State Route 33 (SR-33)
SLOPE STABILIZATION PROJECT

07-VEN-33 PM 15.7/15.8

EA 3X000

Initial Study
with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation

March 2013

Caltrans

SCH:_____.
07-VEN-33-PM 15.7/15.8
EA 3X000

The State of California Department of Transportation proposes to remove the grouted rock slope protection (RSP) and replace it with a soil nail wall to stabilize the roadway and undermined slope along State Route 33 at post mile (PM) 15.7/15.8, near Matilija Creek north of the City of Ojai.

INITIAL STUDY with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

March 19, 2013
Date of Approval

Ronald Kosinski
Ron Kosinski
Deputy District Director
Division of Environmental Planning, District 7
California Department of Transportation

State of California
Department of Transportation

SCH:_____
07-VEN 33-PM 15.7/15.8
EA 3X000

Mitigated Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation proposes to remove the rock slope protection (RSP) and replace it with a soil nail wall on State Route 33 at postmile 15.7/15.8 in Ventura County. The project site is located approximately 1/3 of a mile upstream from the confluence of North Fork Matilija Creek and the mainline Matilija Creek, where two creeks merge to form the Ventura River.

The purpose of this project is to stabilize the roadway from future erosion which will, in turn protect public safety and prevent future scouring.

Determination

Caltrans has prepared a focused Initial Study for this project and following public review, will determine if the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- The proposed project would have minimal or no effect on land use, agricultural resources, air quality, hazardous waste, noise, socio-economic features, cultural resources, scenic resources, population and housing, visual/ aesthetics, utilities/ service systems, seismic exposure, open space or parklands and transportation/ traffic.
- The proposed project would have a less than significant effect on topography, hydrology/ water quality, floodplains and wetlands.
- The proposed project would have a less than significant effect on biological resources with the appropriate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures incorporated.

_____ _____

Date of Approval

Ron Kosinski
Deputy District Director
Division of Environmental Planning, District 7
California Department of Transportation

California Department of Transportation

Initial Study

Project Title

SR-33 Slope Stabilization Project

Lead Agency Name, Address and Contact Person

California Department of Transportation
100 S. Main St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Ron Kosinski, Deputy District Director
Div. of Environmental Planning, District 7
(213) 897-0703

Project Location

The proposed project site is located in Ventura County north of the City of Ojai on State Route 33. The work is located at postmile (PM) 15.7/15.8.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this project is to alleviate future undermining due to severe erosion and possible failure of the rock slope protection (RSP) and the roadway itself. There has been accelerated structural undermining that has caused large cavities beneath the RSP, some up to a horizontal depth of 22-feet beneath the roadway.

Description of Project

The proposed project is located outside the City of Ojai, along State Route 33 in Ventura County at postmile 15.7/15.8. The proposed project will remove the severely undermined grouted rock slope protection (RSP) and construct a soil nail wall approximately 500 feet in length in its place. It will also include a water diversion of approximately 900 feet. Once all existing RSP has been removed and the soil nail wall has been built, the newly widened creek will be restored to match the natural landscape, with a stream simulation rock weir design implemented within the widened portion of the streambed. The creek floodplain will be widened and no permanent encroachment will occur.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The project site is located on State Route 33, near the City of Ojai, approximately a mile and a half from Wheeler Springs and directly adjacent to Mosler rock quarry. The immediate vicinity of North Fork Matilija creek can be easily accessed from SR-33. The creek has been suspected of being impacted by substantial rock slides from the quarry over the past five to ten years. The rock slide during the winter of 2006 redirected this stretch of the creek

towards SR-33 as well as creating a barrier to upstream fish migration. A court order directed Mosler quarry to partially remove these boulders from the stream in 2011.

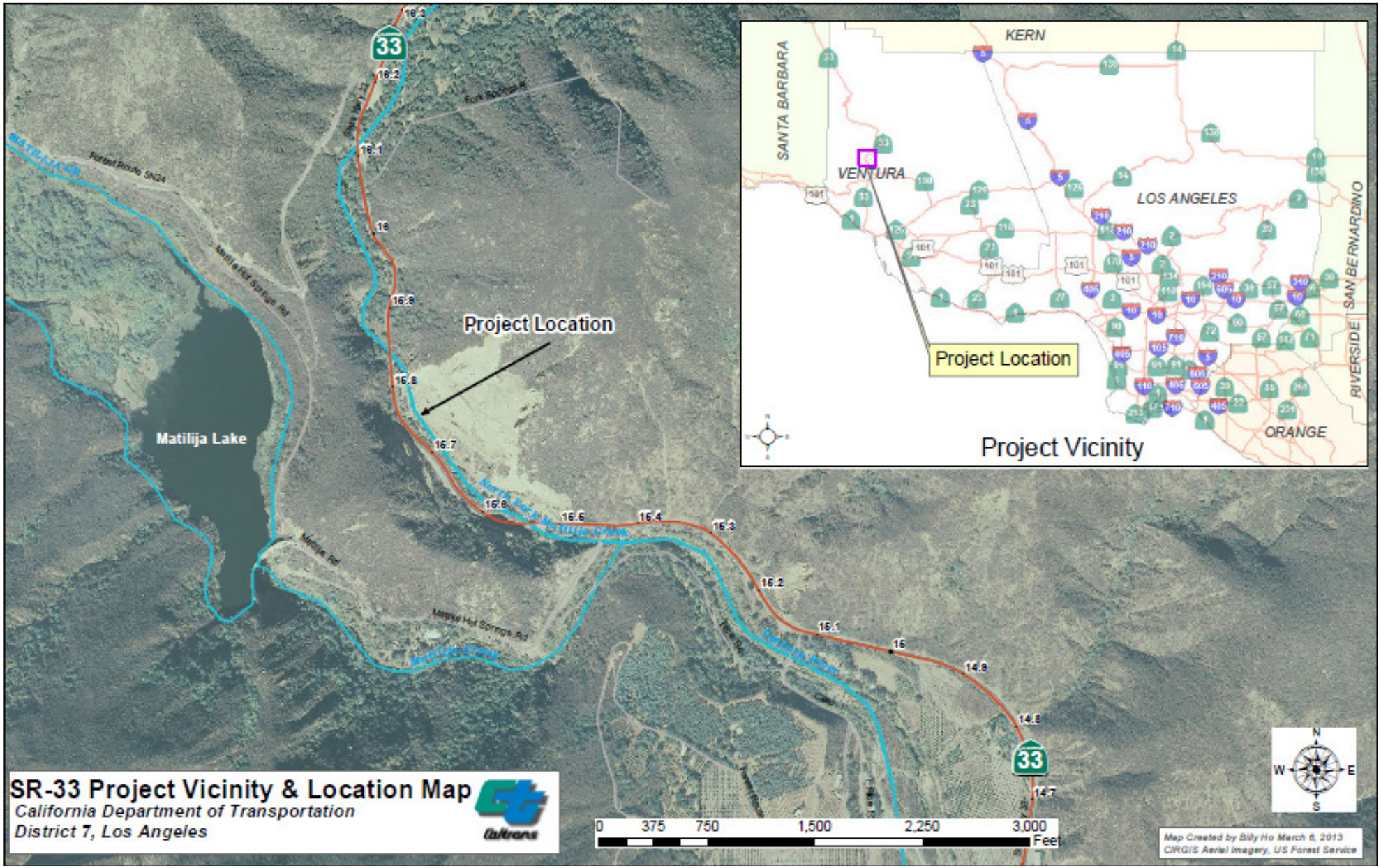
The proposed project site is located about fifteen (15) miles from the ocean and within a mile of Matilija Lake.

Permits and Approvals Needed

- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Section 404 Permit
- Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Section 401 Certification
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Biological Opinion (B.O.)
- U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Biological Opinion (B.O.)

Zoning

The area is a transportation corridor through the County of Ventura, along State Route 33 (SR-33). Open space surrounds SR-33 and Mosler rock quarry is adjacent to the construction site. The proposed project will be constructed within Caltrans' right-of-way and north Fork Matilija Creek. There is no right-of-way acquisition associated with the project.


SR-33 Project Vicinity & Location Map
California Department of Transportation
District 7, Los Angeles
Project Location
Matilija Lake
Project Vicinity
KERN
SANTA BARBARA
VENTURA
LOS ANGELES
SAN BERNARDINO
RIVERSIDE
ORANGE
Project Location
0 375 750 1,500 2,250 3,000 Feet
Map Created by Billy Ho March 6, 2013
CIRGIS Aerial Imagery, US Forest Service

DIST	COUNTY	ROUTE	POST MILES TOTAL PROJECT	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
07	VEN	33	15.7		

REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER — DATE 07-20-12

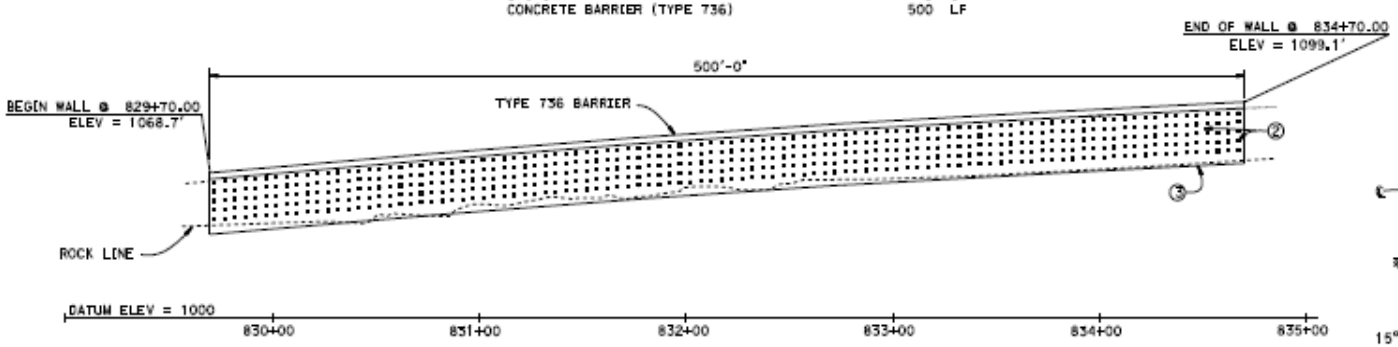
PLANS APPROVAL DATE

The State of California or its officers or agents shall not be responsible for the accuracy or completeness of electronic copies of this plan sheet.

JOHN LANE No. 59642 Exp. 06-30-13 CIVIL STATE OF CALIFORNIA

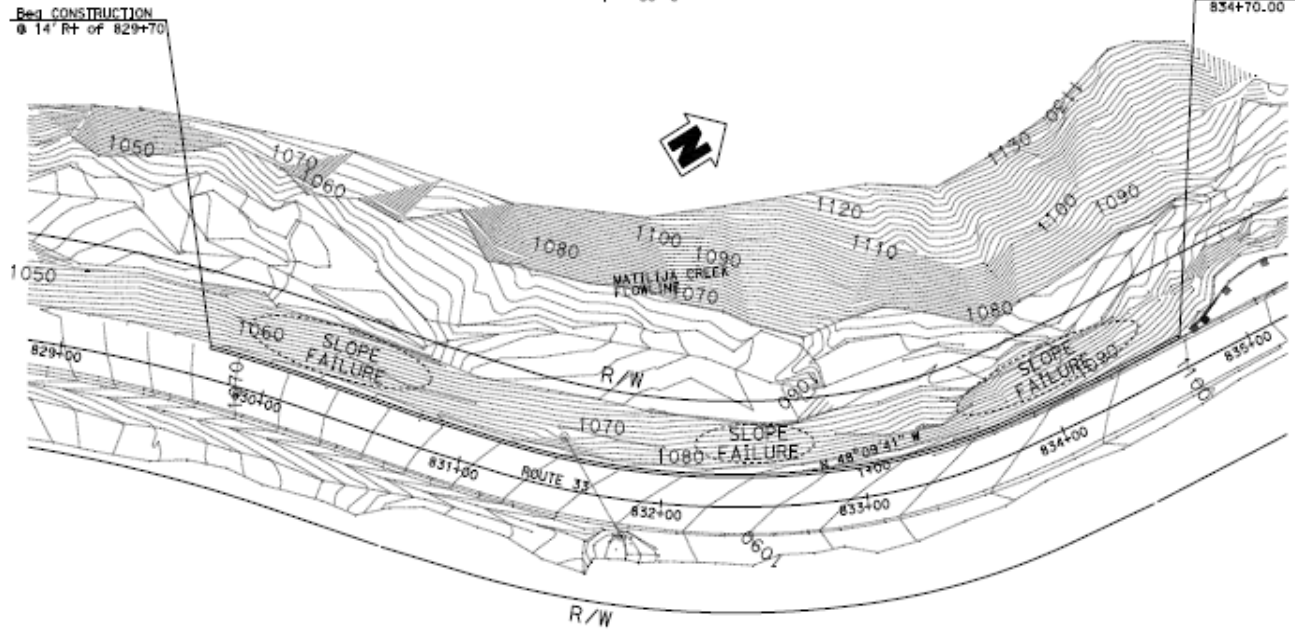
QUANTITIES

SOIL NAIL	9,625	LF
STRUCTURAL CONCRETE, RETAINING WALL	346	CY
STRUCTURAL CONCRETE, BARRIER SLAB	287	CY
BAR REINFORCING STEEL (RETAINING WALL)	43,380	LB
SHOTCRETE	173	CY
CONCRETE BARRIER (TYPE 736)	500	LF



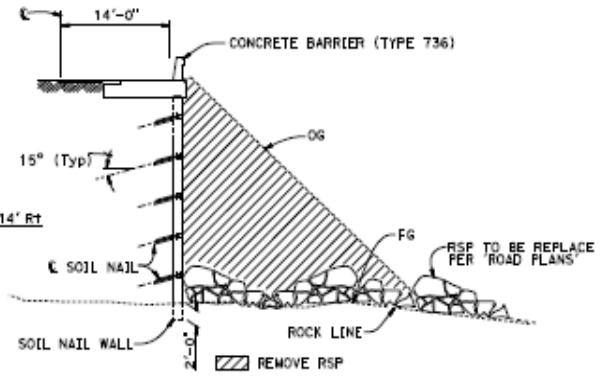
MIRROR DEVELOPED RETAINING WALL ELEVATION

1" = 30'-0"



PLAN

1" = 30'-0"



TYPICAL SECTION

1/8" = 1'-0"

NOTES:

① For Roadway Drainage and Earthwork, see 'Roadway Plans'

② Edge distance shall be as follows
2'-6" from top and sides
3'-6" from bottom
Center to center distance of Nails shall be less than or equal to 5'-0".

③ Wall shall be anchored 2' into bedrock

DESIGN ENGINEER

DESIGN	BY J. Lane	CHECKED D. Dunrud	LOAD & RESISTANCE FACTOR DESIGN	LIVE LOADING HL-93 W/LOW-BOY PERMIT DESIGN VEHICLE	
DETAILS	BY L. Xiong	CHECKED J. Lane	LAYOUT	BY J. Lane	CHECKED D. Dunrud
QUANTITIES	BY J. Lane	CHECKED D. Dunrud	SPECIFICATIONS	BY X	CHECKED PLANS AND SPECS FOR PROPOSED PROJECT

ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES FOR REDUCED PLANS 0 1 2 3

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DESIGN BRANCH 14

BRIDGE NO.	NA
POST MILE	15.7

STATE ROUTE 33 SOIL NAIL WALL

GENERAL PLAN

UNIT: 3615
PROJECT NUMBER & PHASE: 0700020091
CONTRACT NO.: 07-700001

REGISTERED ENGINEER'S INITIAL & DATE WHEN PLANS ARE APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION

REVISION DATES

SHEET 1 OF 8

Undermined RSP- North Fork Matilija Creek

Boulders from rockslides obstructing the creek

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
- [ ] Agricultural Resources
- [ ] Air Quality
- [x] Biological Resources
- [ ] Cultural Resources
- [ ] Geology/Soils
- [ ] Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- [ ] Hydrology/Water Quality
- [ ] Land Use/Planning
- [ ] Mineral Resources
- [ ] Noise
- [ ] Population/Housing
- [ ] Public Services
- [ ] Recreation
- [ ] Transportation/Traffic
- [ ] Utilities/Service Systems
- [ ] Mandatory Findings of Significance

Impacts Checklist

The impacts checklist starting on the next page identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. The California Environmental Quality Act impact levels include “potentially significant impact,” “less than significant impact with mitigation,” “less than significant impact,” and “no impact.”

A brief explanation of each California Environmental Quality Act checklist determination follows each checklist item.

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
I. AESTHETICS — Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	X

The proposed project will construct a soil nail wall along the slope, replacing the undermined RSP. The location of the soil nail wall will have little to no negative visual impact because the improvement is not clearly visible to travelers on the road. Although route 33 is a designated state scenic highway, the project site will be revegetated which will soften the soil nail wall façade. There is no potential for impact to scenic resources or the visual character of the area. (Visual Impact Assessment May 2012)

II. AGRICULTURE 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. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	X

The proposed project will construct a soil nail wall along the slope, replacing the undermined RSP. No agricultural or farmland would be converted with the proposed project, therefore there is no potential for impacts to agricultural resources.

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

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) 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 (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	X

The proposed project will remove the severely undermined RSP and construct a soil nail wall approximately 500-feet in length. No long-term air quality impacts will result from the project. The project will not increase highway capacity or alter the highway alignment.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES — Would the project:

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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	X	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	X	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	X

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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?	☐	X	☐	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	X
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?	☐	☐	☐	X

There will be removal of the existing RSP and a soil nail wall built in its place. In addition, the work will require a water diversion (approximately 900 feet). A summary of recommended biological provisions have been attached as Appendix A. In addition, permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and Regional Water Quality Control Board will be obtained for the proposed project.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES — Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	X

The proposed project will remove the existing RSP and build a soil nail wall in its place. Under CEQA, Caltrans determined a Finding of No Impact; no cultural resources were present within the area of potential effect. Minimization and avoidance measures to avoid impacts to cultural resources:

In the unlikely event that archaeological materials are encountered during project construction, all activities shall cease until a qualified archaeologist can assess the unanticipated discovery.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS — Would the project:

a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☐	X

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
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? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	X
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	X
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	X
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	X
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 onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property.	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	X

The proposed project will install a 500-foot long soil nail wall along SR- 33 and remove the existing RSP. The site consists of embankment fill- mixtures of silty and sandy clay with gravel cobblestones, and boulders. Although relatively high intensity of ground shaking is probable at the job site, liquefaction potential is very low due to low groundwater table elevation and subsurface materials.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS —
Would the project:

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

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Be located on a site that 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?	☐	☐	☐	X
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 for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	X
h) 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?	☐	☐	☐	X

The project is located in a rural area; there are no airports or private airstrips or recorded hazardous materials sites in the project area. Based on the most recent Hazardous Waste Assessment, (April 2012), test results from a nearby project showed that the soil can be considered non-hazardous with respect to ADL. Surplus soil resulting from the soil nail wall installation can be considered non-hazardous and released to the contractor without any restrictions. A special provision has been provided for handling and disposal of treated wood waste (TWW) from the metal beam guard rail wood posts. In addition, special provisions have also been provided for yellow and white thermoplastic striping handling and disposal.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY —
Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the	☐	☐	☐	X

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?				
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite?	☐	☐	X	☐
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or offsite?	☐	☐	X	☐
e) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	X
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	X
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	X
j) Result in inundation by a seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	X

"No Impact" determinations in this section are based on field reviews with the project development team and discussions with the Project Engineer. There would be a 900-foot water diversion in place that would include the installation of an aqua-dam coffer dam. Two block nets will be installed upstream of the coffer dam to prevent fish from moving into the pumping area. At least two pumps will be used to keep the water surface at levels that will not strand fish by draining the pool, but will prevent higher flows from flooding the project area. Appendix A details these diversion plans.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING — Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy,				

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	X

"No Impact" determinations in this section are based on field visits and conversations with the project development team members.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES — Would the project:

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?	☐	☐	☐	X
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?	☐	☐	☐	X

"No Impact" determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Development Team and project research. The proposed project would build a soil nail wall, approximately 500-feet in length, which would not have any effect on mineral resources.

XI. NOISE — Would the project result in:

a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	X
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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	X

Based on the scope of the project, this project is not considered a Type I project as defined by 23 CFR 772. Therefore, no further study is required and the "No Impact" determinations would apply.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING — Would the project:

a) Induce substantial 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)?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	X

"No Impact" determinations in this section are based on the scope and location of the project. No relocations or displacements will occur with this project.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES —

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	X
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	X
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	X
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	X
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	X

Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact

The proposed project is not expected to result in changes to response times on SR-33. There will be a temporary lane closure in the northbound direction within the project limits, with a temporary signal at each end of the highway to control the traffic. However, this is not expected to substantially alter travel times.

XIV. RECREATION —

a) Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	X

"No Impact" determinations in this section are based on the scope and location of the project. The project area is directly adjacent to SR-33 and Mosler Rock Quarry. There are no adjacent parks or access points from the project site to Matilija Lake, which can be accessed south of the project site, via South Matilija Road.

XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC — Would the project:

a) Cause an increase in traffic that is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs				

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No impact
supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	X

"No Impact" determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer as well as the scope of the work. There will no additional lanes, and the vertical and horizontal alignments of the road are not being altered. There will be a temporary lane closure during construction in the northbound direction within the project limits with a temporary signal at each end of the highway to control the traffic.

XVI. UTILITY AND SERVICE SYSTEMS — Would the project:

a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	X
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	X
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	X
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	X
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that 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?	☐	☐	☐	X
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	X
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	X

"No Impact" determinations in this section are based on conversations with Project Engineer and Project Development Team as well as the scope of the project. The addition of a soil nail wall would not change the current wastewater requirements.

XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE —

	Potentially significant impact	Less than significant impact with mitigation	Less than significant impact	No 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 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
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	X

The potential for biological impacts are discussed below in the "Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and Mitigation Measures" section, and Appendix A. With the appropriate Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures incorporated, there are no significant impacts expected.

Biological Environment

Regulatory Setting

This section focuses only on the Biological Environment, as that is the only environmental factor potentially affected by the proposed project. All other physical, biological, social, and economic factors have been determined to have no impact or a less than significant impact based on the checklist above and the associated technical studies.

The focus of this section is on biological communities and individual plant and animal species. Potential impacts and permit requirements associated with these species, including the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) fully protected species and species of special concern is included. CDFW has regulatory responsibility for the protection of special-status plant and animal species. "Special-status" species are selected for protection because they are rare and/or subject to population and habitat declines. Special status is a general term for species that are afforded varying levels of regulatory protection. The highest level of protection is given to threatened and endangered species; these are species that are formally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and/or the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).

State and Federal laws and regulations pertaining to wildlife include the following:

- California Environmental Quality Act
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Sections 1600-1603 of the Fish and Wildlife Code
- Section 4150 and 4152 of the Fish and Wildlife Code
- Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Affected Environment

A Caltrans biologist prepared the Natural Environment Study for the proposed project in April 2012, and a Natural Environment Study Addendum was prepared in February 2013. The project site is located approximately ⅓ of a mile upstream from the confluence of North Fork Matilija creek and the mainline Matilija creek, where the two creeks merge to form the Ventura River. This is a mountainous location, near the City of Ojai along State Route 33. It is in a rural setting with a rock quarry operation located directly across from the proposed project site. The proposed project site is located about fifteen (15) miles from the Pacific Ocean and approximately twenty (20) miles north of Ventura.

North Fork Matilija Creek flows through steep sided canyons with a narrow flood plain and riparian zone. The canyon areas consist primarily of scrub and chaparral habitats at the lower elevations with some Jeffery pine woodlands on the upper peaks. The project site is approximately a mile and a half from Wheeler Springs and directly adjacent to the Mosler rock quarry. This immediate vicinity of North Fork Matilija creek receives human use during the dry season and is easily accessible from SR-33. The creek has also been impacted by substantial rock

slides from the quarry over the last five to ten years. A rock slide during the winter of 2006/2007 redirected this stretch of the creek towards State Route-33 as well as creating a complete barrier to upstream fish migration; as of 2011 this rock slide has been partially removed.

Caltrans investigated several alternatives to alleviate the severe undermining of the existing grouted rock slope protection (RSP). These included the current proposed soil-nail wall, other types of similar structures, and breaking up the existing RSP and letting it drop down to the current streambed elevation. The soil nail wall alternative was determined to be the most cost effective long term solution to the scour issues as well as having a net positive impact to the stream system overall.

Caltrans proposes to remove, in stages, existing grouted rock slope protection and build an approximately 500 foot long soil-nail wall in its place. An excavator with a breaker attachment will be used to break up the existing grouted RSP from the roadway, creating a bench that equipment can be lowered into in order to begin construction of the wall.

The wall will be constructed from the top down until reaching bed rock, and will consist of soil nails (steel bars) drilled horizontally into the ground approximately five feet apart and then grouted into place. A wall face will then be constructed with steel mesh and concrete. The wall will be tied into the existing RSP on each end by 1:1 sloped grouted 2-4 ton RSP that will prevent stream flows from flanking the wall. The proposed wall will range in height from 20 to 30 feet tall this is based on the depth of bedrock and height of existing roadway.

The widened streambed will then be restored to a natural condition that blends with the rest of the existing creek bed. This will include placing boulders, cobble, gravel and other fines, as well as in-kind replanting of any native riparian vegetation that is removed.

Regional species and habitats of concern
Regional species and habitats of concern obtained from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Species List were used to determine species to study for the project. The California Endangered Species Act requires state lead agencies to consult with CDFW during the CEQA process to avoid jeopardy to Threatened or Endangered species. Caltrans determined that Direct Impacts to state-listed species from proposed project activities are not anticipated. However, coordination is needed for potential impacts to federally- listed Southern Steelhead trout and for California Red-legged frog.

Special Status Species
Special status animal species that were listed in the CNDDB or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service species list, southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), and California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) were further studied to determine the potential impacts that the project may have and are discussed below.

State-Listed or Proposed Species Occurrences

Two state listed species are covered in this document. These are Ojai fritillary (*Fritillaria ojaiensis*) which is identified by the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (*rare,*

threatened, or endangered in CA and elsewhere.) and California satintail (*Imperata brevifolia*) which is identified by the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants.

California Ojai fritillary ("*Fritillaria ojaiensis*")

Ojai fritillary is a rare perennial bulbiferous herb that is endemic to four counties in southern California; these are Monterey County, Santa Barbara County, San Luis Obispo County, and Ventura County. It typically blooms between February and May, and is generally associated with shaded and moist (mesic) sites within broad-leaved upland forests, chaparrel, and lower-montane coniferous forest habitats. (CNPS, 2012)

California satintail ("*Imperata brevifolia*")

California satintail is a grass that is found throughout the southwestern United States. It typically blooms between September and May, and is generally associated with shaded and moist (mesic) sites, alkali seeps and riparian scrub habitat. (CNPS, 2012)

Federally-Listed or Proposed Species Occurrences

Four federally listed animal species are covered in this document. They are California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*)(T), least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*)(E), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*)(E), and southern steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)(E).

California Red-legged frog ("*Rana aurora draytonii*")

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the California red-legged frog as Threatened on May 23, 1996 (61 Federal Register (FR) 25813). The California red-legged frog is one of two subspecies of the red-legged frog (Rana aurora) found on the Pacific coast. It has been extirpated from 70 percent of its former range and now is found primarily in coastal drainages of central California, from Marin County, California, south to northern Baja California, Mexico. It is found from sea level to elevations of approximately 5,200 feet. Nearly all sightings have occurred below 3,500 feet elevation (USFWS CRLF Recovery Plan, 2002).

California red-legged frogs have a complex requirement of habitat conditions. They need deep slow moving aquatic breeding sites that typically contain emergent vegetation, within a larger riparian system that is connected to upland dispersal habitat. Breeding sites of the California red-legged frog include pools and backwaters within streams and creeks, ponds, marshes, springs, sag ponds, dune ponds and lagoons. Additionally, California red-legged frogs frequently breed in artificial impoundments such as stock ponds (USFWS CRLF Recovery Plan, 2002).

California red-legged frogs breed from November through April (Storer, 1925). Typically, most adult frogs lay their eggs in March. Eggs require approximately 20-22 days to develop into tadpoles, and tadpoles require 11 to 20 weeks to develop into terrestrial frogs. (Bobzien et. al. 2000, Storer 1925, Wright and Wright 1949). Critical Habitat (CH) is defined as those areas both inside and outside of the geographical area occupied by the species in which are found the physical or biological features that are essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection.

least Bell's vireo ("*Vireo bellii pusillus*")

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the least Bell's vireo (LBV) as Endangered on May 2nd, 1986. (51 FR 16474) The LBV is a small migratory song bird that winters in Baja California and returns to Southern California during spring and summer to mate. Breeding distribution is currently limited to eight southern California counties as well as northern Baja California. The species prefers structurally complex, early successional, dense willow dominated habitat along drainages.

Breeding habitat for the LBV consists primarily of lowland riparian habitats from near sea level on the coast to 4,000 feet (approximately 1,200 meters) above mean sea level in the interior (CDFG 2005). The most critical structural component of breeding habitat is a dense shrub layer approximately 3.3 to 6.6 feet (approximately 1 to 2 meters) above ground level, where nests are typically built within 3.2 feet (1 meter) of the ground in the fork of willows (*Salix spp.*), roses (*Rosa spp*.), mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), or other low-growing cover (USFWS 1994).

Extensive breeding habitat loss and degradation as well as brood parasitism by non-native brown-headed cow bird (*Molothrus ater*) have resulted in a range-wide decline in the species. (USFWS LBV Draft Recovery Plan, 1998) Suitable riparian breeding habitat was estimated to have declined by 95% at the time of the original ESA listing. (USFWS LBV 5 Year Review, 2006)

In the decade since listing, Least Bell's Vireo numbers have increased 10-fold, and the species is expanding into its historic range. In 2006 there were 2,968 known territories. (USFWS LBV 5 Year Review, 2006) During the breeding season, birds begin returning to their southern California breeding sites in mid- to late-March; and typically leave the breeding sites by September (Kus B, 2002).

southwestern willow flycatcher ("*Empidonax traillii extimus*")

The southwestern willow flycatcher was federally listed as endangered on February 27, 1995 (60 FR 10694). The breeding range of the southwestern willow flycatcher includes Arizona, New Mexico, the southern portions of California, Nevada, and Utah, western Texas, southwestern Colorado, and extreme northwestern Mexico. Loss and modification of riparian habitats and brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds were the primary reasons for listing the southwestern willow flycatcher. This species occurs in riparian habitats along rivers, streams, or other wetlands where dense growths of willows, coyote brush, arrowweed (*Pluchea* sp.), buttonbush (*Cephalanthus* sp.), tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.), Russian olive (*Eleagnus* sp.) or other plants are present, often with a scattered over story of cottonwoods. In the coastal portions of its range, southwestern willow flycatchers use willow dominated riparian areas intermixed with cottonwoods, coyote brush and mule fat.

Southern Steelhead Trout ("*Oncorhynchus mykiss*")

Steelhead trout were listed as Endangered within the Southern California Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) on October 17th, 1997. The Southern California ESU extends from the Santa Maria River in San Luis Obispo County south to the southern extent of their range. Fish within the Southern California ESU are considered "winter-run" or ocean-maturing steelhead. These anadromous fish are born in fresh water, where they typically spend one to three years

before migrating to the ocean. After spending one to four years in the ocean, they return to their natal stream to spawn as four or five year-olds. Migration within this ESU generally occurs from November through March (NOAA, 2012). Spawning takes place from December through June, with a peak during the months of February and March.

Critical Habitat (CH) is defined as those areas both inside and outside of the geographical area occupied by the species in which the physical or biological features are found that are essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection.

The Southern steelhead populations in Ventura and Los Angeles counties have had substantial cumulative impacts throughout the last 50 years. These are primarily related to the discharge of sediment and debris within waterways, artificial migration barriers such as dams and culverts, and inadequate stream flows (McEwan and Jackson, 1996). Of the streams south of the San Francisco bay known to have historic populations of southern steelhead trout, at least 33% are believed to be extirpated with an additional 47% having substantially reduced populations (McEwan and Jackson, 1996).

Project Impacts

The project includes a stream simulation rock-weir design within the widened portion of the creek where the existing grouted RSP slope is located. This is designed to mimic the natural creek bed and maintain the existing fish passage and hydraulic conditions in flows up to the 2 year storm event.

California Ojai fritillary "*Fritillaria ojaiensis*"

The project site was surveyed in April 2010, and while potential habitat does exist within the project footprint, no plants were observed at this time. (Per comm. March, 2012) According to the California Natural Diversity Database BIOS Mapper the nearest know population of Ojai fritillary is within the riparian zone of North Fork Matilija Creek approximately 3 miles upstream of the project site. As this species is not protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act, no Critical Habitat has been designated.

Between the low likelihood that the Ojai fritillary will be present within or adjacent to the construction site and the Avoidance and Minimization Measures being implemented to ensure that none are on-site prior to the initiation of work, there will likely be no effect on this species by Caltrans' actions.

California satintail ("*Imperata brevifolia*")

The project site was surveyed in April 2010, and while potential habitat does exist within the project footprint, no plants were observed at this time. (Per comm. March, 2012) According to the California Natural Diversity Database BIOS Mapper the nearest know population of California satintail is within the riparian zone of Matilija Creek approximately 1,000 feet from

the project site. As this species is not protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act, no Critical Habitat has been designated.

Between the low likelihood that the California satintail will be present within or adjacent to the construction site and the Avoidance and Minimization Measures being implemented to ensure that none are on-site prior to the initiation of work. There will likely be no effect on this species by Caltrans' actions.

California Red-legged frog ("*Rana aurora draytonii*")

Critical Habitat was designated for the California red-legged frog (CRLF) on April 13th, 2006 (71 FR 19244), revised critical habitat was designated on March 17th, 2010. (75 FR 12816). The proposed project is located within designated habitat for CRLF.

The nearest known population of red-legged frogs is on the mainline Matilija Creek upstream of Matilija Dam. Several individuals would found in surveys done by FWS in 2000 as part of the Matilija Dam Removal Project between 0.75 miles and 3.0 miles upstream of the dam.

Four additional surveys were done of the section of North Fork Matilija Creek adjacent to the Mosler Quarry site by Padre Associates, Inc. biologists and FWS biologists in 2010. No red-legged frogs were found during these surveys. (Padre Associates, Inc Survey Report, 2010)

In addition in March 2008, two surveys, night and daytime, were conducted on a 500- foot reach of North Fork Matilija Creek approximately 2 miles upstream of the proposed project site by Entrix and FWS biologists for a Caltrans' emergency repair project (EA: 1X970). No red-legged frogs were found during these surveys (Entrix Survey Report, 2008).

The project involves de-watering of this stretch of creek for a period of time. These activities will adversely impact critical habitat of CRLF as well as any individuals present within the project footprint. Some mortality could occur during removal and relocation activities. These impacts should be minimal due to the fact that previous recent surveys have not found a population of CRLF at this location.

The natural ability of adult CRLF to migrate over upland and dry habitats to reach wet areas of the creek upstream and downstream would lessen the negative impact of the dewatering. Due to their inability to migrate, tadpoles, juveniles, and egg masses present would be more seriously affected by the de-watering activities if they are not removed and relocated prior to construction initiation.

As the project will widen the current riparian zone, the long term impacts of the project should be beneficial to the creek system, adjacent riparian habitat, and associated species. There should be less artificial constriction of the creek system in this location, and alleviation some of the high gradient cascade geomorphology that is present in some locations within this reach.

least Bell's vireo ("*Vireo bellii pusillus*")

No protocol surveys have been done at this location because the proposed project occurs in only marginal habitat for least Bell's vireo. Least Bell's vireo are generally found in much greater

numbers at lower elevations in low gradient streams and rivers that have wide floodplains and dense riparian zones. The riparian zone within the project footprint is a steep high gradient creek with very narrow, approximately 50 feet wide, and sparse riparian woodland habitat present. This project is not within Designated Critical Habitat for least Bell's vireo.

There is a low likelihood that least Bell's vireo will be present within or adjacent to the construction site; the pre-construction surveys and weekly surveys during construction will ensure that none are on-site prior to the initiation of work. Effects on this species due to Caltrans' activities will likely be limited to the temporary loss of potential nesting and foraging habitat but no direct disturbance of active nesting or foraging.

Southwestern willow flycatcher ("*Empidonax traillii extimus*")

No protocol surveys have been done at this location because the proposed project occurs in only marginal habitat for southwestern willow flycatcher. Willow flycatchers are generally found in much greater numbers at lower elevations in low gradient streams and rivers that have wide floodplains and dense riparian zones. The riparian zone within the project footprint is a steep high gradient creek with very narrow, approximately 50 feet wide, and sparse riparian woodland habitat present. This project is not within Designated Critical Habitat for Southwestern willow flycatcher.

Between the low likelihood that Southwestern willow flycatcher will be present within or adjacent to the construction site and the Avoidance and Minimization Measures being implemented to ensure that none are on-site prior to the initiation of work (BRD-01 and BRD-02), effects on this species due to Caltrans activities will likely be limited to the temporary loss of potential nesting and foraging habitat and not direct disturbance of active nesting or foraging.

Southern Steelhead Trout ("*Oncorhynchus mykiss*")

The Lower North Fork of the Matilija Creek contains some of the best habitat for steelhead spawning and rearing within the Matilija basin. (Per comm. Mary Larson, 2010 CDFG). Spawning gravels are abundant and in good condition, although there is some mineral cementation in areas, this is especially obvious upstream of the project site. Rainbow trout were observed within the project site and have been detected in other surveys done by Caltrans upstream (Swift, 2008) and throughout the Lower North Fork. (Allen, Riley, and Thobaben, 2003) Redds and spawning adults, as well as small swim-up fry have also been found throughout this reach (Allen, Riley, and Thobaben, 2003, Swift 2008).

Critical habitat was designated for the Southern California Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) on Feb. 16th, 2000 (NMFS, 2000), and includes those river reaches and estuarine areas accessible to steelhead in coastal river basins. The proposed project is located within designated habitat for southern steelhead trout.

The proposed project will likely adversely affect southern steelhead trout. As the proposed project occurs in designated critical habitat and includes water diversion activities that will require any individuals present to be captured and removed from the project area, adverse impacts to this species cannot be avoided. Some mortality during removal and relocation may occur. Sediment blooms will be discharged into the downstream waters during the installation

and removal of the water diversion; however they are not anticipated to be severe enough to result in steelhead mortality.

This project will likely have negative effects on steelhead for the short term duration after the project has been constructed due to the removal of the overhanging grouted RSP and the removal of riparian vegetation along this stretch of creek. This would reduce cover and shading of the creek through this area until new vegetation has had a chance to establish and grow.

However, the long-term effects of the proposed project are expected to be beneficial for the southern steelhead trout due to the reduction of the existing artificial constriction of North Fork Matilija Creek through this area, and a widening of the existing flood plain. These beneficial effects outweigh the potential short term construction related impacts to the species.

Cumulative Effects

California Ojai fritillary "*Fritillaria ojaiensis*"
The proposed project will reduce the artificial constriction of the creek and flood plain through this reach and have a long term net beneficial effect on the stream. Due to these long term net beneficial effects of the project, and the small amount of take that is currently expected, Caltrans is anticipating no cumulative negative effects to this species.

California satintail ("*Imperata brevifolia*")
The proposed project will reduce the artificial constriction of the creek and flood plain through this reach and have a long term net beneficial effect on the stream. Due to these long term net beneficial effects of the project, and the small amount of take that is currently expected, Caltrans is anticipating no cumulative negative effects to this species.

California Red-legged frog ("*Rana aurora draytonii*")
The proposed project will reduce the artificial constriction of the creek and flood plain through this reach and have a long term net beneficial effect on the stream. Due to these long term net beneficial effects of the project, and the small amount of take that is currently expected, Caltrans is anticipating no cumulative negative effects to this species.

least Bell's vireo ("*Vireo bellii pusillus*")
This project will likely have no cumulative effects on this species.

Southwestern willow flycatcher ("*Empidonax traillii extimus*")
This project will likely have no cumulative effects on this species.

Southern Steelhead Trout ("*Oncorhynchus mykiss*")
The southern steelhead populations in Ventura and Los Angeles counties have had cumulative impacts throughout the last 50 years. These are primarily related to the discharge of sediment and debris within waterways, artificial migration barriers such as dams and culverts, and inadequate

stream flows (McEwan and Jackson, 1996). Of the streams south of the San Francisco bay known to have historic populations of southern steelhead trout, 47% have substantially reduced populations (McEwan and Jackson, 1996).

The permanent long term effects of this project will be a reduction of the existing artificial constriction of North Fork Matilija Creek through this reach, and a widening of the existing flood plain. These beneficial effects outweigh the potential short term construction related impacts to the species. As indicated in Caltrans' consultation with NMFS, the proposed action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the federally endangered Southern California steelhead, or destroy or adversely modify critical habitat for this species. As such no cumulative negative effects are expected as a result of Caltrans actions, but rather, Caltrans anticipates a net beneficial improvement to the steelhead habitat.

Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

An updated planting plan has been developed, this includes the planting of large 24"-48" box trees directly along the edge of the impact footprint near the existing low flow thalwag, this is was developed to provide immediate shade for the creek after the project is completed.

Revegetation will include planting white alders, Western sycamores, and arroyo willows at ratios of 4:1, 5:1, and 14:1, respectively. Rows of mulefat will be planted at the top and toe of the rock-weir structures. Larger trees to be planted include 27 24-inch box Western sycamore and 6 48-inch box Western sycamore trees will also be planted to provide immediate shade and cover.

Habitat Type	**Amount of Habitat Present**	**Proposed Replanting Ratio**
White Alder (*A. Rhombifolia*)	31 Trees	4:1 Cuttings (124 Total)
Western Sycamore (*P. Racemosa*)	10 Trees	5:1 5-Gallon Plantings (50 Total) Additional larger trees will be planted to provide immediate shade and habitat improvement post construction. This includes 27 24 Inch-box and 6 48 Inch-box western sycamore trees.
Arroyo Willow (*S. lasiopepis*)	10 Trees	14:1 Cuttings (140 Total)

California Ojai fritillary "*Fritillaria ojaiensis*"

BOT-01 Caltrans will conduct pre-construction surveys by a qualified botanist with experience in locating and identifying rare plants prior to the initiation of work. If any rare plants are located within the project footprint, they will be re-located to a safe location as deemed by the botanist and in coordination with CDFG.

California satintail ("*Imperata brevifolia*")

BOT-01 Caltrans will conduct pre-construction surveys by a qualified botanist with experience in locating and identifying rare plants prior to initiation of work. If any rare plants are located within the project footprint, they will be re-located to a safe location as deemed by the botanist and in coordination with CDFG.

California Red-legged frog ("*Rana aurora draytonii*")

RLF-01 Caltrans will conduct pre-construction surveys done by a qualified herpetologist with experience in locating and identifying CRLF and approved by USFWS, prior to initiation of work. If any CRLF are located within the project footprint, they will be re-located to a safe location as deemed by the herpetologist in coordination with USFWS.

RLF-02 Caltrans will have a biological monitor with experience in locating and identifying CRLF on-site at all times throughout the duration of construction activities within the riparian zone. If any CRLF are observed during construction work, all work will halt until a permitted herpetologist can be present to help relocate any individuals found to a safe location.

RLF-03 Caltrans will incorporate all applicable Avoidance and Minimization Measures as identified in the Programmatic Biological Opinion issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Federal Highways Administration (1-8-02-F-68).

least Bell's vireo ("*Vireo bellii pusillus*")

BRD-01 Caltrans will conduct pre-construction surveys following the appropriate protocols for locating and identifying southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) done by a qualified ornithologist, approved by USFWS prior to initiation of work. If any southwestern willow flycatchers or least Bell's vireo are found within 500 feet of the construction site, no work shall begin until the nesting has been completed and the birds have left the area or Caltrans has completed formal consultation.

BRD-02 Caltrans will conduct weekly surveys of the adjacent riparian zone surrounding the project site for the duration of construction activities within the creek. These surveys will be done by a qualified ornithologist with experience in locating and identifying least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher. Should either of these species be located, work shall be halted and USFWS will be notified. Work will not resume until such time as it is determined that the birds have left the area or Caltrans has completed formal consultation.

Southwestern willow flycatcher ("*Empidonax traillii extimus*")

The widened stream channel will blend into the existing channel by placing boulders, cobble, and gravel, as well as planting riparian vegetation. This should offset any temporary loss of habitat in the long term.

BRD-01 Caltrans will conduct pre-construction surveys following the appropriate protocols for locating and identifying southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) done by a qualified ornithologist, approved by USFWS prior to initiation of work. If any southwestern willow flycatchers or least Bell's vireo are found within 500 feet of the construction site, no work shall begin until the nesting has been completed and the birds have left the area or Caltrans has completed formal consultation.

BRD-02 Caltrans will conduct weekly surveys of the adjacent riparian zone surrounding the project site for the duration of construction activities within the creek. These surveys will be done by a qualified ornithologist with experience in locating and identifying least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher. Should either of these species be located, work shall be halted and USFWS will be notified. Work will not resume until such time as it is determined that the birds have left the area or Caltrans has completed formal consultation

Southern Steelhead Trout ("*Oncorhynchus mykiss*")

SST-01 Pre-construction surveys done by a NOAA approved, qualified ichthyologist with experience in locating and identifying Southern steelhead trout will be done prior to initiation of work. If any Southern steelhead trout are located, work will not commence until coordination with NOAA has occurred.

EXC-01 Exclusionary nets will be setup to exclude fish from the project site prior to installation of the water diversion. Any fish found within the project site will be moved upstream of the project site and released. All exclusionary and removal activities will be conducted by a NOAA and USFWS approved ichthyologist with experience in identifying and handling tidewater goby and southern steelhead trout.

WDP-01 A Water Diversion Plan shall be developed and implemented in consultation with NOAA, CDFG, USFWS, ACOE, and RWQCB to divert water through the project site to reduce turbidity and prevent sediments from entering the lagoon downstream of the project site.

WTP-01 All work shall be conducted outside of the upstream migration season for winter-run southern steelhead trout. Southern steelhead trout generally begin migrating upstream during November and continue migrating through winter generally until the end of March. Work shall be conducted from June 1st, through November 1st.

GRW-01 Ground water seepage within the project area will be containerized and taken offsite to prevent sediments from entering the lagoon downstream.

GDP-01 A Stream Restoration Plan will be developed by Caltrans in-conjunction with a qualified hydraulics engineer to ensure that the morphology of the stream will not be affected in such a way as to prevent fish migration and passage through the project area.

BMP-01 All applicable construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality shall be implemented to minimize affects to downstream areas.

FIN-01 A Final Project Report will be submitted to USFWS, NOAA, CDFG, ACOE, and RWQCB once the project and all monitoring has been completed.

SST-01 Pre-construction surveys done by a NOAA approved, qualified ichthyologist with experience in locating and identifying Southern steelhead trout will be done prior to initiation of work. If any Southern steelhead trout are located work will not commence until coordination with NOAA has occurred.

EXC-01 Exclusionary nets will be setup to exclude fish from the project site prior to installation of the water diversion. Any fish found within the project site will be moved upstream of the project site and released. All exclusionary and removal activities will be conducted by a NOAA and USFWS approved ichthyologist with experience in identifying and handling tidewater goby and southern steelhead trout.

STR-01 Caltrans will restore the creek to pre-construction conditions by replacing any boulders moved back to their original locations and blending the widened portion of the creek into the existing creek bed. This includes placing fines, gravel, rock and boulders within the widened portion of the creek to simulate a natural stream environment as well as replanting removed riparian vegetation to provide shade for the creek.

GDP-01 A Stream Restoration Plan will be developed by Caltrans in-conjunction with a qualified hydraulics engineer to ensure that the morphology of the stream will not be affected in such as way as to prevent fish migration and passage through the project area.

Invasive Species

INV-01 Any invasive species present shall be removed and disposed of offsite at an appropriate disposal location.

INV-02 In compliance with the Executive Order on Invasive Species, E.O. 13112, and subsequent guidance from the Federal Highway Administration, the landscaping and erosion control included in the project will not use species listed as noxious weeds. In areas of particular sensitivity, extra precautions will be taken if invasive species are found in or adjacent to the construction areas. These include the inspection and cleaning of construction equipment and eradication strategies to be implemented should an invasion occur.

Coordination and Consultation

Federal Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary

Summary of Consultation to Date

Caltrans requested an initial species list from U.S Fish and Wildlife Service on November 9th, 2010.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Species list was received by Caltrans on December 17th, 2010.
Early coordination was initiated with Kristin Mull from NOAA via phone and email on October 18th, 2011 and Caltrans received NOAA's initial concerns on October 28th, 2011.

A field meeting was held with Steve Kirkland from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on December 8th, 2011.

Additional consultation was done with Steve Kirkland from USFWS by phone and email December 2011-February 2012, on February 23rd, 2012 Caltrans was informed that an updated species list was not necessary provided that Critical Habitat for California Red-legged frog was addressed.

The Biological Assessment was submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the NOAA Fisheries on Friday March 2nd, 2012. Caltrans conducted technical assistance with NOAA March 2012 through September 2012. Formal Section 7 consultation with NOAA began September 2012. USFWS Formal Section 7 consultation began April 2012, and the Biological Opinion was received October 2012.

Federal Fisheries and Essential Fish Habitat Consultation Summary

The project does not occur within designated Essential Fish Habitat. No effects to any Essential Fish Habitat are expected.

California Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary

The Biological Assessment for this project was submitted to Jamie Jackson-Environmental Scientist of the California Department of Fish and Game. As no species are present that are only listed under the CESA and not the FESA, no consultation was initiated.

Wetlands and Other Waters Coordination Summary

As the project falls within CWA Section 404 and 401 jurisdiction as well as California Department of Fish and Game Code Section 1600 jurisdiction. Further consultation will occur during the acquisition of permits from ACOE, RWQCB, CDFG, and the CCC.

List of Preparers

The following Caltrans District 7 staff contributed to the preparation of this Initial Study:

Ron Kosinski, Deputy District Director, Environmental Planning

Garrett Damrath, Office Chief, Environmental Planning

Eduardo Aguilar, Environmental Branch Chief

Natalie Hill, Associate Environmental Planner

Peter Champion, Associate Biologist

References

1. Allen, M, Riley, S, and Thobaben, S. 2007. *Steelhead Population and Habitat Assessment in Ventura River/Matilija Creek Basin Final Report.* Ventura County Flood Control District, Ventura, California.

2. Bobzien, S., J.E. DiDonato, P.J. Alexander. 2000. *Status of the California Red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii) in the East Bay Regional Park District*, California. Oakland, California.

3. California Department of Fish and Game. 2011. *California Natural Diversity Database.*

4. California Native Plant Society. 2012. *Inventory of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants in California.* http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/

5. Dellith, C. 2004. *Matilija Dam Ecological Restoration Feasibility Study: Draft Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report.* U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Ventura Office, Ventura, California.

6. Feeney, Richard F. and Swift, Camm C., 2008 *Description and ecology of larvae and juveniles of three native cypriniforms of coastal southern California.* The Ichthyological Society of Japan, 2008.

7. Jennings, Mark R. 1994 *Amphibians and Reptile Species of Special Concern in California.* California Department of Fish and Game, Non-game Wildlife Program.

8. Kus, B. 2002. *Least Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus).* In The Riparian Bird Conservation Plan: a strategy for reversing the decline of riparian-associated birds in California. California Partners in Flight. http://www.prbo.org/calpif/htmldocs/riparian_v-2.html

9. Kus, B, and Wells, J. 2001. *Least Bell's vireo surveys and nest monitoring at Anza Borrego Desert State Park in 2000*. USGS Western Ecological Research Center, San Diego, California

10. McEwan D. and T. A. Jackson, 1996. Steelhead restoration and management plan for California. State of California, The Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game.

11. National Marine Fisheries Service. 2011. *Southern California Steelhead Recovery Plan.* Southwest Region, Protected Resources Division, Long Beach, California.

12. Storer, T.I. 1925. *A synopsis of the amphibian of California.* University of California Publications in Zoology 27:1-342.

13. Swift, C. and Mulder, J. 2008. *Fish Rescue and Construction Monitoring, Emergency Road Repair Project on State Highway 33.* Entrix, Inc. Ventura, California.

14. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2005. *Biological and Conference Opinions on the Revised Land and Resource Management Plans for the Four Southern California National Parks.* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carlsbad Office, Carlsbad, California.

15. U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998 *Draft Recovery Plan for the least Bell's vireo.* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Portland, Oregon.

16. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2006 *Least Bell's vireo 5-Year Review Summary and Evaluation.* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Portland, Oregon.

17. U.S Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002 *Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog.* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Portland, Oregon.

18. Wright, A. H. and A. A. Wright. 1949. *Handbook of frogs and toads of the United States and Canada (third edition)* 640p. Ithaca, NY: Comstock Publishing Company.

19. NOAA Fisheries, 2013, Biological Opinion for SR-33 Soil Nail Wall Project, NOAA Fisheries Southwest Regional Office, Long Beach, CA.

20. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2012, Biological Opinion for SR-33 Soil Nail Wall Project, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ventura Office, Ventura, CA.

Appendix A Biological Provisions and Permit Conditions

BMP-01 All applicable construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality shall be implemented to minimize affects to downstream areas.

BOT-01 Caltrans will conduct pre-construction surveys done by a qualified botanist with experience in locating and identifying rare plants, prior to initiation of work. If any rare plants are located within the project footprint they will be re-located to a safe location as deemed by the botanist and in coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

BRD-01 Caltrans will conduct pre-construction surveys following the appropriate protocols for locating and identifying southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) done by a qualified ornithologist, approved by USFWS prior to initiation of work. If any southwestern willow flycatchers or least Bell's vireo are found within 500 feet of the construction site. No work shall begin until the nesting has been completed and the birds have left the area or Caltrans has completed formal consultation.

BRD-02 Caltrans will conduct weekly surveys of the adjacent riparian zone surrounding the project site for the duration of construction activities within the creek. These surveys will be done by a qualified ornithologist with experience in locating and identifying least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher. Should either of these species be located, work shall be halted and USFWS will be notified. Work will not resume until such time as it is determined that the birds have left the area or Caltrans has completed formal consultation.

EXC-01 Exclusionary nets will be setup to exclude fish from the project site prior to installation of the water diversion. Any fish found within the project site will be moved upstream of the project site and released. All exclusionary and removal activities will be conducted by a NOAA and USFWS approved ichthyologist with experience in identifying and handling tidewater goby and southern steelhead trout.

FIN-01 A Final Project Report will be submitted to USFWS, NOAA, CDFW, ACOE, and RWQCB once the project and all monitoring has been completed.

GDP-01 A Stream Restoration Plan will be developed by Caltrans in-conjunction with a qualified hydraulics engineer to ensure that the morphology of the stream will not be affected in such a way as to prevent fish migration and passage through the project area.

GRW-01 Ground water seepage within the project area will be containerized and taken offsite to prevent sediments from entering the lagoon downstream.

RLF-01 Caltrans will conduct pre-construction surveys done by a qualified herpetologist with experience in locating and identifying CRLF and approved by USFWS, prior to initiation of work. If any CRLF are located within the project footprint they will be re-located to a safe location as deemed by the herpetologist in coordination with USFWS.

RLF-02 Caltrans will have a biological monitor with experience in locating and identifying CRLF on-site at all times throughout the duration of construction activities within the riparian zone. If any CRLF are observed during construction work, all work will halt until a permitted herpetologist can be present to help relocate any individuals found to a safe location.

RLF-03 Caltrans will incorporate all applicable Avoidance and Minimization Measures as identified in the Programmatic Biological Opinion issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Federal Highways Administration (1-8-02-F-68).

SST-01 Pre-construction surveys done by a NOAA approved, qualified ichthyologist with experience in locating and identifying Southern steelhead trout will be done prior to initiation of work. If any Southern steelhead trout are located work will not commence until coordination with NOAA has occurred.

STR-01 Caltrans will restore the creek to pre-construction conditions by replacing any boulders moved back to their original locations and blending the widened portion of the creek into the existing creek bed. This includes placing fines, gravel, rock, and boulders within the widened portion of the creek to simulate a natural stream environment as well as replanting removed riparian vegetation to provide shade for the creek.

WDP-01 A Water Diversion Plan shall be developed and implemented in consultation with NOAA, CDFW, USFWS, ACOE, and RWQCB to divert water through the project site to reduce turbidity and prevent sediments from entering the lagoon downstream of the project site.

WTP-01 All work shall be conducted outside of the upstream migration season for winter-run southern steelhead trout. Southern steelhead trout generally begin migrating upstream during November and continue migrating through winter generally till the end of March. Work shall be conducted from June 1st, through November 1st.

Updated Provisions

The following provisions have been specified by NOAA Fisheries and U.S. Fish and Wildlife in their Biological Opinions.

NOAA Fisheries:

A. Caltrans shall retain a biologist with expertise in the areas of resident or anadromoussalmonid biology and ecology; fish/habitat relationships; biological monitoring; and, handling, collecting, and relocating salmonid species.

B. Caltrans' biological monitor shall oversee implementation of the water diversion, and isolation of the work area upstream and downstream of the diversion with block netting. The biological monitor will also survey the diversion area of the creek for steelhead (including beneath boulders) before diversion takes place, and at least 3 times during the dewatering process and after the diversion is in to make sure to the maximum extent practicable that no steelhead is stranded in the diversion area before any construction work begins. The biologist shall capture steelhead in the isolated wetted work areas or at the upstream block net and then relocate steelhead upstream to multiple locations of

suitable habitat (preferably pool habitat with boulder refuge areas). One or more of the following methods shall be used to capture steelhead: seine, dip net, throw net, minnow trap, or by hand. Electrofishing is prohibited.

C. Caltrans' biological monitor shall provide a written fish relocation report to NMFS within 30 working days following completion of the proposed action. The report shall include; 1) the number and size of any and all steelhead relocated during the project action or fish relocation; 2) the date and time of the collection and relocation site; 3) a description of any problem encountered during the project or when implementing terms and conditions and; 4) any effect of the project action on steelhead that was not previously considered. The report should be sent to Jay Ogawa, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, California 90802-4213.

D. Caltrans' biologist shall contact NMFS (Jay Ogawa, 562-980-4061) immediately if one or more steelhead are found dead or injured. The purpose of the contact shall be to review the activities resulting in take and to determine if additional protective measures are required, and to discuss procedures to be used to handle or dispose of any dead steelhead. Subsequent notification must also be made in writing to Jay Ogawa, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, California 90802-4213 within five days of noting dead or injured steelhead. The written notification shall include; 1) the date, time, and location of the carcass or injured specimen; 2) a color photograph; 3) cause of injury or death and; 4) name and affiliation of the person who found the specimen.

E. Caltrans shall provide the final design plans and notify NMFS when the proposed action will take place 14 days prior to the beginning of construction so NMFS, at its discretion, may periodically observe project construction and other activities. These observations may help in devising ways to reduce adverse impacts to steelhead and their habitat for this project and for future projects of similar nature. Plans shall be sent to Jay Ogawa, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, California 90802-4213.

F. Caltrans' biological monitor shall continuously monitor all construction activities, instream habitat, and performance of sediment control devices for the purpose of identifying and reconciling any condition that could adversely affect steelhead or their habitat. The biologist shall be empowered to halt work activity and to recommend measures for avoiding adverse effects to steelhead and their habitat. The biological monitor shall contact NMFS (Jay Ogawa, 562-980-4061) immediately for further guidance if any unanticipated problem, which could have an adverse effect on steelhead or critical habitat, occurs. Caltrans' biological monitor shall provide photographs of the soil nail wall, boulder step structures and vicinity within 30 working days following completion of the proposed action, to ensure proposed methods of construction were implemented.

G. Any heavy equipment used in or near the creek channel shall be removed from the channel at the end of each workday. When feasible work shall be performed from the roadway and no heavy equipment will operate in the stream channel below the level of the 2 year flow event. All heavy equipment shall be checked for leaks of oil, gas,

hydraulic fluid and any other pollutant which could impact water quality and instream habitat each workday prior to being deployed into the creek. Such leaks shall be controlled for the purpose of avoiding water-quality impacts to surface water.

H. An onsite authorized engineer with geomorphic knowledge shall be provided by Caltrans during construction to ensure the proposed methods of construction are implemented correctly in order to minimize impacts to endangered steelhead and designated critical habitat. The Caltrans engineer should have previous experience constructing fish passage related projects using natural materials to perform the following activities: 1) direct when, and how material will be removed and replaced within the channel to maximize geomorphic stability and fish passage opportunities; 2) to make certain the existing key stones forming the existing step-bands are disturbed as little as possible; and 3) make certain that any stream bed material placed or replaced in the channel along with the boulder step structures are filled and compacted so that the chance of subsurface flows is minimized.

I. Erosion control or sediment detention devices shall be installed prior to the time of construction activities to isolate the stream and the stream bed from road building material and excavated RSP (i.e., concrete, and aggregates) and to minimize spillage of such materials into North Fork Matilija Creek and general vicinity.

J. Caltrans shall implement an effectiveness monitoring plan to identify sediment/deposition related effects within instream habitats in the action area and remedy the identified effects on endangered steelhead and designated critical habitat for this species through maintenance. The plan shall include: 1) a description of project objectives, 2) the locations within the action area to monitor for changes in stream-bed morphology, 3) the methods and protocols utilized to quantify sediment-related effects, 4) a schedule that specifies time of implementation and sampling events, 5) the action taken to resolve sediment related effects, 6) the type and magnitude of material requiring removal and the methods of removal, 7) the schedule for addressing the identified effects within 30 days of detection, and 8) schedule for providing reports. The plan shall be prepared by a qualified geomorphologist with prior experience performing similar sediment transport/deposition studies. Caltrans shall submit a summary report describing the results of any maintenance task performed. Reports are to be sent to Jay Ogawa, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, California 90802-4213.

K. Caltrans shall implement an effectiveness monitoring and maintenance plan within the action area to validate the post-construction performance of the soil nail wall and boulder step structures and remedy project effects on endangered steelhead and designated critical habitat for this species through maintenance. The plan shall ensure long-term maintenance of the project and include a clearly defined schedule that requires timely monitoring and inspection of the soil nail wall, boulder step structures, and steelhead habitat conditions within the action area. The plan shall include: 1) the protocol used to monitor and measure effectiveness of the project, 2) a description of the methodology used to quantify instream habitat characteristics of the stream reach, including channel cross sections within the action area as related to structural

performance of the project, 3) the methodology used to assess the effects of the project on steelhead and designated critical habitat for this species, 4) identification of structural and instream habitat conditions that require maintenance prior to catastrophic failure of the boulder step structures, and 5) the schedule for the field studies and inspection of the installed structures during wet and dry season, with frequency in effort increasing during the rainy season (*e.g.,* adult and juvenile migration periods). The plan shall clearly define the type of maintenance required and methods of repair needed to address preventable issues that may lead to structural catastrophic failure of the project or hinder adult and juvenile steelhead passage. Caltrans shall submit an annual effectiveness monitoring report, as well as, a maintenance report if required. Reports are to be sent to Jay Ogawa, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, California 90802-4213.

L. Caltrans or their authorized biologist shall provide a revegetation report that is to include a description of the locations seeded or planted, the area revegetated, proposed methods to monitor and maintain the revegetated area, and criteria used to determine the success of the plantings. The revegetation report shall be sent to Jay Ogawa, NMFS, 501 W. Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200, Long Beach, California 90802-4213, within 30 working days following completion of the proposed action.

U.S Fish and Wildlife Service:

A. Caltrans must request our approval of any biologist they wish to conduct activities pursuant to this biological opinion. Such requests must be in writing and be received by the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office at least 15 days prior to any activities being conducted.

B. If one California red-legged frog (adult, sub-adult, juvenile, or egg mass) is found dead or injured, FHWA or Caltrans must contact our office immediately so we can review the project activities to determine if additional protective measures are needed. Project activities may continue during this review period, provided that all protective measures proposed by the FHWA and Caltrans and the terms and conditions of this biological opinion have been and continue to be implemented.

C. If a California red-legged frog is observed within the designated work area and cannot be avoided, all work must stop until the animal leaves the work area or until it is captured and relocated by a Service approved biologists to outside of the work area to avoid injury or mortality.

D. To avoid transferring disease or pathogens between aquatic habitats during the course of California red-legged frog surveys, the Service approved biologists must follow the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force's Code of Practice. A copy of this Code of Practice is enclosed. You may substitute a bleach solution (0.5 to 1.0 cup of bleach to 1.0 gallon of water) for the ethanol solution. Care must be taken so that all traces of the disinfectant are removed before entering the next aquatic habitat.

E. When capturing and removing California red-legged frogs from the work sites, the Service approved biologists must minimize the amount of time that animals are held in captivity. During this time they must be maintained in a manner that does not expose them to temperatures or any other environmental conditions that could cause injury or undue stress. California red-legged frogs must be captured only by hand or dipnet and transported in buckets separate from other species.

F. Caltrans must only relocated California red-legged frogs to adjacent suitable aquatic habitat within the North Fork Matilija Creek.

G. Construction activities must be limited to times when no more the 0.5 inch of rain is forecasted within 24 hours.