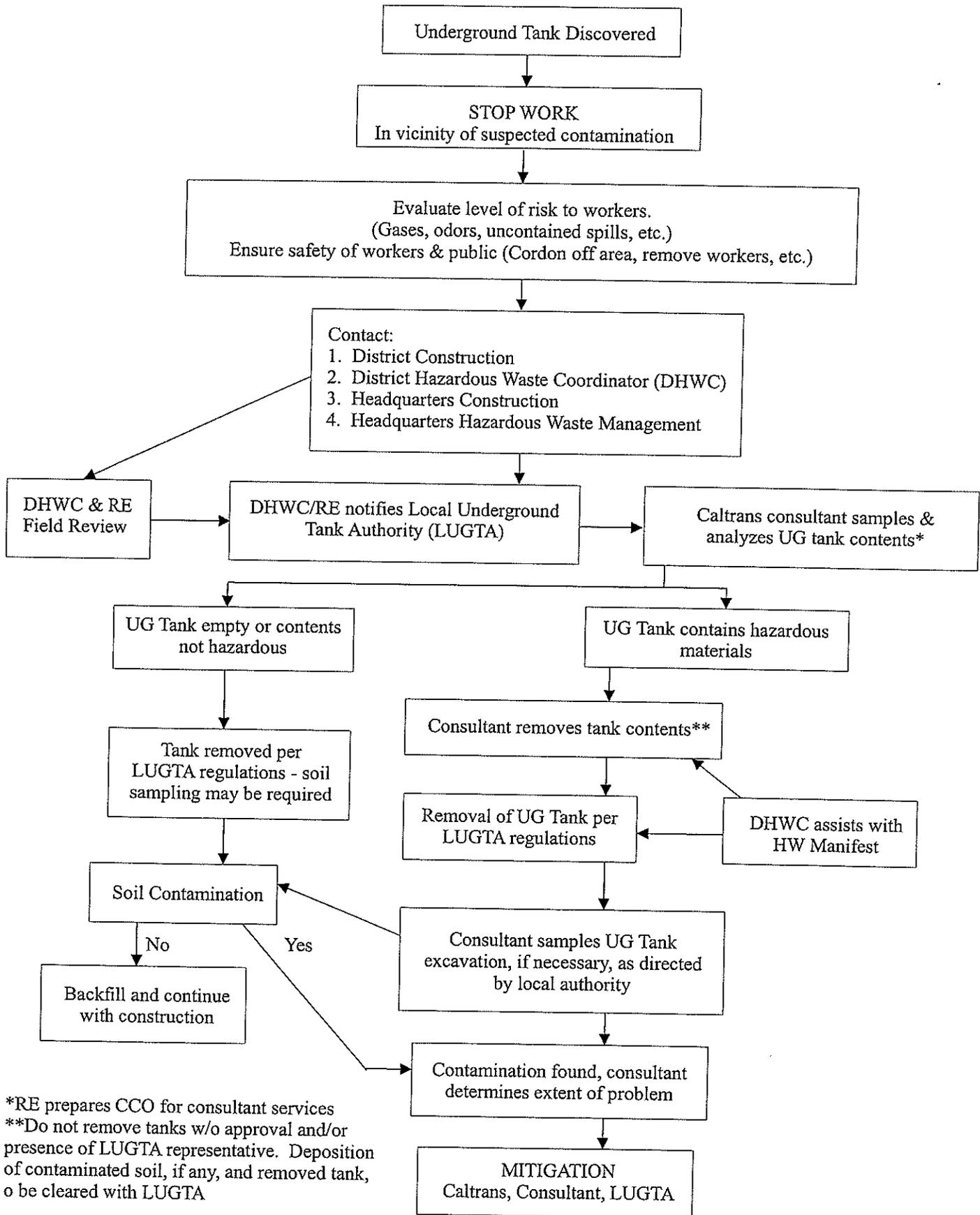
Printed Name

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**APPENDIX A**  
**CALTRANS' CONSTRUCTION HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTINGENCY**  
**PLAN**

# HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION



\*RE prepares CCO for consultant services  
 \*\*Do not remove tanks w/o approval and/or presence of LUGTA representative. Deposition of contaminated soil, if any, and removed tank, to be cleared with LUGTA